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THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Dear Colleagues,

Shortly after the Twin Towers fell on September 11th, several courageous individuals, with no regard for their own safety, rushed to the scene of the vast devastation to save as many people as they possibly could. For many of those individuals, their brave acts of heroism resulted in complications to their health that proved difficult to stand for some, and unfortunately, fatal for others.

We owe it to the families of those that gave their lives in service to others to ensure the proper documentation on their respective death certificates as 9-11 related; to finally bring closure to their families and to lift the barrier that precludes them from seeking any government benefits due to victims and first responders who died at the World Trade Center site.

I, as well as Council Member Addabbo, have introduced Resolution 1550 which calls on the State Legislature to pass Senate Bill 6541, introduced by Sen. Eric Adams, which would require coroners and medical examiners around the state to identify each individual who dies as a result of injuries related to exposure to the toxic conditions of the World Trade Center site during or after the attack, and note such information on their death certificates. Currently, if an individual died of 9-11 related injuries, then their death is noted as "Natural" on their death certificate. It is my hope that the legislature will act swiftly to correct this unacceptable practice and give the recognition and respect that these individuals so rightly deserve.

If you wish to sign on, please send the attached sign on sheet to Antonio Whitaker at (212) 608-6382 or Billy Martin in Legislative Documents at (212) 788-9296. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David I. Weprin".

David I. Weprin
Council Member, 23rd District
Chairman, Finance