

# **BEYOND GROUND ZERO TOWN HALL MEETING**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **AIR QUALITY**

#### ***Did you know?***

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Todd Whitman misled the public when she announced to New Yorkers as early as September 14th, 2001 that our “air is safe to breathe” before there was a single test of indoor air quality conducted by any governmental agency?

(source: *New York Daily News*, “EPA Chief Says Water, Air are Safe”, September 14, 2001; U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler White Paper on Lower Manhattan Air Quality, April 12, 2002 )

Under the federal government’s National Contingency Plan, the EPA is assigned the lead responsibility to clean up **all** buildings and sites contaminated by chemical or biological agents as a result of an act of terrorism – however, the federal government has refused to implement this plan.

(source: U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler White Paper on Lower Manhattan Air Quality, April 12, 2002)

The Red Cross refuses to give vouchers for air purifiers to most residents living north of Canal Street and Rutgers Street, even if they are suffering from breathing problems?

(source: Red Cross representatives)

### **DISASTER RELIEF**

#### ***Did you know?***

Tens of thousands of residents and displaced workers are prevented from obtaining disaster relief services because of narrowly drawn rules? This happened despite the fact that private charities have collected approximately \$2 billion to assist individuals affected by the disaster.

(source: *New York Times*, “Narrowly Drawn Rules Freeze Out Tens of Thousands of Indirect Victims, Report Says”, April 23, 2002; Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Corporation, Partial Action Plan: Assistance to Individuals, April 2002 )