

April 24, 2018

The Honorable Marisa Lago
Chair, City Planning Commission
120 Broadway, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10271

Re: Silver Lake Cemetery, 926 Victory Boulevard

Dear Chair Lago;

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to express my strong support of the application by the Hebrew Free Burial Association (HFBA), owners of Silver Lake Cemetery, to the Department of City Planning requesting permission to remove trees at the cemetery's location, 926 Victory Boulevard. The property is in the Special Hillside District.

Established in 1892, this iconic cemetery is currently overrun with volunteer trees that are damaging gravesites and monuments. In December of 2017, the HFBA was awarded a \$500,000 New York State Environmental Protection Fund Historic Preservation Grant in order to preserve the site, which is listed on both the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

However, unless and until a number of trees can be removed, beginning the preservation work will be impossible.

Therefore, I reiterate my support of the HFBA application to remove a pre-determined number of trees, according to a specific plan, that are destroying portions of this historic cemetery.

I thank you for your kind attention, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

