



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

Web: [nyc.gov/html/law/home.html](http://nyc.gov/html/law/home.html)

*For Immediate Release*

## 911 TAPE DISTRIBUTION PROCEEDING AS PLANNED

Contact: Kate O'Brien Ahlers, Communications Director, (212) 788-0400, [kahlers@law.nyc.gov](mailto:kahlers@law.nyc.gov)

New York, March 30, 2006 -- Journalists should note the following updates about the 911 tape distributions:

### What is the LASTEST NEWS?

The 911 tapes release will proceed as set forth in yesterday's advisory. This means:

- The City will issue the operators' portions of the 911 calls with redactions of identifying information of callers (i.e. names, phone numbers, etc., that were mentioned during the operators' portion of the call).
- No callers' voices will be released.
- Reporters interested in obtaining copies of the redacted calls should come to the New York City Law Department as originally advised last night. CDs will only be given to accredited members of the press, one set per news organization. Media ID is necessary. The attached press advisory contains all details that journalists need to know.

### What is the Legal History of this Case Again And What Happened Today (Thurs., March 30, 2006)?

In 2002, The New York Times and nine Sept. 11th family members sought to obtain official records under the State's Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) against the New York City Fire Department. In March 2005, the New York Court of Appeals – the state's highest court – ruled that portions of Fire Department radio dispatch communications, "oral history" interviews with firefighters, and emergency calls made to the City's 911 system were subject to public disclosure under New York State's Freedom of Information Law, but with certain permissible eliminations ("redactions") intended to protect the individuals' privacy. In addition to the Fire Department, the Police Department is producing 911 records in accordance with the guidelines established by the Court in the Fire Department's case. The dispatch communications and oral histories were released on Aug. 12, 2005. The New York City Law Department plans to release Fire Department and Police Department emergency calls to 911 tomorrow morning (Fri., March 31, 2006). The order signed yesterday (Wed., March 29, 2006) by Justice Richard Braun of the State Supreme Court of Manhattan directing that identifying repeated by the 911 operators (i.e. caller names, numbers, etc.) be restored has now been appealed.

###

---