



INCORPORATED  
**VILLAGE OF ASHAROKEN**

ONE ASHAROKEN AVENUE  
NORTHPORT, NEW YORK 11768

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
250 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Suite 2A-1  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

(631) 261-7098  
FAX (631) 262-0462

August 20, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul:

I recently wrote to you requesting New York State aid for the Village of Asharoken to repair its failing seawall. I have since spoken with your Suffolk County representative Thalia Olaya who said that the State was looking favorably at this request. She said that the Village needed to provide cost estimates to secure the funding. The Village is in the process of getting a cost for engineering this project and once that is done it will be able to bid the work out. Unfortunately, this will take time.

This brings me to my more important point. On Sunday, a severe rain storm in Stony Brook destroyed Harbor Road and the Grist Mill. According to News 12 today it will take years to fix this damage. Newsday's editorial today is headlined, "Sunday storm is a future warning" and urges "Look under the proverbial rug in any community and there are bound to be similar trouble spots destined to appear in the next viral storm video. Both counties must prioritize their most vulnerable locations in upping their **defensive** games." The collapse of Harbor Road was not anticipated. In comparison, the catastrophic failure of the seawall and the loss of Asharoken Avenue could not be **more** apparent. It is not hiding under any rugs. When the seawall fails the public will wonder how the government, at all levels, allowed this to happen. They will rightfully demand to know why the government allowed their lives to be put at risk. We can't let this happen.

As I earlier wrote, the loss of Asharoken Avenue caused by a seawall collapse will strand thousands of people on Eaton's Neck, destroy the infrastructure they rely on, and put their lives at risk. The loss of Asharoken Avenue will require an emergency response of enormous proportions and will be extraordinarily expensive. Why should we allow this to happen? Now is the time to be proactive and not react to a catastrophe.

I understand that the State needs certain information from the Village. Asharoken is presently doing all it can to acquire this information in the most expeditious manner possible. But, in the meantime, I respectfully ask that the State acknowledge the crisis in the Village and assure Asharoken that it will provide the needed financial support to avert the disaster that a seawall collapse would cause.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dr. Gregory Letica