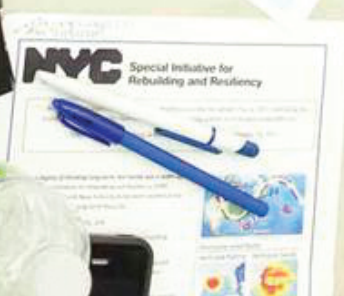




repair or mold issues?
www.nyc.gov/housingrecovery
Long-term rebuilding questions?
Email: Outreach@nycsirr.org



Community Rebuilding and Resiliency Plans

New York is a city of neighborhoods—hundreds of them, all different but all treasured both by those who know them intimately and by the city as a whole. These neighborhoods are where New Yorkers live and raise families and where they work and run businesses. Whether these communities have peaceful parks or lively beaches, historic buildings or hip shops, these are the places New Yorkers return to again and again—and visitors search out for a taste of the city's famed diversity.

The city cherishes its neighborhoods, and the strategies and initiatives detailed in previous chapters are designed to benefit all of them. For example, strengthening the electric grid will help minimize power outages in all neighborhoods. Protecting the transportation network will help keep roads open and mass transit running. Making the healthcare system more resilient will help hospitals to remain operational for residents throughout the city.

Yet even as the city plans for the future and seeks to make neighborhoods in all five boroughs more resilient in the face of climate change, it also recognizes that Sandy affected people in certain neighborhoods more than those in the rest of the city. As of the writing of this report, many of these people still are struggling to get back on their feet. They still are trying to repair homes, replace lost inventory, and generally put lives back together in places that have not yet returned to “normal.”

Though these people can be found in many corners of the city, the neighborhoods that ultimately suffered the greatest lingering physical damage—the neighborhoods where “normal” continues to feel farthest away—are clustered in five areas of the city. These five areas, which together are home to 683,000 people and nearly 42,000 businesses, are the Brooklyn-Queens Waterfront, the East and South Shores of Staten Island, South Queens, Southern Brooklyn, and Southern Manhattan.

While these areas of the city generally share a number of traits since Sandy—including widespread damage, significant business interruption, and lost infrastructure—they also have in common yet another attribute. Namely, in each there is a fierce attachment to home and community—an unwavering determination to recover. The Community Rebuilding and Resiliency Plans for these five communities are offered in recognition—and celebration—of that resilient spirit.

The chapters on the following pages tell these communities' stories: They describe the vulnerabilities these areas possessed before Sandy. They explain what happened during the storm. They suggest what a future of increased climate risks may bring. Finally, they describe dozens of citywide and community-specific initiatives that will help these communities stand strong again.

Some have said that following Sandy the only answer is to “retreat” from the shore. But in

New York City, as a general matter, that is simply not possible. The city's waterfront areas are dense, urban places containing hundreds of thousands of people and hundreds of millions of square feet of built space that simply cannot be picked up and relocated elsewhere. Furthermore, New York's experience during Sandy shows that with the right mix of defenses, built up in layers—defenses at the coastal level, at the building level, and at the infrastructure level—it is possible to live on the waterfront in a more resilient fashion. While it is not possible to “climate change-proof” these communities, it is possible to continue to enjoy their many virtues while addressing many of the threats that exist today and that are likely to increase with changes in the climate.

So New York City will not retreat, and it will not abandon. New York City, instead, will stand with its waterfront neighborhoods. The City will fight for these neighborhoods and for all neighborhoods across the five boroughs.

Areas of Focus for Community Rebuilding and Resiliency Plans

