**STATEMENT BY FIRE ISLAND CIVIC LEADERS ON MAJOR STEP FORWARD TOWARD EMERGENCY BEACH REPLENISHMENT**

**Fire Island, NY (Monday, August 5, 2024) -** Suzy Goldhirsch, President of the Fire Island Association; Henry Robin, President of the Fire Island Pines Property Owners Association; and Tom Ruskin, President of the Seaview Association issued the following statement regarding the announcement by Governor Hochul that the Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a contract to begin emergency PL 84-99 work to replenish Fire Island's beaches:

"We are enormously grateful to our elected officials at all levels for coming together and rebuilding our beach at a time when we needed it most. Fire Island is a vital part of New York culture, and a major tourism center in Suffolk County. As a barrier island, it provides crucial protection to the Southern Shore of Long Island from the most extreme impacts of the Atlantic Ocean. Our communities accept all the risks and responsibilities associated with this role, and we are blessed to have elected officials who recognize and support us.

We thank Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Governor Hochul, Congressman Garbarino, County Executive Romaine, Supervisor Panico, Supervisor Carpenter, Councilman Foley, the Army Corps of Engineers and all of our other partners in government for coming together to support our communities in our time of need."