

# *The Village of Elmsford*

*Mayor  
Robert Williams*



*Village Administrator  
Michael C. Mills*

*Village Treasurer  
Barbara Eannazzo*

*Village Clerk  
Fran LeFevre*

*Village Justice  
Richard J. Leone*

***Board of Trustees***

*Sydney Henry – Deputy Mayor  
Joseph G. Coffey  
Matthew Evans  
Nelson Lopez*

August 20, 2020

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York State Senator  
28 Wells Avenue Building # 3, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Yonkers, N.Y. 10701

Dear Senator Cousins,

Enclosed are the letters you requested from residents to submit to the Senate Committee holding the hearing on ConEd's Storm Response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Williams'.

Robert Williams  
Mayor

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 19 2020  
SENATOR ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS  
DISTRICT OFFICE

You have asked for input from local residents for the State Senate Committee hearings on Con Ed's emergency responses. Here is what the Knollwood neighborhood has experienced:

We lost power in the last storm. It hardly matters whether we name Isaias, because if a storm with a name reaches this area, we almost always lose power.

It took altogether unacceptably too long for power to be restored. In this case it was a full week, from Tuesday to the following Monday. That is not a record. The roads were cleared almost immediately this time, but I recall at least once that it took days to do that, partly because of dangers from downed power lines. The safety of people with medical conditions makes that a potentially life-threatening situation. It would not happen if the power lines did not come down.

Our neighborhood is always last to be restored. That may be in part because only a few hundred people live here, but it is also because there is a long separate line running into this neighborhood, with many trees overhanging it, and a fallen tree or large branch can take down several poles. This time there were many, many fallen trees and branches.

To repeat the main point here - this happens every time there is a significant storm. It is absolutely predictable. Con Ed is more that aware. No steps whatsoever have been taken to address the problem despite decades of power outages and decades of complaints. The obvious thing to do is bury the line. If the services were underground, there would be no danger of trees and branches falling on them. There would be no need for poles and so no need to replace poles. There would be no danger to crews clearing roads. It is clearly possible to do this, since it has already been done where the lines cross the green of the first hole of the golf course. Since utilities other than Con Ed use the current poles and would use the buried space, the cost of the improvement could be shared. Perhaps the State could pick up part of the tab.

What matters to us, and should matter to our elected representatives, is that public utilities with effective monopolies act to ensure continuous safe and adequate service to all their customers, even when the weather is predictably terrible.

Please get this fixed in a way that it stays fixed this time.

Thank you,

Arlene R. Popkin

307 Knollwood Road Ext.

Elmsford, NY 10523

August 15, 2020

TO: MAYOR ROBERT WILLIAMS

RE: SENATE HEARINGS/CON EDISON

**ATTENTION: SENATOR ANDREA-STEWART COUSINS**

This letter is in response to Senator Andrea-Stewart Cousins request for input at the NYS hearings on Con Edison/Altice Optimum to be held on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Dear Senator Cousins:

Thank you for addressing our concerns regarding Tropical Storm Isaias.

Our power went out on Tuesday, and was not turned back on until the following Monday night .... seven days later. It is highly unacceptable to us that this occurs time and time again in our neighborhood of approx. 100 residents. It has become highly predictable that every time there is a storm of major magnitude, we inevitably lose power. And then we experience the wrath of Con Edison's ineffective preparedness and inability in restoring our power in a timely fashion. Our utility poles border the Knollwood Country Club stretch of property entering our community known as Knollwood Road Extension. The trees surrounding this stretch of property (some dead) are not maintained either by Con Edison or the Knollwood Country Club who insists they are on the Village of Elmsford road setback.

When the out of state crew finally arrived on site to restore our power, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, they advised us that they were hanging out at the Marriott Hotel for two days waiting to be deployed by Con Edison. (Yes you read correctly, two days just hanging out waiting for Con Edison to direct them where to go!) This is highly unacceptable and reeks of gross negligence on the part of Con Edison. But what can we do? We can't fire them can we – they have a monopoly and hold us hostage to their incompetence. Con Edison has failed us time and time again.

I would certainly hope that the Joint Legislative Chairs of the Senate, as our duly elected officials will finally now take necessary ACTION and help us FIX THIS PROBLEM. And...I mean seriously wrap your collective heads around this issue and make the long over-due and necessary changes happen NOW. It would be so easy to bury the power lines underground .... As was done on a portion of the golf course for the aesthetics of a golf game ... then no large branches or trees can knock them down. We wouldn't have to worry about the impact of no power on our senior citizens, and people with serious medical issues being denied the services that we pay handily to receive. Something needs to be done NOW Senator, this has happened to us way too many times.

I certainly look forward hearing from you with regard to the outcome of this meeting and what is being planned to alleviate this ongoing issue of power failures and Con Edison lack of preparedness and incompetence in restoring power.

Thank you

Angela and Richard Leone

14 Salk Drive

Elmsford, New York 10523