

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
14TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2332 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3214
(202) 225-7944

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES

OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

CHAIR
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3214

DISTRICT OFFICES:

1651 THIRD AVENUE
SUITE 311
NEW YORK, NY 10128
(212) 860-0606

28-11 ASTORIA BOULEVARD
ASTORIA, NY 11102
(718) 932-1804

WEBSITE: <http://maloney.house.gov>

June 28, 2010

The Honorable Mayor Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

We are writing regarding the crumbling Queens seawall in the East River adjacent to the Queensbridge Houses. Many years ago, a 200 foot portion of a Queens seawall on the East River in Queensbridge Park completely failed and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (the "Parks Department") fenced off the area to prevent people from getting hurt. While this safety precaution is necessary, it means that local residents no longer have access to the waterfront. In addition, cathodic devices under the seawall that are critical to the safe operation of New York subway lines are endangered by the seawall's deterioration. Experts warn that further deterioration along the waterfront is probable. Although promises have been made and plans have been drawn up, years have passed and no progress has been made in actually repairing the seawall.

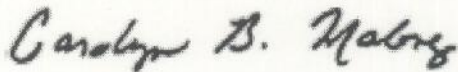
For federal fiscal years 2005 and 2006, Congresswoman Maloney succeeded in getting appropriations totalling \$555,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a survey and develop recommendations to repair the seawall, and Assemblywoman Nolan secured an additional \$350,000 in state funding for this purpose. Despite the fact that the City had requested the funding and the Congresswoman and Assemblywoman had worked to persuade their colleagues to provide it, the Parks Department made the decision not to use the funding for the seawall. We are told the federal funding has since been diverted to other projects outside the Congresswoman's district. The Parks Department advises that they made the decision in the belief that they could complete the project more quickly and comprehensively because a city agency had a mitigation obligation for work it did that impacted area waterways. Many years have passed since then, and no work has been done on the seawall.

We understand that currently both the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) and the New York City Department of Sanitation (NYC DOS) have mitigation obligations, the former as a result of repairs to the FDR Drive that impacted the East River and the latter because it is building the North Shore Marine Transfer Station in Flushing Bay near LaGuardia Airport. In each case, the relevant agency has not yet satisfied its obligation to mitigate the impact of construction on a body of water. Either agency could fulfill its responsibilities by repairing the Queens seawall.

We believe that it is time for the City and the State to require these agencies to satisfy their obligations under state law. Accordingly, we would like a meeting with the Commissioners for NYC DOT and NYC DOS, the Deputy Mayors who have jurisdiction over these agencies and appropriate representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation in order to move this project forward. The city needs to decide which agency will fulfill its mitigation obligation by repairing the seawall and who will be in charge of overseeing the project. The agency in charge must develop a realistic timeline for completing the necessary repairs to the seawall.

The residents of Long Island City have lived with a dangerous and deteriorating seawall for too long. State law requires that city agencies take real steps to mitigate encroachments on our waterfront, and we hope you will ensure that these city agencies fulfill their obligations under the law without further delay. Congresswoman Maloney's office will be reaching out to arrange an appropriate time, date and place for the meeting.

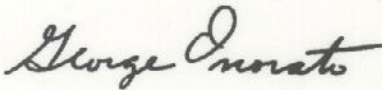
Very truly yours,



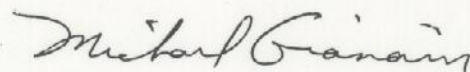
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



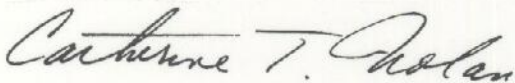
HELEN MARSHALL
Queens Borough President



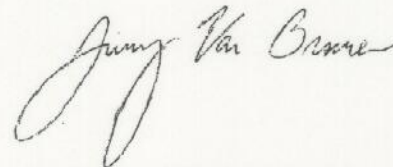
GEORGE ONORATO
State Senator



MICHAEL N. GIANARIS
Assembly Member



CATHERINE NOLAN
Assembly Member



JIMMY VAN BRAMER
Council Member