

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
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Senator Martin Connor
Minority Leader
25th District

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2002-0640

May 31, 2002

Commissioner Christopher Ward
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Corona, NY 11368

Dear Commissioner Ward:

I am writing regarding the severe impacts the September 11th terrorist attacks had on 125 Cedar Street (AKA 120 Liberty Street) in Manhattan in an effort to ensure that this building is properly and professionally cleaned and repaired so it may be quickly re-occupied.

As you know, 125 Cedar Street is a 12-story building with approximately 20 loft-sized rent stabilized residential units located directly across the street from Ground Zero. When the Towers collapsed, this building suffered greatly: the windows on Liberty Street blew in and the windows on Cedar Street blew out, more than four feet of debris from the collapse filled the units, dust was everywhere, water pipes broke, kitchen appliances were badly damaged, clothing and furniture were destroyed, and debris filled the air shaft between 125 Cedar Street and Liberty Street. In addition, the tenants, who are artists, lost supplies and many years of work. They remain evacuated.

It is imperative that the exterior and interior areas of this building be professionally and properly cleaned before the New York City Department of Transportation begins its total capital reconstruction of Greenwich Street south of Liberty and Cedar Streets between Greenwich Street and Trinity Place.

It is now my understanding that New York City Department of Environmental Protection will begin cleaning the exterior of 125 Cedar Street, including the air shaft, on June 3rd. Because of the extent of the damage this building sustained, I hope that it will be the first of the buildings to be cleaned. However, it is imperative that the scope of work for interior cleaning be developed quickly.

Once the interior is properly cleaned, the owner can begin the massive repairs which need to be completed so tenants can move back to their homes, hopefully sometime in the fall.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martin Connor".

Martin Connor

cc: Jane Kenny, EPA
Manhattan Community Board #1