



**Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF \$3.5 MILLION REFUSE GARAGE RELOCATION PROJECT IN TOWN OF UNION

Project Will Ensure Critical Municipal Facility Will Operate Consistently and Smoothly During Storm Events

February 13, 2020 — The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery today announced the completion of a \$3.5 million project to relocate the Town of Union's refuse garage to a site outside of the floodplain, thereby increasing the community's resiliency in the face of climate change and increasingly frequent storms. The new 12,500-square foot facility, constructed on a town-owned parcel at 2900 Wayne Street, will provide the town with a more effective and reliable space to house staff, store critical equipment and stage supplies that will enhance the efficiency of future recoveries.

"GOSR is thrilled to cut the ribbon on the town of Union's new refuse garage, which will promote continuity in essential government operations, while expediting the pace of future emergency response," **said Alana Agosto, Executive Director of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure Programs at the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery.** "Using the first-hand experiences of the town to inform strategic resiliency upgrades, this important NY Rising Community Reconstruction project marks the start of a new chapter for the town of Union."

In August and September of 2011, the one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee caused significant damage to homes, roads and infrastructure throughout Broome County. Tropical Storm Lee unleashed approximately 12 inches of rain, causing the Susquehanna River and other larger tributaries, streams and creeks to crest four feet higher than the previous record.

The original town garage — previously located at 627 Scarbrough Drive — was flooded by Tropical Storm Lee, causing interruptions to solid waste services and hindering immediate response and recovery. Employees were unable to access the original garage building, limiting the town's ability to dispense immediate aid.

In response, the new facility has been equipped with a standby generator. All discharged waste water from the facility will be passed through an oil/water separator prior to entering the municipal sewer system. Stormwater infiltration/retention practices were constructed on-site with each practice measuring 3,000-4,000 square-feet in size.

A driveway, leading to the parking lot adjacent to the garage, was also constructed— now providing adequate space for the facility to function as an assembly area for refuse trucks and employees. These comprehensive enhancements will enable service providers to more seamlessly deploy personnel for a faster and more efficient cleanup.

GOSR contributed \$2.6 million to the project, with the Town of Union providing the rest.

“The town is very appreciative to have this project completed,” **said Town of Union Supervisor Richard Materese.** “This project will benefit our residents and refuse workers. It allows us to leave our former building which has flooded many times particularly in 2011, where the Susquehanna rose four feet over its limit causing great devastation to many parts of the town. Our equipment will be safer and more able to respond in times of crisis. We would like to thank all parties that came together to complete this project, including DPW Commissioner, Lou Caforio, our planning department led by Sara Zibulsky-Pier and Paul Nelson and New York State Storm Recovery for their partnership on this project— without whom we would not have been able to accomplish this goal.”

“This new facility makes the Town of Union better prepared for future weather events and more efficient in its day-to-day operations,” **said Assemblymember Donna Lupardo.** “The Town had some of the hardest hit neighborhoods during Tropical Storm Lee, but also some of the most resilient residents; I appreciate the Governor’s commitment to ensuring that we have the resources needed for future recovery efforts.”

NY Rising Community Reconstruction

Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NY Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committees across the state, and have together proposed hundreds of projects inspired by the unique needs and assets of their regions. Collectively, NYRCR committees have held 650 planning meetings and 250 large-scale public engagement events as they have worked to rebuild more sustainable communities, reinforce infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and spur revitalization.

Now in the implementation stage, GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county and non-profit partners to bring locally-devised proposals to fruition.

Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery

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, Infrastructure and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR

invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

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