

May 14, 2015

Maria Torres-Springer  
NYC Department of Small Business Services  
110 William Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

Re: St. George Commercial Streetscapes

Dear Commissioner Torres-Springer:

I hope this letter finds you well.

As you know, we are about to take the first steps in transforming the St. George community into a vibrant hub of transportation, economic development, jobs, tourism, retail outlets and restaurants. At the center of all this is Staten Island's governmental heart: the Borough President's office and a new, state-of-the-art courthouse, as well as various law enforcement, judicial and other city agencies.

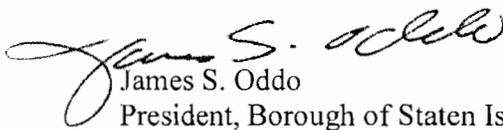
I am writing to ask for your assistance in developing a strategy to activate the St. George commercial streetscapes. The existing commercial corridor along Stuyvesant Place, from Wall Street to Hyatt Street and along Hyatt Street, from Stuyvesant Place to St. Marks Place could serve as a wonderful template to ensure the continued success of existing small businesses.

A comprehensive design approach would integrate public open spaces, sidewalk café opportunities and other design solutions that will help us draw tourists upland from the waterfront to experience other public, civic and cultural venues. These community businesses also serve the existing neighborhood and municipal workforce anchored within a two block radius.

Speaking frankly, we have a brief moment in time to get this right. I hope that we can work together to capitalize on the private development taking place along our North Shore corridor, and that by utilizing the resources of your Neighborhood Development Division, we can maximize the potential of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Thank you for your kind attention, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

  
James S. Oddo  
President, Borough of Staten Island

