

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Avaltroni, Robert
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2002 4:20 PM
To: Ward, Chris
Cc: Grob, Shauna
Subject: FW: Director's quote for NYC DEP release

Chris,

Please find the attached draft press release (including FEMA's quote) for your review and comments.

FEMA is willing to follow our lead with regard to press release or event and release.

Please advise.


 press release.doc

-----Original Message-----

From: Wellmeier, Steve [mailto:Steve.Wellmeier@fema.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2002 3:21 PM
To: 'avaltronir@dep.nyc.gov'
Cc: McIntyre, James; Roberts, Rob
Subject: Director's quote for NYC DEP release


 NYC DEP Bldg
 Cleanup update.do...

Hi, Bob.

Attached is quote from Director Allbaugh, along with another sentence we would like to include, for your exterior cleaning update press release.

We remain interested in using this news, and perhaps the kick-off of the interior cleaning program, for a possible joint press event in the near future.

Rob Roberts from our office will touch base with you on this possibility.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Steve Wellmeier
 FEMA Public Affairs
 WTC Federal Recovery Office
 (646) 746-1873

<<NYC DEP Bldg Cleanup update.doc>>

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Commissioner, Christopher O. Ward, today announced that the Exterior Building Cleanup Program, begun on June 7, has to date, cleaned 81 roofs and exteriors of buildings in the downtown area.

The exterior cleanup program is part of a federal, state and local government program to further reassure the public that air quality in lower Manhattan is, and will continue to be, safe for residents, workers and visitors. Commissioner Ward said, "that by instituting progressive initiatives such as the exterior building cleanup, we will promote public confidence as we allow lower Manhattan to realize its full potential. Throughout the process, we have had unwavering support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency."

The exterior building cleanup program is entirely funded by a \$10.1 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, through the FEMA / State of New York Public Assistance Program. President Bush authorized FEMA to pay for 100 percent of the program costs following his disaster declaration after the Sept. 11 tragedy.

"Our aim is a safe and secure environment in lower Manhattan for the millions of residents, workers and visitors who spend time there," said FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh. "Supporting the city's efforts to reduce and eliminate any possible harmful effects caused by the continued presence of this material is FEMA's goal."

Under the program, building owners whose properties have been identified as having World Trade Center debris are eligible to have the debris removed at no cost. To date, over 1,000 buildings in the downtown area have been inspected. In addition to the 81 buildings cleaned to date, 56 buildings are either in the process of being cleaned or have been scheduled for future cleanup.

The work is being conducted by licensed asbestos contractors, under the supervision of DEP personnel. Commissioner Ward said, "cleanups are being conducted at times that are least intrusive to the residents and businesses in the area.

Additionally, 60 buildings have been cleaned by building owners, independent of the government program.

Commissioner Christopher O. Ward of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection today announced that the Exterior Building Cleanup Program in Lower Manhattan has met with considerable early success. Begun on June 7 with significant support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), this effort has shown mostly minimal presence of asbestos and other contaminants from World Trade Center debris on the roofs and exteriors of buildings in the downtown area.

The Exterior Building Cleanup Program is part of a federal, state and local government effort to reassure the public that air quality in lower Manhattan is, and will continue to be, safe for residents, workers and visitors. Commissioner Ward said, "By instituting progressive initiatives such as the Exterior Building Cleanup Program, we are working to promote public confidence and help foster the resurgence of Lower Manhattan as a residential and business community. Throughout the clean-up process, we have been able to proceed with the unwavering support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency."

The Exterior Building Cleanup Program is entirely funded by a \$10.1 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, through the FEMA/State of New York Public Assistance Program. President Bush authorized FEMA to pay the full cost of the clean-up program following the declaration of disaster in Lower Manhattan after September 11th. FEMA is also funding the EPA's interior clean-up of residential apartments in Lower Manhattan.

"Our aim is a safe and secure environment in lower Manhattan for the millions of residents, workers and visitors who spend time there," said FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh. "Supporting the city's efforts to reduce and eliminate any possible harmful effects caused by the continued presence of this material is FEMA's goal."

Under the Exterior Building Cleanup Program, building owners whose properties have been identified as having World Trade Center debris are eligible to have the debris removed by licensed asbestos contractors at no cost. To date, more than 1,000 buildings

in the downtown area have been inspected by DEP specialists. Three quarters of the buildings inspected have shown no evidence of debris. Of those upon which debris has been identified, 81 buildings have been cleaned to date, and an additional 56 buildings are either in the process of being cleaned or have been scheduled for future cleanup. Apart from the DEP-FEMA program, 20 buildings have been cleaned independently by building owners. A small number of buildings south of Canal Street remain to be scheduled for clean-up.

For more information about the Exterior Building Clean-up Program, contact DEP at (718) DEP-HELP. Please be aware that this program is separate from the indoor residential clean-up program administered by the EPA. For more information on the indoor program, call the EPA's hotline at 1 (877) 796-5471.

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Grob, Shauna
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 7:52 PM
To: Avaltroni, Robert
Cc: Sturcken, Charles; Ryan, Geoff
Subject: RE: Draft of Press Release -- Exterior Building Clean-up Program with FEMA



FEMA press_072502
sg.doc

Bob -- Please fill in the EPA's hotline number in the last paragraph. Also, I added a phrase in the first paragraph indicating FEMA's support from the start of the program.

I called Sharon Greenburger to tell her we had prepared a press release, but she had already left the office. I will leave a copy for the Commissioner to review on Monday morning.

Shauna

-----Original Message-----

From: Avaltroni, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 5:10 PM
To: Grob, Shauna
Cc: Sturcken, Charles; Ryan, Geoff
Subject: FW: Draft of Press Release -- Exterior Building Clean-up Program with FEMA

Shauna,

Looks like a go to me. Charlie's comments that it appears to be a DEP press release with Chris in the lead is exactly, in my mind, what we want it to be. We acknowledge FEMA's unwavering support and clearly appreciate the partnership that has made the program a success. FEMA is very pleased with the way it's structured.

Please let me know when we can advise FEMA of our release date. As previously discussed, we will have a roster of the over 1000 buildings inspected by our staff.

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Sturcken, Charles
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 4:47 PM
To: Grob, Shauna; Avaltroni, Robert; Ryan, Geoff
Subject: RE: Draft of Press Release -- Exterior Building Clean-up Program with FEMA

Some comments: will we have the full list available for the press, if asked for? We may want to include the tel # if people want to inquire about clean-up; the way it's drafted appears to be a DEP press release, i.e., Comm Ward is the lead rather than something like "Commissioner Christopher Ward, joined by FEMA Director Joseph Albaugh, today announced the results of"

-----Original Message-----

From: Grob, Shauna
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 4:33 PM
To: Avaltroni, Robert; Sturcken, Charles; Ryan, Geoff
Subject: Draft of Press Release -- Exterior Building Clean-up Program with FEMA

Here's the draft press release, with my edits. Bob -- Please make sure that I did not misconstrue anything in my revising some of the language. Thanks.

<< File: FEMA press_072502 sg.doc >>

Shauna

Gilsenan, Michael (ex)

To: Grob, Shauna
Cc: Avaltroni, Robert; Radhakrishnan, Krish
Subject: Press Release

Shauna,

Please find attached the first crack at a possible press release as discussed yesterday. I have tried to stay clear of using total numbers as they are not easily explainable in this type of document. Please make any changes, additions, deletions that you feel necessary. Also would you like me to share this with Charlie/Geoff for their input.

FYI

315 Total dirty buildings
60 cleaned by owners verified by DEP

255 Possible cleaning candidates
- 71 cleaned by DEP contractors
184 total

56 to be cleaned by DEP contractor

129 possible cleaning candidates in number that is hard to explain in press release

These 129 buildings need to be re-inspected to ascertain if they were cleaned and owner did not notify us. If they were cleaned, then we can reduce the number by that amount. We then need to contact the owners of those buildings still identified as dirty to see if we can get them to sign license agreements. License agreements keep coming everyday and the 129 number will continue to change (today I signed 3). At the end of the process we will have some number that will need to be addressed outside this process.

I hope I haven't confused you too much. If you need anything else let me know.



press release.doc

C

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Commissioner, Christopher O. Ward, today announced that the Exterior Building Cleanup Program ~~(a component of the federal, state and city's comprehensive Indoor Air Quality Program)~~ has completed cleaning the roof and exteriors of 71 buildings in the downtown area.

The exterior cleanup program is one part of the federal, state and local government's overall comprehensive program to reassure the public that air quality in lower Manhattan is, and will continue to be, safe for residents, workers and visitors. Continuing to gain the public's confidence in air quality in and around the World Trade Center site is important to the ongoing renewal and future development of ~~the downtown area~~ Lower Manhattan.

The exterior building cleanup is entirely funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, whose support has been unwavering. Under the program, building owners whose property has been identified by inspectors as having World Trade Center debris are eligible to have the debris removed from their buildings at no cost. To date, over 1,000 buildings in the downtown area have been visually inspected ~~in the downtown area~~ for possible WTC debris. In addition to the 71 buildings already cleaned, 56 buildings are scheduled for cleaning. ~~Some of which these~~ Some of which these are already underway.

An additional 60 buildings have been cleaned by building owners privately, outside of ~~the~~ DEP and FEMA's cleanup program. All these buildings have had their cleanup verified by a DEP inspector to ensure that all debris was removed.

The work is being conducted by licensed asbestos contractors, supervised by DEP personnel. Asbestos contractors are being used to ensure that debris removal is done in the most protective manner possible to the public and workers. DEP personnel and their contractors have been working since June 7 to complete the 71 buildings.

The work is being conducted at times which are most convenient for the businesses and residents in the area, and includes weekends and nights.

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Avaltroni, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 12:32 PM
To: Ward, Chris
Cc: Grob, Shauna
Subject: Press Release

Chris,

As per our conversation this morning, we are putting together specific information (identifying each address) of the over 1,000 buildings in the downtown area that were inspected.

Please note that the visual inspections made a determination if WTC debris was present on the roof top or façade of buildings in the area. We will have the specific details of each address on Monday.

Bob