

June 11, 2018

The Honorable Ana Barrio
Acting Commissioner
New York City Department of Design and Construction
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

The Honorable Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

The Honorable Vincent Sapienza
Commissioner
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373

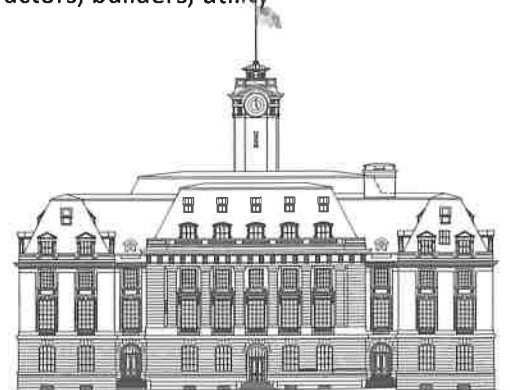
Re: New and Higher Standards for Street Cut Restorations

Dear Commissioners:

This weekend I found myself jumping out of my Jeep , iPhone in hand, to document the egregious road conditions that continue to be replete across Staten Island.

On Saturday morning it was the substandard “temporary restoration” associated with the water main project in the vicinity of Mosel Avenue/North Railroad Avenue; on Saturday afternoon it was the bizarre, jigsaw-puzzle shaped “permanent restoration” at the base of Vista Avenue at Richmond Road; on Sunday morning it was a failed trench across the entire roadway of the most heavily-trafficked local street on the Island—Hylan Boulevard. Mind you these are merely three locations I happened to experience during my limited weekend travels. If I made a point of driving through the borough for a few more hours I could delineate enough locations to fill this entire page and more.

This letter is to implore you finally to inject some sense of urgency to this situation. So much of the good done by the historic financial commitment of Mayor Bill de Blasio – \$1.6 billion dollars of Pave, Baby Pave milling and resurfacing – is being negated and wasted by contractors, builders, utility companies, and even a city agency, who have no sense of accountability.



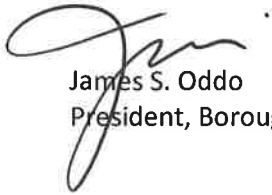
The damage that routinely befalls our streets in the wake of the work undertaken by the aforementioned entities is simply disgraceful. They continue to leave roads in terrible condition because you have allowed them to operate in a universe that reeks of a lack of responsibility and accountability, and tolerates their propensity to continually take the path of least resistance.

I am requesting that you contact each and every entity that may at some point do any work on New York City's roads, read them the riot act on their standard operating procedures, and detail a higher standard of expectations. And that standard should be simple: the road they leave behind should be in better condition than the one they found.

I have been talking about this issue for too long for this to still be happening. The Mayor has made it clear that he cares about the city's roads and that he is an ally in my street cuts battles. So I ask you to step up and demand more and better from anyone to whom you give the privilege of opening up New Yorkers' streets. I ask you to contact each and every entity and tell them it is a new day, and that you will make them pay for their continued disregard for the people's roads.

Frankly, I am tired of begging you to do this. Change the damned status quo.

Regards,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

cc: Deputy Mayor Laura Anglin
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007