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City of New Rochelle
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January 17, 2025

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Office of Environmental Justice
625 Broadway, 10th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-5028

RE: Grant Application - Five Islands Coastal Education and Community Center at Oakwood Pavilion

To Whom it May Concern,

The City of New Rochelle is pleased to support the Energy Justice Law and Policy Center (EJLPC) application for funding to establish the Five Islands Coastal Education and Community Center at Oakwood Pavilion, a project that will serve as a vital resource for environmental stewardship, marine science education, and climate resilience in our community.

As the property owner, the City of New Rochelle will be the beneficiary of this project and will oversee all aspects of procurement, construction, and facility upgrades required to transform the Oakwood Pavilion into a year-round educational and community hub. The City's team will manage the implementation of the proposed improvements, adhering to all applicable environmental reviews, permits, procurement policies and other regulations to ensure the project's successful and timely completion. We will also work with EJLPC to fulfill the requirements of the grant, including any reporting, compliance, and meetings with your office as needed.

We are committed to leveraging this opportunity to enhance community engagement, provide equitable access to green spaces, and address critical environmental and climate challenges facing our residents, particularly those in Disadvantaged Communities. This initiative aligns with the City's GreeNR Sustainability Plan and represents a significant step toward advancing regional leadership in environmental education and urban resilience. Thank you for considering this application, and we look forward to collaborating with our partners to bring this transformative project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Wilfredo Melendez
City Manager