

September 2, 2010

TO: Ms. Daisy Khan  
Mr. Sharif El-Gamal  
Iman Feisal Abdul Rauf

We represent several influential 9/11 support organizations, and we are writing on behalf of many in the 9/11 community throughout the nation to ask that you take a leadership role in asking that those who may support your planned project and others not engage in public protests or rallies on September 11 of this year, and that you do not participate yourselves in such events. This request should not be construed as an indication of our support for the proposed location of the mosque, which has caused pain and great concern among many 9/11 families. However we stand together as a broad coalition in expressing our opposition to staging any high profile, public protests, for as well as against, the project specifically on September 11th, when so many families' and others' priorities will properly be focused on prayer, remembrance, and private reflection throughout the day and evening.

We have sent a similar request to organizers of a planned 9/11 protest rally against the mosque project.

To hold rallies of any nature on September 11 would be inappropriate and disrespectful to all of us who see 9/11 as a day outside of politics, when we desire to remain united in honoring the lives and the courage of our many friends and loved ones. The anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is always very difficult for many within and outside the 9/11 community. Besides the tragic loss of loved ones, families and others are dealing with a multitude of very sensitive and emotional issues, including the proper burial of remains, the health of rescue and recovery workers, and numerous other pressing concerns. To divert this focus nine years later into a day of street protest and heated political debate is simply wrong.

In that spirit, the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance was established, when thousands of faith-based groups, schools, employers and individuals, will be taking time to assist wounded warriors and assemble care packages, donate to charities, organize walks, work in soup kitchens and even help train seeing eye dogs. In lower Manhattan -- very close to your planned rally -- families with children, teachers and volunteers plan to spend time restoring a school playground.

We hope you can appreciate why any protest rallies or counter rallies are not appropriate for September 11. We ask instead that you join us in observing 9/11 as a sacred and peaceful day when everyone's focus can rightly be on honoring the lives of those who were killed, paying tribute to the many heroes and honoring the wave of spontaneous volunteerism that swept the entire nation in response to the attacks.

We would appreciate your direct intervention in discouraging and working to reschedule any protest rallies or events on 9/11. Please advise us accordingly. In the meantime should you wish to

contact us regarding this matter, feel free to contact either Jay Winuk or David Paine at the email addresses provided below.

Sincerely,

David Paine, Co-founder, President, MyGoodDeed, [david.paine@MyGoodDeed.org](mailto:david.paine@MyGoodDeed.org)  
Jay S. Winuk, Co-founder, VP, MyGoodDeed, [jay.winuk@MyGoodDeed.org](mailto:jay.winuk@MyGoodDeed.org), brother of Glenn Winuk  
Lee Ielpi, September 11th Families Association, father of Jonathan  
Alice Hoagland, mother of Flight 93 hero Mark Bingham  
Jennifer Adams, Co-Founder, Tribute WTC Visitor Center  
Nancy Aronson, Board Member, Families of September 11, sister-in-law of Myra  
Mary and Frank Fetchet, Co-founders, Voices of September 11  
David Weild, Board Chair, Tuesday's Children  
Terry Grace Sears, Executive Director, Tuesday's Children  
Elizabeth Alderman, Co-Founder, Peter C. Alderman Foundation  
MaryEllen Salamone, wife of John Salamone  
Edith Lutnick, Executive Director, The Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund  
Cynthia McGinty, Board Member, MyGoodDeed, wife of Michael McGinty  
Dennis McKeon, Executive Director, Where To Turn  
Kurt and Diane Horning, parents of 26-year-old Matthew D. Horning, WTC Tower I  
Jeff Parness, Founder & Chairman, New York Says Thank You Foundation  
Sol Moglen, Founder, Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance  
Arnold Korotkin, cybrarian, 9/11 List-serv

\*Partial list of signers.

September 2, 2010

TO: Ms. Pamela Geller  
Mr. Robert Spencer

We are leaders of several influential 9/11 support organizations, and we are writing to ask that you reconsider rescheduling the date of your planned rally protesting the Cordoba House mosque, so that it does not occur on the sacred anniversary of 9/11. This request should not be construed as an indication of our support for the proposed location of the mosque, which has caused pain and great concern among many 9/11 families. However, we stand together as a broad coalition in expressing our opposition to staging a high profile, public protest rally specifically on September 11th, when so many families' and others' priorities will properly be focused on prayer, remembrance, and private reflection throughout the day and evening.

To hold any type of protest rally on September 11 would be inappropriate and disrespectful to all who see 9/11 as a day outside of politics, when we desire to remain united in honoring the lives and the courage of our many friends and loved ones. We have issued a similar request to Mr. Sharif El-Gamal, Ms. Daisy Khan, and Iman Feisal Abdul Rauf, asking specifically that they work to prevent, discourage, and not participate in any such counter rallies or events on that day as well.

The anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is always very difficult for many within and outside the 9/11 community. Besides the tragic loss of loved ones, families and others are dealing with a multitude of very sensitive and emotional issues, including the proper burial of remains, the health of rescue and recovery workers, and numerous other pressing concerns. To divert this focus nine years later into a day of street protest and heated political debate is simply wrong. In the words of one 9/11 widow, "We all suffered in the most public way on that tragic day. Many families have worked so hard to come so far. Calling forth the heroism, acts of kindness, and patriotism that occurred on, and because of, that day makes us better than the horrible people who took away my loving husband and everyone else who died that day. I want to keep it that way for the future and for my children."

In that spirit, the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance was established, when thousands of faith-based groups, schools, employers and individuals, will be taking time to assist wounded warriors and assemble care packages, donate to charities, organize walks, work in soup kitchens and even help train seeing eye dogs. In lower Manhattan -- very close to your planned rally -- families with children, teachers and volunteers plan to spend time restoring a school playground.

We hope you can appreciate why a rally of this nature is not appropriate for September 11, and why we and others will therefore not support it on this day. We ask instead that you join us in observing 9/11 as a sacred and peaceful day when everyone's focus can rightly be on honoring the lives of

those who were killed, paying tribute to the many heroes and honoring the wave of spontaneous volunteerism that swept the entire nation in response to the attacks.

Please let us know immediately whether you will reconsider your rejection of our initial request. Should you wish to contact us regarding this matter, feel free to contact either Jay Winuk or David Paine at the email addresses provided below.

Sincerely,

David Paine, Co-founder, President, MyGoodDeed, [david.paine@MyGoodDeed.org](mailto:david.paine@MyGoodDeed.org)  
Jay S. Winuk, Co-founder, VP, MyGoodDeed, [jay.winuk@MyGoodDeed.org](mailto:jay.winuk@MyGoodDeed.org), brother of Glenn Winuk  
Lee Ielpi, September 11th Families Association, father of Jonathan  
Alice Hoagland, mother of Flight 93 hero Mark Bingham  
Jennifer Adams, Co-Founder, Tribute WTC Visitor Center  
Nancy Aronson, Board Member, Families of September 11, sister-in-law of Myra  
Mary and Frank Fetchet, Co-founders, Voices of September 11  
David Weild, Board Chair, Tuesday's Children  
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Edith Lutnick, Executive Director, The Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund  
Cynthia McGinty, Board Member, MyGoodDeed, wife of Michael McGinty  
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