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Honorable Mayor Bill de Blasio
Honorable Corey Johnson, City Council Speaker
Jainey Bavishi, Director of Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency
Vincent Sapienza, Commissioner NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Esplanade Gardens, Inc.
Manhattan Community Board 10
Local Elected Officials
Community Organizations

RE: Request for Critical Repairs to the Esplanade Gardens Sea Wall

We write to request that the City of New York allocate funding to repair and replace the sea wall adjacent to Esplanade Gardens and the Harlem River (please refer to the attached repair and replacement proposal options). The sea wall is critical to providing coastal defense for residents, businesses, public facilities, and transit infrastructure located within the hub of 145th and Malcolm X Blvd. For the safety of residents, private, and public property it is critical that the city allocate funding to replace the Esplanade Gardens Sea Wall.

Climate change has caused greater frequency of coastal storms, such as Hurricane Ida, urban flooding, and unprecedented rainfall, all of which severely threaten weakened infrastructure. Esplanade Gardens is a Mitchell-Lama development in Harlem that was built in 1967 and comprises six 27-storey buildings with a total of 1,872 apartments. Historically low-income communities of color, like Harlem, are disproportionately affected by climate change as they are left more exposed and vulnerable due to underinvestment.

On September 27th, 2021 Mayor de Blasio released "The New Normal: Combatting Storm-Related Extreme Weather in New York City" stating a commitment to prioritize investments in low-income neighborhoods, immigrant communities, and communities of color with an additional \$2.1 billion in new funding at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); \$238 million in accelerated funding for crucial DEP projects. It is our request that newly allocated funding to DEP for FY 2022 or FEMA BRIC 2021 funding be sufficiently allocated to repair the Esplanade Gardens Sea Wall.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your response and assistance in building resilient infrastructure for Harlem.