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**MAYOR ADAMS RELEASES *RAINFALL READY NYC* ACTION PLAN, PREPARING CITY GOVERNMENT AND NEW YORKERS FOR MORE EXTREME RAINFALL**

**NEW YORK** – New York City Mayor Eric Adams, New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala, and New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) Commissioner Zach Iscol today released the [Rainfall Ready NYC](#) action plan — a plan to prepare the city government and everyday New Yorkers for more extreme rainfall in the future. As climate change brings more extreme weather to the five boroughs, the city is making significant investments in infrastructure to keep New Yorkers safe, and today’s action plan outlines the additional steps New Yorkers can take to protect themselves and their property.

“Climate change is the city’s biggest environmental threat, and while we continue to invest in resiliency and infrastructure projects to protect us for generations to come, the *Rainfall Ready NYC* action plan will help every New Yorker to protect themselves, their families, and their homes,” said **Mayor Adams**. “The city is acting now to keep New Yorkers safe as we move into hurricane season, and I encourage every New Yorker to make emergency plans for the next extreme weather event.”

“Our climate is changing and that means increasingly common extreme weather impacting New York City, but there are measures we can take to prepare ourselves and the *Rainfall Ready NYC* action plan outlines the projects city government has underway to manage our new reality, as well as steps residents can take to protect themselves and their property,” said **New York City Chief Climate Officer and DEP Commissioner Aggarwala**. “The design and construction of large infrastructure projects to manage our changing climate will take time to complete and *Rainfall Ready NYC* is meant to outline the shared actions that can be taken in the short-term to ensure public safety.”

“Every New Yorker deserves to live in a safe home in the face of a changing climate,” said **New York City Chief Housing Officer Jessica Katz**. “Working with Chief Climate Officer Aggarwala, we will ensure that New York City is prepared for increasing extreme weather and that our neighbors’ homes are protected against flooding. *Rainfall Ready* is an important step forward in building stronger housing and a more resilient city.”

“Being prepared for extreme weather emergencies is a shared responsibility, and *Rainfall Ready NYC* is a blueprint that will guide us throughout all phases of the disaster cycle,” said **NYCEM Commissioner Iscol**. “While the city has made several improvements to its operations — from mitigation to preparedness, response, and recovery — *Rainfall Ready NYC* captures how we will continue to safeguard our city and the public. With hurricane season and summer under way, I also encourage New Yorkers to make emergency plans that best match their needs before extreme weather and other emergencies occur, by visiting us online or calling 311.”

As rising greenhouse gas emissions accelerate climate change, New Yorkers should expect more frequent and extreme rainfall events that can produce volumes of stormwater that the city’s infrastructure was never designed to capture. While the city is making important investments to improve resiliency and prepare New York City for the effects of climate change, all New Yorkers can take immediate steps to prevent death, injury, and property damage when these intense rainfall events do occur. *Rainfall Ready NYC* outlines what steps New Yorkers and city government can take to combat extreme weather together, including:

- Encouraging New Yorkers to use new interactive stormwater flood maps to understand the likelihood of flooding on one’s block and to make a plan to get to higher ground if needed.
- Inspecting chronic flooding locations and clearing debris from catch basins in at-risk locations prior to predicted storms. New Yorkers are encouraged to clear litter and debris from the curb line and nearby catch basins and deploy barriers to protect low-lying areas.
- Expanding FloodNet, a network of street flooding sensors designed to better understand the frequency, severity, and impacts of flooding in New York City. These sensors will be installed in the most vulnerable areas for real-time data collection and will be accessible via a dashboard for public use beginning later this month.

DEP will also be providing sandbags and flood barriers to residents in at-risk neighborhoods, and the city has engaged Los Deliveristas, Uber Eats, GrubHub, and DoorDash in a working group to create new strategies for ensuring extreme weather messaging reaches delivery workers. The group will also work to develop protocols to ensure that delivery workers are kept safe during extreme weather, such as restricting deliveries during dangerous weather conditions. The *Rainfall Ready NYC* action plan will be shared widely in the weeks and months to come as all New Yorkers must take steps to prepare for more extreme weather.

“As somebody who grew up in South Beach, we know full well that Staten Island has too often seen extreme flooding impact neighborhoods, homes, and lives caused by rainfall during heavy storms,” said **Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella**. “Fortunately, there has been much progress over the last 40 years, but we still need to do more. After remnants of Hurricane Ida hit New York City in September, many families who historically have never seen flooding in their communities, were directly impacted. Extreme rainfall has been a dangerous problem for the borough and will continue to be a public safety issue without the proper action. I commend Mayor Adams, DEP Commissioner Aggarwala, and NYCEM Commissioner Iscol for collaboratively finding viable solutions to an issue that affects all of New York City. This plan also calls attention to the importance of Staten Island’s Bluebelt system. With more than a dozen Bluebelts on Staten Island, we are using natural spaces such as ponds and creeks to divert

stormwater away from flooding that ends up in homes. These tried and true measures prove it is often best to work with nature, and not against it. Additionally, keeping our catch basins and sewer grates clean of litter, especially ahead of a storm, will help to mitigate the flooding that Staten Island often sees during and after a big storm.”

“Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our city. New York City has over 7,500 miles of sewers that are designed to capture rainfall from a five-year storm, which is a rain event that has a 20 percent chance of occurring in any given year,” said **New York City Council Member James F. Gennaro, chair, Committee on Environmental Protection**. “It is crucial that we invest in the appropriate infrastructure and prepare New Yorkers, especially as extreme weather events become more common. I applaud Mayor Adams, DEP Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala, and NYCEM Commissioner Zach Iscol for their work on the *Rainfall Ready NYC* action plan and encourage all New Yorkers to utilize this much-needed resource.”

“Deliveristas work under rain, shine, or snow. Los Deliveristas Unidos/WJP sees closely and personally how climate change impacts the job and workers' safety across New York City. As the city put a plan to develop the infrastructure to deal with the impacts of climate change and we need bigger efforts to prepare and protect the people and the worker force, such as Deliveristas, that make the city move,” said **Hildalyn Colon Hernandez, director of policy and strategic partnerships, Los Deliveristas Unidos/Workers Justice Project**. “The *Rainfall Ready NYC* action plan is an urgent call to the climate crisis we all live in. This plan shows how working people, such as Deliveristas, can be part of the change and propose solutions to protect and care for our planet.”

“It is critical to our mission that those who deliver on our platform can do so safely,” said **Freddi Goldstein, communications manager, Uber Technologies**. “We are looking forward to working with Mayor Adams, the DEP and NYCEM to do all we can to keep couriers safe when extreme weather is in the forecast.”

“We welcome *Rainfall Ready NYC* and commend Mayor Adams for launching this important and necessary initiative,” said **Sascha Owen, senior manager of government relations, DoorDash**. “*Rainfall Ready NYC* recognizes that everyone - from companies to community groups and governments - has an important role to play in helping keep all New Yorkers safe. The safety of delivery workers and the communities we serve is core to everything that we do, and we will continue to work closely with policymakers and share the lessons we’ve learned from developing our robust emergency response protocols.”

“Every day, Grubhub works with tens of thousands of delivery partners and restaurants across the five boroughs, and their safety is absolutely our highest priority,” said **Joshua Bocian, senior manager for government affairs, Grubhub**. “We continue to use our in-app messaging system to communicate ahead of and throughout extreme weather events, and we look forward to working closely with the city on innovations to best protect each and every one of our delivery workers.”

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