



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

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The City of New York Police Department

World Trade Center Campus Security Plan

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Testimony by

**Ro Sheffe, Financial District Committee Chair
Manhattan Community Board 1**

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Specter Hall, 22 Reade Street, New York, NY

4:00pm

Good afternoon. I am Ro Sheffe, Chair of Community Board 1's Financial District Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) of the New York Police Department (NYPD) World Trade Center Campus Security Plan.

In the almost dozen years that have passed since the terrible events that occurred on September 11, 2001, Lower Manhattan has had considerable experience with street closures that have been imposed for security purposes. In the aftermath of 9/11, very stringent restrictions were put into effect in the area around the New York Stock Exchange and other sensitive sites. These had very severe effects on local businesses and caused many of them to close, creating a very inhospitable environment for businesses and residents alike until a more flexible plan was implemented with community review.

In addition, we continue to receive complaints about security restrictions in the vicinity of One Police Plaza, and the adverse effect from them on businesses located on Park Row which once connected Lower Manhattan and the Lower East Side and is now closed. For this reason, we believe it is extremely important that Community Board 1 and other key stakeholders be involved in the planning of a comprehensive security plan for the World Trade Center. This is especially important given the rapid growth of the surrounding residential community.

We believe that community involvement is needed to ensure that the appropriate balance is struck between security concerns and quality of life. With a cooperative effort, we believe that basic security needs can be accomplished while retaining an open environment hospitable to remembrance, culture, and commerce, and without imposing an undue burden on residents of streets in close proximity to the Site.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Lower Manhattan lost more than 300 small mom and pop businesses within two years. Many of the small firms that managed to survive are still in the process of recovering financially from that event. Businesses in Lower Manhattan are also suffering from the financial strain and customer base disruption left in the wake of

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Superstorm Sandy. For these reasons, we are very concerned about any additional burdens the World Trade Center Campus Security Plan may place on Lower Manhattan's small businesses, especially in consideration of how local businesses were negatively affected by the security infrastructure at One Police Plaza and the New York Stock Exchange campuses.

During Community Board 1's testimony for the scoping of the DEIS, we asked that the DEIS explore how security infrastructure at One Police Plaza and the New York Stock exchange affected the public realm and pedestrian activity as we have gotten many complains from residents and business about the negative effects experienced from the inhospitable environment created by these campus security areas. This topic was not explored in the DEIS and we ask again that it be considered.

Furthermore, we ask that the operable barriers proposed in the DEIS are well built and visually appealing as opposed to many of the barriers throughout Lower Manhattan that malfunction and collect garbage, becoming a safety concern and a source of visual blight. We are also concerned that the negative affects of visually unappealing security infrastructure such as barriers and booths may hinder the naturally occurring rise in property values in the surrounding area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the World Trade Center Campus Security Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement.