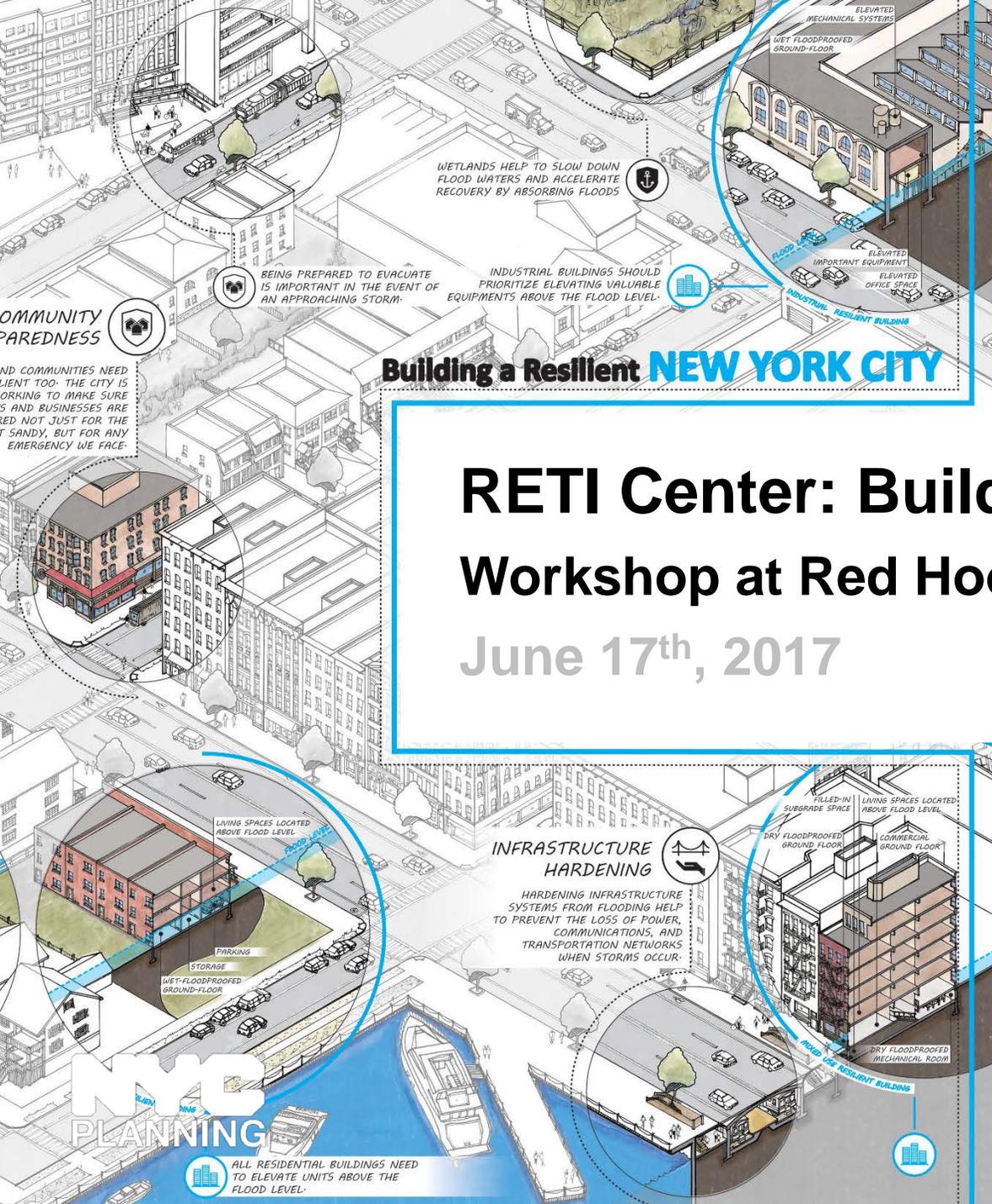


# Zoning for Flood Resilience



Building a Resilient **NEW YORK CITY**

## RETI Center: Building Resilience Day Workshop at Red Hook

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### INFRASTRUCTURE HARDENING

HARDENING INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS FROM FLOODING HELP TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF POWER, COMMUNICATIONS, AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS WHEN STORMS OCCUR.

**NYC**  
PLANNING

ALL RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS NEED TO ELEVATE UNITS ABOVE THE FLOOD LEVEL.

# Zoning for Flood Resilience Workshop Agenda



## Agenda:

1. Overview of zoning for flood resilience – 15 min
2. Table Activity about building-scale resilience strategies in Red Hook– 45 min
3. Report Summary of Table Discussions – 15 min

Questions? DCP staff will be available after the activity to answer more specific questions!!!

# Zoning for Flood Resilience Workshop Agenda



## Agenda:

1. **Overview of zoning for flood resilience – 15 min**
2. Table Activity about building-scale resilience strategies in Red Hook– 45 min
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Questions? DCP staff will be available after the activity to answer more specific questions!!!

# Zoning for Flood Resilience

## Overview of DCP's Timeline

DCP plans a robust public engagement process:

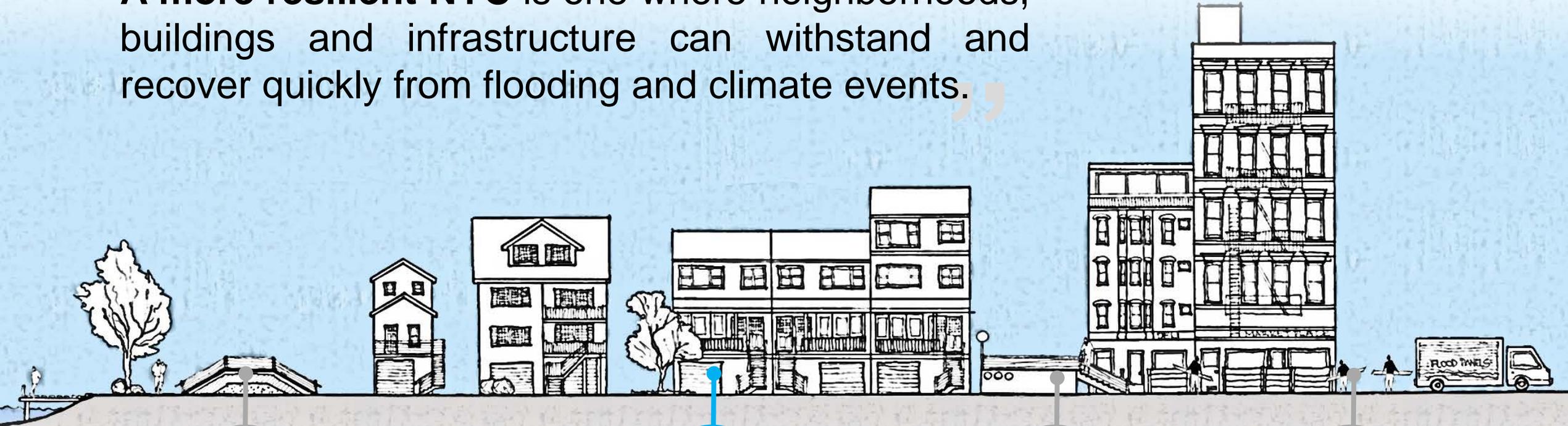


As part of this outreach process, DCP has been:

- **Partnering with stakeholders** to educate and promote awareness of flood risk and resiliency issues
- **Explain how zoning tools** relate to resiliency
- **Explore unique neighborhood issues** through in-depth public presentations and workshops
- Develop a proposal through an **iterative process** that is shaped by feedback

# #ONENYC

“A more resilient NYC is one where neighborhoods, buildings and infrastructure can withstand and recover quickly from flooding and climate events.”



## Coastal defenses

are strengthened as first line of defense against flooding and sea level rise



## Buildings

are designed to withstand and recover from flooding



## Infrastructure

is protected from climate hazards



## Residents and businesses

are prepared

# Types of Flooding

## Citywide Flood Risk



FLOOD TYPES

# FEMA Flood Map

## Citywide Flood Risk

NYC's flood risk is high.

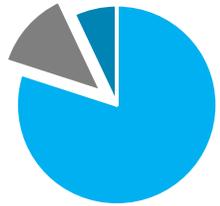
The floodplain affects a large geography and most community and council districts.

### 100 Year Floodplain

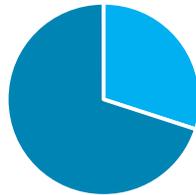
FEMA 2015 PFIRM

Population: **400,000**  
Buildings: **71,500**

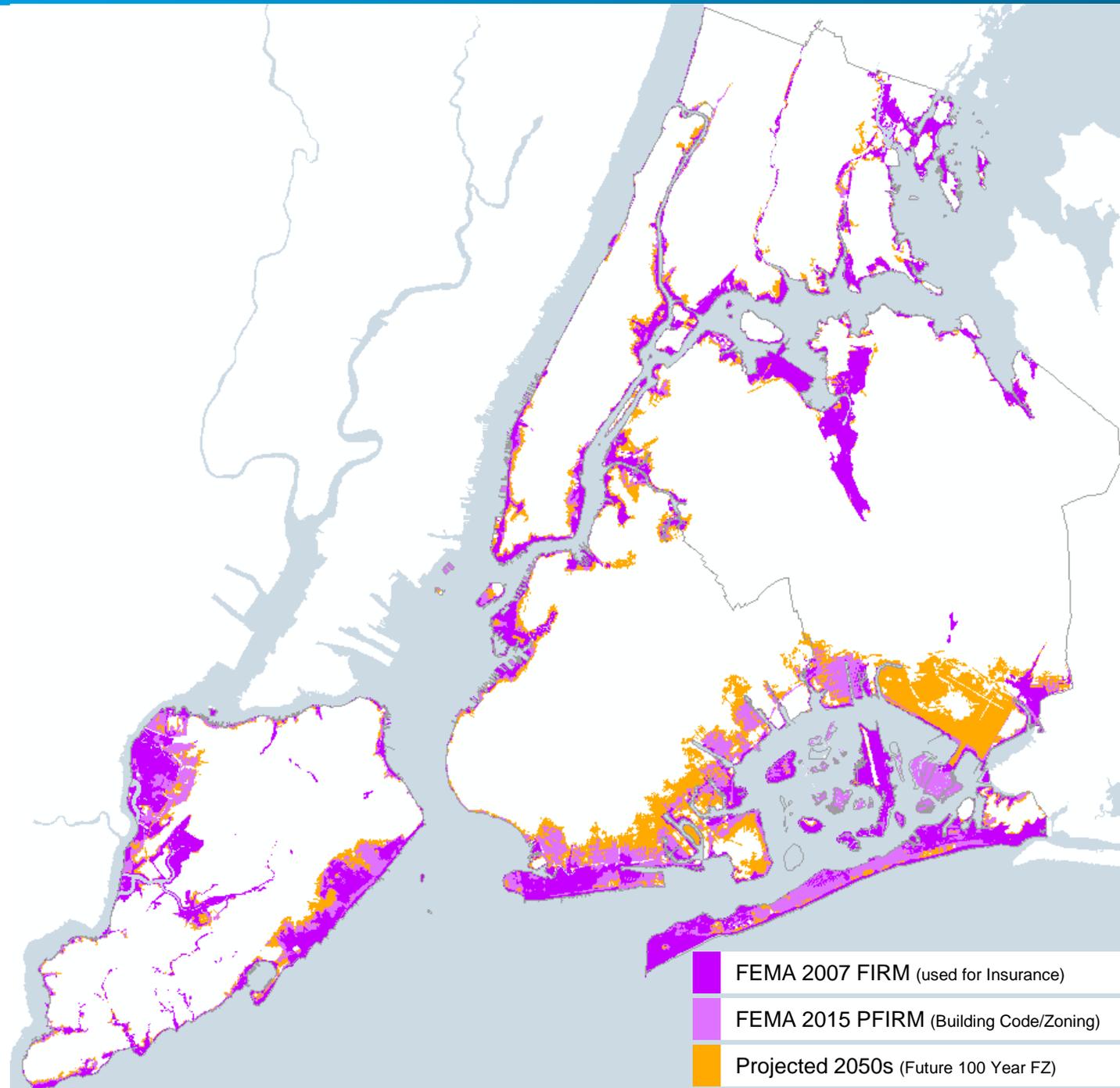
**50** of 59 Community Boards  
**45** of 51 Council Districts



Buildings:  
**80%** 1-4 units  
**7%** 5+ units  
**13%** nonresidential



Residential  
Units:  
**30%** 1-4 units  
**70%** 5+ units



FEMA 2007 FIRM (used for Insurance)

FEMA 2015 PFIRM (Building Code/Zoning)

Projected 2050s (Future 100 Year FZ)

# Future Flood Risk

## Flood Risk in BK CB 6

	2015 PFIRMS	2050's Projected
R units in floodplain	6,067	8,856
Buildings in floodplain	1,308	2,096

R units in floodplain

6,067

8,856

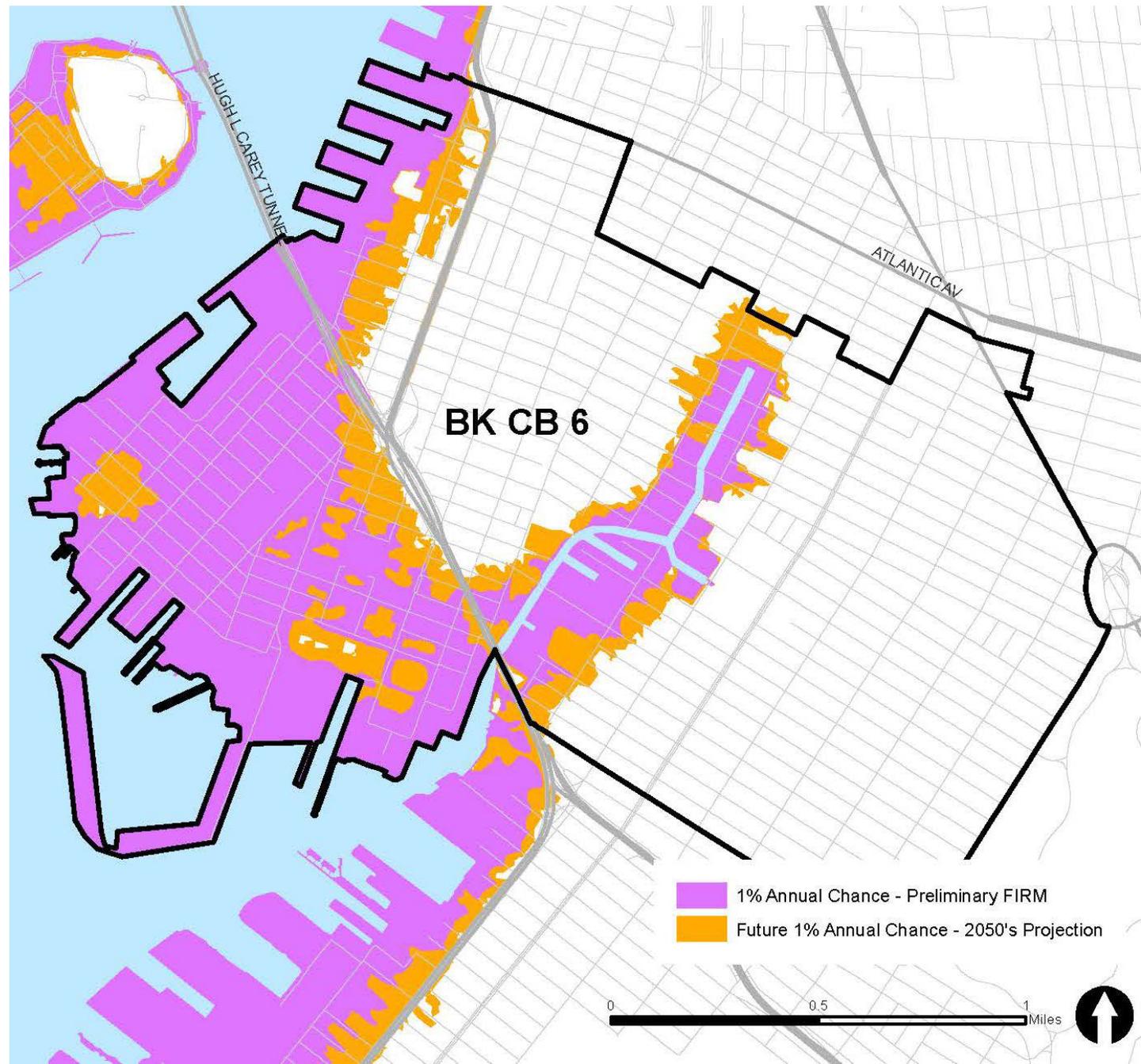
↑ 46%

Buildings in floodplain

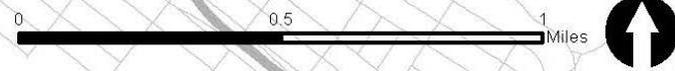
1,308

2,096

↑ 60%



1% Annual Chance - Preliminary FIRM  
Future 1% Annual Chance - 2050's Projection



# Urban Design Principles

The future of NYC coastal communities:

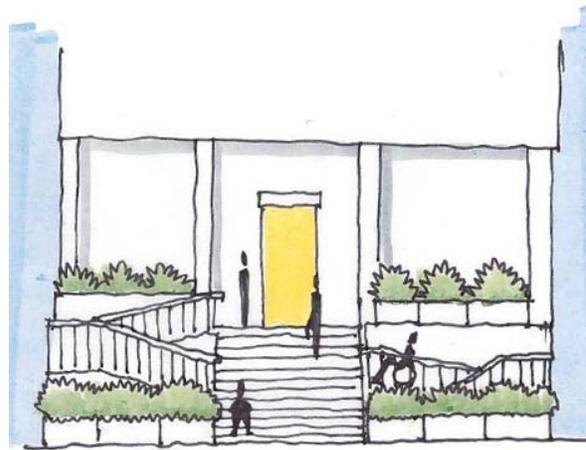
4

Encourage good resilient construction that enhances the character of coastal communities



## PLACE

Preserve  
Neighborhood  
Character



## EQUITY

Ensure  
Inviting Access



## DETAIL

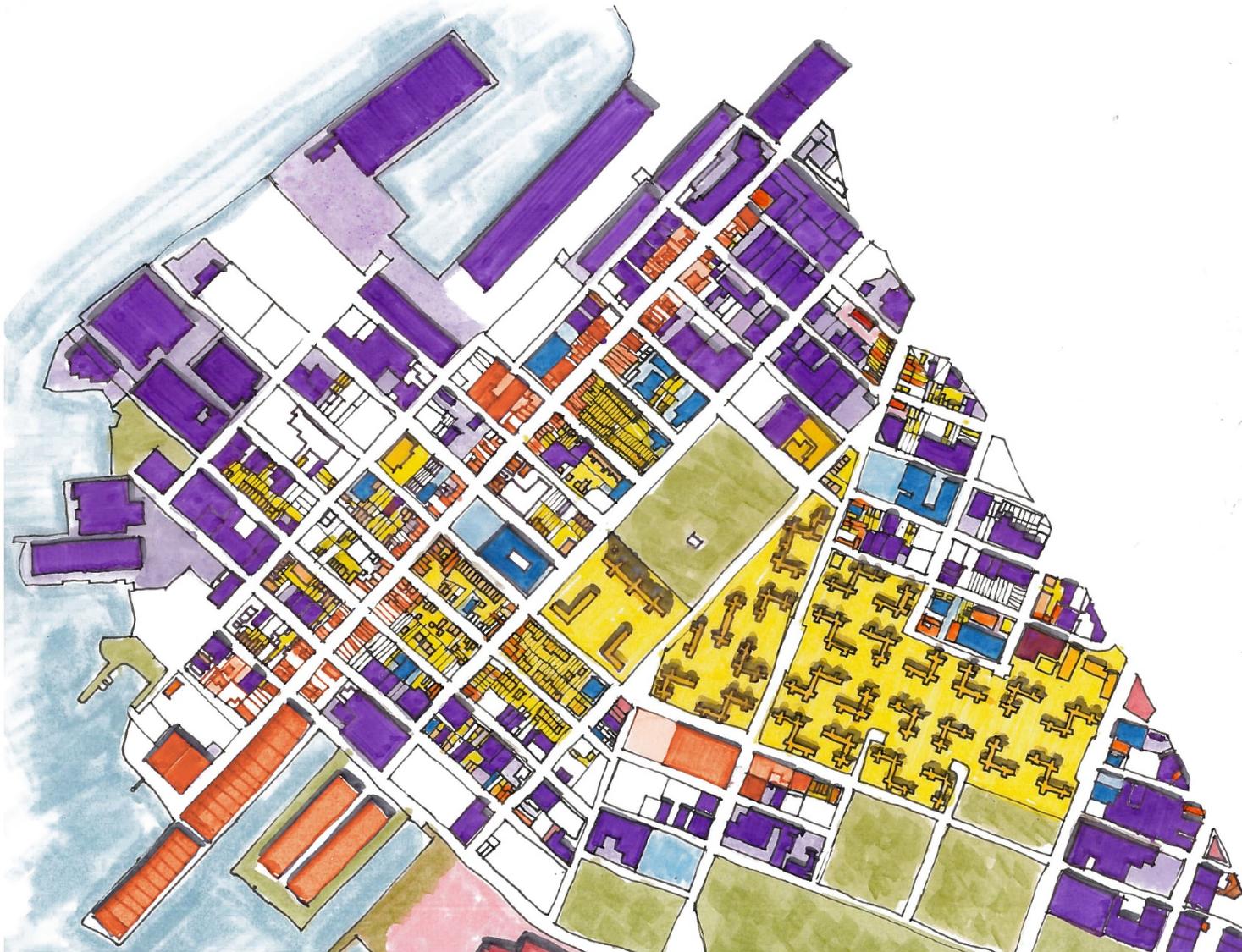
Encourage Dynamic  
and Thoughtful  
Architecture



## COMFORT

Maintain Street  
Vitality and Safety

# Red Hook, Brooklyn – Neighborhood Character



## **Mixed Use—**

1-6 stories, commercial and residential, predominantly masonry, attached and semi attached.

## **Residential Streets –**

3-4 stories, 1-2 family, masonry and wood frame, attached and semi attached.

## **Industrial Waterfront –**

1-6 stories, commercial and industrial, masonry, concrete, and steel frame, attached and semi attached.

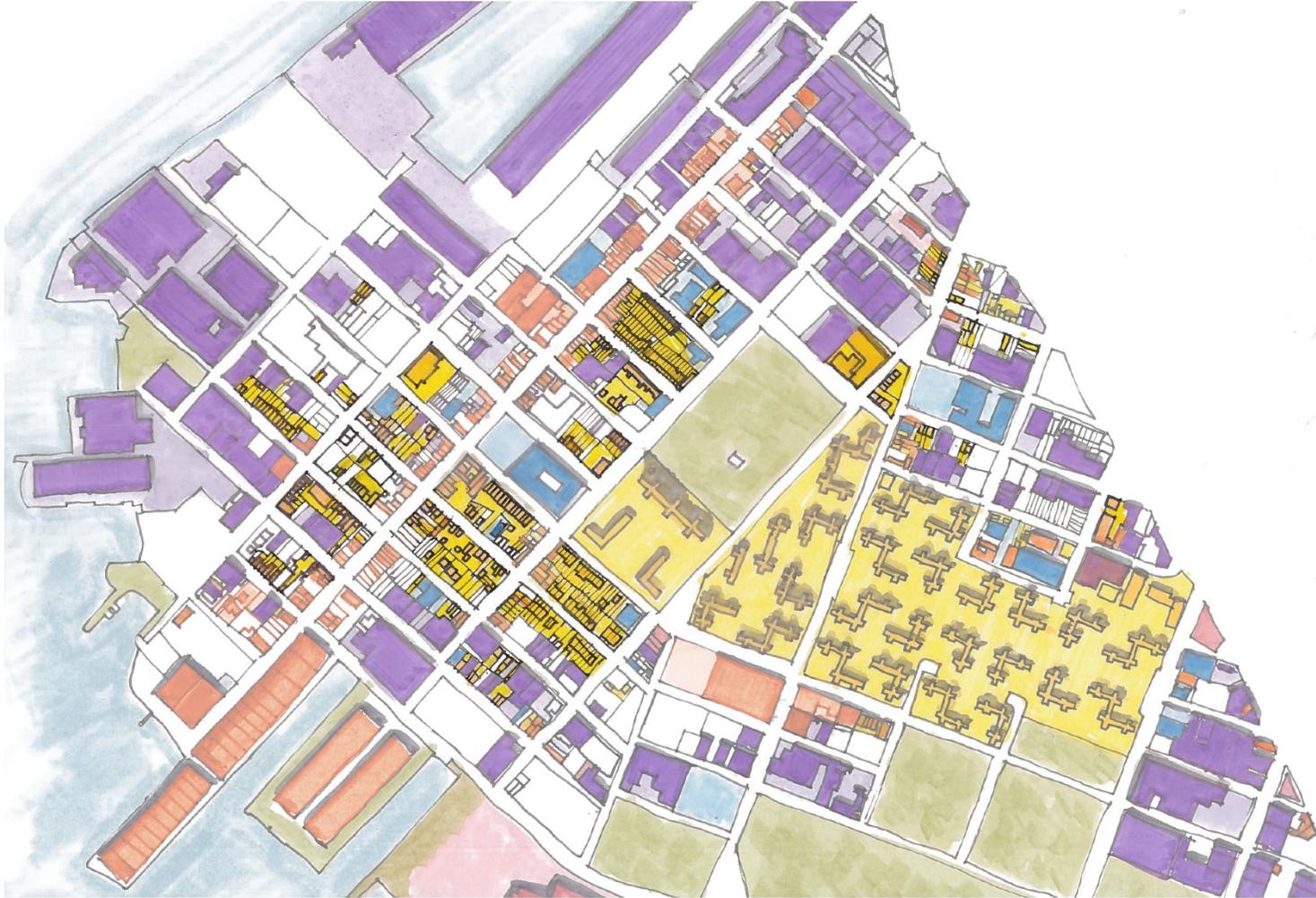
## **Red Hook Houses—**

6 – 14 stories, 3,000 units.

# Red Hook, Brooklyn – Neighborhood Character

## Residential Streets –

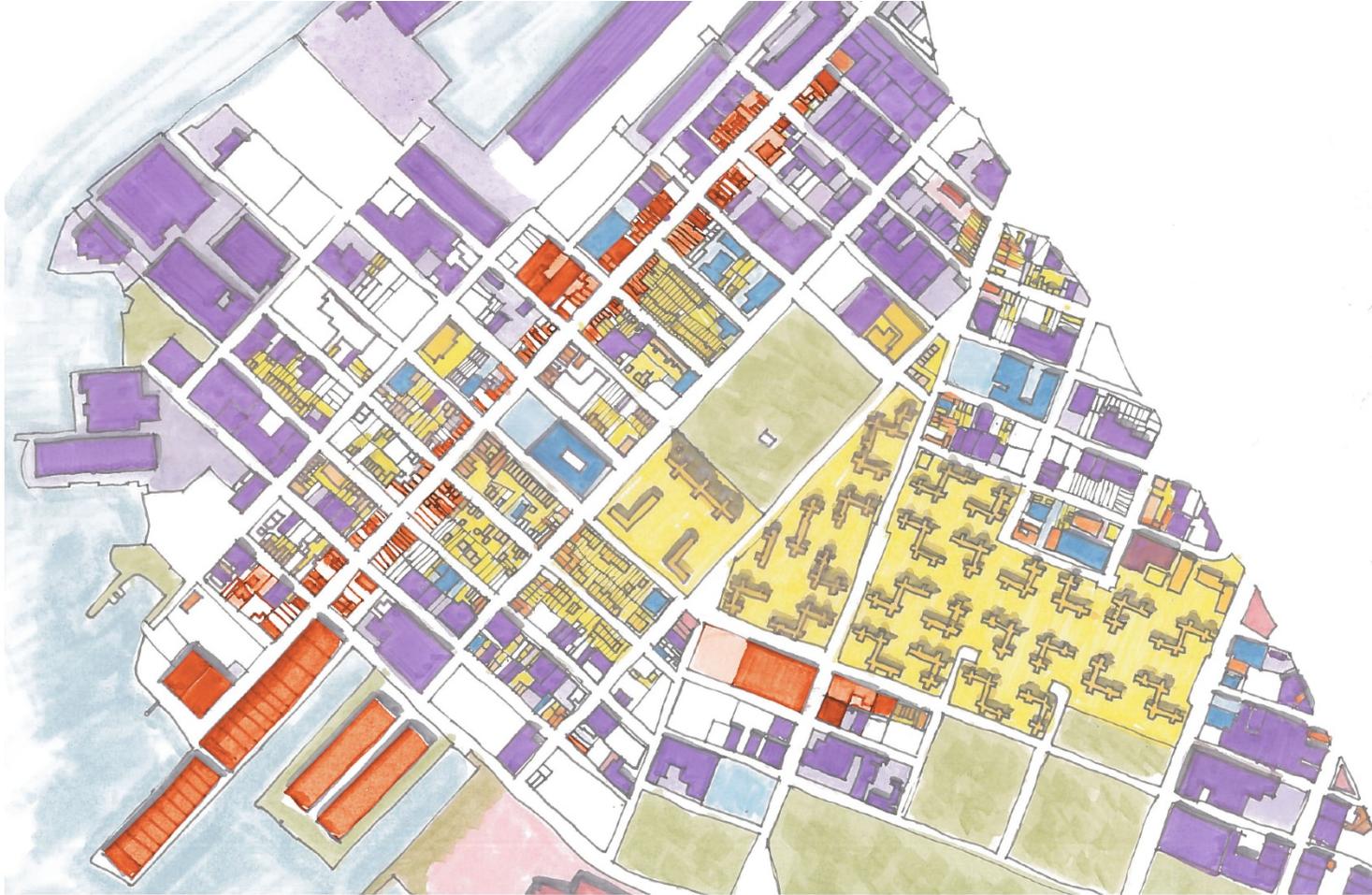
3-4 stories, 1-2 family, masonry and wood frame, attached and semi attached.



# Red Hook, Brooklyn – Neighborhood Character

## Mixed Use–

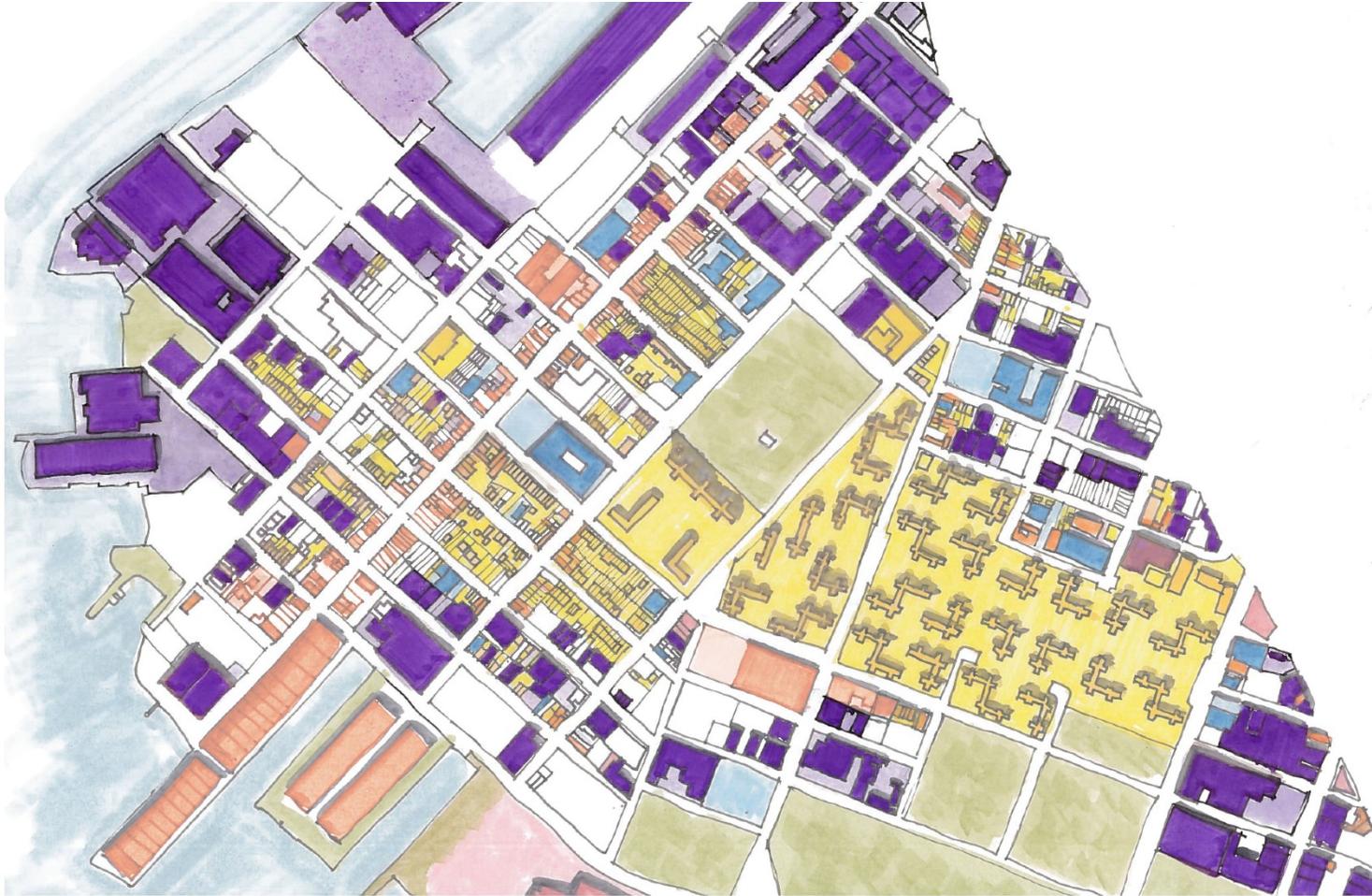
1-6 stories, commercial and residential, predominantly masonry, attached and semi attached.



# Red Hook, Brooklyn – Neighborhood Character

## Industrial Waterfront –

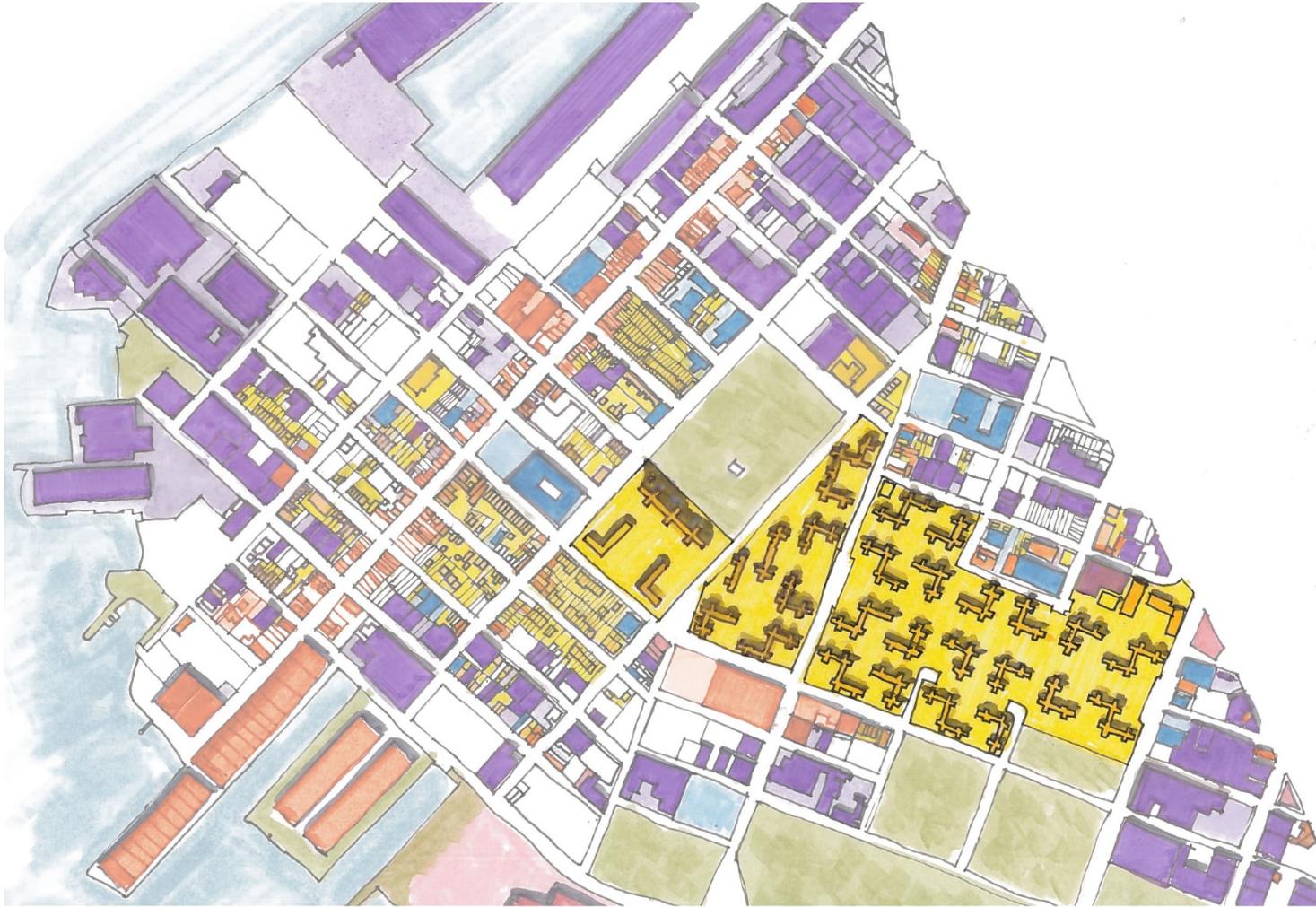
1-6 stories, commercial and industrial, masonry, concrete, and steel frame, attached and semi attached.



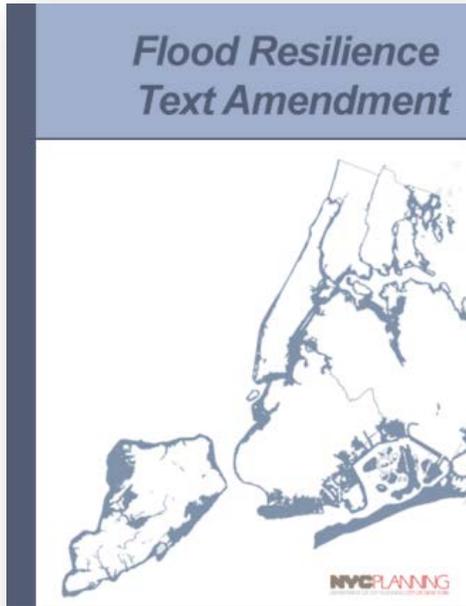
# Red Hook, Brooklyn – Neighborhood Character

## Red Hook Houses—

6 – 20 stories, 3,000 units,



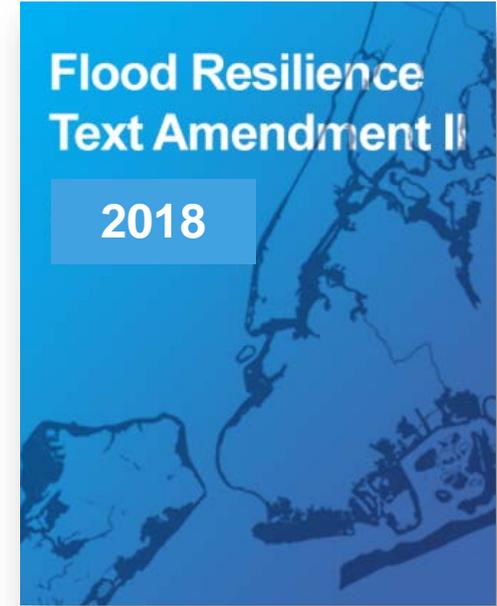
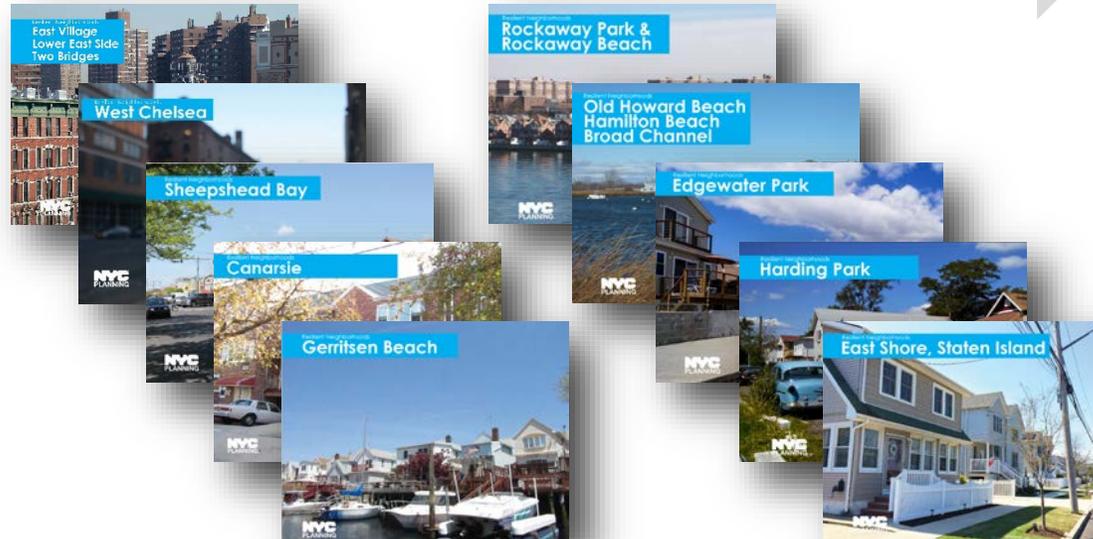
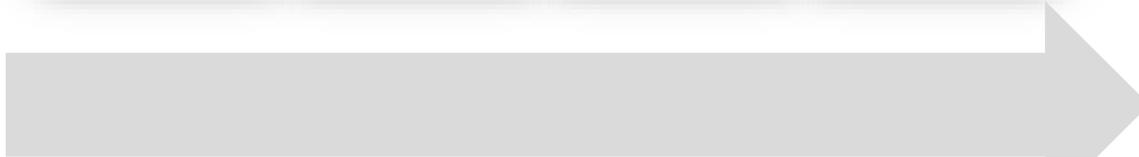
# Flood Resilience Zoning Projects at DCP



2013

“Flood Text”

initial temporary regulations to facilitate recovery



2018

“Flood Text Update”  
improve upon, and make permanent, the Flood Text

# How are buildings in the floodplain regulated?

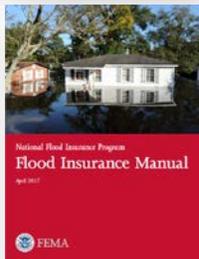


FEMA



**Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)**

Determine where floodplain regulations apply



**National Flood Insurance Program**

Set up Insurance Rates depending on building elevation and other requirements



**Construction Standards (ASCE 24)**

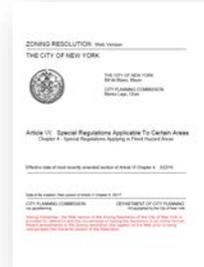
Design minimum construction requirements for flood hazard areas

NYC



**Building Code (DOB)**

Requires new buildings and substantial improvements to meet FEMA standards



**Zoning Resolution (DCP)**

Zoning accommodates these regulations and improves neighborhood character

# Flood resilient construction

## Required by DOB



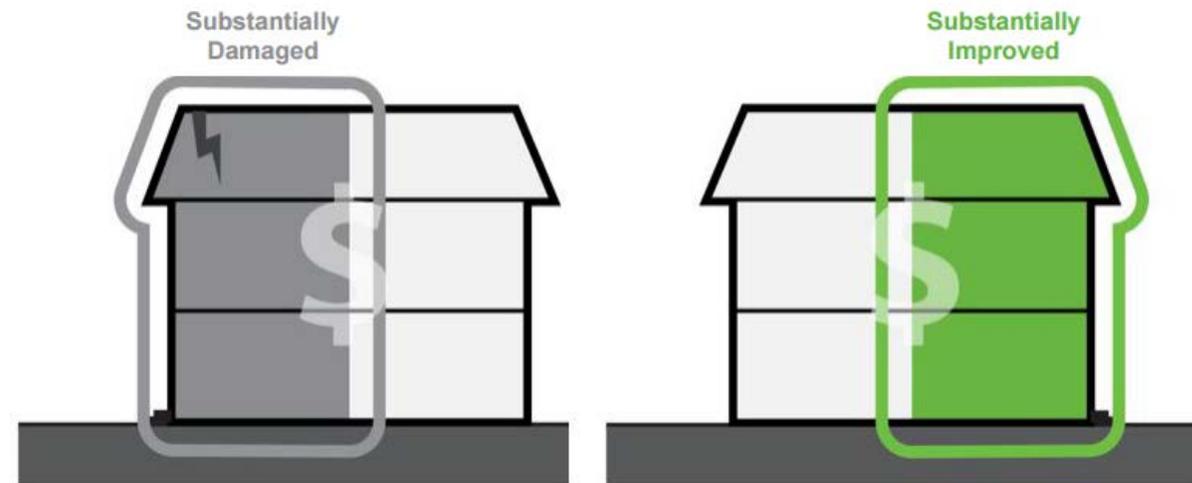
**Building Code  
(DOB)**

**Requires** new buildings and substantial improvements to meet FEMA standards

**Required**  
for all new buildings



**Not required** for existing buildings  
(unless substantially damaged or improved)

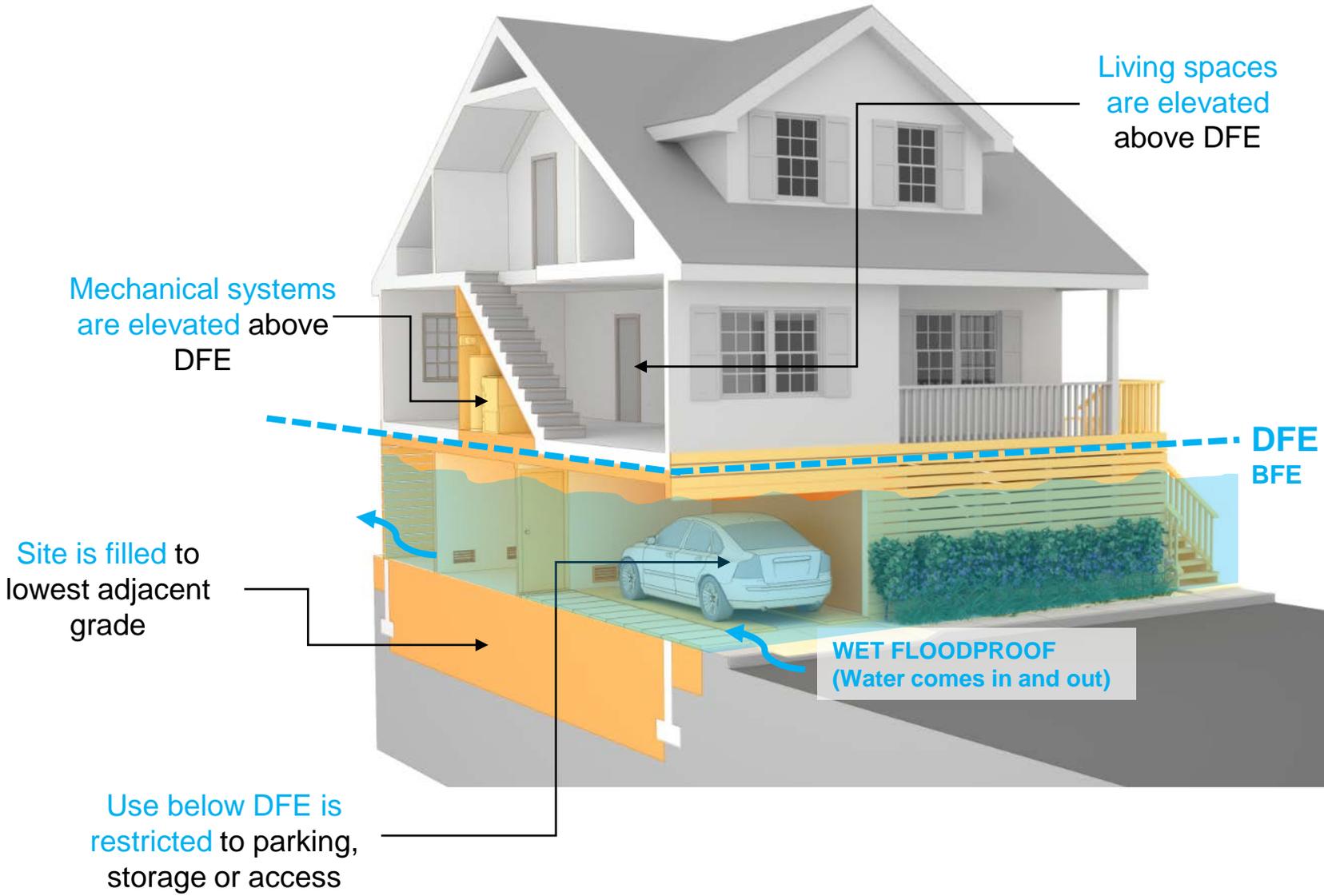


# Flood resilient construction

## Required by DOB

Building Code (DOB)

**Flood resilient construction** standards require certain buildings to elevate the lowest floor, as well as mechanical equipment, above the Design Flood Elevation (DFE).





# Flood resilient construction

## Examples of Residential Buildings

Building Code  
(DOB)



Residential Building  
with access at grade (wet-floodproofed)



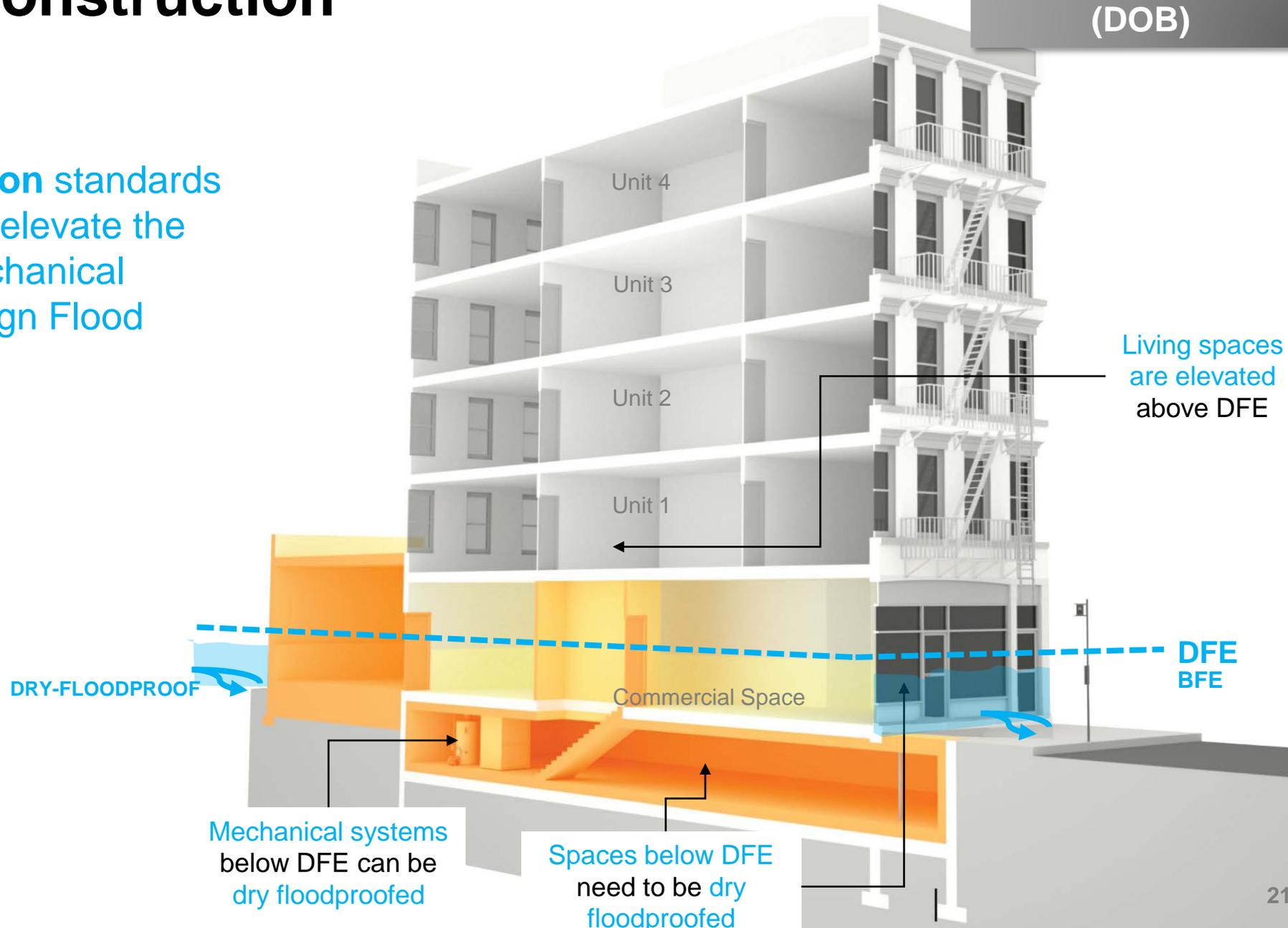
Residential Building  
Elevated to DFE – 3' above grade

# Flood resilient construction

## Required by DOB

Building Code  
(DOB)

Flood resilient construction standards require certain buildings to elevate the lowest floor, as well as mechanical equipment, above the Design Flood Elevation (DFE).



# Flood resilient construction

## Examples of Commercial Buildings

Building Code  
(DOB)



Commercial Ground Floor  
Existing Building with access at grade (deployable flood shields)



Commercial Ground Floor  
Elevated to DFE - 2.5'

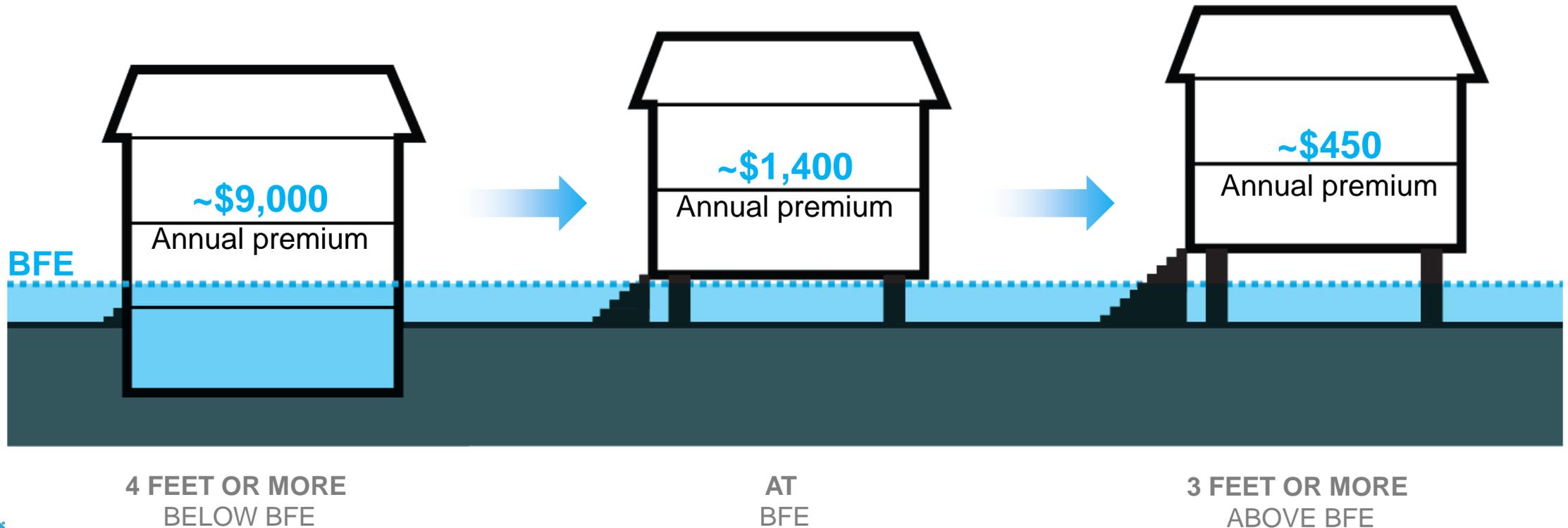
# Flood insurance rates

## Set by FEMA



Raising or retrofitting your building or home will reduce costs

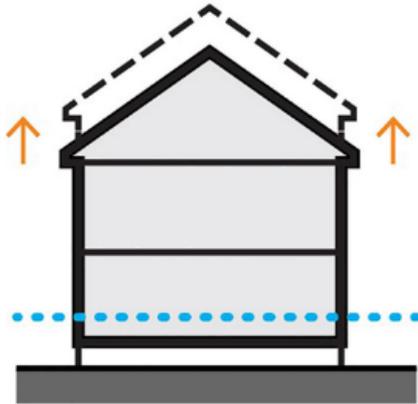
FEMA's flood insurance premiums are lowest when the lowest inhabited floor (any area not used solely for storage, access or parking) is elevated above the **Base Flood Elevation (BFE)**.



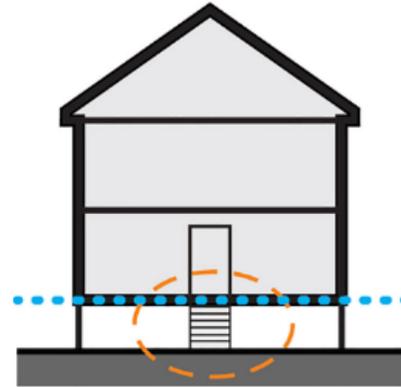
# 2013 Citywide Flood Text

Amended zoning in six key areas

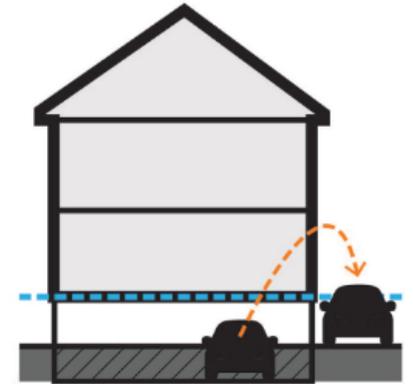
**1**  
**Height**  
Measured from flood elevation



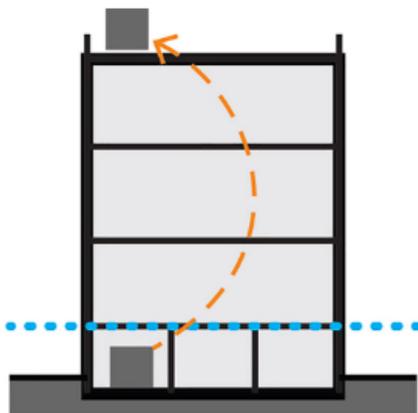
**2**  
**Access**  
Flexibility for stairs, ramps, lifts



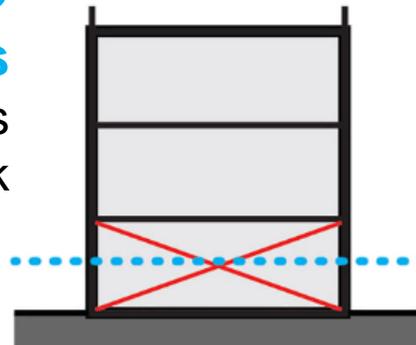
**3**  
**Parking**  
Flexibility to relocate parking



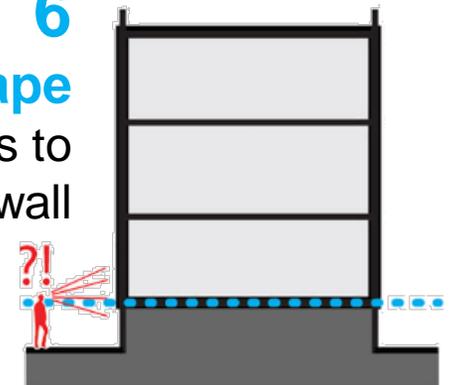
**4**  
**Systems**  
Flexibility to relocate/elevate



**5**  
**Ground Floors**  
Account for costs of new flood risk



**6**  
**Streetscape**  
Require features to mitigate blank wall



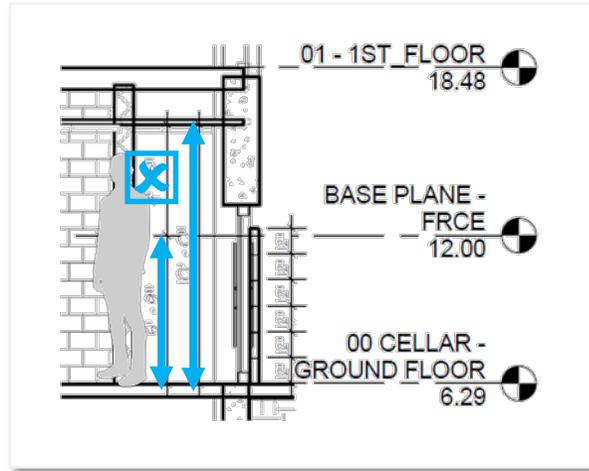
# Flood Text II

## Need for a new citywide text amendment:



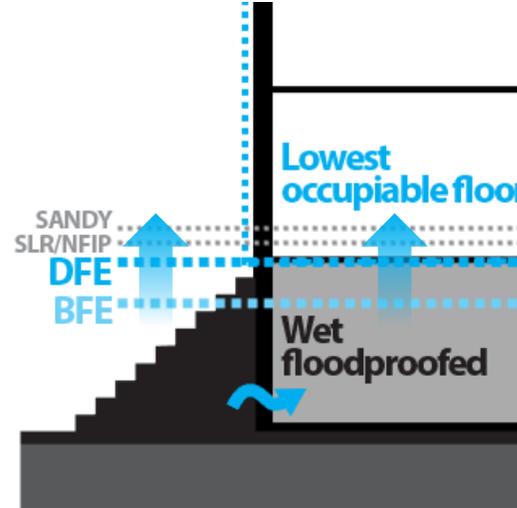
1

Make the provisions of the current, temporary 2013 Flood Text permanent



2

Fix and improve provisions based on studies and lessons learned in six key areas



3

Begin to promote new development + proactive retrofitting to high resiliency standards



4

Encourage good resilient construction that enhances the character of coastal communities

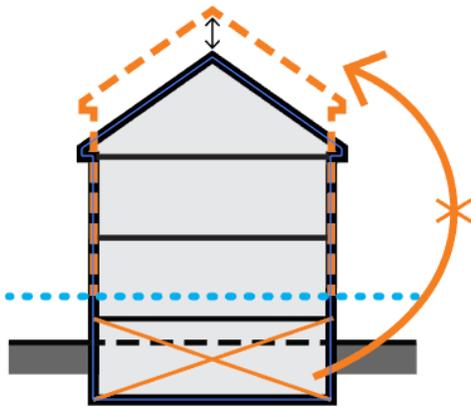
# Flood Text II

## Fix and improve provisions based on lessons learned

1

### Height

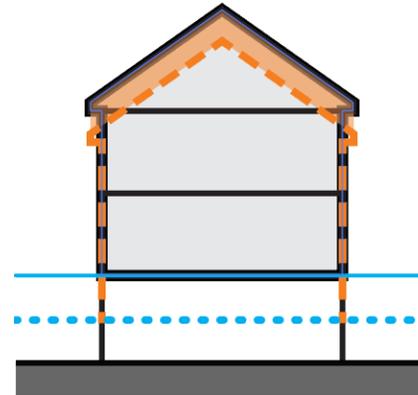
Homeowners may face the loss of subgrade spaces when retrofitting



2

### Height

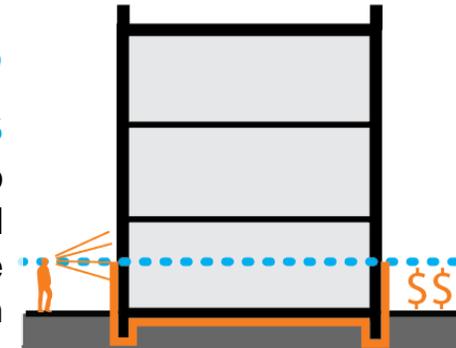
Property owners may want to address future risk by over-elevating



3

### Ground Floors

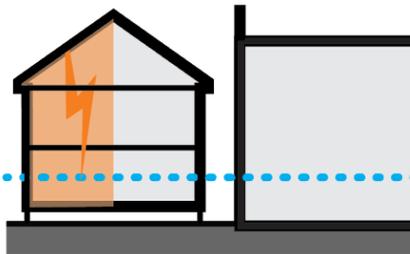
Current incentives to keep active ground floors may not be enough



4

### Homes in M Districts

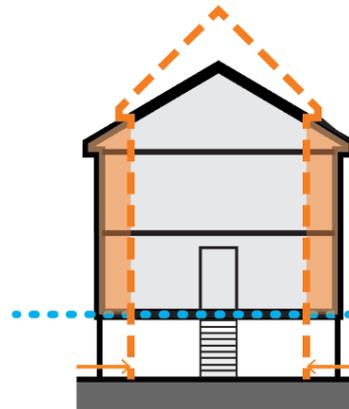
Existing homes in M. Districts, if damaged, may not be able to rebuild



5

### Old Homes in Small Lots

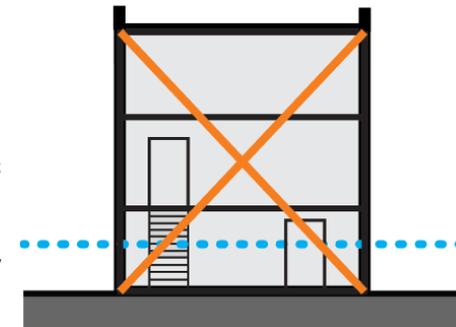
Old homes on small lots may need more flexibility to rebuild in the future



6

### Improve Streetscape

Mitigate the effects of elevated buildings on neighborhood character



# Outreach Resources



## NYC Flood Hazard Mapper

[www.nyc.gov/floodhazardmapper](http://www.nyc.gov/floodhazardmapper)

## Info briefs on Flood Resilience Zoning, Flood Risk, Flood Resilient Construction, and Flood Insurance

[www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods](http://www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods)



### NYC PLANNING Info Brief Flood Insurance

Flood insurance covers damages to property or personal contents from flooding caused by excessive rainfall, tidal flooding, or wind-driven storm surges. Changes to flood maps and reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program will lead to increases in flood insurance rates over time. In addition to flood resilient construction, insurance is another strategy for reducing flood risk.

#### Why is Flood Insurance Important?

- Floods can cause significant damage to your most valuable asset: your business.
- Even properties far from the coast are at risk of flooding.
- Homeowner and property insurance do not cover damage by flooding. You need a separate policy.
- Federal assistance is not guaranteed in the event of a flood.
- Many property owners are required by federal law to purchase and maintain flood insurance if the property is located in a federal risk flood zone of the 2007 FIRMs (see map to the right), has a federally backed mortgage, or has received federal disaster assistance.

#### How Much Flood Insurance Must a Homeowner Purchase?

Properties with a federally backed mortgage or outside a high-risk flood zone and those that received federal disaster assistance must maintain flood insurance up to the NFIP limits, or the outstanding mortgage balance, whichever is lower. Failure to do so may require mortgage servicers to purchase a private mortgage insurance policy at a higher price on the cost through monthly mortgage payments.

Homeowners without a federally backed mortgage or outside a high-risk flood zone may carry up to the maximum policy limit with additional contents coverage up to \$100,000 for owners or renters. Co-ops, multifamily buildings and business properties may be covered up to \$500,000. Business and tenants can also purchase up to \$500,000 in contents coverage.

NYC Planning | November 2016

### NYC PLANNING Info Brief Flood Risk in NYC

New York City is highly vulnerable to flooding from coastal storms due to its intensively used waterfront and its extensive coastal geography. Floods have the potential to destroy homes and businesses, impair infrastructure, and threaten human safety. With climate change and sea level rise, these risks are expected to increase in the future, but will most adversely affect low-lying neighborhoods.

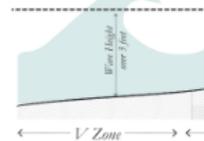
#### Flood Risks

Hurricanes, tropical storms, nor'easters, intense rain storms, and even extreme tides are the primary causes of flooding in NYC.

For building code, zoning, and planning purposes, flood risk in NYC is regulated by FEMA's 2015 Preliminary Flood Risk Rate Maps (PFIRMs).

- PFIRMs show the extent to which waters are expected to rise during an event that has a 1% annual chance of occurring. This height is denoted as Flood Elevation (FE) on the maps.
- The 1% annual chance floodplain, sometimes referred to as the 100-year floodplain, is the area that is expected to be flooded once every 100 years. In the 1% annual chance floodplain, there is a 26% chance over the life of a 30-year mortgage that a property will be flooded.

For flood insurance purposes, the 1% annual chance floodplain with a federally backed mortgage are mandated by law to purchase flood insurance.



The 1% annual chance floodplain is divided into different degrees of flood risk: V and Coastal High Water Flooding but not wave damage. The maps show areas with a lower annual chance of flooding.

NYC Planning | November 2016

### NYC PLANNING Flood Resilience Zoning

City Planning is working with communities throughout the floodplain to identify zoning and land use strategies to reduce flood risks and support the city's vitality and resiliency through long-term adaptive planning. The Flood Resilience Zoning Text is one part of a wide range of efforts by the City to recover from Hurricane Sandy, promote rebuilding, and increase the city's resilience to climate-related events.

#### Overview

The Flood Text enables and encourages resilient building construction through designated floodplains.

The Flood Text modified zoning to regulate buildings that hindered or impeded the reconstruction of storm-damaged buildings by enabling new and existing buildings with new, higher flood elevations issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and to comply with new requirements of the New York City Building Code.

It also introduced regulations to mitigate negative effects of flood resilient construction on the public realm. The text was adopted on a temporary, emergency basis. The future update of this text, guided by community input, will aim to make the text permanent and incorporate lessons learned during the rebuilding process.

#### Where is the Flood Text Applicable?

The Flood Text is available to buildings located entirely or partially within an annual chance floodplain.

These rules can be found in Article V of the Zoning Resolution and, if utilized, require the building to fully comply with resilient construction standards found in the New York City Building Code. Some provisions, such as elevation certification, are available to all buildings in the floodplain, even if not fully compliant with Appendix G.

For more information about the Flood Resilience Zoning Text, visit [www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods](http://www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods).

\*Per the more restrictive of the 2007 FIRMs or PFIRMs.

NYC Planning | March 2017 | Flood Resilient Construction

### NYC PLANNING Info Brief Flood Resilient Construction

Flood resilient construction reduces potential damages from flooding and can lower flood insurance premiums. New buildings in the floodplain are required to meet flood resilient standards. Existing buildings can reduce their risk by retrofitting or rebuilding to meet these standards, or can take partial, short-term measures to address safety concerns.

#### Overview

There is a wide range of accepted flood resilient construction practices for buildings to better withstand floods and reoccupy more quickly following a storm. These include:

- Elevating the lowest floor.
- Elevating mechanical equipment such as electrical, heating, and plumbing equipment.
- Wet floodproofing by utilizing water resistant building materials and limiting uses below the Design Flood Elevation (DFE) to parking, building access, and minor storage. This allows water to move in and out of uninhabited, lower portions of the building with minimal damage.
- Dry floodproofing sealing the building's exterior to flood waters and using removable barriers at all entrances below the expected level of flooding in mixed-use and non-residential buildings.

#### Examples of Flood Resilient Construction

Visit [www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods](http://www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods) to see more examples in the Retrofitting for Flood Risk report.



- 1 Site is filled to the lowest adjacent grade
- 2 Space below the DFE is for parking, building access or minor storage
- 3 Mechanical systems are above the DFE
- 4 Plants and stair turns improve the look of the building from the street
- 5 Rooftop addition replaces lost below grade space
- 6 Commercial space is dry floodproofed with removable barriers

NYC Planning | November 2016 | Flood Resilient Construction



For more information, and to stay involved, email  
**resilientneighborhoods@planning.nyc.gov**

# Zoning for Flood Resilience Workshop Agenda

## Agenda:

1. Overview of zoning for flood resilience – 15 min
- 2. Table Activity about building-scale resilience strategies in Red Hook– 45 min**
3. Report Summary of Table Discussions – 15 min

Questions? DCP staff will be available after the activity to answer questions!!!

# Zoning for Flood Resilience

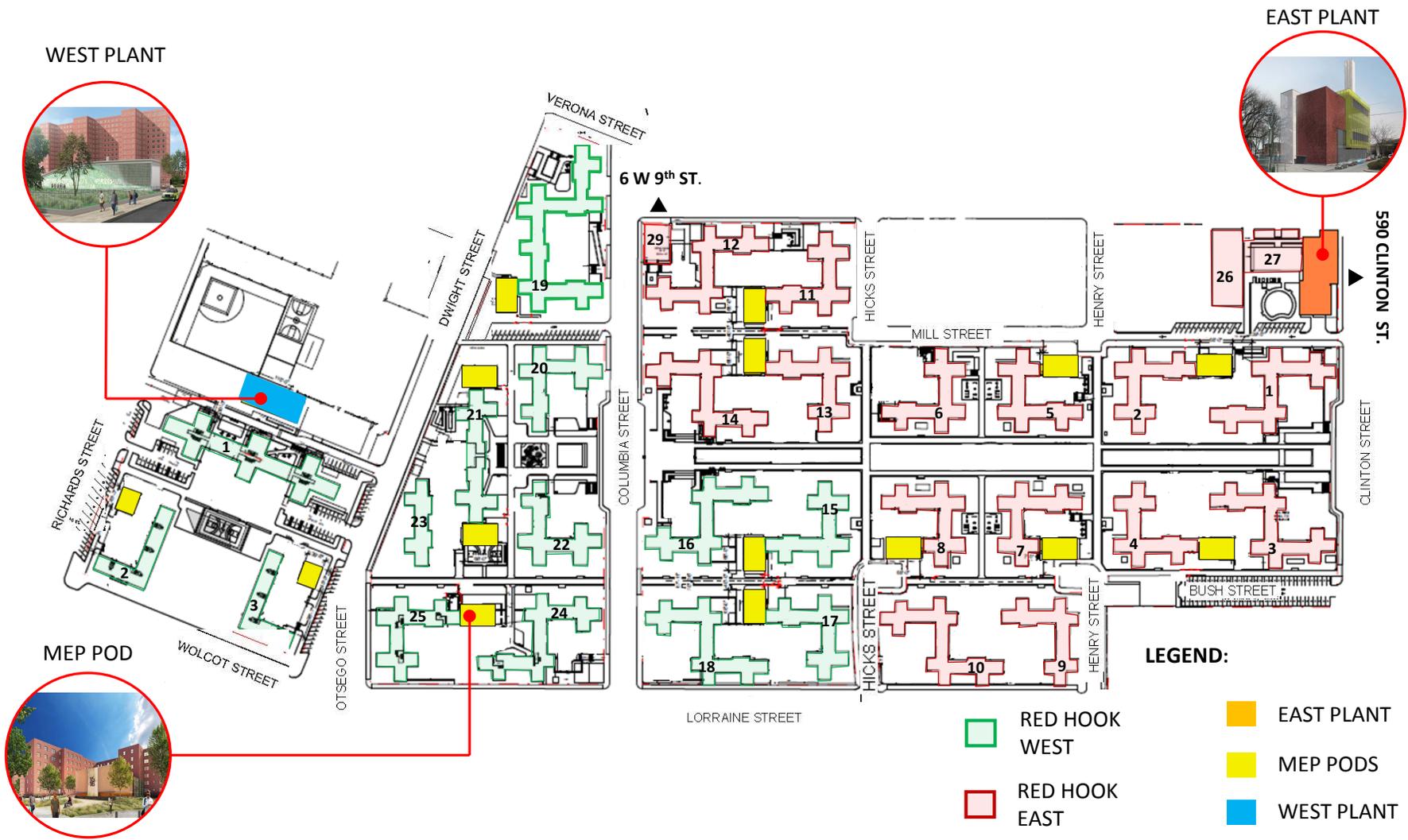
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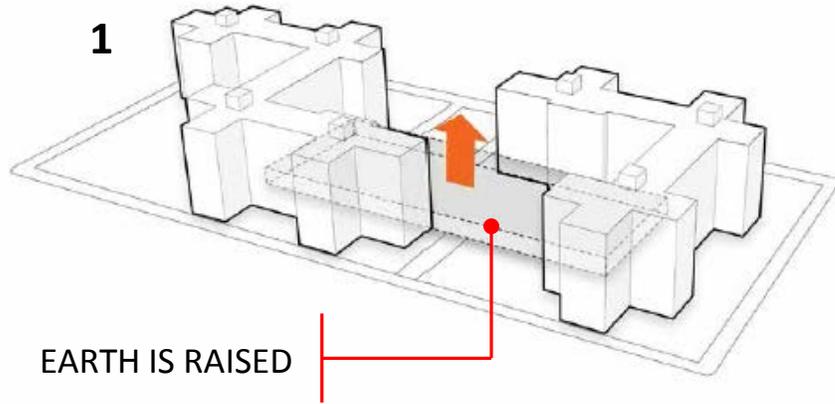
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# Red Hook Houses – Site Plan

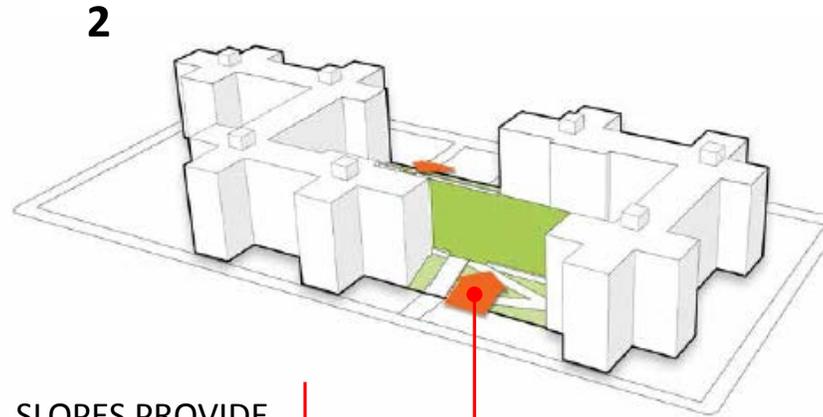


Office of Recovery and Resiliency  
 212.306.8532  
 Disaster.recovery@nycha.nyc.gov

# Red Hook Houses – Flood Protection



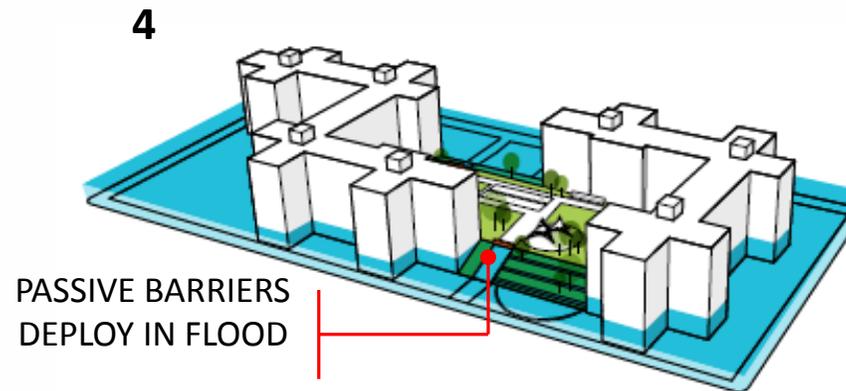
EARTH IS RAISED



SLOPES PROVIDE  
EASY ACCESS



SURFACE  
PROGRAMMED  
FOR RESIDENTS



PASSIVE BARRIERS  
DEPLOY IN FLOOD



Office of Recovery and Resiliency  
212.306.8532  
[Disaster.recovery@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Disaster.recovery@nycha.nyc.gov)

# Red Hook Houses – Construction Timeline



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Phase 1: Roof Replacement</b>		[Blue bar spanning 2018 and 2019]			
<b>Phase 2: Basement Restoration + Flood Protection</b>		[Blue bar spanning 2018 and 2019]			
<b>Phase 3: East &amp; West Plants &amp; MEP Pods</b>		[Blue bar spanning 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021]			
<b>Phase 4: Site Restoration</b>		[Blue bar spanning 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021]			



Office of Recovery and Resiliency  
 212.306.8532  
[Disaster.recovery@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Disaster.recovery@nycha.nyc.gov)