October 19, 2015

Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY, 10065

Risa Weinstock
Executive Director and General Counsel
Animal Care Centers
11 Park Place, Suite 805
New York, NY 10007

Re: Live Deer Transported to Staten Island

Dear Commissioner Silver and Director Weinstock:

There was a time when Staten Island was the dumping ground for every ounce of garbage generated by the city of New York. We fought that inequity, and today each borough handles the garbage they produce in its own manner: that is the essence of fairness. No single borough, because of its topography, its ecology, its population, or its location, should be singled out for treatment deemed unworthy of the other boroughs.

It is my understanding that this past weekend two deer were spotted on a construction site in Brooklyn, and one was sedated, transported and released in Staten Island. This is unacceptable. We already have an exploding deer population approaching crisis proportions, and to release more deer into this overcrowded herd is unconscionable. Whether it is one deer or one thousand, whether it is one ounce of garbage or one hundred tons, we refuse be the solution for another borough's problems.

Staten Island is dumping ground no longer. The city must devise an immediate, interim short-term deer management plan that prohibits any single borough from exporting its deer to any other borough. If deer cannot be housed or released, other alternatives must be explored *within the borders of each individual borough*. No borough should solve its problem by making it another borough's problem.

This has now happened once. It will happen again. I urge that a plan be put in place for the disposition of deer found in other boroughs, and insist that these plans do not include Staten Island as part of their solution.

Sincerely,

James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

cc: Venetia Lannon, Region 2,
        New York State Department of Environmental Conservation