Introduction to the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program

The NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCP) Program, sponsored by Governor Cuomo's Office of Storm Recovery, is helping communities impacted by Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Superstorm Sandy to rebuild and become more resilient through community-driven plans that consider current damage, future threats to community assets, and the community's economic future. Red Hook is one of 50 NYRCR Communities across New York State participating in the NYRCP Program.

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery has allocated up to $3 million in Federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) monies to fund eligible recovery and resiliency projects in the Red Hook Planning Area. The Red Hook Planning Committee, comprised of Red Hook business-owners, residents, and civic leaders, has guided the program in Red Hook.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is at the center of the NYRCP Program. Over the past eight months, the Red Hook Planning Committee has led an extensive community engagement process fueled by 14 Planning Committee Meetings, three Public Meetings, and multiple additional engagement events. Expansive outreach efforts have included distribution of over 4,700 flyers and countless one-on-one conversations between neighbors. Through these efforts over 300 residents and neighbors have attended events and provided input to the process. The fourth, and final, Public Meeting takes place Saturday, May 3rd.

The NYRCP Process

In developing a resiliency plan for Red Hook, key assets, risks to assets, needs, opportunities, and feasibility of resiliency interventions were analyzed.

The NYRCP process included the following steps:

1. Identify Assets and Risks
2. Define Needs, Opportunities, and a Community Vision
3. Identify, Evaluate, and Prioritize Projects and Strategies
4. Generate, Refine, and Select Projects
5. Create Final Red Hook NYRCP Community Reconstruction Plan

The Final Red Hook NYRCP Community Reconstruction Plan is now available online:
http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/sites/default/files/crp/community/documents/redhook_nyrcr_plan_20mb_0.pdf

Additional Resiliency Recommendations

In addition to the Proposed and Featured Projects, a number of Additional Resiliency Recommendations are highlighted in the Red Hook NYRCP Community Reconstruction Plan. These include:

- Direct bus from Red Hook to Lower Manhattan
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy reform
- Red Hook local emergency preparedness plan
- Citywide information clearinghouse
- Emergency services/nurse training and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training partnership
- Resilient healthcare resources program, including mobile healthcare clinic
- Long-term resiliency economics study for industrial uses
- Land and facilities activation study of Atlantic Basin region
- Red Hook Houses resiliency improvements
- Community / cultural / food space in Red Hook Houses
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) collaboration
- Van Brunt Street Pumping Station repairs

Next Steps

The Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery will work with the community to implement as many of the Proposed Projects as possible with the $3M in CDBG-DR funds allocated to Red Hook. Questions about the program and future resiliency work in Red Hook can be directed to the Red Hook Committee blog or the NYS DOS Storm Recovery website.

Visit the Red Hook Committee blog for more detailed information, background documents, past meeting minutes, and more:
http://redhookcrp.wordpress.com/ | redhookcrp@gmail.com

NYS DOS Storm Recovery: www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/community-reconstruction-program | info@stormrecovery.ny.gov

Read the Final Red Hook NYRCP Community Reconstruction Plan online:
http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/sites/default/files/crp/community/documents/redhook_nyrcr_plan_20mb

Twitter: #NYRising @NYStormRecovery | Facebook: NYStorm Recovery
Recommended Projects
The Red Hook community generated an initial list of over 90 resiliency projects. From this list the Committee honed in on priority projects to recommend for funding with Red Hook’s CDBG-DR allocation and priority projects to be featured prominently in the Final NYCR Plan, but for which funding will need to be identified in part or in whole from other sources. These recommended projects are listed below:

Relief center network
Fund the creation of a network of relief centers to house the coordination of relief services following a disaster, such as provision of food, water, power, medical services, and information.

Emergency backup generator for health and social services provider
Purchase and install one fixed generator for a health and social service provider in Red Hook to ensure continuity of critical services to the Community during and after an emergency.

Local financial assistance program for small businesses, star-ups, and homeowners/tenants
Provide financial support to Red Hook small businesses and homeowners/tenants seeking to implement resiliency upgrades, as well as to entrepreneurs seeking to start micro-businesses.

Resiliency construction workforce training
Fund training of Red Hook youth and adults—particularly low-income individuals with limited employment experience and/or education—and connect them to employment opportunities related to the construction of resilient infrastructure or building improvements.

Solar-powered emergency lights for Red Hook Houses stairwells.
Fund the implementation of a solar-powered emergency lighting pilot project in two or three buildings in Red Hook Houses. A second phase of this project would expand the program to all 30 residential buildings.

Red Hook Houses microgrid feasibility study
Conduct a feasibility study for a microgrid that can provide backup power for Red Hook Houses—home to 50% of the Red Hook Community—during an emergency. Implementation of the project could occur during a second phase.

Red Hook drainage study
Analyze the existing conditions that contribute to frequent flooding in Red Hook. By uncovering unknown details of existing conditions, the study would identify specific measures to improve drainage in the neighborhood.

New ferry landing at or near Atlantic Basin
Provide partial funding for the construction of a new ferry landing, at or near Atlantic Basin, contingent on Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) and New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) approval to use the site and a commitment of matching funds by a private/public entity to ensure completion of the ferry landing. A key second phase would secure operating subsidies to extend commuter ferry service to the new landing.

Integrated flood protection system
The Committee applauds the recent announcement of a $200 million partnership between the State and the City of New York to construct a comprehensive flood management system—the first of its kind in the nation—to protect Red Hook. This project would reduce risk for much of the Community and is critical to the overall safety of this evolving neighborhood. The Community has drafted principles to guide the development of the project—these principles are presented in the Final Red Hook Community Reconstruction Plan.

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