



For Immediate Release

**CONTACT: BARBARA BRANCACCIO
917-913-3582**

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES \$1.8 MILLION FROM
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM TO INCREASE RESILIENCY OF ISLAND
PARK**

Village receives critical FEMA funds to study drainage systems and municipal bulkheads as first phase of flood mitigation project. Second and third phases may offer an additional \$3.85 million and \$34.4 million, respectively.

New York, NY (September 4, 2015)– The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the approval of \$1.8 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to increase the resiliency of the Village of Island Park. The funding, which will cover the costs of a comprehensive study, is the first step in instituting extensive flood mitigation measures in the community. Upon successful completion of the project scoping, an additional \$3.85 million may be available to facilitate engineering, design and permitting. Another \$34.4 million may also be offered to support construction once plans are approved. The effort complements a range of resiliency proposals developed through the grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program.

“The approval of this federal funding marks another important milestone, as we continue to develop and implement a variety of locally-oriented projects,” said Interim Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt. “As a result of this undertaking, the Village of Island Park will be better equipped to withstand the impacts of future storms, while having the upgraded infrastructure to become discernably more resilient.”

In October 2012, the Village of Island Park was devastated by Superstorm Sandy, with six-to-eight feet of sea water flooding virtually every one of its homes and businesses. Additionally, the Village lost its elementary school, firehouse, the Village Hall, and places of worship.

Consequently, the Village seeks to embark on an initial phase of the project– conducting a sweeping engineering study on drainage systems and municipal bulkheads. It will simultaneously assess feasible alternatives to improve system functionality.

Based on the study's findings, Island Park will set out to upgrade its municipal storm drainage system– improvements that could include 42,000 feet of new storm sewers, tide gates, subsurface storm water retention, three potential road elevations and 2,000 feet of upgraded bulkhead. In all, the Village may be eligible to receive up to \$40 million for the effort.

In June 2013, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued a call for HMGP projects that could assist local governments and non-profits to rebuild stronger, more sustainable communities. Authorized by FEMA, and administered by GOSR and the NY State Department of Homeland Security (DHSES), the program

aims to boost resiliency, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters and reduce hardship.

The federal agency provides 75 percent reimbursement of eligible costs, up to the amount of the award. Local entities may use in-kind services or materials to satisfy the 25 percent non-federal match; however, to off-set the financial burden of many municipal projects such as this one, Governor Cuomo has committed State disaster recovery resources to cover the remaining portion. Through this action, the State will help Island Park to leverage existing resources and maximize the assistance being received.

Following a Presidential Disaster Declaration, as in the case of Sandy, FEMA provides HMGP funds for states to administer grant programs that support local hazard mitigation planning and long-term mitigation measures.

The NYRCR Program is currently partnering with Nassau County to implement a \$3.1 million drainage project in Barnum Island/ Harbor Isle and with the Town of Hempstead to implement a \$10.3 million drainage project in Oceanside. These two NYRCR projects complement the bordering Island Park HMGP project. Through the NYRCR Program, the Barnum Island/ Oceanside/ Village of Island Park/ Harbor Isle community is eligible to receive up to \$36.6 million for reconstruction and resiliency projects.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NYRCR Program– as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business and Infrastructure programs– GOSR invests \$4.4 billion made available through HUD’s CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events.

###