

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

The Heritage Center, 123 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550

Phone: (845) 569-7366 e-mail: conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov

Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chair

Marcel Barrick

Kippy Boyle

Deborah Dresser

Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Gail Fulton

Alison Filosa



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

March 26, 2018

RE: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's Community Resilience Environmental Literacy Grant Proposal

Dear NOAA,

The City of Newburgh's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's Climate Resilience Education Program. While we've taken the Climate Smart Communities pledge, we still have much to do to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Our community has greatly benefited from our waterfront location, building a bustling waterside area that attracts a large number of tourists and local Hudson River residents. Like other river cities, we took a significant hit during Hurricane Irene when the Quassaick Creek flooded damaging a sewer main and requiring emergency repairs and expenditures.

Having an informed resident population and City Council will help our community make the right decisions for our future. We are considering how to protect the waterfront from flooding, how to protect natural areas like the newly restored Muchattoes Lake shoreline with Trees for Tribes plantings, and how to manage storm water runoff in an urban setting.

The large segment of our residents are low-income and our programs are under-resourced. Educating our citizens, who can influence future decision makers, will help our city make the right decisions for its future. This program will enhance our educational efforts now and for years to come.

We are willing to participate in this project. We will provide all relevant documents regarding the Conservation Advisory Council of Newburgh's climate resiliency work to Clearwater's Education department. We will be available to review draft curriculum once before the materials are implemented. We will alert the Clearwater Education department of any significant changes to Newburgh's climate resiliency actions to be included in teaching materials over the course of the 5 year program. We will engage the Newburgh citizens by announcing Clearwater's Climate Resiliency Education Program through our social media and communications network. We will participate by sending at least one council member, well versed in Newburgh's climate resiliency work, aboard a Clearwater's annual Climate Resiliency Public Sail in Newburgh

to interact with citizens and scientists also invited. We will support this initiative by inviting a Clearwater staff to attend in person to our CAC meetings and by exchanging new information via phone calls or shared digital documents.

This project complements our strategic priorities in the following ways:

Education of our citizens about our environment;

Inform our advisory comments to the City Planning Board and City Staff regarding storm water management during our project review activities;

Inform our natural resource inventory;

Inform and prioritizing our involvement and expenditures for tree planting

Inform and prioritizing our involvement and expenditures for public educational activities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Thomas', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chuck Thomas, Chair
