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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
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August 7, 2025

Office of Environmental Justice
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Attn: **Community Impact Grants Review Committee**

RE: Letter of Support for Urban Upbound's Community Air Quality and Public Health Resilience Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Community Board 2 Queens is writing to express our strong support for the grant application being submitted by Urban Upbound for funding under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Community Impact Grant (Round 12) program.

Urban Upbound is a trusted and impactful nonprofit organization based in Long Island City, Queens, with a long-standing commitment to improving the lives of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and other underserved communities. Their proposed project—*Community Air Quality and Public Health Resilience*—addresses the urgent environmental justice concerns facing residents in Blissville and surrounding areas, where air quality impacts from nearby industrial operations, including the Green Asphalt facility, have been a persistent challenge.

This project will:

- Deploy air purification systems in affected households,
- Launch a community-driven air monitoring and outreach initiative, and
- Collect and share data to empower residents and inform regulatory efforts.

Importantly, the project is designed to engage directly with the community, build environmental health literacy, and support local residents in mitigating exposure to air

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pollutants. These efforts are especially critical in neighborhoods historically burdened by environmental risks and health disparities.

Community Board 2 commends Urban Upbound's collaboration with Germ Solutions USA, whose air quality technology has already shown meaningful results for impacted residents. Their partnership aligns with the spirit of the grant program: community-based, data-driven, and equity-focused.

Community Board 2 urges the NYSDEC to fully fund this important initiative and recognize the project's potential to improve public health, support climate justice, and empower one of New York's most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

cc: Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, Community Board 2
Carlos Castell Croke, Chair, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee
Thomas Mituzas, Blissville Civic Association
Warren Davis, Blissville Civic Association