

*“In its inaugural year, our team not only generated novel ideas, but helped make those ideas a reality. BP Oddo has directed us to pursue an even more ambitious agenda in 2018 with an emphasis on core priorities: transportation, health, education, and economic development.”*

**-ISAAC GORODETSKI,  
PUBLIC POLICY TEAM**

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT’S  
DIRECT CONNECT SUNDAY**

**AT THE PETRIDES SCHOOL**



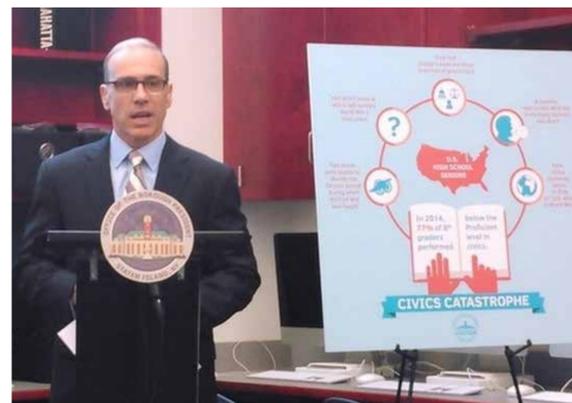
HEALTH & WELLNESS **QUALITY OF LIFE** DEVELOPMENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY JOBS RECREATION EDUCATION TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

In November 2016, Borough President Oddo established the “Public Policy Team” at Borough Hall with a distinct mission: collect research and data to inform the Borough President’s policy agenda and identify innovative ideas to improve Staten Island and the lives of its residents. In short, the Public Policy Team is Borough Hall’s think tank—but with an emphasis on producing real impact. Here are just a couple of the highlights of their work:



**Saving Civics Education from Extinction**

One of the first ideas the team worked on was a transformative new policy aimed at restoring civics education on Staten Island. Our office partnered with iCivics, a not-for-profit organization that teaches students how government works by having them experience it directly through a series of interactive games. Every Staten Island public school Social Studies teacher is now armed with new evidence-based digital tools—free online games rather than outdated textbooks—to bring civics to life in the classroom and beyond. At a time when over 50% of high school students nationwide are unable to name all three branches of the federal government, Staten Island students will be poised to take the lead as informed, engaged, and committed members of our community.



On April 26, 2017 BP Oddo announced an exciting partnership between our schools and iCivics at the Staten Island School of Civic Leadership.

**Policy Team Mission Statement**

*Marshal research and data to inform the BP’s policy agenda and identify innovative ideas to improve Staten Island and the lives of its residents.*



BP Oddo and his policy team.

**Mapping the Opioid Epidemic**

BP Oddo directed the public policy team to zero in on the opioid crisis that has been devastating our borough. Inspired by an innovative initiative pioneered by the state of Rhode Island, Borough Hall teamed up with the Staten Island Performing Provider System (PPS) to create a new website that features a data dashboard with timely data to track the extent and impact of the opioid crisis in the borough. Along with the data, the website provides critical resources and information for first responders, treatment providers, and most importantly, those struggling with addiction and their friends and families.

The public policy team is currently working to develop ideas across a broad spectrum of issue areas such as transportation, workforce development, education, substance abuse, and economic development. Stay tuned.

**Policy Roundup**

SEEKING SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO OUR BOROUGH’S PROBLEMS