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**From:** Regina Cassidy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 10:41 AM  
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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Today's Meeting

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My name is Dr. Regina Cassidy, and I am a life-long Staten Islander. I grew up in the mid-Island section of Staten Island for 24 years, and now have lived on the North Shore of Staten Island for over 40 years. I've worked on both shores as a teacher, social worker, and religious leader.

The North Shore of Staten Island is unique, diverse, and complex. We are a community rich in ethnicities, cultures, faiths, political viewpoints, parks, cultural centers—even and especially, delightful food!

The needs of the North Shore are unique as well. Our population is dense, and housing remains one of our highest challenges and priorities. Adequate, affordable rental units are hard to find, as well as houses that lower to middle income families can actually buy. The homeless population is definitely larger on the North Shore and supportive housing is essential for recovery and rehabilitation.

Access to healthcare is also an ongoing challenge. I've worked on both shores, at Richmond University Medical Center as well Bayley Seton Hospital, and at Staten Island Hospital. There are simply not enough medical and mental health resources on Staten Island for our large population in general. However, on the North Shore, access to clinics, especially able to be reached via public transportation are few and far between.

I firmly believe that the North Shore must have its own representative(s) to advocate for the needs of our people and our community. I love the North Shore and I acknowledge its beauty as well as what it lacks.

Thank you.