



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

New York City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor Public Hearing on

Proposed Res. No. 533-A,

**A resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the
James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act**

Testimony by Catherine McVay Hughes, Chairperson Manhattan Community Board 1

Monday, March 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall

Thank you, Chairperson Miller, Council Speaker Mark-Viverito, Council Member Chin and Committee Members for holding this important hearing today and inviting our testimony. My name is Catherine McVay Hughes, and I represent Community District 1 in Lower Manhattan where I am Chair of Community Board 1 (CB1). Our district includes most of Manhattan below Canal Street and south of the Brooklyn Bridge.

The World Trade Center (WTC) lies at the heart of CB1 – and many of us who were here when the towers were attacked are still living and working here. Some of us volunteered as first responders and many of us continued to work or attend school downtown in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. CB1 has strongly supported the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act for many years, and we were very glad when the bill finally passed at the very end of the federal legislative session at the end of 2010. It is critical that the World Trade Center Health Program continues to provide treatment and monitoring to those whose health has been harmed by the 9/11 attacks.

CB1 remains strongly committed to the James Zadroga Act and other legislative initiatives to address the health and environmental ramifications of 9/11 for our Lower Manhattan community, first responders and other stakeholders. In this regard we commend U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) who announced on March 27 the passage of their amendment to the Senate budget resolution that will facilitate future legislation to renew and extend the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

On February 5, 2015 our Full Board passed the following resolution in support of proposed Res. No. 533-A which is before you today:

WHEREAS: Council Member Margaret Chin has co-sponsored a resolution in the New York City Council calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act (Res 0533-2015); and

WHEREAS: The resolution was referred to the Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor on January 7, 2015; and

WHEREAS: CB1 requests that The City Council resolution be amended to include the two following items:

- WHEREAS: Various documented chronic debilitating illnesses continue to affect first responders, residents, and volunteers today and will do so in the future, and
- WHEREAS: Funding for the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act should be appropriated as a yearly budgeted line item to insure continued medical care when an illness presents itself at any time, and

WHEREAS: The attached resolution was reviewed by CB1; now

THEREFORE

BE IT

RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 supports the resolution and calls on the Committee on Civil Service and Labor and the City Council to amend and adopt resolution 0533-2015 calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

Proposed Res. No. 533-A

Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

By Council Members Chin, The Speaker (Council Member Mark-Viverito), Vallone, Miller, Cohen, Constantinides, Eugene, Gentile, Gibson, Johnson, Koo, Lander, Levine, Mendez, Richards, Rodriguez, Rose, Wills, Levin and Ulrich

Whereas, The Nation remembers the 2,977 people who were killed on 9/11 in New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania; among them 343 members of the New York Fire Department, 23 members of the New York City Police Department, and 37 Port Authority officers; and

Whereas, The Nation does not seem to know of the over 30,000 Americans who have been certified to suffer from at least one illnesses related to the 9/11 attacks and two thirds of those have more than one injury; and

Whereas, First responders in New York City are particularly hard hit; and

Whereas, More than 1,500 members of the New York City Fire Department (Firefighters and EMS workers) and more than 550 members of the Police Department have had to leave their jobs because of their disabling 9/11 related illnesses that were severe enough to be granted a WTC disability pension; and

Whereas, Over 3,600 Responders and Survivors have been certified with a 9/11 related cancer, of which over 950 are New York City Fire Department Personal (Firefighters and EMS workers); and

Whereas, More than 90 members of the New York City Fire Department (Firefighters and EMS workers) and more than 80 New York City Police Officers have died from their 9/11 injuries since 9/11, with more dying every month; and

Whereas, While the majority of recipients live in the New York City area, many survivors and first responders of the 9/11 attacks live across the United States; and

Whereas, These individuals live in every State and in 429 out of 435 Congressional districts across the country; and

Whereas, The 2010 James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act was finally passed after years of delay by Washington to respond to the 9/11 Health Crisis and

Whereas, The Act created the World Trade Center Health Program (the “Program”), which provides health treatment to people who worked or resided in the vicinity of the World Trade Center on and after the events of September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, The Program is comprised of the “Responder Program” and the “Survivor Program”; and

Whereas, The Responder Program provides medical treatment for 9/11 injuries and medical monitoring to the personnel who carried out rescue and recovery duties at the World Trade site and has over 60,000 participating in it; and

Whereas, The Survivor Program provides services to individuals who lived, worked or went to school around the World Trade Center site and over 7,500 survivors who are injured are getting treatment for their 9/11 injuries; and

Whereas, In addition to authorizing the World Trade Center Health Program, the legislation will also reopen the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (“VCF”); and

Whereas, The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund is now compensating injured and ill 9/11 responders, survivors and their surviving families for economic losses related to their injuries; and

Whereas, The 9/11 Health and Compensation Act expires in October 2015; and

Whereas, Congress members Carolyn Maloney, Jerold Nadler and Peter King and United States Senators Kirsten E. Gillibrand and Charles Schumer will be reintroducing legislation, which would reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (the “Zadroga Act”); and

Whereas, Unless Congress acts to reauthorize the Zadroga Act thousands of injured and ill 9/11 responders and survivors are at risk of losing crucial health care; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

LS# 2703, 2706, 2875
March 20, 2015
GZ