



For Immediate Release

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF STATEN ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO SPEARHEAD CREATION OF EAST SHORE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Developed through the grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, the \$600,000 effort aims to support commercial corridors and spur the growth of East Shore business districts as part of the borough's long-term recovery and resiliency.

New York, NY (June 3, 2015)– The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the selection of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce (SICC) to lead the establishment of the East Shore Local Development Corporation (ESLDC) Program– a \$600,000 effort to revitalize commercial corridors and spur economic development on the East Shore of Staten Island.

The East Shore of Staten Island was severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy in October of 2012, devastating both residential and commercial properties in its wake. Proposed by the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program's Staten Island Planning Committee, the SICC-led ESLDC will actively promote the local commercial corridors to potential businesses and consumers, working to transform vacant storefronts into bustling retail hubs.

“More than two years after Superstorm Sandy, we cannot understate the significant role that economic development plays in our State's larger recovery,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Jamie Rubin. “Through the ESLDC Program, we aim to identify enduring solutions for social, physical, and economic resiliency on Staten Island. We congratulate the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, and look forward to a great partnership as we work to make the East Shore a destination retail center for years to come.”

As part of the selection process, GOSR accepted applications from existing non-profit organizations through a competitive process. Respondents were groups who had the expertise and capacity to oversee program implementation and administration, and who were interested in formally spearheading the creation and execution of the ESLDC. The official Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was available between March 20 and April 20, and was available here:

http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/establish_east_shore_local_development_corporation_nofa.pdf

Once up-and-running, the ESLDC– seeded with funding from the State's storm recovery allotment – will be tasked with enhancing local commercial corridors by providing marketing for businesses, formulating a cohesive retail strategy for the area, acquiring properties to be redeveloped, helping to obtain financing, advocating for small businesses, and/ or facilitating streetscape improvements to beautify surroundings.

As a next step, GOSR will work to execute a subrecipient agreement with SICC, with work anticipated to begin later in 2015.

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in April 2013, the NYRCR Program seeks to empower storm-impacted communities throughout the State, helping them to build back better and stronger than before. Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR Committees, which have collectively proposed approximately 700 locally-driven projects. Throughout the eight-month planning process, the program has held more than 650 Planning Committee meetings and more than 250 large scale Public Engagement Events. Funding for both planning and project implementation comes from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)'s Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

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.

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