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Nathan H. Blitman
(1909-1990)

September 18, 2026

VIA FAX (212-356-1148) AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Steven Banks, Esq.
New York City Corporation Counsel
100 Church Street
New York, New York 10007

RE: 9/11 Records Disclosure

Dear Mr. Banks:

I am co-counsel to the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association ("NYSPPFA"). I am writing on behalf of the NYSPPFA regarding the New York City Law Department's recent public disclosure of records detailing the toxic substances in the air and environment after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center ("Ground Zero") on September 11, 2001 ("9/11"). The NYSPPFA represents 18,000 Professional Fire Fighters who serve in local Fire Fighter unions across New York State, including the heroic members of the Uniformed Firefighters Association of Greater New York, Local 94 ("UFA"), the Uniformed Fire Officers Association, Local 854 ("UFOA"), and the many Professional Fire Fighters outside of New York City who traveled to Ground Zero on 9/11 and the days following the attacks, many of whom subsequently died and/or who contracted horrible illnesses as a result of their exposure to toxins.

On behalf of the NYSPPFA, we join the UFA and UFOA in calling for a comprehensive independent investigation into the withholding of information regarding the toxins in the air and environment at Ground Zero, which were reportedly locked away in a closet in New York City Hall. The test results and information about the toxins at Ground Zero could have been used by medical professionals to treat persons who became ill from toxic exposures, potentially reducing the needless loss of life and ensuring the use of proper personal protective equipment. In addition, we join the UFA and UFOA in calling for all persons responsible for keeping these records secret are held accountable for their actions, regardless of their title or position.



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By way of background, I am a former Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Chief of the Labor Bureau under former Attorney General Robert Abrams. In that position, I supervised enforcement of the New York State Right To Know Law (New York Labor Law § 875, 12 NYCRR Part 820) which requires that public employers, including New York City, inform employees of known toxic hazards so that they may work safely. I also supervised enforcement of the NYS Public Employee Safety and Health Act (New York Labor Law § 27-a), which includes the Hazard Communication Standard (29 C.F.R. 1910.1200) and requires public employers, including New York City, to develop comprehensive programs to inform public employees of any hazards they may encounter and to provide training in possible exposures to hazardous substances. I worked for a time at Two World Trade Center in the New York State Attorney General's office, which was under the jurisdiction of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. I worked with Dr. Philip Landrigan from Mt. Sinai Hospital Selikoff Center in establishing occupational health centers across New York State. Ground Zero should have been immediately treated as a HAZMAT incident requiring First Responders to use proper HAZMAT gear and personal protective equipment in order to minimize harmful exposures. Asbestos was widely used in the Twin Towers and the white asbestos dust was reportedly everywhere. As stated by Dr. Landrigan in a recent New York Times article, "[i]nhal[ing] that dust from the World Trade Center was like inhal[ing] Drano."

I also bring to your attention the groundbreaking precedent-setting case of People v. Pymm Thermometer Corporation, 76 N.Y. 2d 511 (1990). The owners of the mercury thermometer factory in Brooklyn set up a secret mercury operation in an unventilated cellar in April 1983. One worker suffered permanent severe brain damage from mercury poisoning while others suffered adverse health effects. The company owners were successfully prosecuted criminally for toxic poisoning after trying to hide the unventilated cellar. I met initially with the Pymm workers leading to the criminal prosecution after receiving a call from a concerned doctor at Woodhull Hospital. The Pymm case is an important New York State legal precedent for holding employers criminally responsible for their conduct in the workplace by exposing their workers to harmful toxic substances.

Accordingly, on behalf of the NYSPFFA and its members, we join the UFA and UFOA in calling for an independent investigation, and for holding those persons accountable and responsible for withholding important information regarding the toxins at Ground Zero, which information could have been used for medical treatment and to avoid harmful exposures that contributed to the illness and deaths of thousands of people.



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Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Respectfully yours,

BLITMAN & KING LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard S. Corenthal".

Richard S. Corenthal

RSC:ppn

cc: Mr. Samuel Fresina, President (*via email*)
New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association
Nathaniel G. Lambright, Esq.