



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF MARGARET S. CHIN

Legislative Office
250 Broadway, Suite 1804
New York, NY 10007

District Office
165 Park Row, Suite 11
New York, NY 10038

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Contact: Kelly Magee (212) 788-7259

***COUNCIL MEMBER MARGARET CHIN AND LOWER
MANHATTAN RESIDENTS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF LMCCC***

Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bloomberg must provide LMCCC with the staff and resources they need to fulfill their mission through peak construction in lower Manhattan

New York, NY – Today, Council Member Chin joined Julie Menin, Chair, Community Board 1; Catherine McVay-Hughes, Vice-Chair, Community Board 1; and lower Manhattan residents to rally in support of the Lower Manhattan Construction Command (LMCCC) at the intersection of John and Nassau Street, a residential street that has been inundated by construction from the Fulton Street Transit Center project.

In January 2012, Governor Cuomo announced the downsizing of the LMCCC and plans to let go all but three full-time staff members, including staff members responsible for the agency's website and administrative operations. Remaining employees will be transferred to the Port Authority and New York and New Jersey's lower Manhattan offices, where they will reportedly remain an independent agency.

"The LMCCC is a unique agency that aids those in an extraordinary situation," said Council Member Margaret Chin. "The upheaval these construction projects cause in the everyday lives of residents cannot be underestimated. The LMCCC is a unique agency that aids those in an extraordinary situation."

"A year ago, lower Manhattan residents asked Governor Cuomo to extend the life of the LMCCC past its 2010 expiration" said Council Member Chin. "That victory is now in jeopardy. Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bloomberg must keep their promise to lower Manhattan residents. Is it disingenuous for Governor Cuomo to maintain the importance of the LMCCC on one hand, while slashing the resources it needs to function on the other. The peak of construction in lower Manhattan is still ahead of us. Now it not the time to cut service to hundreds of residents stuck in the crosshairs of major capital projects."

At the end of 2010, Governor Cuomo signed a three-year extension the Executive Order that created the LMCCC, however, this will be. This downsizing jeopardizes the ability of the LMCCC to retain its current level of service through peak construction in lower Manhattan.

"While we have made great progress in rebuilding Lower Manhattan, the job is not yet complete," said Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver. "It is essential that as the rebuilding continues, quality of life concerns are addressed in a coordinated, comprehensive manner and

that members of our community continue to have a meaningful voice in the process. I have been fighting for residents who have been negatively impacted by construction, particularly on John Street and near the Brooklyn Bridge, and we must continue our efforts to improve conditions for all Lower Manhattan residents.”

"Lower Manhattan has rebuilt and grown in ways we could have only dreamed of ten years ago. But the work is not done. It's critical that as Lower Manhattan's growth continues, the coordination with the community continues as well," said State Senator Daniel Squadron. "The importance of that coordination is made all the more clear as we work to protect residents' quality of life and mitigate the negative impact of construction from the WTC site, to John Street, to the Brooklyn Bridge, and throughout the neighborhood."

"We are about to head into the peak construction year of 2013, and now is not the time to make cuts to the LMCCC which performs a critical function of coordinating the myriad construction projects and mitigating the impacts to residents, workers and businesses," said Julie Menin, Chair of Community Board 1.

“CB1 strongly calls upon the LMCCC funding partners --PANYNJ, Federal Transportation Authority, Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the New York State Department of Transportation -- to adequately fund the LMCCC to minimize adverse environmental impacts from the continued large volume of construction projects that are still in progress,” said Catherine McVay-Hughes, Vice-Chair of Community Board 1.

The LMCCC serves a single point of contact for lower Manhattan residents to obtain information and solve quality of life issues related to construction. LMCCC provides daily construction updates and email alerts to lower Manhattan residents, as well as holds meetings to update stakeholders and elected officials on the status of major and minor construction projects.

LMCCC staff conducts visits to construction sites downtown to monitor noise levels and reports on air quality. LMCCC helps elected officials address constituent complaints and works with city agencies and private developers to mitigate construction impacts in lower Manhattan. LMCCC has helped mediate between the community and developers on major construction projects including the Fulton Transit Center, World Trade Center, Beekman Tower, and 130 Liberty Street.

Due to cutbacks in funding from both the state and city, LMCCC has shrunk over the years, down from a height of 22 employees in 2006 to 11 in 2010 to 7 in late 2011. These staff reductions have occurred even as construction in lower Manhattan has accelerated. Lower Manhattan is just entering its peak construction, which is projected to occur between first quarter 2012 and first quarter 2013.

Since 2004, the LMCCC has saved the government and private companies over \$300 million by coordinating street shutdowns and material deliveries south of Canal Street, records show. The Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center costs about \$17 million per year to operate and is funded by federal grants and state and city agencies. LMCCC manages an estimated 22 million square feet of construction projects downtown. In 2011, the LMCCC website, www.lowermanhattan.info, received over 1 million visits.