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Joint Initiative To Address and Prevent Illegal Dumping on Staten Island Results In Numerous Enforcement Actions, Approximately \$60,000 In Summonses

Ongoing initiative between D.A. McMahon's office, DSNY, NYC Parks, SIEDC, West Shore Industrial BID gets results for Staten Island

Staten Island, N.Y. — Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today highlighted the success of the ongoing initiative between RCDA, 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. DA McMahon also made a direct call to the public, encouraging private businesses, contractors, and other individuals to properly dispose of their trash in order to avoid fines and help keep Staten Island clean.

RCDA's anti-dumping program began in April 2019, and there have been a total of 15 enforcement actions which have resulted in summonses totaling approximately \$60,000. In most cases, offenders were observed dumping a variety of debris, including household items such as furniture, cabinets, countertops and other garbage. The most significant enforcement action came after a commercial dump truck was caught illegally disposing of 10 yards of concrete material. Most recently, a private landscaping company was found to have illegally dumped five yards of yard waste. Following each enforcement action, offenders are fined \$4,000 and their vehicle impounded. This enforcement is possible due to legislation passed by Minority Leader Steven Matteo and the City Council which increases fines and penalties for illegal dumping and littering.

“Our efforts to curb illegal dumping have resulted in significant action being taken against some of Staten Island’s worst offenders, holding them accountable and helping to keep our borough clean,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “Illegal dumping is not just an eye sore on our community– it dampens our quality of life, contributes to a sense of neglect in neighborhoods and amidst our open spaces, and can be dangerous and harmful if hazardous substances are left exposed. I encourage everyone to properly dispose of their trash and debris safely

and legally to avoid fines and help keep Staten Island clean. “I want to thank all of our law enforcement partners, the BID and Council Member Matteo for giving us the law to work with.”

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 is to investigate and bring appropriate civil or criminal action against those illegally dumping on Staten Island. RCDA has committed 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.

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