



## CITY OF LONG BEACH

1 West Chester Street  
Long Beach, New York 11561  
(516) 431-1001  
Fax: (516) 431-1389

May 9, 2013

John D. McMahon, Chief Operating Officer  
Long Island Power Authority  
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard  
Uniondale, New York 11553

Dear Mr. McMahon:

As you are aware, Superstorm Sandy inflicted unthinkable destruction upon the City of Long Beach. The City's infrastructure suffered tremendously with an estimated cost of \$250,000,000 for repairs and rebuilding. Businesses and homeowners were all affected by the storm surge, bringing untold damages in the millions. Homeowners are still struggling to get back into their homes and to make their homes resilient to future storms. On top of this herculean effort our residents are now being faced with an additional barrier from LIPA.

In order for Long Beach to fully recover, your support and assistance is essential. Hundreds of homes were substantially damaged and need to be rebuilt. A good portion of these homes must now be raised to meet federal and state mandated requirements. Adding "insult to injury" our homeowners are now being advised by LIPA that any/all hi-voltage powers lines need to be moved before building may begin with the cost to be borne by the homeowners.

It has come to our attention that LIPA is attempting to charge these struggling homeowners in order to move apparatus, to wit, the hi-voltage power lines and poles, which are part of LIPA's infrastructure. We have been informed that the fees being quoted are astronomical, ranging from \$20,000 up to \$80,000 per home. This is an unconscionable and unreasonable financial burden that LIPA is attempting to pass on to its customers. How can LIPA expect any homeowner to cover the costs to move LIPA poles and wires?

I understand that several representatives from LIPA met with our Commissioner of Buildings Scott Kemins last week. These representatives were insistent that homeowners may not obtain a building permit from us without first contacting LIPA in order to submit a site plan along with an elevation plan. This is simply unacceptable. Moreover, we do not know of any legal basis for this unreasonable demand. Not only will this draconian process further delay our homeowners' rebuilding, it will serve to add unnecessary extra paperwork and unreasonable expenses to these already cash strapped and displaced families.

May 9, 2013

Page 2

The people of the City of Long Beach deserve your help and consideration. They deserve to live in safe new homes without being kicked by LIPA when they are down. Any fee levied by LIPA against a homeowner in Long Beach for the removal and relocation of what is LIPA property is unfair and extreme. The City Council of the City of Long Beach urges you to withdraw these burdensome fee requests immediately.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. In order to effectuate a conversation, please call the City Manager's office at 516- 431-1001 to schedule a meeting with Jack Schnirman, our City Manager, to resolve this issue.

I am hoping that we can have a meeting of the minds and work together in order to help the residents of Long Beach. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott J. Mandel".

Scott J. Mandel  
City Council President

cc: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State  
Jack Schnirman, City Manager  
Scott Kemins, Commissioner of Buildings  
Jonnel Doris, LIPA