



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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March 20, 2009

Elliot G. Sander
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, MTA
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3739

Howard H. Roberts Jr.
President, MTA NYC Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Re: 9-11 Memorial Tiles at MTA Mulry Square Lot, Greenwich Village

Dear Messrs. Sanders and Roberts:

I write regarding the deteriorating condition of the 9-11 Memorial tiles fastened to the fence surrounding the MTA facility at Greenwich Avenue and 7th Avenue South in Manhattan since just after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

This impromptu memorial, which has now been in place for over seven years, has gained international attention and recognition. It represents a spontaneous outpouring of emotion and reaction to one of city's greatest tragedies, and one of the defining moments in our nation's recent history.

Sadly, the current condition of this memorial does not do it appropriate justice. In fact, many of the tiles have broken off, are cracked, or are yellowed or covered with soot. Left to deteriorate in this manner, this 9-11 memorial, one of our city's most poignant, will simply no longer exist in the not-too-distant future.

The memorial deserves better, and I would urge the MTA and New York City Transit to seek ways to give the memorial an appropriate permanent setting. Because of the location's particular significance (the site is across the street from St. Vincent's Hospital, where some victims of the attacks were taken, the World Trade Center site was in full view down 7th Avenue South, and a nearby pottery store was the source of most of the tiles), it would be ideal if the tiles could be properly maintained on site in an appropriate setting.

However, if the MTA and NYC Transit are not able to do that, then perhaps other appropriate options should be considered to ensure that this memorial is not destroyed and that it is allowed to continue to serve as a reminder of the 9-11 attacks and the public's response to them. In either case, as the memorial tiles have been a part of the MTA's property for seven years, the MTA must take responsibility for caring for them and ensuring their continuing survival.

I greatly appreciate your looking into and considering this matter. I look forward to hearing back from you regarding the steps the MTA and NYC Transit may take.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Berman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Berman
Executive Director