

September 1, 2016

Dear Committee Members,

I am pleased to offer my support to the Tackling Youth Substance Abuse (TYSA) Coalition in their request to conduct surveys in grades 7 through 12 on substance use.

The TYSA Coalition, an initiative of the Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness (SIPCW), aimed at driving major improvements in youth substance abuse on Staten Island, with the ultimate goal of decreased use of alcohol and prescription drugs. TYSA is in its fifth year and has expanded its efforts by building and maintaining cross-sector partnerships.

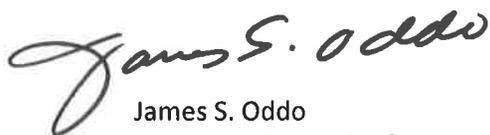
TYSA is currently funded by a Staten Island Foundation grant and a variety of other sources including two Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) grants. TYSA was also awarded a SAMHSA Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant for up to 10 years. TYSA has also leveraged funding secured for the Medicaid redesign project known as Delivery Systems Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program.

TYSA seeks to develop, implement, and integrate substance abuse prevention services with various coalition partners for individuals between the ages of 12 and 25. To achieve the best results, a better understanding of substance use issues in our community must be developed. In order to assess behaviors and attitudes for youth ages 12 to 17, TYSA will conduct the Youth Development Survey (YDS) in grades 7 through 12 in Staten Island schools. The data collected from these surveys will aid school administrators and other appropriate personnel in identifying populations at high risk of engaging in addictive behaviors, developing outreach efforts and programs for high risk students, and effectively treating these students.

Pending IRB approval, I offer my support to the administration of the YDS or other school survey approved by OASAS in grades 7 through 12 in the fall semesters of 2016 and 2018.

TYSA has been a strong partner to Borough Hall's initiatives including the Substance Use Prevention Taskforce, which aims to identify ways to expand awareness of heroin and opioid addiction; enhance statewide prevention efforts; increase access to treatment; and improve support for those in recovery.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo  
President, Borough of Staten Island

