



## LOWER EAST SIDE – CHINATOWN CONSORTIUM

Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund \* Cabrini Immigrant Services \* Chinese Staff & Workers Association \* Chinese United Methodist Church \* Hamilton-Madison House \* Immigrant Social Services \* It's Time \* NMASS Lower East Side Workers Center \* St. Teresa's Parish

**Date:**

June 7, 2004

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### **\*\* Press Advisory \*\***

## **9/11 SURVIVORS CALL ON GOV. PATAKI TO STOP MISUSE OF DISASTER FUNDS AND END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST POOR**

### **Present alternative proposals & denounce failures of LMDC, Liberty Bonds**

**PRESS CONFERENCE: Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**

In front of St. Teresa's Church

Rutgers Street, b/w East Broadway and Henry Streets

F Train to "East Broadway"

In response to the government's devastating 9/11 policies that have repeatedly and deliberately denied low-income residents, workers, and small businesses urgently needed relief, Lower East Side and Chinatown residents, community organizations, churches, and small businesses joined forces to establish the Lower East Side – Chinatown Consortium (LESCC). On Tuesday, June 6, 9/11 survivors and LESCC members will come together to present their proposal to rebuild the LES and Chinatown community. Members of the LESCC are calling on Governor Pataki and other elected officials to end the diversion 9/11 funds to the wealthy, and to keep the funding in Lower Manhattan to support initiatives for low-income people that have been affected by the WTC tragedy.

Since the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, billions of relief dollars, including Liberty Bonds and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation's Residential Grant Program, have bypassed 9/11 survivors in Lower Manhattan and been diverted to the pockets of wealthy land developers to build luxury housing and office space. Ironically, the majority of the funding has been issued to finance major development projects *outside* of Lower Manhattan, such as \$650 million in Liberty Bonds towards the construction of Bank of America's office tower in midtown. Meanwhile, scores of residents and workers continue to grow sick from the 9/11 toxic air, and it is estimated that well over 1,000 families have been displaced from the area as a result of the economic and environmental impact of 9/11, and subsequent discriminatory disaster relief policies.

The LESCC proposal calls for specific initiatives that will address the true health, housing, and economic security needs of the Lower East Side and Chinatown community, such as calling for a long-term health study and treatment program and prioritizing the building of low-income housing with relief funds.

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