

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Joint Meeting of the
Professional Firms Advisory Council and Financial Firms Advisory Council
June 24th, 2002
1 Liberty Plaza
LMDC Board Room, 20th Floor
LMDC Board Members: *Dick Grasso, Paul Crotty & Tom Johnson*

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board Members Paul Crotty and Tom Johnson made welcoming remarks and asked each Advisory Council Member and ex-officio member to introduce themselves for the record. Mr. Crotty informed Council members the LMDC thought it would be useful to hold a joint meeting of the Financial and Professional Firms Advisory Councils to discuss the two main items on the agenda for the evening - the July 20th, Listening to the City “town hall” style meeting and discussions of the memorial process and ideas for a memorial.

The LMDC has repeatedly emphasized its commitment to an open and inclusive public process when considering ideas for the memorial and the various planning options for the WTC site. As a result, the LMDC announced this past April, it would join the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York, other major civic and governmental organizations, and America Speaks to convene a “citizens’ summit” titled “Listening to the City”, which will allow for face-top-face, roundtable discussions with all of the various stakeholders on the Phase I plans that will be released in mid July by the LMDC and the Port Authority. This summit, which is expected to draw approximately 5,000 participants from the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut regions, will offer the LMDC and the Port Authority a tremendous opportunity to hear from a very large citizen group, who will represent a demographic diversity, their ideas and thoughts and provide valuable input on these planning options.

Those citizens that will participate will include all of the various stakeholders, and will include most importantly the victims’ families, residents, small and large business owners, planning organizations and many others. LMDC partners, the Port Authority, ESDC, EDC and the MTA will also be asked to participate.

Mr. Crotty described this event as a wonderful opportunity for the LMDC and Port Authority to collect significant, broad-based public input representative of a broad spectrum of demographic and regional perspectives. At this event, the public will have the opportunity to review the planning options developed by the LMDC and the Port Authority for the World Trade Center site and its adjacent surroundings..

Tom Wright, of the Regional Planning Association expressed his belief that this event will offer an extraordinary opportunity to reach a large group, demographically representative of all the stakeholders and have them engage in dialogue with each other by use of round-table town-hall

settings, high-tech modern technology including wireless desk-tops, keypads and trained facilitators at every table.

The Advisory Councils were informed that event coordinators were looking into providing transportation services, i.e. bus, ferry etc., for Lower Manhattan workers and residents who would like to participate in the event. At the conclusion of the presentation of the Listening to the City event, Mr. Crotty called out to members of both Advisory Councils to disseminate information pertaining to the event to their staff, co-workers, family and friends. In addition, he encouraged Advisory Council members to participate as well to help ensure the broadest possible demographic.

With that topic concluded the Mr. Crotty moved the discussion toward the memorial process. Creating a magnificent memorial is a major priority for the LMDC and the Port Authority. Developing a process for the memorial, consulting with all of the various stakeholders including all the victims' families, and creating something truly wonderful will require a tremendous amount of work. Mr. Crotty announced the LMDC has begun discussions with the Families Advisory Council on recommendations for a memorial process and ideas for the memorial and that it was now going to speak with the other Advisory Councils to get their thoughts and ideas as well.

Members of the Council generally acknowledged that the memorial should be memorable, respectful to the lives of those who perished and make a statement about the American way of life, freedom, democracy etc.

One Advisory Council member expressed his opinion that the future of West Street is vital to both deciding on a fitting memorial and the revitalization of Lower Manhattan. In addition, a member congratulated the LMDC's hard work toward ensuring an open and inclusive process and the hiring of Blinder Beyer Belle – describing them as a very imaginative firm.

Many members of the Advisory Councils expressed concern about voicing their opinions about the memorial process and what kind of memorial should be built.

Council members recognized the difficulty of gaining complete consensus of what gets done at the site, and the need to keep infrastructure requirements. Despite this, several members of the Advisory Councils suggested that things weren't moving fast enough. They recommended the LMDC create a timetable to ensure that the redevelopment and revitalization process move forward in a timely manner. In conclusion, the Advisory Council agreed that a timeline should integrate communication, site development, memorial and transportation concerns.

Focusing on the memorial process, several Advisory Council members indicated their belief that the memorial will need to reflect those individuals who were lost and their accomplishments. It

should be interactive, where families, friends etc., can come to pay homage and reflect. Others felt that it should be reflective of American freedom, tolerance, enterprise and the United States' international influence. To clarify, one Council member suggested that such memorials should be separate and distinct – honoring them collectively not as fighters for freedom, but those who gave their lives in freedom's name.

Another Advisory Council member felt that an interesting alternative for a memorial would speak to what the country stands for i.e. magnet school-demonstrating the country's diversity, an INS office etc. Several Council members remarked on how poignant, inspiring and tasteful the Tribute in Lights was and requested it be brought back.

Mr. Crotty and Mr. Johnson thanked members of the Professional Firms and Financial Firms Advisory Councils for attending and adjourned the meeting.