

Proposal submitted by WTC Families for Proper Burial, Inc.

Having attended the October 19, 2005 information session at the Fashion Institute, concerning the future of Governors Island, we were struck by the similarity between many of your goals and the goals of WTC Families for Proper Burial. We propose that a portion of the South Island area be designated an International Cemetery for those killed at the World Trade Center (WTC) on September 11, 2001. Below are the reasons why we need this cemetery and the way in which this cemetery would fit the criteria set aside for the use of Governors Island.

Currently the small tissue particles, bone fragments and cremated remains of most who died at the WTC are in the Fresh Kills Landfill. We feel that this is a totally inappropriate place for their permanent interment. Governors Island would provide a beautiful and respectful place. In addition its proximity to Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and the WTC site will provide a kind of "pilgrimage" for those who want to pay respects and connect with our nation's history. And further, it will help the Governors Island project, as it will draw tourists from many nations (nationals from 91 countries were killed at the WTC). It will also keep the cost for infrastructure low and will keep some of the South Island acreage green, open and carefully landscaped. Maintenance would be minimal compared to some of the other proposals for the use of this land.

Daniel Doctoroff spoke of Governors Island becoming a place like no other in our nation. Our country has no international cemetery of the caliber of the cemetery in Normandy, France. Thus, this cemetery would be "unique", "special" and "something historic," as Mr. Doctoroff said this island should be. Patrice Lamel added that we must create a "world class destination." Judging by the people from all over the world who visit the cemetery in Normandy France, and now the site of the WTC disaster, this would indeed be a world class destination.

When Paul Kelly spoke of the need to "achieve design excellence," we realized that an International Cemetery could encourage such excellence in landscape design. In talking about the results of market analysis, David Lesser cited an educational component. The historic significance of the cemetery proposed could certainly include education about a pivotal historic moment for our nation. He also spoke of the "special" essence" of Governors Island with the warning that we be very careful not to "develop that essence away." Since this international cemetery does not require buildings or elaborate infrastructure, it certainly would not over-develop the area nor take away its essence. One of the "Key Public Input Themes" about which Mr. Lesser spoke was the need to maintain and integrate the historic character of the Island. How better to maintain this perspective than by focusing, at least in part, on such an important moment in our nation's history?

In examining the pros and cons of the conceptual models exhibited on October 19, we were stuck by the connection between the benefits of the "Minimum Build" scenario and our proposal for an International Cemetery. It would require the least amount of infrastructure and traffic demands, requiring no new buildings. Our proposal also fulfills the concept of "Destination Island" as it was described: "a major tourist attraction on South Island to compliment the North Island history." In the model for "Iconic Island," the desire to maintain, "the true serenity, peace and sanctuary that is there on that island," coordinates perfectly with the beautiful landscape we envision for the international cemetery.

Mr. Lesser seemed to feel that the "Destination Island" model had the best potential. We feel that an International Cemetery, which honors the dead from the September 11, 2001 attacks, can easily fit into that model. Even the questions and comments following the October 19th presentation indicated that our proposal would work well with the needs for the future of Governors Island. There is a need for open park space; there is a fear of "Disneyfying" the architecture; there is a need for year-round use; there is a reluctance to allow "fractional housing," housing that seems to contradict the deeded intent that there be no residential component on Governors Island. Even the concern mentioned about the natural plantings and protection of wild

life could be addressed in the careful landscaping of this section of South Island as it accommodates an International Cemetery.

We look forward to your careful examination of our proposal to use part of the South Island section of Governors Island as an International Cemetery for the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack at the World Trade Center. Questions can be directed to:
WTCFamiliesforaProperBurial@comcast.net.

Thank you,

Diane Horning, President WTC Families for Proper Burial, Inc.