



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

November 24, 2020

Linda Lacewell
Superintendent
NYS Department of Financial Services
1 State Street
New York, NY 10004

John T. Witkowski
President & CEO
Independent Bankers Association of NY
19 Dove Street, Suite 101
Albany, NY 12210

Clare Cusack
President & CEO (as of Dec 1, 2020)
NYS Bankers Association
99 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016

William J. Mellin
President & CEO
New York Credit Union Association
1021 Watervliet Shaker Road, Suite 3
Albany, NY 12205

Dear Ms. Lacewell, Mr. Witkowski, Ms. Cusack, and Mr. Mellin:

I write to request that a bank branch or bank(s) be located on Roosevelt Island (RI). Amalgamated Bank closed its branch on Roosevelt Island recently, and it was the sole full-service bank on RI. Currently, the only available banking services are two ATM's that accept withdrawals.

There are 11,661 (as of the 2010 Census) Roosevelt Island residents, as well as a highly respected university, Cornell Tech, and a nursing home, Coler operated by Health & Hospitals. Both institutions employ hundreds of personnel. Going to a bank now requires going off island to Queens or Manhattan, both of which are hard to get to in a short amount of time. Residents and businesses are greatly inconvenienced.

Although online banking and direct deposit are popular, seniors, small business owners, and residents need the financial services offered by a bricks and mortar bank. Roosevelt Island, with its diverse population, is in desperate need of a bank. I ask that you review these concerns

and work with the local elected officials, Community Board 8, and Roosevelt Island Operating Corp. to restore an essential service to this captive audience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I can be reached at gbrewer@manhattanbp.nyc.gov or 917-881-3375 or contact Ysabel Abreu, MBPO staff, at yabreu@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "A".

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President