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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3212
August 2, 2020

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Mitchell J. Silver
Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
830 5th Ave
New York, NY
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Dear Commissioner Silver,


I am writing to you regarding concerns about the structural integrity of the East River Esplanade. As I am sure you are aware, on July 20, 2020, a portion of the East River Esplanade at 77th Street collapsed. I am told by members of Community Board 8 that this collapse occurred after many residents had expressed concerns over the worrisome conditions on the esplanade. I understand that several additional portions of the esplanade have been closed off due to safety concerns, including at East 101st Street and East 93rd Street, forcing cyclists and pedestrians to share narrow patches of pavement in these dangerous bottlenecks when using the esplanade.

During this time of social distancing with the closure of the city's theatres, businesses, and museums, New York City's parks carry a new importance. They provide necessary relief to the millions of New Yorkers spending their days working from home in small apartments. They are an outlet for socialization that we do not otherwise have during this incredibly trying time. Ensuring that our parks are safe and accessible is integral to the well-being of our city.

As such, I am reiterating Community Board 8's request for a full inspection of the East River Esplanade from 125th Street to 59th Street to ensure the structural integrity of the esplanade. I am also asking that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation commit to attending a virtual meeting with the East River Esplanade Task Force as soon as possible to discuss these deteriorating conditions and the City's plans to address them.

Please review the above concerns, and advise me as to your conclusions, consistent with all applicable rules and regulations. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jessie Kay in my district office at (212) 860-0606.

Very truly yours,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

CBM/jk

Please Reply To: 1651 3rd Ave, Suite 311, New York, NY 10128-3679

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