

May 19, 2016

The Honorable Kathryn Garcia
Commissioner
NYC Department of Sanitation
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Commissioner Garcia:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I would like to take this opportunity to first thank you and the men and women of your department for all the work and cooperation in our joint anti-litter efforts. My staff works closely with Chief Montanino on almost a daily basis, and your partnership is greatly appreciated.

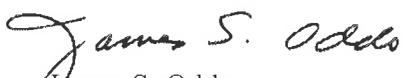
I am writing to follow up on the Litter Summit that I hosted last month at Borough Hall. As you know, your agency participated in this annual meeting where various government and non-government stakeholders discussed this year's anti-litter strategy on Staten Island. At the meeting, we spoke in great detail about my strong belief that big shopping centers and national franchises that are clearly making no effort to clean their properties simply must be summonsed. During my first two years as Borough President we focused on various "carrot" approaches to anti-litter efforts. The consensus is that it is now time to break out the "stick" and fine that specific universe of businesses who blatantly fail to adhere to the 18 inch law and other city laws and regulations.

I was pleased to hear at the Litter Summit that DSNY would work to increase the number of summonses, targeting those businesses with litter that has obviously been there for some time. This is necessary to avoid fining a business that is doing the right thing and cleaning every day, but still struggling because folks are littering outside his store in the period between cleaning sessions.

We are now about a month since the Litter Summit. I am, therefore, asking for an update on the number of summons issued to businesses during the months of April and May. I am also asking for the opportunity to meet with members of your staff during the month of June to discuss these continuing efforts. Your agency's enforcement authority is a key component in the 2016 anti-litter efforts, and I appreciate your partnership.

I thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions or to discuss further.

Very truly yours,


James S. Oddo
Borough President

