Ready to Retreat: Voluntary Home Buyouts in Post-Sandy New York City

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It is dangerous to live at Oakwood Beach

By TINA SABELLA DOWNER
OAKWOOD BEACH

My husband and I purchased our home in 1988 in Oakwood Beach.

Many residents are NYC employees; it is a blue collar, working class all owner-occupied neighborhood, and we take pride in where we live.

Though homes are small, they are well kept and some residents including myself loved it so much that we expanded instead of moving.
1992 nor’easter, Oakwood Beach
AFTER SANDY: THE RECOVERY

SOME HOMEOWNERS IN OAKWOOD BEACH, S.I. WANT A BUYOUT
Gov. Cuomo announces buyout plan: “There are some parcels that Mother Nature owns”
Homeowners in Flood Zones Opt to Rebuild, Not Move
GOV CUOMO
OCEAN BREEZE
NEEDS YOUR BUYOUT!!!
Gov. Cuomo,
Desperate...
Will work for buyout.
Crescent Beach Buyout Committee
GOV. CUOMO
BRING THE SUN BACK TO SUNNYVALE VILLAGE
BUYOUT
SOUTH PITCH - PLEASE

GOV CUOMO
PLEASE HELP US =
BUY OUT
NEED A BUYOUT
SOUTH BEACH

GOV. CUOMO
SENIOR SICK
NO WAY OUT
RED - BROKE
BUY OUT
BUY ME PLEASE

SOUTH BEACH
Gov. Cuomo

“Mother Nature wants her land back.
Buy us out and give it back.”
What Happened: Inundation
Mayor Bloomberg: "As New Yorkers, we cannot and will not abandon our waterfront... We must protect it, not retreat from it."
What Happened: Inundation
$100 million and counting for Staten Island buy-out program
4 MONTHS TO DECIDE

NAGIN PANEL SAYS HARDEST-HIT AREAS MUST PROVE VIABILITY

CITY’S FOOTPRINT MAY SHRINK; FULL BUYOUTS PROPOSED FOR THOSE FORCED TO MOVE

New housing to be developed in vast swaths of New Orleans' bigger ground

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The Big New Orleans Back Commissioners will unveil a sweeping $117 billion plan today that calls for a vast reworking of the city’s neighborhoods and housing patterns. But in the four-month period when the first report is due in 10 districts over who can build where, all renovations will be halted in the flooded zone.

Buildings in certain areas are not viable.

- Approximate times of expected to become parks and green space.
- Areas to be redeveloped, none with new housing for relocated homeowners.

Q&A

Does this plan shrink the footprint of the city or allow rebuilding everywhere?

The answer, yes, it could not make a difference which areas should be rebuilt and which should not. What is clear: a four-month process. First off, the housing neighborhood that suffered least or minor damage, the plan calls for a four-month study period—during which there would be a moratorium on building permits—so that property owners can find neighborhood associations and gather information on the levels of return. Those neighborhoods that prove sustainable would be allowed to rebuild, while those that do not would be subject to a buyout program designed to help residents relocate to areas offering greater safety and stronger neighborhood identity and full-service services.

I live in an area that looks unlikely to be rebuilt. It must be targeted to be torn down. What’s the story for me?

If the neighborhood planning group recommends a buyout, your home is likely; a buyout program would provide homeowners no less than 90 percent of their pre-Katrina equity, as long as proposed federal legislation sponsored by a group of Congresswomen is adopted. The Nagin committee's plan further recommends that homeowners...
Gov. Cuomo: Thank you for giving "Ocean Breeze" to Mother Nature.

Governor, thank you for the buyout.