



June 1, 2015

The Honorable William J. Bratton
Commissioner
Police Department, City of New York
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

The Honorable Mitchell Silver
Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

The Honorable Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Re: Conditions at Whitehall Ferry Terminal

Dear Commissioners Bratton, Silver, and Trottenberg:

We hope this letter finds you well.

We're sure you will agree the stories which appeared in this weekend's *New York Post* about the \$200 Staten Island Ferry tickets and other chicanery at and around the Whitehall Ferry Terminal, make it clear that action must be taken. Although the *Post* focused on the actions of a few criminal entrepreneurs taking advantage of tourists, it underscores the sense of unruliness that seems to currently plague the area.

Here is the text of a recent message we both received on social media detailing some of the problems:

Is anyone honestly surprised over this? Whitehall Ferry Terminal and the park outside has become nothing less than a disgusting three ring circus. Over the past few months I've watched someone urinate on the ferry terminal at 3:00pm, I've watched vendors harass and curse at tourists about buying tickets to the Statue of Liberty, and I've witnessed an exorbitant amount of drug use in the park outside. At a time when Staten Island is ripe for economic growth, this nonsense is only going to hurt us. It's time to clean this place up.

At a time when the economic development of the North Shore of Staten Island is poised to create an explosion in ferry ridership, we can ill afford to have these incidents grow in number and severity. The role of the Whitehall Ferry Terminal in the revitalization of our city's waterfront cannot be overstated, and it is therefore critical that you devote the resources necessary to create and maintain a clean and safe environment for tourists and commuters alike.

We urge you to take steps to ensure that the area in and around the Whitehall Ferry Terminal is kept free of this type of crime.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island



Gale A. Brewer
President, Borough of Manhattan