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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. McMahon, NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill, Borough President James Oddo Announce Projected 26% Decrease in Overdose Death Rate on Staten Island for 2017

30 fewer people in the borough died from a drug overdose in 2017 than in the previous year, according to preliminary data

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon, NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill, and Borough President James Oddo today announced that there were 30 fewer deaths from drug overdoses on Staten Island in 2017 – a reduction of approximately 26% when compared to data from the previous year, according to preliminary information compiled through RCDA and NYPD's Overdose Response Initiative. Final numbers are subject to change pending the results of toxicology reports. In 2016, there were a total of 116 overdose deaths compared to 86 suspected deaths in 2017. Additionally, there were 286 lives saved using the overdose reversal medication Naloxone in 2017.

District Attorney Michael E. McMahon said, "Over the course of 2017, there were 86 suspected overdose fatalities. Each of those eighty-six lives lost should serve as a continued reminder of the five-alarm fire we face in dealing with this drug epidemic. This battle is far from over; we have a long way to go in preventing these drugs from reaching our shores, in ridding our streets of those who profit from selling this poison to our loved ones, and in making sure that everyone suffering from addiction has the knowledge and access to recovery services that they need.

McMahon continued, "Every death is a tragedy and we will not stop fighting until the total number is reduced to zero. However, in the midst of this tragedy there are some positive signs. Staten Island has made significant progress in one year's time, as we work to both help those struggling with substance abuse issues while also going after the drug dealers who peddle this poison in our community. Put simply: our continued work is helping to save lives."

NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill said, "The NYPD is committed to saving lives, whether it's by curbing violence, rescuing people in danger or helping those who are caught in the grip of substance abuse. Staten Island has been particularly hard hit, so it's encouraging that overdose deaths in 2017 were down by more than 25 percent and that almost 300 overdoses were reversed using Naloxone. As we begin 2018, the

NYPD remains committed to working with the community, other City agencies and D.A. McMahon's office, as we battle the opioid epidemic and save lives together."

Borough President James Oddo said, "We won't declare victory until there is not a single overdose death in our borough, but the 2017 numbers show we are finally moving in the right direction. We have to continue our collaborations and our multi-faceted push back against this crisis. The reduction in deaths is a testament to the hard work being done every single day by treatment providers, by law enforcement, by government, and by many others engaged in this desperate battle to save lives. We cannot and will not relent in 2018."

The Staten Island Overdose Response Initiative (ORI) was created in March 2016 by District Attorney McMahon and the NYPD. This initiative allows law enforcement to investigate overdose deaths in an effort to root out drug dealers and offer supportive services to grieving families. To date, ORI has led to the arrest and prosecution of dozens of drug dealers. The initiative has been so successful that the NYPD expanded it to other boroughs and precincts across the City.

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At the same time, other anti-drug initiatives launched under the leadership of DA McMahon, NYPD and the Borough President's office have helped those with substance abuse issues find help while also raising awareness about this serious issue and holding dealers accountable.

Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education (HOPE):

This initiative was launched in January 2017 and is a collaboration between RCDA, NYPD, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, The Legal Aid Society, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Staten Island Performing Provider System, the Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness, Staten Island Resource and Recovery Centers operated by Community Health Action of Staten Island, the YMCA, and Christopher's Reason, and Staten Island hospitals and behavioral health providers.

HOPE is an innovative pre-arraignment diversion program that redirects low-level drug offenders to community-based health and treatment services, instead of jail and prosecution.

HOPE Statistics:

- 321 individuals have been offered HOPE
- 284 individuals have been to a Resource Center, received an assessment, and signed waivers.
- 256 participants (94%) have meaningfully engaged and their cases have been withdrawn.

The "Staten Islanders Against Drug Abuse" public awareness campaign:

Launched in July 2017 and aimed at combating the heroin, fentanyl and opioid epidemic in Staten Island while also providing resources and help to those battling addiction.

The initiative included a new, one-stop shop website, SIHOPE.org. This online resource was designed for those struggling with addiction, those with a loved one struggling with substance abuse, and those that simply want to get involved to help stop the heroin and opioid epidemic in Staten Island. Since its launch date SIHOPE.org has had 2,464 unique visitors.

Additionally, as part of this campaign, the SIHOPE team also encouraged Staten Island residents to join the fight against drug abuse by distributing literature and placing over 3,000 yard signs throughout the borough at

homes, businesses, and busy street corners. Other locations include all NYPD Precincts, FDNY Firehouses, and dozens of schools and houses of worship.

“Too Good for Drugs”:

This initiative, spearheaded by Borough President James Oddo and NYPD Assistant Chief Borough Commander Edward Delatorre, has successfully brought police officers together with teachers to help empower students in schools throughout the borough to learn about the dangers of drugs while providing the tools to understand and combat the drug epidemic. The program currently reaches approximately 15,637 students who are or will be receiving this instruction in public, charter, and parochial schools.

Dedicated Narcotics Part in Staten Island Supreme Court

Since October 2016, Staten Island’s Supreme Court has operated a dedicated Narcotics Part overseen by Acting Supreme Court Justice Charles Troia. Even though all the other boroughs have had a Narcotics Court for years, this is the first time Staten Island has had such a special part to bring the appropriate amount of resources and focus on Narcotics cases, saving the lives of the addicted and clearing out the backlog of hundreds of cases against drug dealers, and when appropriate leading to more serious sentences, especially in cases involving deadly fentanyl.

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