



OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH PRESIDENT
10 RICHMOND TERRACE
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

VITO J. FOSSELLA
BOROUGH PRESIDENT
718.816.2000

November 1, 2023

<< Salutation >> << First Name >> << Last Name >>
<< Address >>
Staten Island, NY << Zip >>

Re: Wetlands Firebreak Permit
Staten Island, NY

Dear << Salutation >> << Last Name >>:

The annual possibility and occurrence of wildfires can threaten both lives and property, and we at Borough Hall want to work with you and the community to minimize the potential dangers of a phragmites-fueled brushfire.

There are proactive steps you can take to protect your home and property from a brushfire, the most important of which is to keep your backyard and side yards clean and cleared of any phragmites (an invasive reed grass) or similar vegetation. It is also important to make sure roof gutters are cleared and free of dried debris and leaves, which could help prevent the spread of fire to your home via airborne sparks of hot ash.

You can obtain permission to cut and/or mow phragmites adjacent to your house on adjoining properties owned by the city, state, or federal government. **However, a permit and owner authorization is required.** This permit is **free** and can be obtained by contacting my office at Borough Hall:

- Apply online: www.statenislandusa.com/firebreaks
- Email: firebreaks@statenislandusa.com
- Fax: 718-816-2060

We will require that you sign a form verifying that you are the property owner. We will then obtain the adjoining owner's permission, if required, and issue the permit allowing you to mow a distance of 50 feet from your property line (or 50 feet beyond the paved street edge, and no more than 100 feet from your home) to create a firebreak to protect your property.

It is my hope that our efforts, and those of the community working alongside city, state, and federal agencies will make this the last destructive wildfire season in recent years.

Sincerely,

Vito J. Fossella
Borough President of Staten Island