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January 13, 2021

The Honorable Bill De Blasio
Mayor
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor De Blasio:

I write to thank you for your hard work in overseeing the coronavirus vaccination effort in New York City and ensuring that the process is efficient, comprehensive, and equitable. I urge you to further improve access for our elderly and disabled residents by adding a vaccination site on Roosevelt Island.

As you are aware, there are approximately 11,500 New Yorkers living on Roosevelt Island, including a significant number of elderly and disabled residents. These constituents are part of the high-risk demographic for severe outcomes should they contract COVID-19, and they do not currently have access to a convenient vaccination site. The closest vaccination site to Roosevelt Island is in Vernon Boulevard, Queens - over a mile away from most of Roosevelt Island's residential areas. Seniors and people with disabilities who travel to the nearest vaccination site in Queens must face the risk of exposure to COVID-19 through travel and disproportionate physical difficulties in getting to distant vaccination sites, necessitating a closer location.

I believe that vaccine distribution should be easy, accessible, and free for all. For those reasons, I strongly encourage you to add a vaccination site on Roosevelt Island to service Roosevelt Island residents, including seniors and disabled populations, many of whom are veterans. Including a vaccination distribution site on Roosevelt Island is a vital step towards achieving this goal and to ensuring an equitable rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your leadership in New York City's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

CC: Dr. Dr. Mitchell Katz, *President and CEO*, NYC Health + Hospitals