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**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
MayorThomas R. Frieden, M.D. M.P.H.
Commissionernyc.gov/healthAdministrative Tribunal
66 John Street, 11th fl.
New York, NY 10038

Date: March 24, 2003

To: Valerie Porter
Director of Health and SafetyFrom: Ilene Shifrin 
Senior Hearing Examiner

Re: Enclosed asbestos report from EMSL Analytical

I spoke with Ingrid Ramlakhan and she suggested that I contact you regarding the enclosed asbestos report from EMSL Analytical.

By way of background: I am a senior judge at the DOHMH Tribunal. The DOHMH Administrative Tribunal is on the 11th floor of 66 John Street, two blocks from the WTC site. There are several other City agencies in this building, including the Environmental Control Board ["ECB"] on the 10th floor.

The hearing rooms and operations areas at ECB have the same type of carpet tiles as we have at DOHMH. There has been concern at 66 John about whether the building has been properly cleaned and maintained after 9/11. Because of this, several judges at ECB had carpet tiles tested by EMSL Analytical. (See enclosed report from EMSL and some information that ECB got from the EPA.) The results, if accurate, are cause for concern.

The numbers reported are very high, and we on the 11th floor do not discount the possibility that the testing was flawed. However, we need to verify this. Therefore, we are requesting that DOHMH test the carpet tiles at the Tribunal for asbestos and other contaminants in order to determine if the carpet tiles need to be replaced.

Thank you for your attention. If you require further information, I can be reached at 212-361-1093.

Cc: Miguel A. Gonzalez, Director of Adjudications