NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NOTEBOOKS

No Break On Holiday As Crews Clear Site

While the floats sail down Central Park West and New Yorkers gather around tables loaded with food tomorrow, workers at the disaster site in Lower Manhattan will be busy digging and sifting because, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani said yesterday, the families of those killed in the collapse want it that way.

"I understand that the chances of finding significant numbers of additional human remains, you know, is small," Mr. Giuliani said yesterday. "But I think we owe it to these families to make every effort to do that. So that's the reason that we're working on Thanksgiving."

The workers took Veterans Day off, which the mayor said occurred without his knowledge and greatly upset the relatives of the victims.

"You can understand how this decision was made," the mayor said. "The people running the site thought people had been working so hard it was worth taking a day off." But after seeing how offended and emotional the families were, the mayor promised that the recovery effort would continue round the clock.

Still, the site will not be wholly bereft of holiday spirit. The mayor said that a religious service would take place and that "provisions are going to be made in two places to make sure that Thanksgiving dinner is served" to the workers.

DIANE CARDWELL

Safer Working Conditions

The contractors cleaning up the World Trade Center site signed an agreement yesterday intended to limit the number of injuries at the site. Under the agreement with the city and federal government, the contracts have committed to honoring a detailed safety plan that will increase oversight of the work.

Since September, more than 8,700 injuries or illnesses have been reported by contractors or rescue personnel at the site, although most of those cases were relatively minor. Of that total, at least 34 were broken bones and 441 were lacerations.

ERIC LIPTON

A Transit Security Overseer

Louis R. Anemone, a former city police official whose exacting manner was said to have improved crime fighting while it antagonized colleagues, was appointed yesterday to oversee security for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a position created to address the threat of terrorism against the transit system.

Mr. Anemone, who retired from the police force in 1999 as its third-highest-ranking member, will work to coordinate the security efforts of the subways, commuter trains and buses with the demands of the New York Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Gov. George E. Pataki's newly created Office of Public Security. Mr. Anemone had been appointed deputy director of that office just last month.

His new job, which he assumes in December, will begin as the demands of added security are beginning to conflict with the transit agency's mission of providing reliable service.

The subways in particular have become hobbled in the last several weeks by numerous reports of suspicious packages or powders. Such reports automatically trigger procedures such as shutting down stations and train lines during peak hours.

Some people involved in those procedures say that there has been mounting disagreement between transit and police officials over how such reports should be handled.

Mr. Anemone was a member of the police force for 34 years, serving in every uniform rank until his retirement.

RANDY KENNEDY

First Anthrax, Now Mice

The United States Postal Service may have done enough to clean up the anthrax in its New York facilities, but a federal judge ruled last week that there is a mouse problem, and it is out of control, at least at the Morgan Processing and Distribution Center in Manhattan.

Judge John F. Keenan of United States District Court took a detour in his written opinion on anthrax contamination on Thursday to express his concern about an "excessive mice infestation problem" at Morgan that came to light during recent anthrax hearings. In a brief ruling on Nov. 9, he said there was no reason to shut the Morgan center for anthrax cleaning, as the postal workers union had asked.

He set out his reasoning about anthrax on Thursday in a 12-page opinion. But, apparently moved by testimony about rampant mice, he ordered that the problem be remedied on Thanksgiving Day, when there is no mail delivery.

JANE FRITSCH

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