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Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Borough President

April 3, 2026

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader, New York State Senate
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Carl Heastie
Speaker, New York State Assembly
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul, Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

With the 25th Anniversary of the September 11 attacks coming in fewer than six months, I write to request you to direct an investigation into what the State of New York knew about the dangers of the toxins at Ground Zero (similar to the investigation that the City Council has now ordered from the NYC Dept. of Investigation by passing Council Member Gale Brewer's [Reso. 560](#) last July).

Responders at Ground Zero, along with residents, commuters, and students who entered the disaster zone deserve to know what their government knew, and when it knew it, even as that government was claiming that all was well; Federal EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman infamously declared "the air is safe to breathe."

As Borough President representing the lower Manhattan area devastated by the attacks I come to this topic with awareness and compassion for those who are suffering from World Trade Center illnesses or have lost family members to them in the last 25 years.

As you may know, this effort to find the truth about the dangers of the toxins that covered lower Manhattan and Western Brooklyn in the aftermath of the attack started five years ago, on the eve of the 20th anniversary, when U.S. Representatives Jerrold Nadler and Carolyn Maloney asked then-Mayor DeBlasio to have the City disclose what it knew – which was unsuccessful. The effort was joined in 2023 by Representative Dan Goldman, seeking the same answers from the Adams administration.

911 Health Watch, the advocacy not-for-profit started by the NYS AFL-CIO, joined by filing Freedom of Information requests and then an Article 78 case as the Adams administration continued to refuse to release documents. In response to the Adams administration's continued obstruction, the City Council last summer for the first time used its power under the City Charter to order the Department of Investigation to investigate and obtain all documents, with progress reports every six months. Currently the DOI is actively working on its task, and in its most recent six-month report asked for additional funding to complete it.


At his confirmation hearing before the City Council, Corporation Counsel Steven Banks committed to examining what files the Law Department and the City as a whole has and releasing that information.

But the City was not alone in responding to 9/11. What did the Pataki administration know? Surely state agencies had a role and salient information during the crisis in the days, weeks, and months after the attacks.

I urge you to divulge all pertinent information about those days – 25 years after the attacks shook our city and state – and offer some measure of closure to those who became sick, or the friends, families, and survivors of those who have died.

I appreciate your continued bold and thoughtful leadership of our great state.

Sincerely yours,


Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Manhattan Borough President