



Dear friends,

The last two weeks have been among the most trying in New York history. The devastation and chaos brought by Hurricane Sandy have had a lasting impact on our city and region, and the lives of thousands of New Yorkers are still upside down.

Amidst the destruction and displacement, however, are many signs of hope. Our first responders and transit and utility workers are working incredibly hard to help New Yorkers and get power, water, heat, public transportation and roads back to normal. And I have been immensely inspired by the generosity of New Yorkers helping their neighbors in ways large and small. This spirit of community – witnessed in the thousands of volunteers helping seniors stuck in high-rises in Coney Island without heat and electricity, distributing food and water in Washington Square Village, the teams of people sharing information and checking in on others, donating vital supplies – makes me proud to be a New Yorker and to have the privilege of representing you.

And the work, of course, goes on. I encourage you to continue to help in whatever ways you can in your own neighborhood and in those nearby. No act of kindness is too small.

[FEMA AND OTHER GOVERNMENT RESOURCES](#)

For the long road to recovery, there are many steps we will need to take. We must seriously invest in planning and infrastructure that will help buffer the impact and aftermath of future storms that will inevitably come – such as fortified surge walls and bulkheads, rock jetties and breakers, and exploring new technology to protect our tunnels, bridges, roads, utility lines, and other vital infrastructure. That work is crucial for safeguarding our shores and our people in the future, and we must move forward with the utmost urgency.

In the immediate recovery, thousands of constituents and small businesses now need rapid assistance in many forms. To help connect people to federal and local resources, my office has put together [a very helpful guide to government programs](#), especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which has numerous types of assistance available to New Yorkers. For other problems and inquiries, I encourage constituents to continue to reach out to [my office](#), at 202-225-5635, where my staff is available to assist you with various post-Sandy issues.

Let us continue to take the lessons of this storm to improve as a city and community, to better our policies and infrastructure, and to come together to help those in need.

Sincerely,

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