

March 24, 2017

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I hope this letter finds you well.

It has come to my attention that Chinese bike share companies have been springing up in cities throughout the United States, and that these rogue companies are targeting New York City in the spring of this year.

As Borough President, I have grave concerns about the introduction of cheaply made, low quality bicycles onto our streets, and I ask you to take whatever appropriate preemptive action you can to ensure that these companies do not establish a foothold in the city.

Legislation to ban these companies is not about preventing competition for existing companies, but the "wild west" approach used by these foreign entities puts public safety at risk. This is not acceptable. As well, their business model, which consists of flooding the streets with thousands of self-locking bikes, guarantees that only a small portion of our population will be served, while entire communities can and will be ignored. And having our landscape littered with abandoned bikes is certainly not conducive to the beautification of our downtown neighborhoods.

I am very much in favor of free enterprise and competition, but I fear these completely unregulated companies constitute a public nuisance and a safety hazard; I have seen pictures of hundreds of bikes piled in heaps in Chinese cities.

I urge you to act pre-emptively, in concert with the City Council, to prevent this situation from gaining a foothold before it becomes a dangerous – and costly - problem for us to address after the fact.

Thank you for your attention, and I am willing to assist you in solving this problem any way I can.

Sincerely,



James S Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

*P.S. We want bike share
on Staten Island, but
we want it to be not
a dangerous rip off.*

