



New York's Senator

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SCHUMER TO FEMA: GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD; DEMANDS AGENCY STOP IMPLEMENTATION OF LI FLOOD MAP PLAN WITH SO MANY INACCURACIES

Senator Questions Models Used That Raised Levels

*FEMA's Decision to Raise Base Flood Elevation Levels Deals Devastating Financial
Blow to Tens of Thousands of LI Homeowners Already Financially Stretched*

*Schumer: Minor Concessions by FEMA Will Only Check a Few Homes But Will Leave
Bulk of LI Homeowners in the Lurch; Agency Needs to Do a Block-Block, House
Specific On the Ground Reassessment of All Impacted LI Communities*

United States Senator Charles E. Schumer, in Valley Stream today for a meeting with local leaders from various flood map-impacted LI communities, called on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to put in place a moratorium on flood insurance requirements and, instead, go back to the drawing board to devise a flood map plan that reflects the on-the-ground realities of communities now being impacted by new flood elevation requirements.

At a meeting in Valley Stream Village Hall, Schumer pointed out that the maps used are too inaccurate, outdated, and the survey techniques flawed. Schumer also noted that some of these communities have no history of significant flooding, yet are now included in flood map plans because FEMA has increased base flood elevations. Schumer questioned the scientific and historical justification for some of these increases. While FEMA has made minor concessions to check a few homes and areas, Schumer is demanding the agency go back to the drawing board to initiate a comprehensive block-by-block, house-by-house on-the-ground survey and to consider local historical records.

“What this flood map plan and FEMA’s implementation of it shows is that Washington bureaucracy needs a healthy dose of common sense,” said Schumer. “Checking out few parcels here and there is simply not enough. FEMA needs to put more boots on the ground and do a top-to-bottom review of all communities that are being impacted by these new maps that includes a house-to-house assessment of these maps; we need to stick to flood levels that are rooted in the reality of experience and hard data, and we are just not at the place yet. When the result is hammering already struggling homeowners with thousands of dollars in new fees, you have to do your homework. And you