



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

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CITY COUNCIL

June 8, 2017

Mr. Kaii Torrence  
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Storm Recovery  
25 Beaver Street, Fifth Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Re: Optional Elevation Program

Dear Mr. Torrence,

We write this letter to inform NY Rising of our concerns regarding the Optional Elevation Recovery Program, specifically referring to the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline which requires homeowner's to have their homes elevated. Our residents have faced and will continue to face several issues that make the deadline to elevate impossible as well as impracticable. We have outlined some of the issues regarding our residents' ability to lift their homes under such circumstances below – all of which are out of the hands of the homeowners and the City administration:

1. The City of Long Beach Building Department has 254 pending elevation permits to date, approximately 75% of which are for optional elevation. Many of these cases are either waiting to be heard by the Zoning Board, reviewed by the Architectural Review Board, or awaiting termination letters from National Grid and/or PSEG.
2. Homeowners are experiencing several "road blocks" to obtain a building permit. For example, PSEG put a hold on issuing elevation clearance letters to homeowners living on several streets of our City's West End due to their relocating electric wires underground. PSEG stated this project will go beyond August 2017. Without an elevation clearance letter submitted to the Building Department, a building permit cannot be issued.
3. Homeowners who are lifting their homes are having difficulty finding temporary rentals during the summer season. As you may know, Long Beach is a desirable City to visit in the summer and we experience a scarcity of rentals during these couple of months. In addition, many landlords who rent their properties do so at increased rates during the summer months, making it difficult for homeowners who are lifting to afford temporary rentals.

4. Many contractors are turning down projects due to work overload. There are very few contractors that are licensed to elevate a home. As stated above, the City of Long Beach has 254 Pending Elevation Permits, most of which need to be elevated by September 1, 2017. With the limited number of licensed contractors in this field, this is not feasible.

Due to the above issues, homeowners are concerned that if their homes are not elevated by the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, they will have to return their NY Rising funds and no longer be able to elevate. We, therefore, respectfully request that NY Rising postpone the deadline so that our residents may be able to raise their homes in a more appropriate and more reasonable timeframe.

As stated in the past, our shared goal of a more resilient and sustainable community is only achieved with your help. The City of Long Beach is committed to working with you, step-by-step, in this process and we know you share our commitment to helping our City's residents move forward in their recoveries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
City of Long Beach City Council



Len Torres  
President



Anthony P. Eramo  
Vice President



Chumi Diamond  
Council Member



Scott J. Mandel  
Council Member



Anissa D. Moore  
Council Member



Jack Schnirman  
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor  
The Honorable Todd Kaminsky, State Senator