NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Assemblyman
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May 28, 2002

Honorable Jane M. Kenny
Administrator, Region 2
US Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

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

Dear Administrator Kenny and Commissioner Ward:

On May 23rd, I convened a meeting at my office regarding the severe impacts on 125 Cedar Street which resulted from the September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center complex. The following were invited to participate: tenants and their lawyer, owner and his lawyer, relevant public and private agencies, and the local elected officials. The purpose of the meeting was to have all the parties work together to ensure that the building is properly and professionally cleaned and repaired in order that it may be quickly re-occupied. I thank you for sending staff to this necessary and important meeting. A follow-up meeting will be held in my office on June 6th at 1:00pm.

As you know, 125 Cedar Street, aka 120 Liberty Street, a 12-story building with approximately 20 loft-sized rent stabilized residential units, is directly across the street from Ground Zero. When the Towers collapsed on 9/11, 125 Cedar Street was directly impacted, including: 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 (i.e., painters, weavers, photographers), lost supplies and many years of completed work. They were evacuated and remain evacuated. They are devastated!

The major topic of discussion at the May 23rd meeting was the need to professionally and properly clean the exterior and the interior of the building before the NYC Department of Transportation commences its total capital reconstruction of Greenwich Street south of Liberty Street and Cedar Street between Greenwich Street and Trinity Place. It is understood that the exterior of the building must be cleaned before the interior. Even though DEP will begin the exterior cleaning of all buildings starting the beginning of June, the DEP representative could not

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– at the time of our meeting -- commit as to when 125 Cedar would be cleaned. In addition, both DEP and EPA could not commit to a schedule for interior cleaning because the scope of work for the interior cleaning program had not yet been developed. The representatives of DEP and EPA requested two weeks to develop the scope and report back to us at the follow-up meeting.

Subsequently, DEP informed my office that the exterior of 125 Cedar Street, including the air shaft, will begin to be be cleaned on June 3rd. Because of the extent of the damage this building sustained, I sincerely hope that it will be the first of the buildings to be cleaned. Also, it is imperative that the scope of work for interior cleaning be quickly developed. Once the interior is properly cleaned the owner can begin the massive repairs which need to be completed before the tenants can move back to their homes. Our goal is to ensure that they will be able to move back in the fall.

Once again, thank you for your collective help on this issue. We look forward to seeing your staff at the follow-up meeting on June 6th.

Very truly yours,

SHELDON SILVER
Member of Assembly

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