



CITY OF KINGSTON

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Shayne R. Gallo, Mayor

Gregg H. Swanzey, Director

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For Immediate Release

Kingston, NY – The City of Kingston will begin a community-driven process to address the challenges of waterfront flooding and sea level rise with a public meeting on December 6th from 3 to 6 pm. A newly-formed waterfront flooding task force will spend the next six months assessing the waterfront’s greatest vulnerabilities and opportunities and developing final recommendations for strategies to create a secure prosperous waterfront.

“The vulnerability of the waterfront was illustrated after tropical storm Irene and once again last month by superstorm Sandy,” said Mayor Gallo. “The City appreciates the willingness of waterfront businesses and property owners to work collaboratively to come up with strategies to make our waterfront more resilient to flooding. This initiative is critical for reinforcing and expanding our efforts for economic development on the waterfront and ensuring safety for all.”

The task force will focus on the City’s Rondout Creek/Hudson River waterfront. The first meeting of the task force will take place on Thursday December 6, 2012 from 3 to 6 pm at Council Chambers at City Hall, 420 Broadway. The interested public is invited to attend.

Task force members include representatives of the Trolley Museum, Hudson River Maritime Museum, Rondout restaurants, marinas and other businesses and waterfront property owners.

The task force is being convened by the City’s Conservation Advisory Council and the Office of Economic Development and Strategic Partnerships, and will be lead by a consulting team from Scenic Hudson, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Consensus Building Institute with support from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. The City’s planning and engineering offices will assist the process.

Mayor Gallo noted that the City is at the forefront of taking action on climate change. The Kingston Climate Action Plan, funded through a grant from NYSERDA, was adopted by the Common Council on October 2, 2012. Only a handful of New York municipalities have completed action plans. The task force’s work will be instrumental in beginning to implement the Action Plan’s recommendations, as well as contributing directly to the new Comprehensive Plan.

The City of Kingston is also a Climate Smart Community, a New York State initiative which recognizes local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Alderman Tom Hoffay sponsored the passage of the Climate Smart Community pledge in fall of 2009 which resulted in the completion of the Climate Action Plan. The NYSDEC is encouraging communities to prepare for climate change. Scenic Hudson is working with NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserved to develop maps and guidance to help all waterfront communities adapt to increasing vulnerability from flooding. A NYS climate assessment, released in 2011, ClimAID, included prediction of increase in sea level in the Hudson to be up to two feet by 2050 in the Hudson estuary, under a rapid ice melt scenario.

For more information and to register (recommended but not required) go to Kingstoncac.org (look under initiatives) or by call 845-334-3962. <https://www.facebook.com/KingstonEconomicDevelopment>

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