



A Memorandum for District 4  
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## **Incomplete East Side Coastal Resiliency Plan**

The East Side Coastal Resiliency Plan is a proposal to protect low-lying areas on the East Side of Manhattan along the East River from 25<sup>th</sup> Street to Montgomery Street. Hurricane Sandy brought massive flooding and property damage to this area, exposing the many flaws in the City's outdated flood protection system. While it is certainly in everyone's best interest for the City to fix crumbling flood prevention infrastructure, the project, as proposed, has community concerns that must be addressed.

One component of the proposal is the construction of a flood protection wall along the East River.<sup>1</sup> As currently planned, however, this wall would cut off one of only two access roads to Waterside Plaza. At best, the proposed wall along this access road would allow the passage of small passenger vehicles, but not larger emergency vehicles such as ambulances or fire trucks. Before any plans are put into effect, it is crucial that the City work at length with the residents of Waterside Plaza to determine how best to protect them from potential flooding while maintaining the same level of access to the community for both emergency and non-emergency vehicles.

Additionally, the community deserves to have a seat at the table as debate continues over which of the proposed protective mechanisms, including deployable walls, flood walls, and berms or levees, is best suited for this infrastructure project.

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<sup>1</sup>Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency. *East Side Coastal Resiliency Project*. Web. <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lmcr/index.page>

When elected to the City Council, I will strongly advocate for increased East Side community member involvement in all aspects of the planning process and for funding from all levels of government - local, state, and federal.