



NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

August 10, 2016

Honorable Todd Kaminsky
New York State Senate
55 Front Street
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Dear Senator Kaminsky:

Thank you for your letter regarding emergency medical response at Jones Beach State Park. I share your concerns that the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is providing safe recreational opportunities for our visitors. To that end, I assembled and directed a team led by a member of the Executive Staff to review emergency medical response services at Jones Beach State Park (Park).

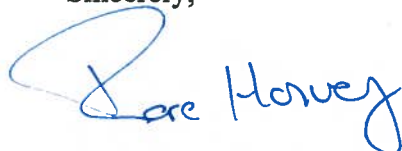
The Director of Agency Operations and Programs, the Director of the New York State Park Police, Long Island regional managers and Jones Beach State Park managers conducted an extensive review and made the following findings:

- Twenty-five (25) Emergency Medical Technicians are assigned to the Park;
- Two hundred and thirty two (232) lifeguards at the Parks are trained and certified by the American Red Cross in CPR and First Aid;
- The Park is equipped with more than twenty (20) automated external defibrillators (AEDs) that are strategically placed throughout the Park or assigned to Park emergency response vehicles;
- Park Police vehicles are equipped with dedicated AEDs;
- The Nassau County Police Department provides emergency services through an ambulance assigned to Jones Beach from 7AM until 7PM through Labor Day;
- The Wantagh Fire Department provides supplemental emergency response 24 hours a day, seven days per week; and,
- Live Nation, Inc. the operator of the Nikon at Jones Beach Theatre, maintains ambulances during events there that are available to respond to medical emergencies elsewhere in the Park.

As you can see, there is an extensive emergency medical services system in place at Jones Beach SP. In an effort, however, to further enhance these services at the Park I directed staff to take two additional steps. First, reach out to the Nassau County Police Department and propose they shift ambulance coverage from the current schedule of 7AM until 7PM, to 10AM to 10PM. This could enhance on-site coverage during times when the Park is heavily used. Second, confirm with Live Nation, Inc. the availability of their ambulances for emergency response during and immediately after concerts.

This information should assure you that we have sufficient emergency response measures in place for the public at Jones Beach SP and we are providing the best that can reasonably be expected. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions or comments on this or any other issues affecting State Parks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rose Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



SENATOR TODD KAMINSKY
9TH SENATE DISTRICT

June 21, 2016

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
COMMITTEES:
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CODES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
FINANCE
HEALTH
TRANSPORTATION
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY &
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Ms. Rose Harvey
Commissioner
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Albany NY, 12238

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

I am writing to request that your department conduct a thorough review of the medical coverage in and around Jones Beach State Park.

Jones Beach draws in thousands of visitors each year to its beautiful beaches, trails, and theater. Given the amount of traffic that Jones Beach sees on its roads during the summer months, I was shocked to learn that an ambulance is only on call to the area between the hours of 7AM to 7PM. There is a large gap in medical services during the evening hours on the roadways and within the vicinity of the park.

Last year, my constituent, John Mullady of Rockville Centre, was driving home from a concert at Jones Beach when he suffered a heart attack. It took a staggering 18 minutes for an ambulance to reach him because there is no permanent ambulance on the island past 7PM. The nearest ambulance was dispatched from the mainland costing vital minutes that could have saved Mr. Mullady's life. It is absolutely heartbreaking to me that this situation could be easily avoided if ambulatory, or other emergency services, had been available at the Jones Beach State Park during all hours.

I am urging you to conduct a thorough review of your procedures and staffing for Jones Beach. A highly trafficked venue such as this should have emergency medical services be adequately staffed so that visitors can safely enjoy themselves.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Kaminsky".

Todd Kaminsky
Senator, 9th District

