



De Blasio welcomes study on whether Staten Island is getting fair share

NWS mayor

Mayor Bill de Blasio is confronted by an angry Staten Islander after a borough event in May 2015. (*Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein*)

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CITY HALL -- Mayor Bill de Blasio said he welcomed an upcoming study on whether or not Staten Island is getting its fair share of city services.

The College of Staten Island will study and evaluate city services provided here to determine if the Island receives an equal portion compared to the other boroughs.

"This is a question that we face in a democracy as well, always," de Blasio said at an unrelated briefing at City Hall on Thursday. "I think any borough, any neighborhood, has every right to ask what kind of support they're getting."

The Council's three-member delegation put \$20,000 in discretionary funds to offset the cost of the study.

Minority Leader Steven Matteo (R-Mid-Island) said the formal evaluation will help Islanders determine if the borough really is "forgotten."

The parameters of the study have yet to be drawn out and the timeline of the evaluation, to be conducted with the help of CSI's high-performance computing systems, is unclear.

De Blasio would not say if he thought the study is necessary or if he was concerned about the results. But the mayor did offer some words of caution.

"I think what we should be careful to do is look objectively at the reality, because no two boroughs, no two neighborhoods are the same," de Blasio said. "But if people want to do that analysis, I welcome it. And we'll certainly look at it."

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