



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release on January 18, 2017

Contact: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150

Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

District Attorney McMahon, Borough President Oddo Applaud Governor Cuomo's Commitment to Ending Opioid Epidemic

Today District Attorney Michael McMahon along with Borough President James Oddo applauded Governor Cuomo's commitment to ending the heroin & opioid epidemic in New York as outlined in his Executive Budget proposal. The Governor has pledged \$200 million, a \$30 million increase from last year, to this fight and his recommendations include several new initiatives all aimed at ending the plague of opioid abuse affecting communities across Staten Island and New York State. Among these initiatives is the establishment of ten 24/7 Urgent Access Centers throughout the State, which will offer immediate access to treatment & services for those in need. Additionally, the Governor's proposal includes the addition of 600 Opioid Treatment Program slots and 80 new residential treatment beds to be run by non-profit treatment providers across New York.

"As we continue to battle the opioid abuse crisis on Staten Island, I applaud the Governor for understanding the severity of this situation and for making this significant financial commitment to ending the epidemic. I look forward to working with him, Borough President Oddo, and our borough's legislative leaders to ensure that Staten Island is a beneficiary of these programs, which are so badly needed in this fight," said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. "Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget shows real investment in programs and initiatives that will help defeat this terrible plague. In particular, the addition of fentanyl and its analogues to the schedule of controlled substances is critical to our ability to prosecute drug dealers to the fullest extent of the law. Additionally, his commitment to creating ten 24/7 Urgent Access Centers throughout the State will help those suffering from addiction obtain the services they need immediately. I look forward to working with the Governor on these initiatives, including the establishment of an Urgent Access Center right here on Staten Island."

Borough President Oddo said: "As we said in our letter last week, we appreciate all the Governor has done and is continuing to do to help us combat this epidemic. The Governor's proposals attack this epidemic on various, necessary fronts and is welcomed news. We remain hopeful that we, as a delegation of all of Staten Island's elected officials, will have the opportunity to sit in a room with the Governor and the Mayor at some time in the near future to discuss it in greater detail and figure out what more we can do."

As the Governor's budget proposal now heads to the State Legislature, both District Attorney McMahon and Borough President Oddo are hopeful that the commitment made by Governor Cuomo remains fully funded and that the initiatives stated here are enacted and strengthened by the Legislature.

-End-