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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK WEPRIN PROPOSES TO INCREASE FINES FOR ILLEGAL SIGNS

Council Member Mark Weprin will introduce legislation to triple the current fines for illegally posting signs on public property. Recently, along Hillside Avenue in Bellerose as well as in other parts of the City, there has been a spate of illegal signs on public property, creating blight in the affected neighborhoods. Illegal signs can be distracting for motorists, causing safety concerns; the signs can also deface public property ultimately straining resources when it is time for the City to clean up.

“The number of illegal signs is multiplying, and we must increase both fines and enforcement to discourage this pattern from continuing,” said Council Member Mark Weprin.

“Illegal signs are an unsightly blemish on our neighborhoods. The increasing quantity posted on street lights and utility poles is a distraction to passing motorists. It seems that when these signs are removed by the NYC Department of Sanitation, new ones appear in a very short time,” said Jerry Wind, President of the Bellerose Hillside Civic Association.

“When signs eventually fall off, they can create a hazard, as the nails used to affix them are exposed; the signs litter our streets, gardens and parks. It’s just another form of graffiti that is bringing down the quality of life in our communities,” said Frederick Kress, coordinator at Citizens Against Graffiti Everywhere.

"Now that those who post these signs are resorting to cementing them to the metal poles, traffic signs, traffic boxes and street signs, the illegal signs are damaging public property. Not only should violators be fined for posting the signs, but a fine should be issued for vandalism," said Michael Augugliaro, member of Queens Colony Civic Association.

Council Member Mark Weprin’s legislation would triple fines for posting stickers, fliers, and other advertisements on telephone poles, garbage cans, lampposts or other public property illegally. Increasing fines would exemplify the seriousness of the effort to discourage criminals and make enforcement a priority of the NYC Department of Sanitation.