



*For Immediate Release*

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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES 155 LONG ISLAND  
PROPERTIES TO BE SOLD AT NOVEMBER 17, 2015 AUCTION**

*As part of the NY Rising Acquisition Program, the auction of 81 Nassau County and 74 Suffolk County properties demonstrates Governor Cuomo's continued investment in the economic, social and physical resiliency of storm-impacted communities.*

New York, NY (September 21, 2015) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the upcoming auction of 155 Long Island residential properties, to take place on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Long Island (1717 Motor Parkway in Hauppauge, NY). The 81 Nassau County and 74 Suffolk County properties– which were all substantially-damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee– have been acquired from interested homeowners by the Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), in connection with GOSR's NY Rising Acquisition Program. Bidders will receive the opportunity to inspect available properties prior to the auction, during pre-scheduled open house events.

"Through the NY Rising Acquisition Program, the State offers properties at a fraction of their pre-storm value, while instituting measures to improve the resiliency of the State," said Interim Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt. "With this auction begins a new chapter in New York's housing recovery process, as we continue our efforts to build back in a reimagined way."

Once purchased, the homes will be redeveloped in a stronger manner– thereby demonstrating Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's continued commitment to the economic, social and physical resiliency of storm-impacted communities. Paramount Realty USA (PRUSA)– the Long Island-based real estate company hired by the State to direct and oversee the proceedings– represents owners in the marketing and sale of real estate, specializing in auctions. "The sale of these properties by auction represents an important step in the rebuilding of our communities and we at Paramount Realty USA are pleased to be playing a role," said Misha Haghani, the company's managing principal.

The properties are primarily single-family homes, as well as two-family homes and land parcels. More than half of the properties are waterfront or have water views. The properties to be auctioned were

purchased for pre-storm values ranging from \$113,000 to \$875,000. All sales at auction will be subject to minimum bids as low as \$43,000.

Following the sale of the properties, redevelopment must be consistent with local use and zoning regulations and must be completed— as evidenced by a duly issued final Certificate of Occupancy from the local building department— three years from the date of the closing. In the case that these conditions are not met, the property will revert back to the HTFC.

The November event will be GOSR's second PRUSA-managed auction of the year— with sales for the NY Rising-acquired properties sold on May 19 and May 20, 2015 totaling approximately \$22 million. To date, 127 (93 percent) of these properties have closed.

In the Spring, hundreds of bidders were in attendance including major area and regional builders and developers, as well as local contractors and families seeking to build new homes for themselves. Based on the success and continued progress of the Acquisition and Auction program, GOSR anticipates even greater participation on November 17.

Bidders interested in participating on November 17 must purchase (for \$50) access to due diligence information from PRUSA at [www.prusa.com](http://www.prusa.com); the materials include appraisals, surveys, title reports, photographs, terms of sale, and a copy of the purchase and sale agreement that winning bidders will sign at the auction. Bidders must also bring to the auction certified or cashier's checks in the amount of \$25,000—one check for each property they wish to purchase.

### **NY Rising Buyout and Acquisition Program**

As part of GOSR's larger NY Rising Housing Recovery Program, the Acquisition Program seeks to address areas that have regularly put homes, residents and first responders at risk due to repeated instances of flooding. Through the undertaking, the State has so far closed on 159 properties (totaling more than \$62.3 million) in Nassau County and 146 properties (totaling more than \$58.9 million) in Suffolk County. Long Island homeowners have received a median payment amount of more than \$397,000.

The goal of the Acquisition Program, which operates alongside the NY Rising Buyout Program, is to make storm-impacted neighborhoods stronger and more resilient than ever before. As such, the Acquisition Program aims to spur the new construction of homes in a more robust and energy-efficient manner— thereby serving to replace storm-damaged properties that have remained vacant.

Conversely, properties in the Buyout Program are sold and held by the State in perpetuity— being returned to nature, and forever serving as a protective barrier for homes in surrounding communities. To date 108 Long Island properties, totaling nearly \$41.5 million, have been purchased through the NY Rising Buyout Program.

Proving to be the first of their kind, both programs make the State a leader in these innovative disposition plans— which will enable New York to reinvest in storm-damaged communities more quickly and prevent properties from falling into further disrepair.

The acquisition and auction efforts, which correspond with Governor Cuomo's broader vision for recovery, pave the way for continued growth and economic resiliency, while maintaining the tax base, preserving housing stock and upholding property values. Income generated from the auctions will be used in accordance with the State's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan, which includes allocations for multi-family affordable housing and Public Housing Assistance Relief. GOSR will oversee building milestones to ensure progress.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure programs, GOSR invests more than \$4 billion made available through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

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