



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
September 28, 2020

Contact: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150
Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

DA McMahon, BP Oddo, Highlight Success of Anti-Litter Initiative, Applaud Community Groups for being ‘Litter Heroes’

Richmond County Savings Foundation provides grant for Lifestyles for the Disabled, Inc. to conduct community cleanups

Staten Island, N.Y. — Today, District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and Borough President James Oddo highlighted the success of their joint ‘Be a Litter Hero’ initiative, and reaffirmed their commitment to keeping Staten Island clean by encouraging local groups to assemble and regularly clean their communities. To date, DA McMahon and BP Oddo have coordinated eight clean-up events in partnership with local community organizations from the end of July through September. During this time, approximately 95 volunteers, including RCDA and BP staff, have collected approximately 162 bags of waste in neighborhoods throughout Staten Island, from New Brighton to Tottenville. This past weekend, RCDA staff also volunteered to participate in an additional cleanup covering three areas in West Brighton and collecting more than 45 bags of garbage.

Building on the success of the DA and BP’s anti-litter initiative, this month, the Richmond County Savings Foundation awarded Lifestyles for the Disabled, Inc. a \$5,000 grant to conduct regular community cleanups on the North Shore. This work, to be performed by Lifestyles’ program participants, will help beautify the residential and commercial areas along Castleton, Forest, Clove, and Bard Avenues.

“Keeping our communities on Staten Island safe also means keeping our streets clean, but we cannot do it alone. That is why we are encouraged to see community groups have joined our call to action to help beautify our borough through regular community cleanups,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “This is especially important now considering the budget cuts our City faced this year — the only way we will continue to keep our streets clean and litter-free is by rolling up our sleeves to get it done ourselves.

McMahon continued, “We are so glad the Richmond County Savings Foundation saw the value in this work and provided this grant for community organizations such as Lifestyles for the Disabled to help build upon our ongoing anti-litter initiative, and we applaud the participants from Lifestyles for taking on this important task. Together, we can help keep our borough clean and litter-free.”

Borough President Oddo said, “It has been wonderful to see so many Staten Island ‘Litter Heroes’ step up this summer to clean our community. Litter is insidious and eats away at quality of life and we all must find a way to

contribute to fixing the problem, or it will only get worse. Thank you to the Richmond County Savings Foundation for your support in sponsoring this initiative that will allow Lifestyles for the Disabled to continue to be a part of the solution."

Richard Salinardi, Executive Director of the Lifestyles for the Disabled, said, "This grant provides us with the opportunity to showcase the skills of our participants, and their commitment to their communities. Lifestyles is thankful to the Richmond County Savings Foundation for this grant and takes great pride in our ability to give back to Staten Islanders who have supported us over the years."

"Neighborhood cleanups are a priority for the Richmond County Savings Foundation" **said Cesar Claro, Executive Director of the Richmond County Saving Foundation.** "We are happy to support the groups who lead these efforts in any way we can."

On Thursday, Richmond County Savings Foundation Grants Administrator MaryAnn DeSapio presented the grant money to Lifestyles for the Disabled CEO Rich Salinardi, and were joined by District Attorney McMahan and Deputy Borough President Edward Burke for the event. Kenneth Mitchell, Executive Director of the Staten Island Zoo was also in attendance and provided the Lifestyles crew with additional volunteers.

For over 25 years, Lifestyles for the Disabled has created personal and professional opportunities for countless adults with disabilities across Staten Island. This grant will add to their already expansive portfolio, and enable participants to play an active role in beautifying the community they call home.

Since 1998, the Richmond County Savings Foundation has awarded over \$60 million to Staten Island community organizations that invest directly back into our communities. This funding, which has supported projects large and small, has made our borough a better place and reflects the priorities of the Richmond County Savings family whose Staten Island roots date back to 1886.

The "Be a Litter Hero" initiative was created by DA McMahan and BP Oddo to encourage small, organized groups to assemble and clean their communities. Local groups interested in hosting a cleanup and searching for a site to be cleared or those in need of supplies — including masks, garbage bags, and/or gloves — should email Irene Maiello at imaiello@statenislandusa.com or Lisa Thompson at Lisa.Thompson@rcda.nyc.gov.

###