



**Hearing before the New York City Council  
Committee on Parks & Recreation  
Oversight – How to Protect the City's Beaches from Increased Erosion**

**June 25, 2018**

**Testimony By: Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Commissioner**

Good morning, Chair Grodenchik, and members of the Committee on Parks & Recreation. I am Mitchell Silver, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Thank you for inviting us to offer testimony today regarding efforts we are undertaking to mitigate erosion at our city's beaches.

NYC Parks is the steward of 14 miles of beaches, which are open for swimming from Memorial Day Weekend through the week following Labor Day. Our recreational beaches include Orchard Beach in the Bronx; Coney Island, Brighton and Manhattan Beaches in Brooklyn; Rockaway Beach in Queens; and in Staten Island, South, Midland, Wolfe's Pond and Cedar Grove Beaches. Our city's beaches attract millions of visitors every year, and serve as an important recreational outlet for New Yorkers, so the care and maintenance of our beaches is a top priority for NYC Parks.

Last month, NYC Parks announced that swimming access to Rockaway Beach will be closed this summer, in the area between Beach 91st Street and Beach 102nd Street, in order to maintain the protective dune and keep swimmers safe. As many of you know, following Superstorm Sandy, as part of the Rockaway Boardwalk reconstruction, a roughly 100-foot wide berm was installed along the beach that provides strong protection to the inland residents. That dune occupies much of the space that was previously available for active recreation in the years before Sandy. This loss of recreational space was compounded by this winter and spring's harsh weather, which resulted in sharply heightened erosion along this section of the beach, due to the lack of protective groins. Unfortunately, this confluence of factors means that there is simply not enough beach area in this area to safely operate swimming and recreation activities at this time.

This was not an easy decision to make, and we understand the community's frustration about the closure. We worked through every conceivable alternative to avoid closure and explored many alternative approaches to appropriately staging our beach monitoring and rescue operations along this stretch. We closely monitored the condition of the beach, and from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup> we took careful measurements of the distance between the toe of the dune and the high and low tide lines to estimate how much space could be available for recreational use. As the start of beach season approached and the heightened erosion caused by the season's storms became more and more apparent, we ultimately had to make a difficult decision in the interest of public safety, which will always remain our top priority. We will continue to coordinate, in close partnership with the Mayor's Office of Recovery & Resiliency, with the United States Army Corps of Engineers on their Rockaways Reformulation Study, the federal government's long-term solution to mitigate erosion and protect our coastline along the Rockaways with new dunes, sand replenishment and groins, which are necessary to keep sand in place and prevent it from washing away with the tides.

We are committed to making sure that the U.S. Army Corps will see this work through as soon as possible, and the City has stayed closely engaged with the Army Corps to push this project forward. Last February, Mayor de Blasio and U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer met in Washington D.C. with the head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and secured a commitment to expedite construction of this vital project. It is our understanding that construction for this project will be underway by 2020, if not sooner. The Army Corps will reportedly be sharing its draft report in August, followed by a final report in November, and we eagerly await these next steps.

Beach replenishment is a complicated and expensive endeavor, requiring federal permits and state approval, but the City has had a long and successful history of coordinating with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, who are the primary regulatory entities tasked with oversight of our shorelines. Following Superstorm Sandy, the City took immediate proactive measures to address the condition of the beach and boardwalk. The \$341 million reconstruction project made the beach wider than ever before and rebuilt 5.5 miles of boardwalk, installing retaining walls and adding additional sand. We coordinated closely with the Army Corps, in hopes the City's project would dovetail with construction of their Reformulation project, originally slated for 2016. Though the Army Corps' project schedule has been delayed, they have provided a great deal of vital support for the beach. The Army Corps' most recent beach replenishment project in this section of the Rockaways was completed in 2014 and supplied 3 million cubic yards of sand from Beach 19 to Beach 149 along the Rockaway shoreline. Unfortunately, in the years following the replenishment, several sections continued to experience significant beach erosion, most notably along the Beach 90s. To assess the severity of this erosion, a marine engineering on-call contract from the City's Economic Development Corporation was utilized to conduct an erosion study in the Rockaways. The report was finalized in November 2017 and results were shared with local residents and elected officials. The report found that though significant erosion had occurred in sections, the beach was wider from Beach 86 to Beach 149 than at almost any other time in the last forty years. It also found that the overall level of resiliency protection in both the Beach 90s and Beach 140s was significantly greater than at any point in the last forty years, thanks to the dune that was constructed after Superstorm Sandy. As most local residents were well aware, we confirmed at that time that a key portion of the beach from Beach 91<sup>st</sup> to Beach 102<sup>nd</sup> had severely eroded, which prompted us to examine possible solutions to keep the beach open for the 2018 season. Regretfully, in light of the severe weather earlier this year, those alternatives were found to be infeasible, which led us to determine that the closure was necessary.

The rebirth of Rockaway Beach after the devastation of Hurricane Sandy is a symbol of this community's strength and determination to move forward, so we recognize how difficult it is to see even a small portion of the beach close. However, we cannot forget that 4.5 beautiful miles of Rockaway Beach remains open this season, and we plan to take every opportunity to remind New Yorkers and tourists to come and enjoy the sun, sand and excitement of the Rockaways this summer. We are working hard to ensure the local businesses, both on the Boardwalk and in the surrounding neighborhood, have a successful season. Our boardwalk concessions are open for business, and we are actively working with them to develop creative opportunities to draw more visitors. We're adjusting our normal rules to permit more live music along the Boardwalk earlier in the day, partnering with local organizations to present great programs like the "Live & Local" concert series and morning yoga sessions, and engaging with partners like the City Parks Foundation to bring exciting events to the boardwalk this summer.

We have been very pleased to see that, thanks to nice weather and successful public engagement to date, the recorded attendance so far this beach season in the Rockaways is close to 1.2 million visitors, compared to just over 600,000 over the same period last year, and our beach concessions have seen a 35% increase in revenue compared to the same period in 2017.

And we are pleased to share that starting next weekend, we will open a popular section of the beach for swimming between Beach 96<sup>th</sup> and Beach 98<sup>th</sup> Streets, directly in front of our Parks concessions. We will be doing this on a pilot basis only, in order to closely monitor the operation and ensure our ability to keep beachgoers and swimmers safe.

To help educate beach visitors, Parks has installed signage clarifying where beach access is available, and where concessions are located. Our agency partners at Small Business Services have offered their support to the local businesses, and we are finalizing a citywide

marketing campaign, in partnership with NYC & Co. to get the word out that Rockaway Beach is very much open for business. We would be eager to partner with the Council and other local elected officials to help us continue to let all New Yorkers know—the Rockaways are open, and remain a fantastic summer destination for all to enjoy.

Working alongside the Mayor's Office of Recovery & Resiliency to address long-term resiliency issues facing New York City, NYC Parks will continue to work with the U.S. Army Corps and State DEC to enhance shoreline protection for the Rockaways. NYC Parks will continue to maintain and invest in our 14 miles of beaches throughout the City, working with our city, state and federal partners to maintain and enhance these wonderful settings for outdoor recreation, to the benefit of local residents and visitors to New York City's shorefront. Thank you for allowing us to testify before you today and for all your advocacy for our city's parks. We will now be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



## From the office of Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.

### **STATEMENT AT CITY HALL HEARING FOR ROCKAWAY BEACH EROSION AND CLOSURES JUNE 25, 2018**

- Thank committee and its members
- In effort to salvage this summer, I believe now is not the time to dwell on the frustrations of the past, regarding how the condition of the Rockaway beaches got to the point of requiring their closure, but to move collectively forward.
- I am hopeful that by working together, we can re-open some, if not all of the closed beaches, this summer. Not in 2019 or 2020, but in 2018.
- It is unacceptable that when the over 100,000 visitors to the Rockaway beaches who enter from the Crossbay Memorial Bridge at Beach 94<sup>th</sup> Street, the first stretch of beaches they encounter are closed. Instead of the welcome sign there, the visitors to Rockaway should face a “Do Not Enter” sign. Once again, that is unacceptable. Would the same situation happen in Coney Island? Many of my constituents and I doubt it. We expect that Rockaway be treated with the same attention as other beach shores of NYC.
- This state of beach closures is not only detrimental to the visitors, but also to the local businesses and economy. The local economy in Rockaway is seasonal and for the concessions, like that of the one at Beach 97<sup>th</sup> Street, these unwarned businesses will suffer greatly this summer and possibly not survive without assistance.
- I believe that there must be a way to re-open the closed beaches this summer. In an effort to bolster Rockaway’s economy and rescue this summer for the taxpaying residents and beachgoers, we need to capitalize on the fact that the Army Corp of Engineers will soon be working in nearby Long Island and seize the opportunity by urging them to replenish the sand needed to open our beaches this summer. Together, we can find a formula that addresses the cost of such replenishment.
- Going forward, for future beach seasons, I look towards working with my constituents, months before the official beach opening to evaluate the condition of the beaches for the upcoming summer season and the status of any related beach projects.
- These are the same constituents, that if they were listened to over the past 6 years since Superstorm Sandy, we might not be in this situation, given their ignored plea for jetties and groins.
- I am hopeful that the authority given to this committee will also be utilized to hold hearings on the same issues, in preparation of open beaches and preventing frustration amongst our people.
- I believe we can still save this summer season. We just need all our partners to work towards that same outcome. Thank you.





**New York City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation**  
**Hearing: Oversight – How to Protect the City’s Beaches from Increased Erosion**  
**June 25, 2018**  
**Lynn Kelly, Executive Director**

Good afternoon, my name is Lynn Kelly, and I am the Executive Director for New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P). I would like to thank the City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation for inviting us to speak on this important issue today.

As the citywide independent organization committed to research and advocacy for parks and open spaces, we strive to view the issue of parks through a community lens. We echo the disappointment that many in the room share today that the issue of the closure from Beach 91<sup>st</sup> to Beach 102<sup>nd</sup> Streets was not shared publicly until the eve of the beach season’s opening weekend. Further, we believe more could, and should, have been done to notify local officials, from the Community Board, City Council, State, and Federal representatives. Additionally, it cannot be overstated that such a late public notification of the closure of this stretch of beach constituted an undue burden on the concessionaires who have businesses along this vital corridor of the boardwalk.

While we believe more should have been done at an earlier date to notify the public of the closure, or the potential of the closure, we also understand that when it comes to our coastline, there are truly issues beyond the control or purview of NYC Parks. Superstorm Sandy was a powerful and potent reminder of fragility of our beaches, especially along our City’s peninsulas. The need to dredge and dump sand has been critical since Sandy, and this is work that can only be completed by the Army Corps of Engineers, not NYC Parks. Additionally, when we experience winter storms that are increasingly intense and frequent, there is little that can prevent sand from disappearing. We appreciate that NYC Parks made the decision to close this half mile stretch out of an abundance of caution for the safety and well-being of the public, but still reiterate that more could have been done to share this news on a broad scale at a far earlier date.

NY4P believes additional consideration must be paid to the twelve concessionaires at Beach 97<sup>th</sup> Street that will be impacted by the half mile closure of the beach. We are heartened by the efforts the City is already undertaking to help promote these new businesses, including additional programming and wayfinding to encourage beach-goers to spend time on the stretch of boardwalk adjacent to the closed section of beach. Marshalling marketing resources from NYC&Co is also a step in the right direction.

However, we strongly encourage the City to explore all possible avenues to provide economic relief to the small business owners who are still likely to be impacted this season, be it through hardship grants, rent credits, or waiving some of the standard City contract regulations that might leave these concessionaires unable to make any profit this season.

With the reality of our changing climate, we know that the issue of erosion will continue to impact our City's swimming beaches in the years to come. We urge the administration and City Council to view this experience as a clarion call for increased funding and coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, so that some of these issues can be properly mitigated to the extent possible before the hot summer months begin. Further, we urge the city to ensure that the local stakeholders, from elected officials, local business owners, and the public-at-large, are kept informed early and often about how the issue of erosion is likely to impact our public beaches.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak and I welcome any questions you may have.

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*For over 100 years, New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P) has built, protected, and promoted parks and open spaces in New York City. Today, NY4P is the citywide independent organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods. [www.ny4p.org](http://www.ny4p.org)*

**Daniel T. Falt**  
**Project Manager, Coastal Restoration & Special Projects Branch**  
**US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District**  
**Testimony**  
**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**JUNE 25, 2018**

Good morning, my name is Daniel Falt, and I am a Senior Project Manager for the Coastal Restoration Branch with the US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (USACE) and I'm very pleased to be here today to testify on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Since Hurricane Sandy I have been responsible for a variety of project in New York City and the State of New York as part of the execution of the New York District's \$3.5 billion coastal restoration program. Specifically, within the City of New York they include projects we have completed in areas including Gerritsen Creek, Plumb Beach, Coney Island, and Rockaway Beach. This work has included ecosystem restoration, a variety of beach replenishment operations, groin and breakwater construction, as well as the completion of detailed studies of beach erosion and related coastal storm risk reduction within NYC.

The overarching purpose of our work is to reduce risk to life and property within vulnerable communities. Our focus our agency has been on the protective aspects of engineered beaches and structures. We are limited to participate in the recreational aspects of beach projects.

**Engineering tools to deal with Coastal Erosion include:**

- Hardening of the Shoreline with flood walls, revetments, and sea walls
- Construction of hard erosion control structures such as groins, breakwaters, and jetties
- Coastal Retreat: Moving structures away from the coast
- Living with Water: Making structures and infrastructure waterproof
- Beach Replenishment with dunes and vegetation

**NYC Beaches and the USACE**

Beach construction, has been occurring on New York City's beaches since the early 1900s, and predates work by the USACE in most cases. For example, sand pumping in Coney Island began in 1922. Both City and State efforts constructed wooden and rock groins in many areas of New York City including Rockaway, prior to USACE work.

Historically, severe beach erosion has been experienced in Rockaway Beach in the Beach 30s and Beach 90s , in Coney Island (more specifically Sea Gate), and Plumb Beach near the Belt Parkway. In the Beach 90s, and the Beach 30s, we have calculated the average rate of erosion to be 20 feet per year.

**Rockaway Beach**

Beach work by USACE in Rockaway Beach was first authorized by Congress in 1965, when the USACE also recommended flood walls as well as a hurricane barrier across the Jamaica Bay Inlet. This comprehensive hurricane protection project was never constructed, but in 1974,

Congress authorized the construction of the beach sand fill portion of the project (no hard structures or erosion control structures were authorized) and work began in 1975 on beach construction and subsequent replenishment. Photos from this time period show extensive beach erosion prior to the project.

The USACE completed beach fill work as Congressional authorization and appropriations allowed, and sand placement occurred in 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004. The existing Congressional authority required additional study after the 2004 renourishment to research if the USACE could identify cost effective ways to reduce the overall cost of the project.

In total, prior to Sandy, from 1975 to 2004, the USACE placed a total of 18 Million cubic yards of sand. In the aftermath of Sandy, the USACE then placed another 3.4M cubic yards of sand between Beach 19<sup>th</sup> and Beach 149<sup>th</sup> to repair and restore the project to the original 1975 design. In addition to this work, the City of New York provided additional non-Federal funding to allow for the construction of protective dunes, an important element of resiliency that had not been constructed in Rockaway in previous projects.

### **Short Term Work**

We have recently been directly engaged in discussions on possible options for short-term measures to address erosion impacts along Rockaway Beach between Beach 91st Street to Beach 102nd Street.

After participating in recent meetings with city, state and Federal elected officials, it has become apparent that a viable funding source, regulatory permitting, and lack of a contractual process to execute work in a timely manner are limiting factors in executing a project on the aggressive timeline envisioned.

Nonetheless, our New York District team recently held a planning session to develop options that might address the immediate concerns. These ranged from a 100% city solution, a 50/50 solution (Federal/city), and 100% Federal solution. We will further explore our authorities, possible sources of funding (Federal and private), and possible procurement methods.

Since no authorized funding source has been identified to date, there is no current pathway available for the New York District to provide immediate assistance. If a source of funding does come available, we would still need be approximately 8 to 10 weeks to complete sand placement on the beach. Under that assumption, sand could not be delivered to the beach for this summer season. I do want to highlight the fact that although the beach is closed for recreation, the remaining dune in place is wider and more elevated than the past, and is still providing risk reduction to the Rockaway communities.

### **Future Work**

The Hurricane Sandy Rockaway and Jamaica Bay Reformulation Study, when completed, will recommend erosion control structures in known erosional hot spots on the Atlantic shoreline of Rockaway, to moderate erosion and reduce sand renourishment requirements. The recommended new groins will address the area of the current beach closures. The report will also recommend beach fill, reinforced dunes, as well as future renourishment activities.

The refined Draft Final Report is scheduled release for public comment late this summer, and a Final report will be submitted to our headquarters for approval by the end of the year. If this release schedule and approval of the report happens on schedule, we will be in a position to begin work in Rockaway in late 2019 using 100% Federal funding under Public Law 113-2. The first anticipated element of this work is for groin construction and subsequent contracts will



provide beach fill, reinforced dunes, and work on the back bay in certain areas of high frequency flooding that meet our cost benefit criteria.

### **The South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Storm Risk Management project**

Referred to by Staten Island locals as the 'East Shore' it will run along the coastline from Fort Wadsworth to Oakwood Beach. The design phase is currently underway in close partnership with the project's non-Federal sponsor, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the City of New York.

Additional coordination is underway with various other agencies, including the National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Major actions currently underway include gathering data necessary for the overall project construction contract designs, including new surveys and utility mapping, geotechnical subsurface borings, environmental and cultural resource investigations.

A Project Partnership Agreement is currently under final negotiation between the Corps, State of New York and City of New York, and is necessary for project construction. Construction is currently anticipated to begin in early 2020 and will take several years to complete.

The project is currently estimated at a cost of \$615,000,000, to be cost-shared between the Corps (65% Federal) \$400,000,000 and the State/City (35% non-Federal\_ \$215,000,000.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Our web site: [www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil)

Address: 26 Federal Plaza Rm. 2119A, New York, NY 10278-0090

New York City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation      June 25, 2018

250 Broadway, Manhattan, 16<sup>th</sup> Fl., 11 am

**Beach Erosion and Emergency Closing of Rockaway Beach Area --B91st St. to B102nd St.**

The urgent decision made by the very top Parks & Recreation management to close the ½ mile - plus length of the Prime Rockaway Beach Recreation Area from B91<sup>st</sup> St. to B102<sup>nd</sup> St, just before announcing the summer season beach opening, was unexpected, alarming to say the least and the start of a crisis. The decision should have been announced months prior to allow ample assessment, preparedness, and to judge its immediate impact.

Who was asleep during the winter, meaning did anyone periodically inspect the eroding beach area that was repeatedly reported by the Community many-many times to Parks and other city agencies, including the Mayor and news outlets?

The sudden unexpected action by Parks, due to safety concerns for beach goers, caused multiple agencies to mobilize an emergency without advanced warning and reasonable Community notice.

It's assumed the NYC and NYS government agencies, besides others, were unexpectedly placed on notice for the ½ mile plus Rockaway Beach closure. The representation are listed as follows:

The Mayor's Office

U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, NYS Senators, NYS Assembly, NYC Council Members, Borough President, District Manager, Community Board and Community Civic Associations

NYC Police Department

Parks Police Department.

NYC Parks & Recreational Department.

Emergency Medical Services

Community Board 14

NYC and NY State Sister Agencies

US Army Corp. of Engineers and

Others

Note that it hasn't been mentioned of the NYC Emergency Management Office (OEM). Did OEM get involved and take part in the Rockaway Peninsula Beach Emergency with reasonable

prior notice from the NYC Parks & Recreation? If so, what were OEM actions taken or actions not taken and how are they identified?

The OEM Watch Command monitors weather 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Did the OEM External Affairs' Community Outreach activate the Community Emergency Response Team, Public Information and any Public and Private initiatives?

To this end, I am recommending 8 tasks be implemented and focused on. They are as follows:

1. Have the NYC Emergency Management Office (OEM) involved and take part in the Rockaway Peninsula Beach Emergency.
2. Local Law 24 - The NYC Emergency Management Office (OEM) must respond to and be included in emergency closures at Rockaway's Beach B91st<sup>d</sup> St. to B102<sup>nd</sup> St. What plans and protocols are in place to guide NYC's response to weather emergency events such as numerous coastal storms, that is, storm surge, hurricanes, wind-storms, wind driven rain or water, flash floods, and tidal waves.
3. Local Law 26 - The NYC Emergency Management Office (OEM) must require responsible agencies to prepare for and respond to sand erosion emergencies and shoreline related incidents and provide an annual sand preparedness and response report for each sand erosion event and/or incident foreseen or occurring.
4. Similar to NYC Winter Roadway Salt Storage Facilities (RSSF), OEM must require funds for NYC Beach Sand Storage Facilities (BSSF).
5. Select NYC areas to store the purchased and acquired sand at NYC Beach Sand Storage Facilities (BSSF) during the winter months for its use to manage and repair minor and major beach erosions and fortify locations that have been damaged or deteriorated by hurricanes, coastal storms and ocean currents.
6. Perform Training, Exercises & Evaluation by conducting tabletop, functional and possible full scale exercises of envisioned shorefront incidents. Also, develop and conduct agency and partner training.
7. Study and understand the Continuity, Health and Medical, Hazard Mitigation, Human Services, Plan Management, Transportation and Infrastructure for coastal areas besides logistics.
8. Formulate the best practices by other U.S. Coastal Agencies.

The Community foresaw and publicized the Rockaway Beach erosion. NYC, Parks & Recreation, and their hired consultant erred thus now causing the closure and into the distant future. This adversely affected and continues to affect the Rockaway Community's Population, Major Summer Tourism, Transportation, Bad NYC and Community Publicity, and Disrupting Commercial and Non-commercial businesses financially besides their reputation.

Be aware, this not-so-slow beach eroding disaster continues and will most likely expand along the present ½ mile plus stretch and hopefully not at other community beach areas since sand

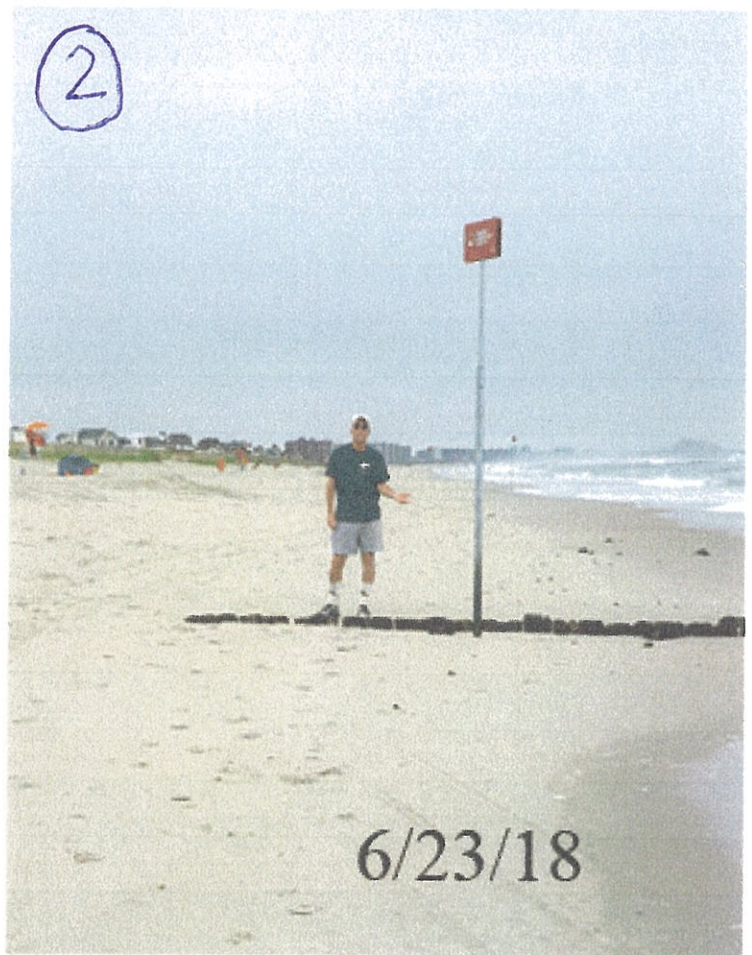
replenishment fast tracking is not occurring and planned groin installations are off into the distant future.

Lastly, the NOAA 2018 year Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook shows 10 to 16 Named Storms, 5 to 6 Hurricanes and 1 to 4 Major Hurricanes.

Thank you,

John A. Signorelli  
Belle Harbor Resident and Community Member  
917-531-7310





BEACH 142<sup>nd</sup> ST., ROCKAWAY, QUEENS



3A



4



BEACH 142<sup>nd</sup> ST., ROCKAWAY, QUEENS

Mail body: Fwd:

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** john cori <[seathenight@icloud.com](mailto:seathenight@icloud.com)>  
**Date:** June 25, 2018 at 9:37:45 AM EDT  
**To:** john cori <[seathenight@aol.com](mailto:seathenight@aol.com)>

To who it may concern.

The People of the Rockaway Peninsula are extremely frustrated at the City of New York's lack of faith in the knowledge which we possess!

For years we have said that the City's decision to install dunes instead of groins was a disaster waiting to happen.

Now disaster is slowly happening, yes at a snail's pace, but it is as real as the erosion on our beaches.

For years we have warned you about the erosion issues plaguing our peninsula.

For years we have said we CAN NOT WAIT for The Army Corps.

At Mayor deBlasio's town hall in Rockaway over less than a year ago I alerted the Mayor to the damage the ocean was causing to our current first line of defense. He said that he was aware and would commission a study to determine the levity of our concerns.

There was a study which determined-no work was needed!

With the current beach closures, it is quite evident that work is needed.

With the closures there is a SILVER lining: an acknowledgment that something is wrong.

MR MAYOR, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN to save our only line of defense while we wait for the Army Corps to construct a permanent defense system of protection?

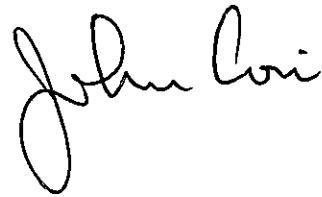
Many scenarios have been tossed around.

Great Lakes construction will be in our neighbors' yard in Long Beach this fall.

We can ask Great Lakes to dredge sand onto our beaches.

DDC or EDC can ask for a price to pump sand on our beaches and get the job done.

To avoid the red tape we can ask Governor Cuomo to declare the closed beaches a temporary disaster area.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Cori". The signature is written in black ink and is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.





P.O. Box 745  
Rockaway Park, NY 11694  
www.RockawayCivic.com

25 June 2017

Council Member Barry S. Grodenchik  
Chair - NY City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Grodenchik,

Rockaway Civic Association respectfully submits this written testimony regarding the City's decision to close the beaches from Beach 91<sup>st</sup> – Beach 102<sup>nd</sup> Streets in Rockaway. We support the efforts to regain access to this stretch of beach from our fellow community members and civic, Rockaway Beach Civic Association.

The erosion has been a hot topic with many vocalizing the concerns to city, state & federal agencies. To have such a decision made on the eve of 2018 season was disrespectful to business owners, residents & visitors who look forward to summertime in Rockaway. The decision not only throws an unforgiving punch at the local economy but also sheds negatively on the overall Rockaway peninsula.

This decision is unprecedented & contrary to prior decisions when the erosion at this stretch was equally compromised.

- After Hurricane Irene, Parks adjusted the way lifeguards operated and beaches remained OPEN
- Historically, for the many years when no sand replenishment took place and the beaches were significantly eroded beaches remained OPEN

Our community remains outraged and we request:

- limited beach access be allowed according to tide schedules and other various considerations.
- a meeting between Parks Commissioners (including & not limited to Mitchell Silver, Liam Kavanagh & Dorothy Lewandowski), Community Board 14 & local civics be scheduled before the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday to discuss how the beach season for this stretch of beaches can be salvaged.
- the city working with locals, implement an extensive media campaign reinforcing the though some beaches are closed "Rockaway is still OPEN for business". See example of such campaign designed by local professionals.
- any fees by City to boardwalk concessions be suspended for 2018 season or until a time when the City can devise a plan that allow beach access and provides the businesses to realize the full capacity of the operating season.

Please feel free to communicate if you require any further testimony.

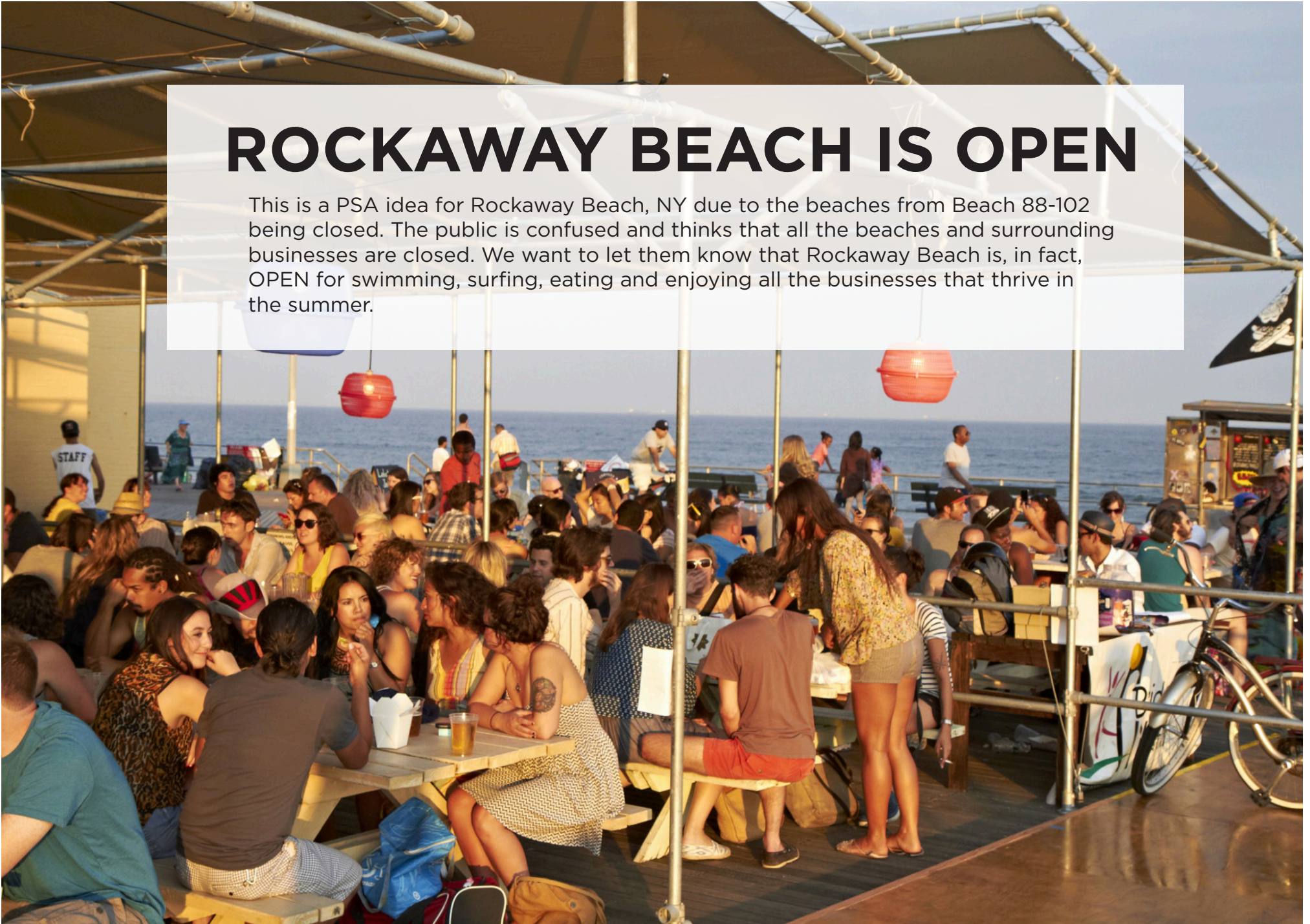
Regards,

Noreen Ellis  
President  
Rockaway Civic Association  
✉ nellis@RockawayCivic.com  
☎ 646.404.4167

Enclosure

# ROCKAWAY BEACH IS OPEN

This is a PSA idea for Rockaway Beach, NY due to the beaches from Beach 88-102 being closed. The public is confused and thinks that all the beaches and surrounding businesses are closed. We want to let them know that Rockaway Beach is, in fact, OPEN for swimming, surfing, eating and enjoying all the businesses that thrive in the summer.





# VIDEO

## ROCKAWAY BEACH IS OPEN :30



OPEN ON A SIGN THAT SAYS WELCOME TO ROCKAWAY BEACH.

OPEN ON LOWTIDE BAR WHERE DRINKS AND FOOD ARE FLOWING AND PEOPLE ARE DANCING AND HAVING FUN.

**Guincarlo walks into frame and says to camera, "Do we look closed to you?"**

CUT TO CARACAS WHERE WE SEE PEOPLE IN LINE WAITING FOR FOOD AND EATING AND ENJOYING.

**Marabel is standing in front of Caracas wand says: "Do we look closed to you?"**



CUT TO STATION SURF WHERE WE SEE THE SURF REPORT ON THE WALL AND NIGEL CARRYING A SURFBOARD OUT TO GIVE TO SOME RENTERS.

**Nigel says: "Do we look closed to you?"**

CUT TO BOARDERS WHERE JIMMY DOWD IS HELPING SOMEONE RENT A BIKE.  
**Jimmy says "Do we look closed to you?"**



CUT TO LOWTIDE AT THE SURF MOVIE. ON THE SCREEN SURFERS RIPPING AND THE CROWD HOOTS. THE SCENE CHANGES AND IT NOW SHOWS, "DO WE LOOK CLOSED TO YOU?" ON THE SCREEN.

CUT TO LOCALS SURF SCHOOL ON THE BEACH. MIKE AND MIKE ARE SURROUNDED BY THEIR PACK OF STUDENTS IN THE WATER.

**Mike and Mike say: "Do we look closed to you?"**

CUT OT PEOPLE DANCING AT RIPPERS WHILE SIMON IS PLAYING.  
**Simon says, "Do we look closed to you?"**

**SUPER: Do we look closed to you?**

**SUPER: Rockaway Beach is, in fact, Open.**

**Super: Check it out for yourself at [ROCKAWAYBEACHISOPEN.COM](http://ROCKAWAYBEACHISOPEN.COM)  
(At the website we can show real-time cams that are placed at Rippers, Lowtide and Caracas and show that people are having fun and enjoying themselves.**





## **SOCIAL MEDIA IDEA**

We could also set up real-time Cameras at LowTide Bar, Rippers and Caracas on the boardwalk to show that the beach is, in fact, open. People can access the cam anytime and see who is at the beach and what is happening there at anytime via a landing page called [ROCKAWAYBEACHISOPEN.COM](http://ROCKAWAYBEACHISOPEN.COM).

We would also start an Instagram, Facebook and Twitter campaign letting people know about the cam and where they can view it.

# ABOUT BEACH 87 INDUSTRIES

Beach 87 Industries is part of Beach 87 Inc. We are a video, advertising, and editing facility located in Rockaway Beach, NY.

**We feel with our local knowledge of the people and places in Rockaway Beach, that we would be the perfect people to produce the PSA that let's people know that Rockaway Beach is, in fact, open. We can also provide print ads and social media if needed.**

Here are our credentials.

**Brian Wengrofsky Director of Photography**

Motion Picture and TV Production Services

See his work at:

[www.brianwengrofsky.com](http://www.brianwengrofsky.com)

<https://vimeo.com/brianwengrofsky>

**J Scott Klossner Animator, Motion Graphic Designer, Editor**

Scott has been working as a Motion Graphics Designer and animator for 20 years and has worked on Blue's Clues at Nickelodeon and most recently at NBC where designs for The Today Show and MSNBC.

See his work at:

[www.jscottk.com](http://www.jscottk.com)

**Lois Pyanowski Creative Director/Art Director**

Lois has been working in advertising for the last 20 years on brands such as Ikea, Staples, Tylenol, LensCrafters and so many more.

See her work at:

<http://www.loispyanowskicreative.com/>

**Justin Kaswan Creative Director/ Copywriter**

Justin has worked in advertising for the last 15 years and has worked on brands such as Reebok, Central Park Conservancy, Oral B and so much more.

See his work at:

<https://justinsbook.carbonmade.com/>

**CONTACT: Lois Pyanowski**

**917-420-0718**

**Lois.pyan@gmail.com**

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARIBEL ARAUJO Rockaway Beach

Address: 325 BEACH 87th ST NY

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_ 11693

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nikole Hannah-Jones

Address: 75 Van Buren St, BK

I represent: myself

Address: Street Renaming

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/25/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Assemblywoman Stacey

Address: Protop Amato

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 95-16 Rockaway Blvd  
Rockaway Beach

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Colon

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Rockaway Youth Task Force

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jill Lauri

Address: 105 Beach 90 Street

I represent: Rockaway Beach

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/25/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dennis Futonyan

Address: 8100 Shore Front Pkwy, Queens, NY 11693

I represent: Myself

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 25 JUNE

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DANIEL FINE

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: USACE - NEW YORK DISTRICT

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Commissioner

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NYC Parks

Address: 830 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10065

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Liam Kavanagh, First Deputy Commissioner

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NYC Parks

Address: 830 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10065

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joseph Addabbo

Address: 88-08 Rockaway Beach Blvd

I represent: NY Senate

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LYNN KELLY

Address: New York for Parks

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeremy Jones

Address: 321 Beach 92<sup>nd</sup> St. Rockaway Beach

I represent: NY 11693

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Clare Hilger

Address: 321 B. 92nd St. Rockaway Beach NY

I represent: Rockaway Beach resident + 11693

Address: Rockaway Beach Civic Assoc.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bridget Klapinski

Address: 316 Beach 191st

I represent: homeowner / Rockaway Beach Civic

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/25/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ALAN ZWIRN

Address: 220 B. 141 St. Belle Harbor NY 11694

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN SIGNORELLI

Address: 135-14 CRONSTON AVE

I represent: Belle Harbor P O Assoc.

Address: Belle Harbor

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOE HORTON

Address: 174 BEACH 1325

I represent: ROCKAWAY

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hank Tori

Address: 177 Beach 131st

I represent: Belle Harbor Property owners Assoc

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: JOHN CORI

Address: 142 B92 ROCKAWAY BL

I represent: ROCKAWAY BEACH CLUB

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT MELINDA KATZ

Address: 120-55 QUEENS BLVD Kew Gardens

I represent: Queens Borough President's Office

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀