

July 22, 2015

The Honorable Rick Chandler
Commissioner
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Chandler 

We hope this letter finds you well.

We write regarding the Midland Motor Inn, located at 630 Midland Avenue in Staten Island (Block 3875, Lot 26).

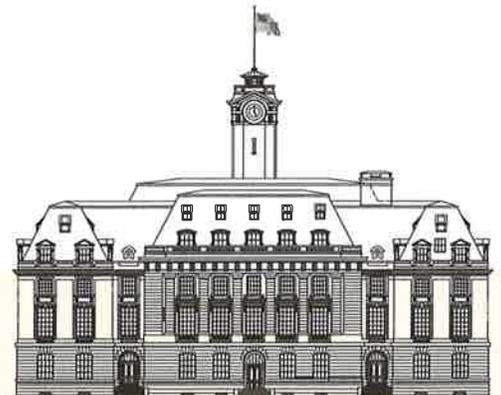
As you know, last night a three-alarm fire tore through this long-time community eyesore, injuring several firefighters. We have enclosed a copy of the *Staten Island Advance* covering the fire for your review. This hotel has been notorious for decades as a result of the criminal element that has flocked to it, the resulting criminal behavior that has taken place in and around it, and the flouting of various city safety regulations on the part of its owners. On many occasions, at our request, various city agencies have taken enforcement actions against the hotel to preserve the safety of those who reside there and the community as a whole. These enforcement activities have led to scores of violations, including many that remain unresolved and open. Yet, the hotel has continued to operate.

The legal use of the structure is Transient Hotel w/accessory Cabaret, Catering Hall, Restaurant and (1) Class A Apartment. The current use is vested as an existing non-conforming use.

As a result of this fire and the uncertain condition of the building, we ask DOB to consider issuing an emergency declaration to demolish the structure if necessary and appropriate. Public safety must be the overriding goal.

We also ask your agency to do the following:

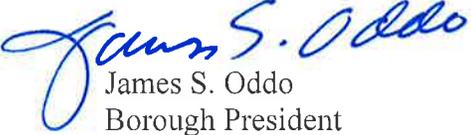
1. Scrutinize the structural capacity of the damaged structure to ensure public safety.
2. Verify any asbestos contamination that may have become airborne.
3. Provide information on how the Building Code's floodproofing regulations might be interpreted by DOB during any effort to repair the existing structure.
4. Investigate whether the damaged structure will pose a threat to the adjoining senior housing facility.



As you know this structure is located in Midland Beach, which is still recovering from the devastation brought by Hurricane Sandy. We must ensure the safety to the community before any type of reconstruction is even contemplated, and if demolition is appropriate we should with all haste pursue that option.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this matter in greater detail.

Very truly yours,


James S. Oddo
Borough President


Steven Matteo
Minority Leader