

October 9, 2015

The Honorable Daniel A. Nigro
Commissioner
New York City Fire Department
9 Metrotech Center
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Comprehensive Analysis of FDNY Needs on Staten Island

Dear Commissioner Nigro:

Let me start by saying I hope this letter finds you well, and that it was a delight to see you at the two centennial celebrations on Staten Island last week. Events such as these serve as pleasant reminders of the degree to which Staten Islanders love, respect and appreciate the FDNY; we know they are always there for us, and I hope you know we will always be there to support them.

However, two recent events in which the FDNY were heavily engaged prompted me to think once again about whether or not the FDNY has an appropriate level of equipment and personnel housed here on Staten Island.

The first was the fire in a vacant church in West Brighton, in which 138 firefighters were involved. The second was the need to stage equipment from off-borough in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Joaquin, in anticipation of a possible bridge closure which would have left us cut off from the rest of the city.

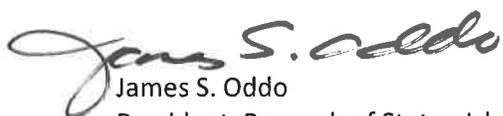
Both of these incidents served to highlight, I believe, the fact that we are underserved and entirely too dependent on personnel and equipment from other boroughs. I am reminded that we do not have our own squad company, and that Rescue 5 is often called off-island; two conditions which, by my estimation, leave us too vulnerable.

When we met here at Borough Hall in March, you cited the need to do a top-to-bottom analysis of the FDNY presence on Staten Island. When you provide me with a comprehensive study of our needs, I will have an important tool to fight for the budgetary resources necessary to take us where we need to be.

I would like to ask you for an update on that analysis. When it is fully prepared, I look forward to reading it and will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you to fight for the goals outlined within it.

I hope you agree that this matter deserves your prompt attention. Thank you.

Yours truly,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

