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August 26, 2019

Olga Abinader, Acting Director
Environmental Assessment and Review Division
New York City Department of City Planning
120 Broadway, 31st Floor
New York, New York 10271

Dear Acting Director Abinader:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am writing today in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued by the New York City Department of City Planning regarding the proposed redevelopment of the former Peninsula Hospital site. As a lifelong resident and representative of the Rockaway Peninsula, I believe this re-development project- as currently stated- is not suitable to our community's capacity and resources.

While the proposed redevelopment has the ambitious and worthy goal of improving the quality of life along with providing affordable housing for our community, there are still numerous serious concerns that must be addressed immediately: Over density of housing, transportation congestion, grossly inadequate parking, and insufficient educational resources. The Rockaway Peninsula is being redeveloped from east to west and we must consider the effects of this project on the entire community.

Hurricane Sandy ravished over 85% of our community in 2012. New York City and State have been focused on the recovery and resiliency of the Rockaway Peninsula. The population density proposed is excessive without taking into consideration the unique characteristics of this neighborhood. The Peninsula Hospital site falls within Flood Zone AE, a high-risk flood area, which would create an unnecessary risk for such as high-density housing development. Moreover, as stated in the Resilient Edgemere study, which was prepared by the New York City Housing Preservation Department, only low-density housing, stores, and parkland was recommended to be built in that area.

At this point, any planning or development on the Rockaway Peninsula must be a complete comprehensive plan including the essential resources needed in order for our community to thrive decades into the future. I respectfully request that you keep these necessary and important points in mind while issuing the final environmental impact statement.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 718-945-9550

Sincerely,

Stacey Pheffer Amato
Member of New York State Assembly
23rd District, Queens