



CITY OF NEW YORK
PRESIDENT
OF THE
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

BOROUGH HALL
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

JAMES S. ODDO
PRESIDENT

May 28, 2014

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I hope this letter finds you well.

Last Friday I hosted the first meeting of my newly formed Veterans Advisory Council. At this meeting we discussed many issues of concern to veterans, particularly the needs and struggles of our newest veterans.

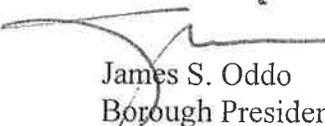
Frankly, the issues are daunting, but they must be addressed. One interesting bit of information I learned is that there is a wide range in the ages and experiences of our newest veterans, due to the large number of reservists who have been called to active duty during the past decade. Additionally, the need for affordable housing is apparent for returning veterans of all ages, particularly when their G.I. Bill benefits are exhausted.

I am, therefore, writing to ask whether your affordable housing plan envisions any type of preference for returning military veterans at all income levels. I believe the need for such a preference is obvious, and would help us re-pay, in part, the debt we owe to our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

If your plan does not currently include such a preference, I ask your staff to investigate the feasibility of including it.

Thank you for your time, courtesy, and consideration.

Very truly yours,



James S. Oddo
Borough President

JSO:cd