



CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2. MANHATTAN

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Greenwich Village * Little Italy * SoHo * NoHo * Hudson Square
 December 29, 2004

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Christopher Ward, Commissioner
 Dept. of Environmental Protection
 59-17 Junction Blvd
 Corona, N.Y. 11373-3640

Robert C. Alvatroni, Jr.
 Deputy Commissioner
 NYC Dept. of
 Environmental Protection.
 59-17 Junction Boulevard
 Corona, NY 11373

Dear Commissioner Ward and Deputy Commissioner Alvatroni Jr.:

At its Full Board meeting on, December 16, 2004, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB#2-Man.), adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the lower Manhattan and Brooklyn communities, both residents and workers, have, for three years, called on EPA to clean up the contaminants left behind by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, for three years, EPA has been unresponsive to the appeals of our communities, our elected representatives, and EPA's own Inspector General; and

WHEREAS, for the last eight months, lower Manhattan and Brooklyn residents and workers have worked, in good faith, as closely with the EPA WTC Technical Expert Review Panel as we have been permitted to do. We appreciate the efforts of panel members and we hope to be able to continue working with the panel; and

WHEREAS, eight months after this panel began its work, no additional environmental testing or clean-up has been conducted; and

WHEREAS, our children, our neighbors, our co-workers, and our firefighters continue to live with the uncertainty of possible exposure and unnecessary risk. After three years of delay by EPA and eight months of work by the World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel, EPA has yet to make a public commitment to testing and decontamination;

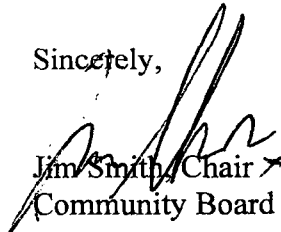
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board #2 Manhattan calls upon EPA to publicly commit itself in a written statement released at a press conference presided over by an official EPA spokesperson to the following seven principles:

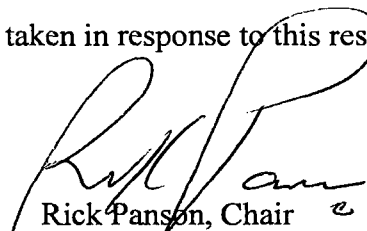
1. EPA will conduct, with appropriate input from the community, comprehensive indoor environmental testing for multiple contaminants. The testing will occur as promptly as possible.
2. EPA will expand the geographic range of the testing from its original boundaries to include all affected areas, to be defined by dust having the characteristics of the World Trade Center disaster and/or by complaints of the citizenry.
3. EPA will test both residences and workplaces. Landlords, residents, employers, and employees will all be given the option of volunteering to have their respective buildings, residences, and workplaces tested.
4. EPA testing will include mechanical ventilation systems.
5. Where test results warrant, EPA will decontaminate not only the tested buildings but the neighborhoods affected by 9/11 contaminants. The clean-up clearance criterion for each identified contaminant will be based upon consideration of health-based benchmarks and background levels, utilizing the criterion that is more protective.
6. EPA will, with appropriate community input, take the lead role in supervising the environmental safety of all 9/11-related clean-up, demolition, and reconstruction activities.
7. As EPA evaluates unmet health needs resulting from the attacks, it will support all necessary national and local efforts to ensure public health education, outreach, and long-term medical follow-up for affected communities and to ensure medical care for affected individuals.

Vote: Unanimous, with 25 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,


Jim Smith, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan


Rick Panson, Chair
Environment Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JS/gh

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman-via fax
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NYS Senator – via fax
Hon. Deborah Glick, NYS Assemblymember – via fax
Hon. Alan J. Gerson, Councilmember- via fax
Hon. Margarita Lopez , Councilmember
Hon. Christine Quinn, Councilmember – via fax
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Man. Borough President – via fax
Commissioner Jonathan Greenspun, CAU – via fax
Bradford Sussman, Community Liaison, MBPO – via fax