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Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force, Elected Officials, and Community Leaders Issue Joint Statement Condemning Anti-Semitic Fliers Found on Staten Island

Joint statement released by members of Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force, elected officials, and community leaders

Staten Island, N.Y. — Today, Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force co-chairs Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and Scott Maurer, CEO of COJO of Staten Island, joined Staten Island elected officials and community leaders to denounce the anti-Semitic fliers recently found in New Dorp and also reaffirm their commitment to combating hate and bigotry on Staten Island.

The following joint statement was issued by all members of the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force as well as the entire Staten Island Elected Delegation and community leaders:

“These anti-Semitic postings in New Dorp have no place in our community, and we stand united in our absolute condemnation of this despicable act of hate and bigotry. The mission of the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force has always been to foster diversity in our borough while working with our local law enforcement, elected officials, and community leaders to prevent and prosecute hate-based crime. We continue to be in close contact with the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force over this recent incident and want to reassure Staten Islanders that each one of us remain committed to rooting out this vile hate speech from our communities.”

Led by Co-Chairs District Attorney Michael E. McMahon & Scott Maurer, CEO of COJO of Staten Island, the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force was convened in October 2018 in direct response to the tragedy that oc-

curred at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Comprised of dozens of leaders from the many diverse communities on Staten Island, the Task Force meets several times throughout the year and works to develop solutions and inform our neighbors that our differences make us stronger and hate has no place in our borough.

As part of its mission, the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force creates educational materials to be distributed to Staten Island students informing them of the many different populations that make up our borough and the meaning behind the symbols of hate often directed toward these individuals. Further, the Task Force works to develop legislative recommendations with the aim of strengthening protections for vulnerable groups and developing an early intervention model for those who are expressing hatred but not yet acting on their vitriol. Task Force members also serve as ambassadors within their own communities to promote greater understanding of those with diverse identities and experiences and works with fellow members to accomplish this outside their own communities to educate Staten Islanders of all ages about tolerance and understanding.

The following officials and community leaders joined today to issue this statement:

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis

Borough President James Oddo

Sen. Andrew Lanza

Sen. Diane Savino

Assemblymember Michael Cusick

Assemblymember Charles Fall

Assemblymember Michael Reilly

Assemblymember Michael Tannousis

Councilmember Steven Matteo

Councilmember Debi Rose

Councilmember Joseph Borelli

HCTF Members:

Scott Maurer **Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island**

Mendy Mirocznik **Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island**

Michelle Sabatino **Staten Island Center for Independent Living**

Rich Salinardi **Lifestyles for the Disabled**

Carol Bullock **SI Pride Center**

Lisa Sloan **SI Pride Center**

John McBeth **St. Phillips Baptist Church**

Pastor Isaac Sorial **Virgin Mary & St. George Orthodox Church**

Emad Bekhit **Coptic Orthodox Church of Arch Angel Michael**

Nirmal Singh **Staten Island Gurdwara Sahib**

Sukhdev Singh **Staten Island Gurdwara Sahib**

Dr Nithiananda Chatterjee **Staten Island Gurdwara Sahib**

Radakrishna Mohan **Staten Island Hindu Temple**

Imam Tahir Kukaj **Albanian Islamic Cultural Center**

Karim Azzit **Islamic Center of Staten Island**

Suhail Muzaffar **Masjid Al Noor Islam Society**

Claudette Duff **Integrity Senior Services**

Lorna Wilson **Jamaica & Caribbean Organization of Staten Island**

Dr. Sonia Byfield-Layne **Jamaica & Caribbean Organization of Staten Island**

Tanisha Smith-Franks **United Federation of Teachers**

Rev. Victor Brown **Mount Sinai Church**

Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina **Central Family Life Center**

Antoinette Dongan **Central Family Life Center**

Min. Dale Smith **Central Family Life Center**

Michelle Molina **El Centro Del Inmigrante**

Terry Troia **Project Hospitality**

Zulma Cruz **Project Hospitality**

Jeanne Zieff **Community Agency for Senior Citizens**

Robert Crisalli **Community Agency for Senior Citizens**

Bernice Fischer **AARP New Dorp Chapter**

Carol Brown **AARP New Dorp Chapter**

Louise Tsui **Chinese American Community Association**

Eugenia Tsui **Chinese American Community Association**

Rev. Eric Kim NY **Korean Evangelical Church**

Dr. Lori Weintrob, Wagner College Holocaust Center

Daniella Adames, Juan Fernandez, Alexander Korkhov, Alemayehu Ayele, CCHR

Mark Molinari **NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force**

Lt. Rafet Awad **NYPD**

Deputy Chief Frank Vega **NYPD**