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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. McMahon, DSNY, NYC Parks, and SIEDC Announce Joint Initiative to Address and Prevent Illegal Dumping on Staten Island

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and Acting Sanitation Commissioner Steven Costas today announced a joint initiative between the District Attorney’s Office, the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY), the New York City Parks Department (Parks), and the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC)/West Shore Industrial BID to address and prevent the issue of illegal dumping on Staten Island. RCDA and DSNY further announced the first enforcement operation to take place under the initiative.

In recent years, illegal dumping has become rampant in parts of Staten Island – particularly the West Shore and other vacant, industrial, or City or State owned parks property. Seeking to address this quality of life issue and recognizing the limited enforcement resources previously available, RCDA convened meetings with both public and private partners to identify problematic locations and develop a strategic enforcement plan with these partners to hold bad actors accountable and raise public awareness to this issue.

As a multi-agency collaboration, the primary goal of the initiative announced today is to investigate and bring appropriate civil or criminal action against those illegally dumping on Staten Island. RCDA has agreed to commit a number of investigative resources to this initiative including but not limited to offering personnel and man power hours to conduct surveillance and make arrests, cameras and related equipment, and ongoing funds to support the installation, maintenance and dismantling of any surveillance equipment.

As part of this initiative, RCDA Detective Investigators and DSNY Police, utilizing new RCDA motion-sensor cameras, conducted surveillance into illegal dumping activity that had been occurring at a known location on the West Shore. This investigation revealed that two men driving a 2007 Hummer 3 dumped garbage bags and what appeared to be cabinet furniture at the location. After identifying the vehicle and the registered owner involved in the illegal dumping activity, investigators undertook action that resulted in the registered owner being issued an ECB summons (\$4000 fine) and the vehicle (2007 Hummer 3) being impounded. This is the first operation announced under the new illegal dumping initiative.

District Attorney Michael E. McMahon said, “Illegal dumping is not just an eye sore on our community– it dampens our quality of life, contributes to a sense of neglect and lawlessness in neighborhoods and amidst

our open spaces, and can be dangerous and harmful if hazardous substances are left exposed. Our partnership with the Department of Sanitation, the Parks Department, and SIEDC/West Shore BID to end illegal dumping on Staten Island has already yielded positive results in holding bad actors accountable and this is just the beginning. While this is an issue that has plagued parts of Staten Island for too long, we have utilized new tools and technology that will continue to help us crackdown on illegal dumping and deter others from polluting our neighborhoods with their trash. Improving quality of life for our fellow Staten Islanders remains a primary concern for my office and I am proud that the entire community has rallied together to say enough is enough.”

Acting Sanitation Commissioner Steven Costas said, “We are pleased that this new approach to combatting illegal dumping in partnership with the District Attorney on Staten Island has so quickly proved effective. For years, we have focused our important undercover enforcement resources on patrols and staking out known dumping locations. However, this technology may offer some substantial assistance in helping us cover more ground. We thank the District Attorney for his partnership on this effort and look forward to continuing to work with his office to rid Staten Island of the blight of illegal dumping.”

Lynda Ricciardone, NYC Parks Staten Island Borough Commissioner said, “We are pleased to partner with District Attorney Michael McMahon and the Department of Sanitation on this approach to combatting illegal dumping in parks. Tracking offenders and enforcing penalties helps to hold people accountable and keep our parks and green spaces safe and clean, and this multi-agency collaboration has already proven successful.”

Steven Grillo, District Manager of the West Shore Business Improvement District said, "Our industrial BID has taken an active role over the past four years to aggressively combat illegal dumping through a number of strategies. We are excited to partner with District Attorney McMahon in this new effort and look forward to a collaborative partnership for the benefit of the business and property owners in the area."

BID Chairman Fred DiGiovanni, owner of Island Charter, a bus company on Chelsea Road said, "My company has been doing business in the BID area since 2004 and I am happy to see this partnership between government agencies, the BID and the District Attorney. Our local BID businesses have been committed to fighting illegal dumping and the new camera resources will allow us to take the effort to the next level."