

*“There’s a lot of restrictions just in terms of the constitutionality. There’s the premise that your home is your castle even if you’re not caring for it.”*

**-KATHRYN GARCIA  
SANITATION COMMISSIONER**

## BOROUGH PRESIDENT’S DIRECT CONNECT SUNDAY

AT THE PETRIDES SCHOOL



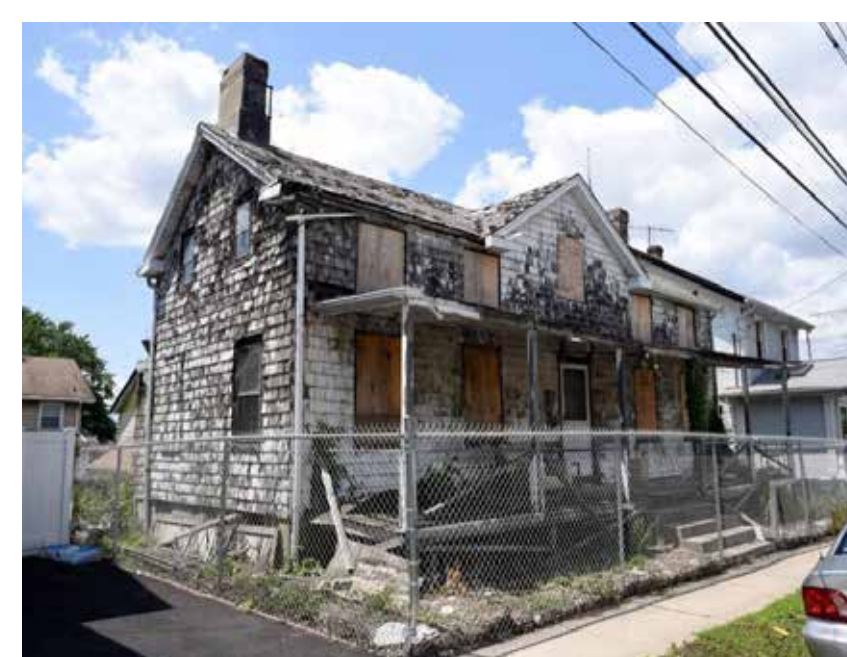
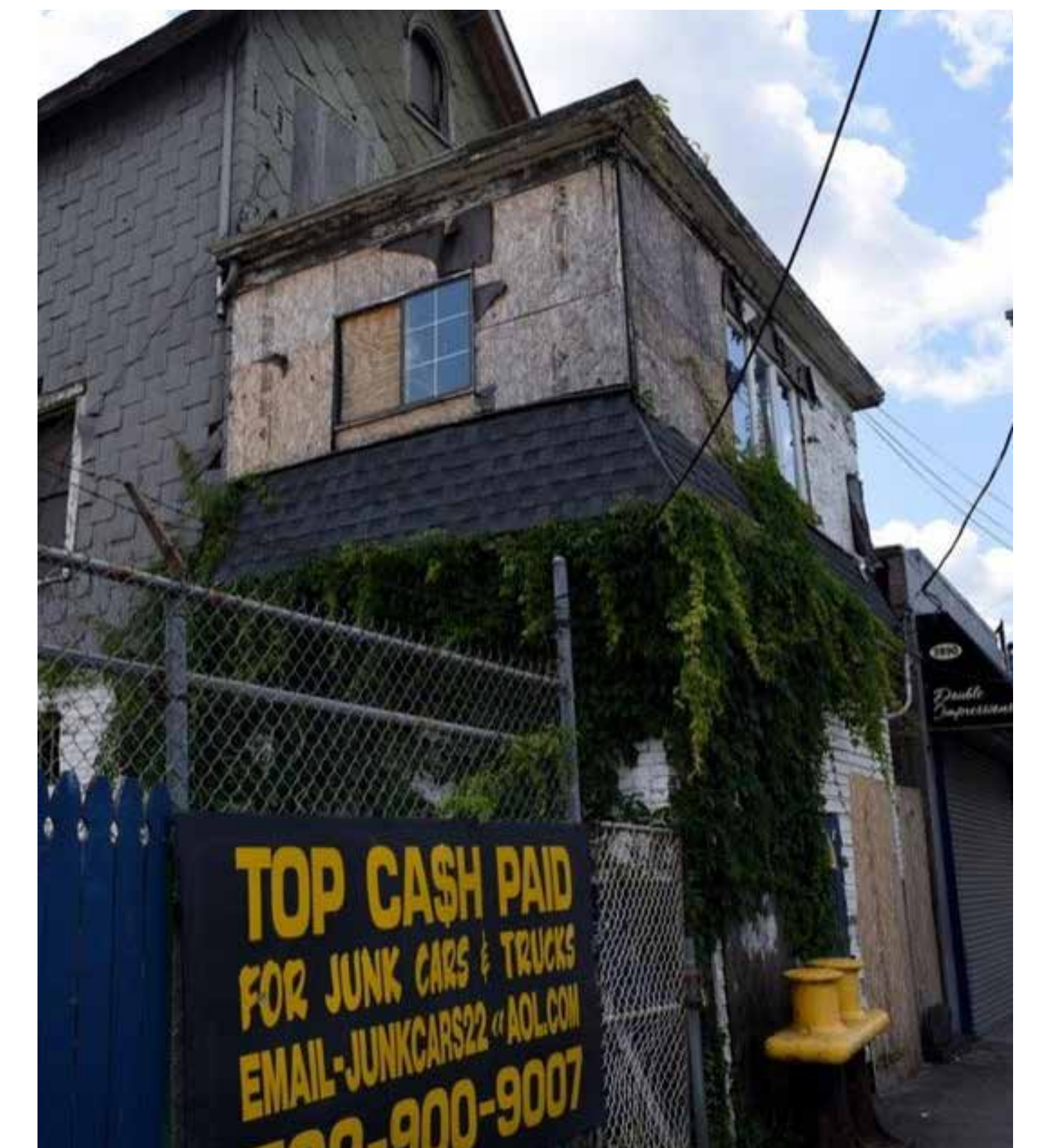
HEALTH & WELLNESS QUALITY OF LIFE **DEVELOPMENT** TRANSPORTATION SAFETY JOBS RECREATION EDUCATION TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

“Zombie Properties,” are homes that have been abandoned by their owners but not foreclosed upon—claimed by the lending institution. This has continued to be an issue on Staten Island since the 2008 financial crisis. The issue was exacerbated after Hurricane Sandy.

According to the 2016 Foreclosure/Vacant Property Law, once a property has been deemed to be a zombie property, the mortgagee (usually a bank) must take the necessary steps to ensure that the property is secured and maintained in order to minimize public safety risks to the neighborhood and surrounding community.

These properties pose a great risk to communities, including unsafe and unsanitary conditions when not secured appropriately. They create blight, and on occasion, attract criminal activity in the diverse neighborhoods throughout the borough.

The Borough President has joined with District Attorney Mike McMahon and other local elected officials to attack this issue head on. They are working to hold the institutions that are responsible accountable for the maintenance of these properties.



# Zombie Properties

THE PRICE WE PAY FOR NEGLECT

Photos courtesy of The Staten Island Advance  
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