

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2015

Bill de Blasio
New York City Mayor
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Bushwick Inlet Park

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

We are writing on behalf of our constituents who reside in Williamsburg and Greenpoint, Brooklyn, regarding the future of Bushwick Inlet Park. This is an incredibly important issue for the communities we represent and we ask that you and/or senior members of your administration meet with us and community members in North Brooklyn as soon as possible.

As you know, the Williamsburg/Greenpoint waterfront was rezoned from industrial use to high density residential in 2005. This rezoning, which includes 184 blocks in the upland areas of the community, anticipated the creation of over 7,390 dwelling units that would house more than 16,500 new residents. It was understood at the time that this influx of new residents would worsen the already the already low ratio (0.562 acres per 1000 residents) of open space per resident in the area. Accordingly, it was agreed that additional open space would have to be created. The City Map was redrawn to show this area as a park and the Mayor was authorized to acquire to land. The proposed 28 acre Bushwick Inlet Park was indisputably a critical element of the 2005 rezoning plan and a commitment to the community that should not be broken. Ten years later we are now calling on the City of New York to honor its commitment to the Williamsburg and Greenpoint communities.

Although the current Bushwick Inlet Park is nice, and we look forward to the remediation and restoration of the 7-acre site where the fuel tanks sat, these parcels are far from accomplishing the pledge to create a 28 acre park. We are dismayed by reports that when this issue was mentioned to administration officials, community leaders were told that your administration had no intent to acquire additional land for the park. We understand that there is an opportunity to acquire land adjacent to the current Bushwick Inlet Park and we urge you and your administration to consider all possible means to expand this open space.

Community leaders and elected officials from North Brooklyn requested a meeting with Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen to discuss this issue. To date, we have not received a response. Accordingly, we are requesting a meeting with you, Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen, or Deputy Mayor Anthony Shorris to discuss the future of Bushwick Inlet Park.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress