



CITY OF LONG BEACH

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JACK SCHNIRMAN
CITY MANAGER

February 7, 2014

Mr. Jon Kaiman
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
NY Rising Housing Recovery Programs
25 Beaver Street
New York, New York 10004

Dear Mr. Kaiman:

As you are aware, Superstorm Sandy inflicted unthinkable destruction upon the City of Long Beach, particularly upon our homeowners. It has been fifteen months and homeowners are still struggling to get back into their homes and make them more resilient to future storms. This means extensive renovations and/or total rebuilding for hundreds of houses that were substantially damaged by the storm.

You may not be aware that an additional problem that these homeowners have encountered is that the composition of the soil in Long Beach has substantially changed since the storm. This change means that anyone building a new home or elevating their home with a new foundation must have a soil boring test performed in order to determine the quality of the soil. Based upon the results of the test, the homeowner will learn if a traditional foundation system can be used or if they will need helical piles to insure that their home will be structurally stable.

Recognizably there is a fee for the actual soil boring test, approximately \$1,000. If helical piles are needed, the cost of screwing these piles into the ground is dramatically more expensive than a traditional foundation system. The cost for helical piles is dependent upon each individual rebuild or elevation and difficult to approximate. Yet we can agree that additional costs in the thousands of dollars are a certainty for these already financially burdened homeowners.

It is our understanding that presently the calculations that New York Rising is using to reimburse homeowners does not include the cost for both the soil boring test and the helical piles. We therefore are asking for your help and consideration. Our residents deserve to live in safe new homes without being burdened by these additional costs, all as a result of the damage and havoc that Superstorm Sandy begot upon Long Beach.

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On behalf of the residents of the City of Long Beach, I would like to thank you for your time and anticipated consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. Please contact my office at 516-431-1001 in order to begin a conversation regarding this urgent matter.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Schnirman".

Jack Schnirman
City Manager

JS/mla