



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

**The NYC Council Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment
Oversight Hearing on
Update on the Status of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum
at the World Trade Center
Testimony by Catherine McVay Hughes, Vice Chairperson
Manhattan Community Board One
Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
16th Floor Hearing room, 250 Broadway, New York**

Thank you, Council Member Chin, for convening this important hearing to assess the status of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center. I am Catherine McVay Hughes, Vice Chairperson of Manhattan Community Board One (CB1), and Chair of the World Trade Center Redevelopment Committee.

Community Board 1 is particularly focused on the progress of the components of the World Trade Center site that will be open to the public – the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, the Performing Arts Center, the Calatrava PATH Station and the retail space. It is of utmost importance to those of us who were living and working in Lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001 and in the years since then, that the memorial plaza be open in time for the ten year anniversary and remains accessible to the public. We cannot express how important it is to have a proper, inspiring place on this important anniversary for family members, survivors, and the nation to grieve and pay tribute to those who tragically died on September 11th.

The 9/11 Memorial and Museum has agreed to make a presentation to our World Trade Center Redevelopment Committee, and they are tentatively scheduled to appear at our July 12, 2010 meeting. We look forward to updates about plans to meet the ten year anniversary date and about pedestrian and vehicular traffic management. We understand that this will be especially challenging due to the significant amount of construction underway at the rest of the World Trade Center site and elsewhere in Lower Manhattan.

Although we are a year from the ten year anniversary, there still have been no meaningful plans shared with the public for the management of tour buses and increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic that will inevitably accompany the opening of the memorial and museum. Although when the WTC Vehicular Security Center (VSC) is completed it will not accommodate the anticipated tour buses, it is still a very important part of transportation management. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) has worked around the delayed demolition of 130 Liberty Street in order to build the VSC, but we request that we be informed of any potential further delays, especially if the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation completion date extends beyond December 31, 2010.

To address the need to plan for the buses and other vehicles that will serve the projected 5 to 7 million annual visitors to the WTC site, we have urged that a comprehensive plan for tour buses be developed. We understand that a study is being conducted by the NYC Department of Transportation and the PANYNJ that will look at viable alternatives such as parking tour buses in New Jersey so that visitors can take the PATH in to the WTC site. These plans must also address the projected time gap between the openings of the Memorial and the VSC and where the buses will drop off visitors.

It will be essential to develop plans to accommodate buses bringing people to the WTC site so that they do not circulate around Lower Manhattan damaging air quality and public health and further complicate security. Tour buses entering Lower Manhattan should also use the best available emissions control technology.

Though this hearing today focuses on the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, we would like to take the opportunity to reiterate some of our concerns about the Performing Arts Center (PAC). The PAC is an important element of the Master Plan for redeveloping the WTC site, and the enormous delay in the project has been frustrating. CB1 continues to advocate that a separate fundraising board should be established for the PAC and begin work immediately. A significant amount of LMDC funds remain unspent, and we have urged the LMDC to reallocate some of these funds towards the construction of the PAC.

As a Community Board, we have watched reconstruction at the World Trade Center site drag on for nine long years. Now there is construction activity on every project and the site is perpetually humming with activity. It is especially important that the components of the WTC site that will be accessible to the public – the Memorial and Museum, the Performing Arts

Center, the Calatrava PATH Station and the retail space – stay on track and that sufficient plans be formulated to manage the influx of visitors projected for the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. We call for adequate management plans for buses and other vehicles and for pedestrians to be completed by the ten year anniversary. In addition, we would like to see significant advances towards the financing of the PAC by that time as well. Every delay in reconstruction is a delay in the revitalization of Lower Manhattan.

We appreciate your efforts to ensure that the survivor community is well represented in the 9/11 Museum. Community Board 1 remains prepared to assist this effort in any way that would be helpful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to