

Gilsenan, Michael

From: Gilsenan, Michael [DEPNET1/DEPGPO2/MichaelGi]
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2002 10:27 AM
To: Millner, Natalie
Subject: Revised letter



St. Paul's.doc

Thank you for contacting Ms. Alessandra Sumowicz to register your concern about the closing of St. Paul's Chapel. Ms. Sumowicz had referred your e-mail to this office.

In late January and early February 2002, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), in conjunction with the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), conducted surveys of building exteriors located in and around ground zero. This survey was a follow-up to earlier surveys conducted by NYCDEP in early October 2001. During the latest survey, the representative from USEPA, together with the NYCDEP representative, indicated on their survey forms that the property at 209 Broadway (St. Paul's) had debris located in their cemetery and courtyard. On February 8, 2002, DEP sent a letter to the owner indicating that debris was observed in the cemetery and courtyard and that the owner should assess the situation and then clean up appropriately. This same letter was sent to many other buildings in the area in which debris was noted. There was no directive to close the chapel or any other buildings in the area.

As we learned in mid-March, the Church announced that it would temporarily close (including St. Paul's Chapel) after Easter Sunday. We had conversation with John Allen, Director of Communications of the Parish of Trinity Church who informed us that the decision to close St. Paul's was entirely their own.

I hope this will clarify some of the issues for you and once again, thank you for writing to us.