

August 17, 2015

Mr. Dana Magee
Chairman
Community Board 2, Borough of Staten Island
460 Brielle Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314

Re: Deer and Bear

Dear Chairman Magee:

I am keenly aware of the menace to Staten Island that an uncontrolled deer population represents, and it occupies a very high slot on our list of priorities at Borough Hall.

We are working cooperatively with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, the New York State Parks Department and the National Park Service, along with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services division. We are also working closely with Mr. Kevin Heatley, a private restoration ecologist who has graciously donated his time and expertise to advise us on the various courses of action we may take, and their likelihood of success.

Additionally, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is close to completing an exhaustive study on the problem and an array of possible solutions; we are expecting the results of this study sometime in the fall.

I am taking a very pro-active approach when it comes to deer overpopulation and the problems that it engenders, from denuding our forests to deer tick-borne diseases to the horrible possibility of a deer-related auto fatality. Rest assured that I will not be satisfied until this situation is under control.

Thank you for writing and for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

P.S. There is only 1 real solution and that is culling the herd. Unfortunately, many folks have an issue with that approach. I fear the city will react only after a tragedy -- and the likelihood of one grows daily. The state + federal officials we are working with, get it. The city, well not so much.

