



RISE TO RESILIENCE

RISE TO RESILIENCE (R2R) COALITION STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF INTRO 1620: FIVE BOROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN OCTOBER 7, 2021

We commend the City Council on the passage of Intro 1620 which will help ensure systems are in place so that individuals, communities, institutions, and businesses survive, adapt, and thrive in the face of increasing climate hazards.

The bill is diverse in scope and scale to meet increasing risks. The five borough climate adaptation plan will help identify immediate and long-term responses to threats of climate change and natural hazards through actions to mitigate risks, adapt the City's built and natural assets, and build a more equitable and sustainable city.

While our entire City experiences these stresses, disproportionate burdens are felt by New York City's most vulnerable residents. The plan will also identify climate resilience initiatives to enable New York to address these risks, prioritize the most at-risk communities and help New Yorkers thrive in the face of climate change.

Quotes from R2R Coalition Members

With the possibility billions in federal resiliency dollars will come to our region, we commend the New York City Council for adopting a forward-thinking strategy. This bill takes into account many of the hazards posed by climate change, layered in multiple strategies, and centers on prioritization the communities most at risk," said **Cortney Koenig Worrall, CEO and President, Waterfront Alliance**. "We anticipate this five borough adaptation plan focuses decisions on municipal capital investments and helps secure federal funding."

"Not only does this legislation require the city to plan for a wide range of impacts caused by climate change, including extreme heat and flooding, but it also includes language to ensure that special attention will be given to the risks faced by environmental justice communities, which is critical because these communities are hit first and worst by the impacts of climate change," said **LJ Portis, WE ACT for Environmental Justice's Environmental Policy and Advocacy Coordinator**. "We would like to thank New York City Councilmember Justin Brannan and former Councilmember Costa Constantinides for their leadership on this, and we encourage Mayor Bill de Blasio to sign it into law."

"Coney Island Beautification Project, representing the most vulnerable victims of Superstorm Sandy, applauds the City Council for supporting Intro 1620. We must be proactive, armed with a plan. This Five Borough Climate Adaptation Plan seems just the proposal to impede the negative effects of what will surely be major future storms. Let's be prepared!" said **Pamela Pettyjohn, President, Coney Island Beautification Project**.



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"As we continue to experience intense storms, our most vulnerable residents are at risk from higher floodwaters. The New York League of Conservation Voters supports the passage of Intro 1620 which will help New York City adapt to our climate crisis and protect our communities. This legislation will make sure that we have the plans in place to protect all neighborhoods from rising sea levels, violent weather and coastal erosion. We look forward to building a more equitable, resilient and sustainable city," said **Julie Tighe, President, New York League of Conservation Voters.**

"With the threat of climate change and more intense, frequent storms, we must ensure whole communities are protected. We recently saw low-to-moderate income communities and homeowners of color bear the brunt of the damage from Hurricane Ida. Intro 1620 would implement a comprehensive adaptation plan that includes long-term solutions to protect homeowners in all five boroughs. The Center for NYC Neighborhoods commends the City Council for adopting these measures, enabling our city to protect the most vulnerable small property owner," said **Julian St. Patrick Clayton, Deputy Director of Policy and Research, Center for NYC Neighborhoods.**

"The devastation from Hurricane Ida was just another in a series of reminders that we must upgrade our existing infrastructure and invest in new resilient measures," said **Carlo A. Scissura, President and CEO of the New York Building Congress.** "As climate change increasingly becomes an everyday threat, New York must adapt as it always has when met with a challenge. The New York Building Congress thanks the New York City Council, Council Member Brannan and former Council Member Constatinides for taking this action, which will give us a blueprint to build a more resilient future. Now we need Washington to meaningfully fund infrastructure projects before another violent storm strikes."

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Rise to Resilience is a campaign and coalition spearheaded by the Waterfront Alliance. We are more than 100 organizations representing residents, leaders in business, labor community and justice, volunteer organizations, scientists, environmental advocates, and design professionals collectively calling on our federal, state, and local governments to make building climate resilience an urgent priority.