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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



SENATOR TODD KAMINSKY
9TH SENATE DISTRICT

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES:

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November 28, 2016

Ms. Lisa Bova-Hiatt
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224
Albany, NY 12231

Dear Ms. Bova-Hiatt,

I am writing on behalf of my constituents who reside on California Place North and South in Island Park and are experiencing difficulties in the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) bulkhead program. They have been told by GOSR that they will no longer receive funding to repair or replace bulkheads on their property because the bulkheads are across the road from their homes.

California Place North and South are situated on a canal. Residents' properties include the parcels which their homes are built on and also the land across the street which meets the canal. As property owners of this land, they pay taxes for this property and are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep, including bulkheads. Sometime after the storm, my constituents who applied for bulkhead funding were visited by representatives from New York Rising. All were assured that funding to repair or replace bulkheads would be forthcoming and were issued an initial grant award. Now, a staggering four years later, all are being told that because their bulk heading is across the street from their home, New York Rising will not be paying for or reimbursing for repairs to the bulk heads. Without repairs to these bulkheads, residents are left to deal with flooding during heavy rains and high tides, and are left unprotected in the event of another natural disaster or storm. This is simply unacceptable.

The structural integrity of bulk heading in this canal is paramount to all property owners and of the utmost concern to ensure their safety. I am respectfully requesting a written response from your office detailing why these residents are being denied bulk heading funding, specifically addressing why GOSR has deemed them to be ineligible. Further, I welcome the opportunity to show you the area and speak to you about its needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd K" followed by a stylized flourish.

Todd Kaminsky
Senator, 9th District