

**Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Meeting of Residents Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
March 14, 2002
One Liberty Plaza
5:45-7:30 PM**

LMDC Board Members: Paul Crotty and Madelyn Wils

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board Member Paul Crotty called the meeting to order and introduced Sharon Greenberger, chief assistant to Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff. Ms. Greenberger, in turn, introduced Dr. James Miller from the Department of Health and Andrew Salkin from the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Dr. Miller- a member of a joint federal, state, and local task force on air quality and other health issues in Lower Manhattan - noted that the city has established a hotline (212-221-8635) designed to furnish those who live and work in Lower Manhattan with information regarding cleaning efforts. Some, however, expressed concern that the hotline would prove ineffective and urged Dr. Miller and his task force to develop an action plan as quickly as possible.

Mr. Jain, from the Lower Manhattan Tenants Coalition, announced that his organization has issued a proposal for cleaning all of Battery Park City. The plan would require a fund of \$150 million and would test for asbestos, mercury, PCBs, lead, and various other particulate matter.

Council members expressed anxiety about the coordination and pace of the cleaning effort, noting that Lower Manhattan will not become attractive to new residents until the air quality and cleanliness improve. In addition, members suggested that new interior and exterior air quality tests be performed and that a baseline be established to which new data can be compared.

Andrew Salkin, the Lower Manhattan Borough Commissioner for the DOT, was then introduced. Mr. Salkin stressed the importance of striking a balance between construction and ease of transportation in Lower Manhattan. To promote the latter, DOT has made information regarding construction available to the public and has issued the “Getting Around Downtown” map.

Mr. Salkin announced that, in order to improve transportation in Lower Manhattan, DOT would augment ferry service, reopen West Street and the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel by April 1, add more buses to Church Street, build bridges on Rector Street and Liberty Street, and build a PATH station by December 2003.

Mr. Crotty expressed concern about the profusion of illegal parking - -especially illegal police parking – in Lower Manhattan. Mr. Salkin assured the Council that the DOT has sent more tow trucks downtown and has reduced the number of city parking permits by 30 per-cent. In response to concerns about the aesthetic appearance of the streets, Mr. Salkin noted that struts would be removed as soon as possible and streets and sidewalks would either be resurfaced or reconstructed.

Ms. Wils then introduced Deputy Commissioner Carl Johnson from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), who addressed concerns about diesel traffic, noting that the DEC has sought the expertise of those who worked on the Central Artery Project (Big Dig) in Boston and has called for control technologies and the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. Ms. Wils questioned whether the increase in ferry service would adversely impact air and water quality, but Mr. Johnson responded that certain clear air standards would apply to ferries.

Kevin Rampe of LMDC spoke briefly about the Individual Assistance Plan. During the second comment period, LMDC solicited over 1000 comments. The full Board of the LMDC will review the plan and then send it to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for final approval.

It was suggested that the plan offer two one-year leases as opposed to one two-year lease and a family supplement in order to attract families, in addition to individuals, to lower Manhattan. It was also suggested that the plan accommodate not-for-profit organizations (e.g. colleges and universities), which often lease entire buildings and then sub-lease to individuals.

Having addressed all agenda items, Mr. Crotty and Ms. Wils thanked the members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.