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June 6, 2022

The Honorable Jacqueline Bray, Commissioner  
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services  
1220 Washington Avenue  
Building 7A Suite 710  
Albany, NY 12246

**Re: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

Dear Commissioner Bray:

I am writing in support of the New York City's Department of Transportation's application for federal funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the repair of Brookville Boulevard, a.k.a., "Snake Road." The proposed project will repair Brookville Boulevard, which is a state-designated hurricane evacuation route, between the intersections of 149<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Rockaway Boulevard. The project is to elevate the road above a federally protected wetland, provide the road with the necessary transportation updates to match current road safety standards, and ensure that the residents of the Rockaways are able to evacuate safely for a hurricane.

The Rockaway Peninsula has approximately 122,000 residents, with most of them concentrated in the central and eastern parts of the peninsula. Residents of this immediate area include some of the most economically disadvantaged in the city. This area is particularly vulnerable to flooding and extremely vulnerable to climate change. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy hit the Rockaway Peninsula extremely hard, with more than 1000 structures destroyed, 10 feet of storm surge flooding, and residents living without heat mold in their homes from the water damage. Elevating and repairing this road would mean that the Rockaway residents would be prepared for the next major storm event and would be able to evacuate in a more efficient manner, if needed. In addition to elevating and repairing this road, the wetland would be reunited and be able to serve its intended purpose of storing excess water during major storm events. Finally, it would mean safer travel between the mainland of Queens and the Rockaway Peninsula for both the Rockaway residents and the Queens residents.

By way of this correspondence, I support the application of the New York City's Department of Transportation and request their application be given fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Sanders Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Sanders, Jr.  
State Senator, 10<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District