

The Mayor and Senator Schumer Unite in FEMA Flood Map Appeal

On May 17th, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer called on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to give Onondaga County, the City of Syracuse and the Village of Manlius more time to appeal FEMA's recent decision to require approximately 2,400 property owners to purchase flood insurance.

By law, FEMA is required to give adequate and substantial notice to local municipalities and residents if they intend to add additional properties to the county flood map the document that delineates which properties are in flood zones. In this situation, however, FEMA only gave local residents and the county sparse notice that has left them scrambling to appeal.



Photo by Shavonne Edrozo

While every town in Onondaga County is affected by the new flood maps, the public notice in the Post-Standard only mentioned the Towns of Fabius, Otisco, Spafford, Marcellus, and Tully; and the Villages of North Syracuse and Solway and made no mention of Syracuse, the Village of Manlius or any other town in from responding in the allotted amount of time, and caused a situation where home and businesses owners had no time to appeal, and didn't know

their property would be added until it was too late. The deadline to file an appeal passed on March 24th.

Schumer appeared with Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner and Manlius Village Mayor Mark-Paul Serafin in Armory Square, stating that without an extension to appeal local homeowners will face sky-high insurance premium costs.

³FEMA has an obligation to provide adequate notice, and for some reason that didn't happen,² said Schumer. ³As a matter of basic fairness, FEMA should give Onondaga County and all its municipalities more time to appeal this so homeowners aren't whacked with an \$800 bill.²

Mayor Serafin will continue to work closely with both Senator Schumer and Mayor Miner to urge FEMA to extend the deadline to file an appeal.