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PRESS RELEASE

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Staten Island District Attorney Michael E. McMahon Joins Borough President James Oddo, Assembly Member Michael Cusick, and NYS Department of Transportation to Unveil New ‘No Dumping’ Traffic Sign on West Shore Expressway/South Avenue Exit 8

***Ongoing joint initiative to address illegal dumping on Staten Island delivers new ‘no dumping’ traffic sign in trouble spot along West Shore Expressway ***

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today joined Borough President James Oddo, Assembly Member Michael Cusick, and NYS Department of Transportation Regional Director Craig Ruyle, to unveil new state DOT ‘No Dumping’ signs located in both directions along the West Shore Expressway South Avenue Exit 8. As part of RCDA’s ongoing anti-dumping initiative between DSNY, NYC Parks, SIEDC, and West Shore Industrial BID, these signs were placed by NYS DOT at our request to warn litter violators against dumping their trash and other debris in this notorious problem area.

RCDA’s anti-dumping program began in April 2019. There has been a total of **43** enforcement actions which have resulted in summonses totaling approximately **\$117,775** in fines. **27 (63 percent of all cases)** were located at Exit 8 of the West Shore Expressway, where the NYS DOT ‘No Dumping’ signs have now been placed.

“Illegal dumping and littering contribute to a sense of lawlessness in our communities and negatively impact quality of life for all Staten Islanders. We would rather not have to do this work, but as long as greedy and inconsiderate slobos believe they will get away with these selfish acts despoiling Staten Island, we will pursue them and, working with DSNY and our other partners, penalize them for their actions,” **said Staten Island District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “As these two locations along the West Shore Expressway continued to present challenges, we asked NYS DOT to step up and install signage to further deter illegal dumping. We are grateful that they agreed and share our mission to prevent and when necessary, penalize careless, and selfish Dumpers who treat the Island as their own personal landfill. I encourage everyone to properly dispose of their trash and debris safely and help keep Staten Island clean. I thank our partners and leaders Cusick and Oddo for joining me in this initiative.”

Borough President James Oddo said, "I appreciate that we have a District Attorney who understands he is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer on Staten Island and embraces the pivotal role his office can play in the fight for the quality of life in our borough. Illegal dumping is not a victimless action. It impacts all Staten Islanders and it begets more dumping, littering, and a negative vibe that accompanies filth. Illegal dumping is a form of lawlessness, and the DA and his team are right to go after this illegal behavior."

Assembly Member Michael Cusick said, "Illegal dumping is a quality of life issue and a continuous challenge for Staten Island which costs countless taxpayer dollars to remedy. Thank you to the DA's office for calling attention to this issue and working toward a solution, and thank you to the New York State Department of Transportation for installing new 'No Dumping' signs along the West Shore Expressway."

NYS Department of Transportation Regional Director Craig Ruyle said, "The New York State Department of Transportation is committed to working with the Richmond County District Attorney's office to remind the citizens of Staten Island, and across the City, that dumping unwanted items in unauthorized locations is against the law. Violators are polluting our environment and creating safety hazards on our roadways. Please properly dispose of your trash, as well as larger, unwanted items."

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 several investigative resources to this ongoing initiative.

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