

Dear New York City Council Members,

[Introduce yourself and your connection to LIC and/or to the OneLIC Neighborhood plan process]. I am writing to demand that the commitments made in the OneLIC Neighborhood plan are fulfilled on time.

[Pick which areas you're most concerned about, or include them all. Submit your finalized letter here by June 13]

[PARKS] LIC already suffers from one of the lowest levels of open and green space per resident in New York City, and multiple public reviews of the OneLIC Neighborhood Plan acknowledge that the neighborhood's parkland and open space are already severely lacking, and will worsen with new residences without intervention, which the city has acknowledged. Despite this, the budget pushes back several commitments to open space:

- Waterfront esplanade and new open space construction, planned for completion in 2031, is not planned for funding until 2031
- Queensbridge Baby Park, planned for completion in 2031, is not planned for funding until 2032 or 2033
- Renewal of Queensbridge Park, planned for design in 2028, is not planned for funding until 2032

It also fails to fund the Parks Department at 1%, and does not baseline funding for the 115 Parks workers whose jobs expire in June or provide the 276 new jobs in Parks needed to support our existing public spaces, or provide adequate funding for GreenThumb and the Urban Park Rangers.

[Add a sentence about why these issues are important to you and the neighborhood.]

[Schools] Long Island City's schools are already failing to meet the demands of existing families. The lack of inclusion of the promised school construction and improvements in the approved budget means the existing families in Long Island City and all the new residents will be unable to guarantee nearby elementary school seats, and may be forced to leave the neighborhood or send their young children on very long commutes. The budget must include

- Funding to build the 2 promised new elementary schools and 1 middle school as part of OneLIC.

[Add a sentence about why these issues are important to you personally and the neighborhood.]

[Transportation and public realm] The rezoned area requires significant improvements to provide safe connections through and beyond the neighborhood, allow people the space and infrastructure to spend time with their neighbors outdoors, and help bridge the divide between Queensbridge residents and other parts of LIC. Despite these real needs, the executive budget fails to include or significantly delays several of the promised improvements:

- Court Square Toilet not included in the budget
- Lighting Study in the IBZ not included in the budget
- Feasibility Study of Public Realm Improvements Under QBB Ramps not included in the budget
- Queens waterfront greenway delayed until 2029 + 2032
- 21st Street Intermodal Hub delayed until 2029 + 2032
- 44th Drive corridor improvements delayed until 2029 + 2032

[Add a sentence about why these issues are important to you personally and the neighborhood.]

As the City moves forward with significant new development in Long Island City, it is critical that these commitments are not delayed, deferred, or reduced. The City Council must ensure that the promised funding to allow the neighborhood to support so many new residents is not pushed off or ignored.

I believe that [parks/waterfront connections/schools/street improvements/public open space improvements] promised under OneLIC must be fully funded and delivered on an appropriate and timely schedule so that neighborhood infrastructure keeps pace with growth and current residents are not asked to continue bearing the consequences of decades of underinvestment in [infrastructure/green space/schools].

We need the City to honor and prioritize its commitment to the previously promised funding by the Mayor's Office to ensure equitable development. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Long Island City's future.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Affiliation (business of community group etc, if relevant)]