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DEPUTY MAYOR SKYLER, CITY OFFICIALS BEGIN CLEAN-UP OF SWAMP AT ABANDONED RAILROAD TRACKS IN MOTT HAVEN

Deputy Mayor Edward Skyler was joined today by Department of Environmental Protection Acting Commissioner Steven W. Lawitts, Department of Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty, and Community Affairs Unit Commissioner Nazli Parvizi to begin the draining and clean-up of flooded and abandoned railroad tracks on a four-block stretch between the Bruckner Expressway and St. Mary's Park in the Mott Haven.

The Department of Environmental Protection performed site assessments last week and hydraulic pumps will be used to drain more than 100,000 gallons of stagnant water. The Department of Sanitation is clearing debris in the area, allowing engineers to assess the possible causes of fetid water ponding and begin active monitoring of the area.

The coordinated City response comes after neighborhood concerns about odor, accumulation of garbage and refuse, and a presence of standing water that is conducive to the breeding of mosquitoes and other pests, and rats.

The City's Law Department reviewed property records and notified potential owners of their obligation to clean the site. Based on the responses, it was determined that the site was essentially abandoned and a City-led cleanup would be the only remedy for the area.

"We listened to the community's concerns and we are implementing a coordinated, comprehensive response to address an important quality of life issue," said Deputy Mayor Skyler. "We expect the clean-up will ensure the swamp will no longer be a burden for the residents of Mott Haven."

"We are encouraged by the hard work done so far by our Water and Sewer Operations bureau. We hope these first steps – and an eventual full remediation – will serve to mitigate concerns of Mott Haven residents," said DEP Acting Commissioner Lawitts.

Quote from Comm Doherty

(more)

“The Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit is pleased to have partnered with a number of City agencies to develop a long-term solution to the Bronx Swamp,” said Commissioner Nazli Parvizi. “From the beginning, the swamp posed a number of complex challenges to implementing a comprehensive cleaning plan. Over the past few months, CAU has worked in close collaboration with local community groups and elected officials, as well as our partner agencies to ensure that a lasting solution is put in place.”

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