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Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Borough President

July 8, 2026

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
One World Trade Center, 285 Fulton Street
New York, NY 10006

Dear Interim Director Robert Fenton,

I write to strongly support the application by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) on behalf of Esplanade Gardens Co-op for a Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) grant to re-establish and significantly enhance coastal flood protections along the Harlem River. This project would address flood risk for thousands of residents of Esplanade Gardens and East Harlem.

FEMA's previous FMA scoping award of \$600,000 along with \$200,000 in City support enabled the initial design phase that is nearing completion. This new application seeks \$900,000 in FMA funding, supplemented by a \$300,000 City commitment, for a total \$1.2 million effort to continue the design of an integrated flood protection system.

This project's benefits would extend beyond resiliency efforts, providing crucial quality of life improvements to the surrounding Harlem community by filling a gap in the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway, delivering public open space benefits alongside critical flood risk mitigation.

As Manhattan continues to confront the accelerating impacts of climate change and coastal flooding, investments like this are essential to protecting residents, businesses and infrastructure. I urge FEMA to give this application every consideration, and I thank you for your continued partnership with the City to invest in New York's coastal resilience.

Sincerely Yours,



Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Manhattan Borough President