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July 21, 2003

Senator Corzine
One Gateway Center, 11th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
Attn: Deb Curto

Dear Ms. Curto,

I am writing to follow up on the telephone conversation we had earlier detailing the problem we, the Newport Waterfront Association, NWA, have been dealing with in trying to get the plans from Mike Reagan, the construction code official for Jersey City.

The reason we need these plans is crucial and thousands of peoples' lives in the area depend upon it.

The FEMA, Federal Emergency Agency, has enacted a program under the Citizens Corporation Counsel called CERT, Community Emergency Response Team. The Federal Government has budgeted 17 million dollars this year and will use 1 billion dollars next for this program. The purpose of the CERT program is to 1) train civilians about how to respond to a terrorist attack and 2) to create an evacuation procedure that ensures the most lives are saved.

The training section (Part 1) of CERT is composed of police officers, EMS and other officials who would instruct people on what to do to save themselves in light of an attack. It is very difficult and takes a long time for Police and EMS to get to a scene and start helping people evacuate or tell them what to do. With this training, people would be able to help each other without relying on officials who are not numerous enough to help everybody anyway.

The evacuation program (Part 2) consists of teaching the entire community an evacuation plan that everybody will follow in case of an emergency. It is extremely difficult to save the most lives as possible if there is no plan of action and everybody is running around aimlessly in a building in shock without knowing exactly where to go. The evacuation plan would detail exactly what must be done to save the most lives.

Sonia Maldonado, the president of the tenants association, sent a letter to Michael Reagan, the construction code official of Jersey City, by certified mail and he refuses to acknowledge our requests for building plans. We have been certified to be a Citizen Corp counsel for entire downtown Jersey City and we at NWA have been working with Jack Burnes, at the Hudson County OEM (Office of Emergency Management) in order to train and create an evacuation plan for downtown Jersey City. We have learned that it should take approximately 15 minutes to evacuate a high-rise building to avoid as many casualties as possible. This is where the roadblock occurs and we need your help. We need the plans to ascertain whether or not we have the structural integrity of the building to have the fifteen minute evacuation time.

It has become quite obvious that Mr. Reagan does not want to provide us with a copy of the building plans. As such, I am contacting you in hopes that you may be able to help us get said plans so that we may have them for an engineer to review them.

As you are well aware, the Newport area on the waterfront in Jersey City is within close proximity to New York, and therefore is the highest probable terrorist attack location in the state of New Jersey. This can be confirmed by speaking with Mr. Jack Burnes.

Even though this evacuation plan will take 15 minutes, which is indicative of a great plan, at this point in time, the building is so inept at this point, an evacuation will take more than two hours. We need the definitive architectural plans because we are unable to predict whether the building will stand for the 15 minute evacuation period that we are aiming for. In fact, Mr. Reagan has continued to deny us a copy of the plans which confirms the idea that he already knows.

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, Ms. Maldonado has a friend who is an engineer, who is currently on vacation at this time, but he made a comment indicating that the building had no structural integrity to stand after he went to the bottom of my building, the East Hampton Building, and looked at the foundation. Just by looking at the foundation of the apartment building, he was able to ascertain the inadequacy of its structure.

Because the NWA is a 501C3 Corp. we are a non for profit organization and we don't collect dues. Because Mr. Reagan denied the initial request for the plans, I forwarded a copy of the plans I had from my own building to Ms. Maldonado and she had to pay for the copies out of pocket. This is further explanation as to why we need government help. As you already know from the past correspondence I have sent to you, I had to hire an expert heat inspector prove my claim of insufficient heating, due to the poor construction of the building, because it took immeasurable telephone calls to state years ago in order to get an inspector, and I have yet to be provided with a copy of the inspection report. Further, I have a HUD inspector's report which doesn't even address the insufficient heat in the apartment. All of this information has been supplied to you in

previous correspondence. This why I am requesting that you help us get copies of the plans and an engineer to evaluate said plans.

What else can I say except we need help. If we cannot get the plans and a civil engineer to evaluate the foundation and the structure of the buildings in Newport, we will not be able to follow through with the evacuation plan and may be all put in grave danger because of it. Fifteen minutes is great timing for an evacuation, however we need to know if we have the fifteen minutes. In my opinion, "we are sitting ducks".

Therefore, we are respectfully requesting for intervention on two fronts-please provide copies of the plans for the buildings in Newport City and please waive the costs; and please provide an engineer to evaluate those plans so that people's lives are not put in any further danger.

After all is said and done, Senator Corzine must be made aware of the situation in Hudson County. The documentation is overwhelming and considerably one-sided. It is quite evident that the government must help its constituents and protect them from detrimental occurrences to the best of their ability. It is would be inconceivable for an event to occur in Newport like that of September 11th.

As such, please help us with this matter. We have exhausted all efforts with Mr. Reagan, the City of Jersey City and the State of New Jersey. Please help us with this matter.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. I await your response.

Very Truly Yours,


Eleanor Capogrosso Esq.

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO 3359
DEPT. ID 7700
CONNECTION TEL 19736450502
SUB-ADDRESS
CONNECTION ID
ST. TIME 07/21 17:31
USAGE T 00'57
PGS. 4
RESULT OK

Eleanor Capogrosso, P.C.
305 Broadway, NY, NY 10007
Tel: (212) 509-7700 Fax: (212) 509-7600

Fax Number(s): 973-645-0502

To: Senator Corzine's Office **Attn:** Deb Curto

From: Eleanor Capogrosso

Date: 7-21-03

No./Pg.(Inc. Cover): 4

Please see the annexed letter.

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DEPT. ID 7700
CONNECTION TEL 19736450502
SUB-ADDRESS
CONNECTION ID
ST. TIME 07/22 10:54
USAGE T 00'53
PGS. 4
RESULT OK

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Fax Number(s): 973-645-0502

To: Deb Curto

Attn: Matt

From: Eleanor Capogrosso

Date: 7-22-03

No./Pg. (Inc. Cover): 4

 Urgent X For Review Please comment Please Reply

Please see the annexed letter.

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CONNECTION ID	
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PGS.	21
RESULT	OK

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IF COPY IS ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE, PLEASE CALL THE SENDER
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Fax Number(s): 973-645-0502

To: Senator Cozzine's office

Attn: Deb Curtso

From: Eleanor Capogrosso

Date: 10-10-03

No./Pg. (Inc. Cover): 21

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No./Pg. (Inc. Cover): 21

 Urgent! **X** **For Review** **Please comment** **Please Reply**

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CONNECTION TEL		919736450502
SUBADDRESS		
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ST. TIME	10/16 11:15	
USAGE T	08'30	
PGS.	27	
RESULT	OK	

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Fax Number(s): 973-645-0502

To: Senator Corzine's Office Attn: Deb Curtis

From: Eleanor Capogrosso, Esq.

Date: October 13, 2003

No/Pg. (Inc Cover):

Urgent For Review Please comment Please Reply

Please see attached letter.

Eleanor Capogrosso, P.C.

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New York, NY 10007

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Date: October 13, 2003

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