

October 28, 2015

The Honorable Stacey Cumberbatch
Commissioner
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
1 Centre Street
Municipal Building 17th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Security at Farm Colony, Brielle Avenue, Staten Island

Dear Commissioner Cumberbatch:

Tragically, a young Staten Island man died a few weeks ago after falling down the elevator shaft of an abandoned building. That the building was scheduled for demolition and awaiting a Department of Buildings permit only heightens our sense of loss and leaves us with the hollow feeling that government should have and could have done more.

We cannot allow that to happen again.

Farm Colony on Brielle Avenue, which is in DCAS's portfolio, is also abandoned, potentially dangerous, and unsecured. Although fenced, numerous holes have been cut which allow neighborhood youths, as well as paintball players, unfettered access to the property.

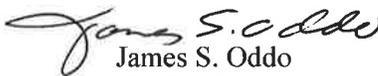
While Farm Colony will soon be transformed into "Landmark Colony," a senior housing project, the ULURP process is currently underway and the property will most likely not be transferred to private ownership until late spring of 2016.

The fact remains that it is a magnet for children just as the Castleton Avenue site was. We cannot permit another tragedy to happen while we are waiting for some future action – be it a demolition permit on Castleton or a transfer of title on Brielle. We respectfully ask that you give highest priority to repairing and/or installing permanent perimeter fencing around the property, and effect the sealing and securing of the first floors of all structures on the property.

We believe, as we are sure you do, that our job as public servants demands that public safety be our primary concern, and therefore we believe we must be proactive and address this situation immediately.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President
Borough of Staten Island


Steven Matteo
Minority Leader
NY City Council

