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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

November 3, 2017

**CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN CAUCUS**

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CO-CHAIR

Ms. Shola Olatoye
Chair & Chief Executive Officer
New York City Housing Authority
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Olatoye,

I respectfully request that the New York City Housing Authority work with the New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) to prioritize curing any outstanding issues with the former Latimer Gardens poll site, located at 13910 34th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354, and help them reinstate the site as a polling location as soon as possible.

In 2012, the NYC BOE moved the Latimer Gardens polling location to P.S. 214, located at 31-15 140th St, Flushing, NY 11354. The new location is a half a mile away and has created a significant barrier to voting for the local population. As you know, the vast majority of Latimer Garden residents are comprised of minority voters over the age of 65, and the new location is difficult for them to reach unassisted. Many residents rely on canes, walkers, and wheelchairs for mobility. What is a ten minute walk for an able bodied person is a far more arduous trek for an elderly voter.

I understand the NYC BOE is planning a new inspection and possible reactivation of the Latimer Gardens site. I urge you coordinate with NYC BOE and immediately address any outstanding issues – anything less results in the disenfranchisement of senior citizens living in Latimer Gardens and all those who have relied on that poll site for decades.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing about next steps.

Sincerely,

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. Frederic M. Umane, President, New York City Board of Elections