

VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY
25TH SENATE DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 915
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-3451
FAX: (518) 426-6854

DISTRICT OFFICE
30 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 207
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11217
PHONE: (718) 643-6140
FAX: (718) 237-4137

E-MAIL: MONTGOME@NYSENATE.GOV

WEBSITE: MONTGOMERY.NYSENATE.GOV



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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CHAIR

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE

CRIME VICTIMS CRIME & CORRECTION

EDUCATION

FINANCE

HEALTH

May 24, 2019

Marisa Lago, Chairperson
Department of City Planning
Environmental Assessment & Review Division
120 Broadway, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10271.

Re: Gowanus Neighborhood Rezoning Proposal
CEQR No. 19DCP157K

Dear Chairperson Lago:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed re-zoning of the community surrounding the Gowanus Canal prior to the completion of the superfund remediation. After decades of uncertainty, there is finally a plan in place to perform desperately needed environmental remediation of a famously polluted site. Cleaning up the canal and working to handle the continuing problem of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) pouring into the canal after each major rainfall or snowmelt is of paramount importance.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental remediation plan is based on the current population. The EPA and the DEP have worked together to design a plan that calls for the construction of two holding tanks that will have a capacity of 12 million gallons of sewage. The tanks should keep most of the sewage at current levels from ever touching the canal. However, when factoring in 8,000 new housing units and an estimated 18,000-20,000 new community residents, there will be significant additional sewage waste associated with the increased population. The proposed holding tanks will not be sufficient causing CSOs to continue to pour into the canal and potentially into neighboring streets.

This proposed rezoning is putting the cart before the horse.



I stand firm in my position that this rezoning must be put on hold until a genuine environmental cleanup can take place. We need to improve the quality of life in the Gowanus community before we add thousands of housing units and people to an already overburdened infrastructure system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District

Cc: Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez
Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon
Council Member Stephen Levin
Council Member Brad Lander
Council Member Carlos Menchaca
Brooklyn Community Board 6
FROGG: Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus