



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*

**MEDIA ADVISORY ON OBTAINING  
CD OF ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY AND DISPATCH CALLS  
FROM SEPT. 11TH**

***NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON WED., AUG. 16, 2006,  
TO ACCREDITED PRESS MEMBERS***

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

New York, Aug. 15, 2006 – The New York City Law Department is releasing recordings of additional calls from Sept. 11, 2001, tomorrow morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. This release supplements the public release of Sept. 11th calls issued last March pursuant to a New York Court of Appeals decision in a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) case concerning various Fire Department records related to Sept. 11th. (Press updates on the March 2006 release and a previous August 2005 release of Fire Department internal radio communications and oral histories can be found on the Law Department's web site under "press releases" dated March 29, 2006; the Law Department's web address appears on page two.)

The calls being released tomorrow are a result of a comprehensive review ordered by New York City Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta to ensure that all FDNY emergency and dispatch calls about the attack on Sept. 11th are released to the public. The vast majority of the calls being released tomorrow are Sept. 11th FDNY dispatch system calls. These are different than the calls released in March 2006, which were primarily calls made by civilians to the 911 emergency response system on Sept. 11th.

Most of the dispatch calls being released tomorrow are calls between FDNY employees and FDNY dispatchers. These include numerous calls by firefighters reporting for duty. There are also calls between dispatchers and calls with local hospitals concerning the hospitals' readiness to treat injured persons. Since the New York Court of Appeals reasoned that the words of government employees performing official duties are not private and should be publicly released, these conversations are being released in full.

In addition to the dispatch calls, there are 911 calls that were made by civilians. Most of these calls are from persons outside the World Trade Center, many of whom were reporting what they have observed firsthand or on television. Of the civilian 911 calls, 10 are previously unreleased calls made by civilians calling from inside the World Trade Center. Two calls and part of a third call were not included in the earlier release of 911 calls because – as noted in the Law Department's press release from March 29, 2006 (bottom of page two) – they had been identified as possible evidence in the federal criminal trial of Zacharias Moussaoui. Prosecutors in the United States Attorney's Office had asked that the public release of these three calls await the completion of that trial, so they were withheld upon the U.S. Attorney's request.

Of the other seven 911 calls made from within the Towers, only two deceased callers were able to be identified. The next of kin of these deceased callers have been contacted and offered a CD containing an

unredacted copy of their loved one's call.

The Court of Appeals held that civilian callers to 911 on Sept. 11th have a privacy interest in their words. Accordingly, pursuant to the decision, the callers' portion of these 911 calls have been deleted from the conversations. (The sole exception is the portion of the one call, about four minutes in length, that was played with both the operator's and caller's words at the Moussaoui trial based on the judge's decision. The portion played at trial – the four minutes – is being released in full, while the remaining part of that call includes only the dispatcher's voice.)

**IMPORTANT: MEDIA INSTRUCTIONS FOR PICKING UP SEPT. 11TH CD**

**Members of the accredited press seeking copies of these follow-up recordings can obtain them by coming to the New York City Law Department tomorrow starting at 9:30 a.m. and running until 5 p.m. The office is located at 100 Church Street, New York, N.Y. 10007, between Park Place and Barclay Street, which is just southwest of City Hall. There will be instructions in the lobby on how to proceed once you get here.**

**Given that only one CD is being released, there is no charge to the press, and each media outlet can request two copies. Press MUST bring an accredited media ID to get copies. Given that the CD handout will be swift and we anticipate enough copies for everyone, it is NOT anticipated the press need to arrive much before the 9:30 distribution time. For media interested in copying the CD, it is in an MP3 format and should be easy to reproduce.**

**For media who cannot be in New York on Wednesday, you can request a copy by writing to: Media & Communications Director, NYC Law Department, 100 Church St., Suite 6-123, New York, NY 10017. Please include a copy of your media ID and submit your request on official press letterhead.**

The New York City Law Department is one of the oldest, largest and most dynamic law offices in the world, ranking among the top three largest law offices in New York City and the top three largest public law offices in the country. Tracing its roots back to the 1600's, the Department's 650-plus lawyers handle more than 90,000 cases and transactions each year in 17 separate legal divisions. The Corporation Counsel heads the Law Department and acts as legal counsel for the Mayor, elected officials, the City and all its agencies. The Department's attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles. Its web site can be accessed through the City government home page at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) or via direct link at [www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html).

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