



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
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Manhattan Community Board 6 Report, June 2023

- On Tuesday, June 6th, as Dean of the New York Delegation, **Congressman Nadler hosted New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams** and other City Council Members to discuss issues affecting NYC. Topics addressed included increased funding for NYCHA and the need to fast-track work permits for asylum seekers.
- Last week, Congressman Nadler reintroduced the **Disaster Assistance Equity Act**. Under current law, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) inconsistently interprets regulations in a way that prohibits homeowners' associations from qualifying for federal disaster response and recovery programs. This bipartisan, common-sense legislation will ensure that housing cooperatives, condominiums, and other homeowners' associations are eligible for the same FEMA assistance available to other homeowners. The bill accomplishes this by making two key changes to the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act*: 1) Makes essential common elements of a homeowners' association (such as a roof, exterior wall, heating and cooling equipment, elevator, stairwell, utility access, plumbing, and electricity) eligible under FEMA's Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households Program; and 2) Makes homeowners' associations eligible under FEMA's requirements for the removal of debris in the aftermath of a major disaster. In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, thousands of New Yorkers and other Americans were shocked to learn that FEMA's eligibility rules left them with no way of restoring their homes simply because they shared walls and floors with neighbors and lived in a homeowners' association. Some housing cooperatives in New York City were left without working utilities for months after the storm. Since that time, homeowners' associations across the country have faced similar hardships. This inequity must be corrected. A natural disaster doesn't care what type of home you live in, and FEMA should treat all homeowners fairly when helping them rebuild.
- In May, Congressman Nadler and Congressman Goldman led a letter to Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams calling for **the end of non-essential helicopter flights from NYC heliports**. While Congress works to secure meaningful solutions to these concerns in the



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2023 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act, the Representatives request that the Governor and Mayor move to end non-essential helicopter flights from New York City’s West 30th Street Heliport, East 34th Street Heliport, and Downtown Manhattan Heliport. The West 30th Street Heliport is owned by Hudson River Park Trust, a partnership between New York State and New York City. The East 34th Street Heliport and Downtown Manhattan Heliport are owned by New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). Over the past decade, New York City has seen increased numbers of non-essential tourism and commuter helicopters. As a result, helicopter-related noise complaints to 311 have increased in New York City by over 2300 percent in the last five years, and helicopter safety, noise, and environmental concerns are now one of the top issues we hear about from our constituents. As the Congressman has worked with his colleagues to address the negative safety, noise, and environmental impact of tourist and commuter helicopters on New York City residents at the federal level, the FAA has consistently cited efforts to accommodate existing state and local concessions agreements for non-essential helicopter operations as a challenge to restricting airspace. It is within the authority of the Governor and the Mayor to end concession contracts at these heliports for non-essential flights. Our communities have suffered long enough from the impacts of a non-essential helicopter industry that has operated nearly unfettered for decades.

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