OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH PRESIDENT   JAMES S. ODDO
10 RICHMOND TERRACE   BOROUGH PRESIDENT
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301   718.816.2200
WWW.STATENISLANDUSA.COM

July 22, 2015

The Honorable Daniel Nigro
Commissioner
New York City Fire Department
9 Metrotech Center
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Commissioner Nigro:

We hope this letter finds you well.

We write regarding the Midland Motor Inn, located at 630 Midland Avenue in Staten Island (Block 3875, Lot 26).

As you know, last night a three-alarm fire tore through this long-time community eyesore, injuring several firefighters. This hotel has been notorious for decades as a result of the criminal element that has flocked to it, the resulting criminal behavior that has taken place in and around it, and the flouting of various city safety regulations on the part of its owners. On many occasions, at our request, various city agencies have taken enforcement actions against the hotel to preserve the safety of those who reside there and the community as a whole. These enforcement activities have led to scores of violations, including many that remain unresolved and open. Yet, the hotel has continued to operate.

The legal use of the structure is Transient Hotel w/accessory Cabaret, Catering Hall, Restaurant and (1) Class A Apartment. The current use is vested as an existing non-conforming use.
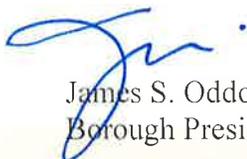
As a result of this fire and the uncertain condition of the building, we ask the FDNY to closely scrutinize the structural capacity of the damaged structure to ensure the greatest level of public safety.

In addition, we have forwarded a letter to the Department of Buildings (DOB) asking about the possibility of an emergency declaration for demolition if necessary and appropriate. We ask that you communicate with DOB about this request.

As you know this structure is located in Midland Beach, which is still recovering from the devastation brought by Hurricane Sandy. We must ensure the safety to the community before any type of reconstruction is even contemplated.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

James S. Oddo
Borough President

Steven Matteo
Minority Leader