

Beyond Ground Zero Network

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund • Chinese Staff & Workers Association • Lower Manhattan Residents Relief Coalition • National Mobilization Against Sweatshops • Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund • Urban Justice Center • Workers Awaaz

May 27, 2002

Dear Executive Director:

The Beyond Ground Zero Network asks you, your staff, and your members to join the march to Foley Square on June 5th starting at 12 noon from PS 124 located at 40 Division Street. The marchers will demand: comprehensive health care insurance; reparations for government neglect, misconduct and its cover-up; and expanded relief assistance programs that must include the working people and community residents of the Lower Eastside and all of Chinatown.

Since the 9/11 tragedy, government policies and private charities have, in effect, excluded the working people and community residents of Chinatown and the Lower Eastside from relief assistance. For example, the Federal Emergency Management Relief Agency (FEMA) and private charities like the Red Cross (and others) used arbitrary geographical lines to restrict eligibility and thus eliminate many low income workers and community residents from receiving any assistance despite losing their jobs as a result of 9/11. Large numbers of Chinese, Latino, African American, South Asian and other working people have been found ineligible by FEMA due to these arbitrary restrictions. Furthermore, both local and federal environmental protection agencies failed to set up monitoring sites to collect air, water, and dust samples in Chinatown (north or south of Canal Street) despite the increases in severe respiratory problems among those living or working in lower Manhattan. Most working people and lower Manhattan residents continue to express deep concerns about the health consequences of 9/11 and share an immediate need for long term comprehensive health insurance which must be made available to all working people and residents.

Enclosed are materials about the march and rally, a list of demands, and petition. These materials are available in Spanish and Chinese upon request. Please complete and return the attached endorsement form and petitions.

Yours truly,



Stanley Mark

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
On behalf of the Beyond Ground Zero Network