

October 9, 2014

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

Re: Mt. Manresa, Staten Island, NY

Dear Commissioner Chandler:

I hope this letter finds you well.

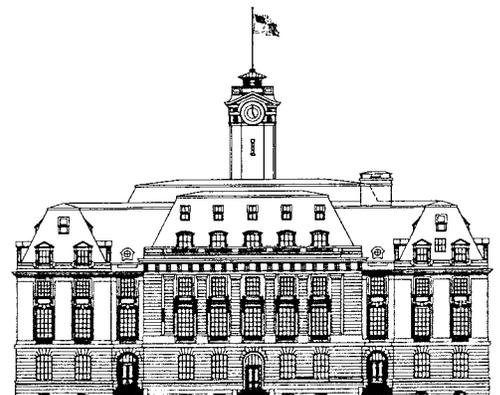
I am writing to ask that you direct your agency personnel to place an immediate total Stop Work Order on the Mount Manresa project.

As you are aware, there is currently a partial Stop Work Order in effect, as a result of issues surrounding the work conducted by Gaspare Santoro, the Certified Asbestos Investigator, who failed to discover the asbestos that we now know to litter several of the buildings.

According to the community, which is closely monitoring the site day and night, despite the partial Stop Work Order currently in place significant work continues to take place. They are concerned that demolition work is occurring, contrary to the partial Stop Work Order. If this is the case, the owners of the property are potentially putting their neighbors at risk of significant asbestos exposure.

In order to ensure the integrity of the process, it is essential that your agency issue a full and complete Stop Work Order until we learn more about whether Mr. Santoro's shoddy work was a result of incompetence or something more nefarious. The cause of the poor work remains debatable and must be fully investigated by all government agencies with jurisdiction.

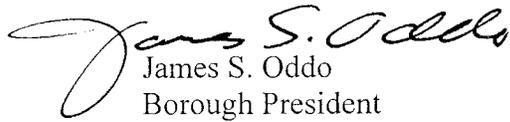
If there was nefarious activity surrounding the initial asbestos investigation, it is fair to assume that such activity will continue throughout this project.



Frankly, there is a complete lack of faith in the builder, the entities with whom he has contracted and, given the revelations of the last week, the process. By extension, this distrust bleeds into government, including agencies and elected officials. We need to do all we can to not only ensure people's safety and the integrity of the process, but also take steps to ensure we do not exacerbate the cynicism in the community. This saga has been a mess since its inception. Given all of the history, we need to take extraordinary steps, and that should start by mandating any and all work cease as government tries to connect the dots, and protect the citizenry.

I thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


James S. Oddo
Borough President