



NEW YORK STATE SENATE

New York State Senate Albany, NY 12247

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Senator Velmanette Montgomery Community Report

New York State Senator

Velmanette Montgomery

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Senator Montgomery congratulates Red Hook Initiative for winning \$100,000 for Red Hook WIFI training



Senator Velmanette Montgomery proudly joined NBC 4 Anchorwoman Pat Battle and Telemundo Anchor Edgardo del Villar in presenting \$100,000 to Red Hook Initiative (RHI) as the Grand Prize Winner of the NBC Universal Foundation's "Project Innovation" grant competition. **RHI's Digital Stewards program was recognized for preparing low-income young adults for tech careers by training them to install/maintain Red Hook WIFI**, a community effort to close the digital divide, create economic opportunity and improve quality of life in Red Hook.

This first annual Project Innovation grant challenge recognized local non-profits who leverage technology to solve everyday problems in the areas of civic engagement, skills for the digital economy and STEM/STEAM youth programming.

As RHI celebrates their 15th anniversary, Senator Montgomery took the opportunity to commend Founder and Executive Director Jill Eisenhard and her team for their approach to community building, investing in social capital, and

creating positive institutional change in Red Hook.

RHI has grown exponentially since it was founded in 2002. It now employs over 250 people, 82% are youth age 24 or under. RHI reaches over 5,000 Red Hook residents annually and offers programming for students in middle school and high school as well as young adults. RHI has created a pipeline for youth as they move toward a high school diploma, a college degree or job training program, and a self-determined career path.

The Senator paid tribute to this outstanding organization for their unwavering commitment to community empowerment, leadership development and creating educational and career pathways for young people. For more info about Red Hook Initiative, visit: <http://rhicenter.org/>



Senator Montgomery calls on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to investigate environmental conditions surrounding 280 Richards Street in Red Hook

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25TH SENATE DISTRICT

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SECRETARY, SENATE DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTIONS
EDUCATION
FINANCE
HEALTH
JUDICIARY
RULES

April 2, 2018

Mr. Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Mr. Vincent Sapienza, P.E.
Commissioner
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 19th Floor
Flushing, NY 11373

Re: Environmental conditions surrounding 280 Richards Streets in Red Hook

Dear Commissioner Seggos and Commissioner Sapienza:

I am writing to request that your respective offices conduct a soil test of the dirt mounds on the pier at 280 Richards Street and investigate the excessive flooding conditions in the area surrounding this site. My office has received numerous complaints surrounding this site. My office has received numerous complaints emanating from this empty lot filled with mounds of soil mixed with

My constituents have expressed concern about the dust and sediment mounds by the wind. The dust gets into their homes: covering their vehicles, windows and terraces. Those who live in the area must keep their windows closed, even on warm days to keep out the sediment for fear of potential exposure to contaminants.

It has also been brought to my attention that Beard Street has a redox potential issue. Some area residents believe that the sediment from the mounds and infrastructure. I have attached for your reference photographs of dust and flooding caused by the drainage issue.

Thank you for your letter regarding the environmental conditions at 280 Richard Street in Red Hook.

DEC's office of General Counsel is nearing the final stage of the enforcement process to resolve this matter. The Consent Order that has been issued includes provisions to ensure that the Respondent employs and maintains erosion controls, dust controls and best management practices.

Specifically, DEC is requiring that stockpiled material is immediately contained with silt fencing and hay bales for soil stabilization and tackifier be applied for dust control. These measures will help prevent material from entering the waterway as well as make certain that the storage and handling of the material will not negatively impact the surrounding area.

I am writing to request that your respective offices conduct a soil test of the dirt mounds on the pier at 280 Richards Street and investigate the excessive flooding conditions in the area surrounding this site. My office has received numerous complaints about potentially toxic dust emanating from this empty lot filled with mounds of soil mixed with excavated materials.

My constituents have expressed concern about the dust and sediment that are regularly blown off the mounds by the wind. The dust gets into their homes: covering their vehicles, windows and terraces. Those who live in the area must keep their windows closed, even on warm days to keep out the sediment for fear of potential exposure to contaminants.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
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P: (518) 402-8545 F: (518) 402-8541
www.dec.ny.gov

MAY - 9 2018

Honorable Velmanette Montgomery
New York State Senate
903 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Montgomery:

Thank you for your letter regarding the environmental conditions at 280 Richard Street in Red Hook.

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Specifically, DEC is requiring that stockpiled material is immediately contained with silt fencing and hay bales for soil stabilization and tackifier be applied for dust control. These measures will help prevent material from entering the waterway as well as make certain that the storage and handling of the material will not negatively impact the surrounding area.

DEC requested and received analytical sampling data for the stockpiled material. There are no VOC exceedances and there are no exceedances of hazardous waste thresholds. We are requiring that all stockpiled material must be used to grade the site or be removed and properly disposed of by November 3, 2018.

Please call me at (518) 402-8540 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Basil Seggos
Commissioner



Senator Montgomery has yet to receive a response from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the issue of excessive street flooding and its impact on the area surrounding this site.

