

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2010

The Honorable Christopher Ward
Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
One Madison Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10010


Dear Mr. Ward,

We are writing to urge the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (the "Port Authority") to resume negotiations with the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church (the "Church"), which was destroyed in the attacks of September 11, 2001. We have all worked hard to help Lower Manhattan rebuild after the 9/11 attacks, and we are supportive of the Church's efforts to rebuild what was a long-standing community institution in Lower Manhattan. The Church's community traces its roots back to 1916, and the Church, built on its current site in 1922 by Greek immigrants, is not only important to the Hellenic Community, but served as a place of respite, calm, and prayer for others in the community.

Our understanding is that after the Church was destroyed in the 9/11 attacks, discussions took place with the Port Authority about relocating and rebuilding at a different location as part of the overall design plan for the site. It was the Church's understanding that it was promised the property at 130 Liberty Street in accordance with the agreed upon master plan for Ground Zero several years ago by the Port Authority. We understand that negotiations broke down in 2008 and that there have been no recent conversations, although it seems that the Port Authority is currently building under the Church's property. We have been informed that the Port Authority has begun to build the Vehicle Security Facility below the original site of the Church, although there presently is no agreement with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese or the Church.

In a little more than a year, we will be commemorating the tenth anniversary of the tragic attacks on Ground Zero. We urge you to resume negotiations with the Archdiocese and the Church as soon as practicable, consistent with all applicable rules and regulations, as it is our sincere hope that plans for reconstruction will be moving forward by that time.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress