

OUTLINE OF OUR OBJECTIONS TO CLOSURE OF LADDER 53

Our community's objection to closing Ladder Company 53 is not about the number of fires on City Island but about the uniqueness of City Island in terms of access and fire risk, and the need for a full-time ladder company that can respond in under five minutes.

THE PROJECTED POST-CLOSURE RESPONSE TIME OF OVER 10 MINUTES (FROM LADDER 61 OF CO-OP CITY) IS UNPRECEDENTED AND UNACCEPTABLE.

- This number is nearly double the citywide average and would give City Island the longest ladder response time citywide.
- The National Fire Protection Association's guide to fire operations states that a "full first-alarm assignment," including ladder response, should arrive at a fire incident within 8 minutes.
- That said, the first five minutes of a fire are the most important in terms of fire suppression.

CITY ISLAND HAS UNIQUE FIRE RISKS THAT NECESSITATE RAPID RESPONSE.

- Hundreds of homes are over a century old and hundreds more are built entirely of wood.
- The Island is home to 19 boating businesses, including marinas that dry-dock boats during the winter and that store large quantities of flammable materials.
- The Island is home to 28 restaurants, many of them family-oriented, that are packed to capacity during the summer months and pose special fire risks due to the use of open flames.

CITY ISLAND'S GEOGRAPHY NECESSITATES ON-SITE EMERGENCY SERVICES.

- City Island has only one point of entry and only two access routes: one from Pelham Parkway and one from the Hutchinson River Parkway.
- Both routes are consistently congested in the evening hours between May and October, due to the popularity of Orchard Beach and the restaurants on City Island.
- Both routes include a drawbridge. One is Pelham Bridge, the busiest moveable bridge in the city, opening an average of seven times per day, for an average of 8 minutes each time.

RECENT INCIDENTS ON CITY ISLAND HAVE CONFIRMED LADDER'S VALUE.

- On January 6, a two-alarm fire broke out at a commercial building on City Island Avenue. Ladder 53 responded immediately, rescuing over a dozen residents. According to FDNY regulations, its partner company, Engine 70, would not have been authorized to search the building until an off-Island ladder had arrived. Ladder 53's elevated hose was also able to attack the source of the fire more effectively than Engine 70's ground-level operation.
- On December 17, a woman fell off into the frigid waters off City Island. Because of its more advanced equipment, Ladder 53 was able to access the gated shipyard more quickly than Engine 70 would have been able to, cutting out precious minutes and saving the woman's life.
- Both incidents occurred at times when Ladder 53 would have been shut down under the current plan. In both cases, the extra time it would have taken an outside ladder company to arrive could have meant the difference between life and death.

TELL MAYOR **BLOOMBERG THAT YOU** **SUPPORT CITY ISLAND**

City Island's Ladder Company is being closed because of budget cuts ordered directly by Mayor Bloomberg, and only the Mayor has the authority to stop these cuts.

This is an election year, and in politics the squeaky wheel gets the oil. Contact Mayor Bloomberg and let him know that when you walk into the voting booth this November, you will have City Island on your mind.

Tell him that you believe every community in New York City deserves adequate fire protection, even in tough financial times. And then tell your friends and family to tell him, too.

How to Reach the Mayor:

By Phone: 212-788-3000 or 311

By Letter: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, N.Y. 10007

By E-Mail: mbloomberg@cityhall.nyc.gov