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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

PROPOSED COMMITTEE TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE STILL INJURED, SICK AND DYING FROM 9/11 WITH A MONUMENT NEAR GROUND ZERO

It was a long struggle for our Congressional delegation to get Congress to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act-- which created the World Trade Center Health Program and reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to provide health care, monitoring, and compensation for those that were injured.

What's more, the Zadroga Act is due to expire in 2016 and must be renewed.

While there was and still is national sympathy and admiration for the responders and survivors who dealt with 9/11, memories fade, and there is undoubtedly a gradually increasing lack of awareness that there are thousands still dealing and struggling with the impact and effects of that single day-- more than a decade later.

While those who died in the attacks themselves on 9/11 are honored with memorials at Ground Zero and across the country, those who were injured and made ill by the toxins at the site-- who are living every day with those injuries or have died since 9/11-- have no memorial and have not been adequately recognized.

A simple, distinctive monument near Ground Zero to honor those responders and survivors will help remind the nation about what they are going through, even today, and help make the point that we need to renew the Zadroga Act-- which is helping the thousands living to this day with the impact of 9/11-- when it expires.

Manhattan Borough President Brewer proposes organizing a committee which would work and advocate for the design and construction of a monument to honor all of the 9/11 responders and survivors who are living with their illnesses or injuries from 9/11 (or have since died from their injuries).

The committee would be made up of local elected officials and representatives from responders and survivor groups. The Committee would meet to discuss general goals of the memorial and achieve agreement on those goals.

The committee's task list should include:

- Develop a consensus on an outline of what an appropriate monument would be.
- Develop a consensus on a location.
- Develop funding from the City, State or Port Authority.
- Develop a consensus on how a design competition and selection would work.
- Work to have the monument constructed by September 11, 2016-- the fifteenth anniversary.