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PRESS RELEASE

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DA McMahon Leads Needle Clean-Up on Richmond Terrace, Encourages Staten Islanders to Report Drug Paraphernalia Found Littered in Their Communities to Help Combat the Drug Crisis and Keep Staten Island Safe

DA McMahon recently helped lead a clean-up of drug paraphernalia that was found littered along the waterfront on Richmond Terrace by Snug Harbor Road

Staten Island, N.Y. — Today, Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon released a statement encouraging Staten Islanders to report littered needles and other drug paraphernalia found in their communities as part of a continued effort to combat the drug crisis on Staten Island and to keep our borough safe and clean. Taking action, DA McMahon on Wednesday joined members of the NYPD and Jamie Longo from Community Health Action Staten Island, cleaning-up an area of the waterfront on Richmond Terrace by Snug Harbor Road where numerous used needles had been littered. Additionally, DA McMahon on Thursday issued a warning about the severity of the current drug crisis, noting there have been twelve overdoses, including four deaths, on Staten Island in the first two weeks of 2021, and underscoring the importance of local treatment resources including the HOPE program and SIHOPE.org. McMahon also renewed the commitment of his office and NYPD to bring the full weight of the law against major drug dealers.

“The drug crisis is a war that must be fought on all fronts, and that includes working to help keep our communities clean from dangerous drug paraphernalia littered carelessly in public spaces. Staten Islanders who find excessive amounts of drug debris in their communities should always report it by contacting our anti-litter team, and our partners and we will do our best to have the area cleaned,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “I want to thank a very good partner in this fight, Assemblymember Michael Reilly for notifying my office to this problem spot on Richmond Terrace and for the NYPD and Community Health Action Staten Island for joining us in this clean-up. Moreover, CHASI will be dispatching peers to this location to try to find those suffering from addiction illness and offer them life-saving interventions. As we can see, the drug crisis is still a raging five-alarm fire and has grown more out of control as we continue to feel the effects of COVID-19 on our society. Our multi-pronged approach includes aggressively pursuing those who purvey this poison to our neighbors, and helping the addicted

get help. We are here to guide Staten Island through these challenging times. My office's HOPE team, which includes peer advocates, social workers, and attorneys, are always available to help and we continue to increase outreach efforts. I want to remind people that the HOPE team can be reached at 917-334-8019 or by emailing Floyd.Miller@rcda.nyc.gov."

**Photos attached from this week's needle clean-up.*

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