






# Release

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## BREWER TO INTRODUCE 9/11 TRANSPARENCY LEGISLATION

**New York, NY** — Council Member Gale A. Brewer unveiled new legislation today that would finally reveal what city government knew about environmental toxins produced by the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, and when.

The binding resolution, [Res. 560](#), would require the Department of Investigation to obtain from city agencies and City Hall all documents with information about the types of toxins, the length of time the toxins were expected to remain in the environment, the immediate and long-term health impacts of human exposure, as well as an analysis of the contrast between the knowledge mayoral administrations possessed and the information they conveyed to the public.

If passed, it would be the first time the City Council has invoked the authority granted by [section 803 of the New York City Charter](#) to direct DOI to conduct an investigation through a binding resolution. The legislation is a direct response to the Adams administration's refusal to release the documents despite requests from [members of Congress](#), [advocates](#), and [the media](#). DOI would be required to complete a comprehensive public report on the findings no later than two years after the adoption of the resolution.

More people have died in the years since the attack than died on the day itself from respiratory issues, cancers, and other diseases caused by the toxins at Ground Zero and the surrounding areas of Manhattan and Brooklyn.

"The remaining residents and survivors of the attacks are deeply interested in what the city knew about the hazards of that period, and when, exactly, they knew it," said **Council Member Gale A. Brewer, Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Investigations**. "The Adams administration has refused to release the documents, stating that potential liability prevents them from doing so. That's not a legitimate reason to keep the files locked away.

"Twenty three years later, the impact of 9/11 continues to be felt by countless first responders, survivors, and residents exposed to toxins, as well as their families," said **City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams**. "Our city government owes New Yorkers transparency about its knowledge on the toxins produced by the attacks.

This resolution takes a crucial step towards requiring disclosure of public health information, which should be considered a basic responsibility of government in a democracy. I thank Council Member Brewer for her leadership in seeking these answers that survivors and their families deserve, as well as our Congressional members who have fought for this information over the course of several mayoral administrations."

"We have sent multiple letters over the last three years calling on the city to release records regarding what the Giuliani and Bloomberg Administrations knew about toxins in the air following 9/11, yet the Adams Administration continues to give us the runaround," said **Congressman Jerrold Nadler**. "Their lack of a meaningful response denies justice to the thousands of New Yorkers and first responders who continue to deal with or have died from health complications due to the air quality following 9/11. New Yorkers deserve the truth — and I urge the City Council to take up this legislation to require the Department of Investigations to conduct a review of the records and disclose what the City knew while claiming it was safe for us to return to Ground Zero."

"In the wake of the worst terrorist attack in American history, survivors and first responders were promised that the air was safe to breathe and that Lower Manhattan was free from toxins," said **Congressman Dan Goldman**. "Now, more than 20 years later, we know those promises were false. The City owes survivors, first responders and everyone in Lower Manhattan full disclosure of the harmful toxins in the area following the 9/11 attack. I am proud to stand with Congressman Nadler and Council Member Brewer to once again call for this information's release. It is critical to closure for families and medical care for survivors, especially those who were children at the time of the attacks. The City must do the right thing, regardless of any financial consequences."

"Thank you to Council Member Brewer for taking on this challenge of finding out what Mayor's office doesn't appear to want the public to see about what the City of New York knew about the dangers of the toxins from 9/11 in the aftermath of the attack," said **Benjamin Chevat, Executive Director of 911 Health Watch**. "Fighting City Hall to get the city to even admit that records exist has been a struggle, but now that we have you on our side, I expect we will get answers."

"Why are the City's September 11th files locked away, hidden from public view, nearly twenty-five years later? What did the then Mayor Giuliani's administration know and when did it learn about the dangers of the toxins at Ground Zero?" asked **Andrew Carboy, 911 Health Watch's pro bono counsel handling the Freedom of Information Requests and Article 78**. "FOIL is an imperfect tool given the that the City is saying they don't have any documents, but Council Member Brewer's innovative use of a provision in the City Charter gives me hope that we will finally get answers. These documents must be released to the public."

"This past week as we approached the 23rd anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the FDNY had the solemn duty to bury the 369th and 370th members of the FDNY to die from their exposure to the toxins of Ground Zero," said **Andrew Ansbro, President of the Uniformed Firefighters Association**. "Those of us that are still alive owe it to the families of the sick and those who have passed to uncover the facts about what the city knew after the attacks, what they knew was there, and who made the decisions that have affected the lives of so many."

"I am eternally grateful to Council Member Brewer for her tenacity in her refusal to let this issue go. Her commitment to those impacted by 9/11 clearly remains as strong as it was 23 years ago," said **Mariama James, 9/11 Survivor advocate, District Leader AD 65C, and founder of the Coalition for a 100% Affordable 5WTC**. "As a 9/11 survivor as well as the daughter of late survivors who succumbed to their 9/11 related

diseases and the mother of youth cohort survivors, I thank her from the bottom of my heart for her efforts. As a District Leader for the 65th Assembly District which formerly included the WTC Complex until the recent redistricting and remains home to many survivors, first responders and a WTC Health Program clinic, I stand with her one hundred percent as she calls upon her colleagues in the City Council to join her in her resolution seeking a full and immediate investigation. Thank you also to those who've requested the documents before her like my former Congressman Jerry Nadler, my current Congressman Dan Goldman and vital organizations like 911 Health Watch and 9/11 Environmental Action."

"I applaud Councilwomen Brewer's bill and her support of the 9/11 WTC Community. Science has shown us that these air monitoring records are key to targeting treatment as well as monitoring for potential disease progression for 9/11 responders and survivors," said **Gary Smiley, WTC Liaison for FDNY EMS Local 2507**. "It is Outrageous that New York City officials continue to fight these vital and impactful testing results from being released and published."

"As advocates who fought for the truth about the toxic smoke and dust released by the 9/11 attacks, we want to thank Council Member Gale Brewer, who has spent her many years in public service fighting for accountability. Now Gale is leading the effort for the City Council to use its new investigatory powers to finally unlock the Giuliani administration's 9/11 records," said **Kimberly Flynn, Director of 9/11 Environmental Action**. "New Yorkers need to know what exactly the city knew after the towers' collapse and how the city, in lockstep with the EPA, failed to protect the health of its people and the responders who came from everywhere to the rescue. After 9/11, having the truth would have made an enormous difference. Today, the truth can still accomplish so much, from strengthening support for the care provided by the WTC Health Program to developing lessons learned that would better protect New Yorkers in the wake of future disasters."

"Those that responded to 9/11 as well as the community that was impacted by it should know the truth about what was known about the toxins at Ground Zero," said **James Slevin, 1st District Vice President, International Association of Fire Fighters, and 911 Health Watch Board Member**. "To many of my fellow responders and the residents and area workers are still living and in too many cases dying because of decisions that were made at that time and that is why Councilmember Brewer's efforts are so important."

"I was there 23 years ago, and it is way past time that we learn the truth about what the City knew," said **Thomas Hart, President International Union of Operating Engineers Local 94**. "Thank you, Council Member Brewer, for taking this action on behalf of my members."

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