

## World Trade Center Survivors' Network, Inc.

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October 23, 2006

Mr. Michael Haberman  
Vice President, Community Development and Relations  
Lower Manhattan Development Corporation  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor  
New York, NY 10006

Re: Vesey Street Staircase and Tower Two

Dear Mr. Haberman,

The World Trade Center Survivors' Network (WTCSN) strongly disagrees with the proposal presented by Silverstein Properties and Foster and Partners in the Section 106 meeting held October 13, 2006 concerning the Vesey Street Survivors' Stairway.

We feel their proposal to segment the stairway and preserve only a small portion of the stair treads will permanently destroy the stairway's historic integrity while making only a passing gesture to the historical significance of this National Register-eligible artifact. Additionally, their suggestion to incorporate into the Tower Two design a ghost outline of the original location of the stairway will completely trivialize the extraordinarily powerful nature of the stairway as a symbol. We would add that as a result of the many thousands of emails that the WTCSN and Parade Magazine have received from concerned citizens from all over the country, we feel that the symbolic and iconic status of the Survivors' Stairway must be taken into the considerations of all further preservation designs.

The WTCSN fully supports the alternate suggestion of protecting and temporarily moving the stairway in its entirety during the construction process. We feel that this scenario will accommodate our common goal of rebuilding the entire site as quickly as possible, while at the same time maximizing future preservation scenarios. Furthermore, based on information recently provided by the Port Authority and Robert Silman, this proposal appears feasible from an engineering, safety and financial point of view. Any relocation of the stairway however, must be concurrent with a commitment to its ultimate return to a location somewhere within the World Trade Center site at street level.

The Port Authority has also recently commented on the need to speed up the decision-making process at this crucial juncture. We agree and welcome a discussion on alternative locations for the stairway as soon as possible. Perhaps another location on the 16-acre WTC site would be better suited to maximizing the symbolism of the stairway. But we have not been given enough information to make this determination, and have been frustrated in every attempt made to engage in such a discussion over the last several months.

## World Trade Center Survivors' Network, Inc. (cont'd)

For some time now the WTCSN has been calling attention to the need to broaden the discussion about preserving the stairway to include larger contextual issues such as: "What is the story we would want the stairway to tell?" and "How can we maximize its symbolic statement of survival?" We feel that reaching consensus on questions such as these is absolutely essential to the process of finding a successful solution. In fact, a Port Authority spokesman stated in the July 12<sup>th</sup> Section 106 meeting that any proposal based on dividing the stairway into components will have to first grapple with questions of relative value -- questions that engineers are not comfortable answering. We could not agree more. And broadening this Section 106 process to include a conversation of this very sort is exactly what we have been trying to do.

The Survivor's Stairway has a great power, and is a source of strength and inspiration to many thousands of people in this city, and the nation at large. This is one of the reasons the National Trust placed it on their "America's Most Endangered Places" list. It would be a shame to lose it without ever having explored in good faith how that power can be maximized through a vision that fulfills the demands of both economics and people.

On behalf of the WTCSN, I would like to end with a question: To whom should we direct questions, and with whom can we discuss the possibility of alternative locations for the stairway on the 16-acre WTC site? -- The LMDC? The Memorial Museum? The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation? Please inform us so that this much needed discussion can move forward without further delay. I will follow up with you in a few days for the answer.

Respectfully yours,  
Richard Zimble  
Steering Committee  
WTC Survivors' Network  
22 Cortland Street, 20th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Cc:

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg  
Kevin Rampe, Lower Manhattan Development Corporation  
Larry A. Silverstein, Silverstein Properties, Inc.  
Kenneth J. Ringler Jr., Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
Timothy G. Stickelman, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
Peter Rinaldi, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
Irene Chang, Lower Manhattan Development Corporation  
Ed Narbutas, Silverstein Properties, Inc./WTC Properties, LLC  
Brandon Haw, Foster and Partners  
Michael Gerrard, Arnold and Porter, LLP  
Joseph C. Daniels, World Trade Center Memorial Foundation  
Alice Greenwald, World Trade Center Memorial Foundation  
Frank Sanchis, Municipal Art Society  
Betsy Merritt, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Roberta Lane, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Peg Breen, The New York Landmarks Conservancy  
Jay DiLorenzo, Preservation League of New York State  
Bonnie Burnham, World Monuments Fund  
Ken Lustbader, Lower Manhattan Emergency Preservation Fund  
Charlene Vaughn, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Robert Silman, Robert Silman Associates, P.E.  
Ruth Pierpont, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation