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House of Representatives

April 12, 2021
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The Honorable Bill De Blasio
Mayor
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor De Blasio:

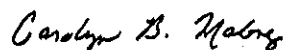
I write to thank you for your hard work on implementing the COVID-19 vaccination effort in New York City and working to ensure that the process is efficient, comprehensive, and equitable. I urge you to further improve access for some of our most vulnerable New Yorkers by adding a vaccination site at NYCHA Cooper Park Houses.

As you are aware, there are approximately 1,538 New Yorkers living in Cooper Park Houses according to the 2020 NYCHA Development Data Book, including a significant number of elderly and disabled residents. These individuals 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 sites are 4 pharmacies nearly a mile away. While pharmacies are critical in the fight for vaccination, they offer many fewer appointments each week than the city, state and federal vaccination hubs. To reach these locations residents must undertake a 10 minute walk which is not feasible for many Cooper Park Houses residents who are elderly or disabled. Cooper Park Houses is located in the East Williamsburg neighborhood (11211) where 1 in every 13 people has had COVID-19. While vaccinations have been increasing in the area, Williamsburg remains the least vaccinated zip code in my district with vaccination rates below the city average.

I believe that vaccine distribution should be easy, accessible, and free for all. For those reasons, I strongly encourage you to consider, consistent with all rules and regulations, adding a vaccination site at Cooper Park Houses to service NYCHA residents, including seniors and disabled individuals. Including a vaccination distribution site at Cooper Park Houses is a vital step towards achieving this goal and to achieving 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