



CITY OF NEW YORK  
PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

BOROUGH HALL  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

JAMES S. ODDO  
PRESIDENT

May 21, 2014

The Honorable Mary Bassett, MD, MPH  
Commissioner  
NYC DOHMH  
42-09 28th Street, 8th Floor  
Queens, NY 11101

Re: Mosquitoes on Staten Island

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I would like to take this opportunity to first thank you for our informative discussion last week at Borough Hall. I look forward to a productive relationship with you.

Since our meeting, my office has continued receiving complaints from constituents, particularly those who live on the East Shore, about the unusually large number of mosquitoes. People who have lived there for decades have never seen it this bad.

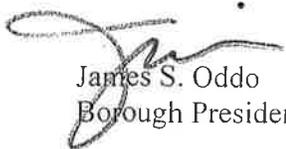
Here is an example of a plea for help I recently received: "Wondering if you could help. I have a huge mosquito problem by my house. You can't even go outside. There are thousands of them. Can the city please help?"

Frankly, I believe that these desperate times now call for desperate measures, and in this case I feel that we need to address the problem more aggressively than we have in the past.

I understand the current protocol regarding larvaciding and spraying for adult mosquitoes only after cases of West Nile Virus have been discovered, but now, because of these unique circumstances, I must ask you to consider altering your protocols this year and begin spraying for adult mosquitoes in affected areas as quickly as possible. My constituents desperately need some relief.

Thank you for your time, courtesy, and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
James S. Oddo  
Borough President

JSO:cd

*P.S. Thanks again for the meeting. Hoping we do great things together*