



**OPENING REMARKS OF
CHAIRMAN JOHN C. WHITEHEAD
FEDERAL HALL, NEW YORK
JULY 16, 2002, 10:00A.M.**

Good morning. Today we are presenting six conceptual plans for the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site and adjacent areas. This is an important moment for our city – and our nation. And, to begin, I would like to talk about what it represents.

When the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, they thought they were striking at the heart of our society, our democracy, our economy, and our soul. They believed that if they knocked our buildings down, they would damage our spirits and sink our morale. They were wrong.

It turns out that the attacks did just the opposite. The legacy of September 11 is one of courage, resilience, and determination. Our brave firefighters, police officers, emergency and recovery workers forged that legacy on September 11 and in the recovery period that followed. Today, we make another important contribution to that legacy. We reinforce it by proving that we can come back from the disaster – and emerge stronger and better than ever. What our plans demonstrate conclusively is that we *will* rebuild. There is no question of whether it is possible. Because today we are illustrating six different ways in which it can be done. It is now not a question of whether but a question of how. What *specific* forms will the rebuilding take? What *precise* features will it contain? And we are calling upon the public to continue answering these questions with us. We request the ongoing input, feedback, and recommendations of citizens here and throughout the country.

The six plans displayed today have been developed by LMDC and the Port Authority acting together. They have been produced by our architectural consultants – principally, Beyer Blinder Belle and Peterson Littenberg. In addition, two of the plans included the input of Skidmore Owings & Merrill and Cooper Robertson.

Each plan begins with the memorial – acknowledging that, as we rebuild, we must remember. The approach to the memorial was the first consideration in the development of the plans. The titles of the plans reflect the memorial ideas that they represent.

These are site plans, which means what might be built at ground level. They do not represent the architectural design of any of the buildings. That will come later – in the subsequent phases of our planning process.

The plans include a variety of ideas, many of which were collected and synthesized via our months of talking with LMDC's Advisory Councils, listening to comments at public gatherings, analyzing responses to our *Principles and Preliminary Blueprint* document, and other pipelines of input.

Our initial assessments indicate that each of the plans is feasible and build-able. We will conduct more analysis on these points as the process moves forward.

The six plans are not final blueprints. Each of the plans represents a package of proposed ideas. These ideas can be mixed and matched, and reconstituted based on public input and our architectural consultants' continuing work. What we hope to receive from you, the public, is the feedback that will enable us to assess each of the ideas that are part of these packages and reorganize them into up to three plans for further review by the fall. What do you like? What do you not like? The best ideas will survive. The least favorable or feasible ideas will not. In the end, the three plans issued in the fall might be a combination of the features of the six. Some of them may even be completely new. Nothing is etched in stone. No final decisions have been made.

There will be unique opportunities for the public to offer its input and help in the rebuilding. The first significant way for the public to express its views will be on Saturday, July 20th at the Listening to the City forum. In addition, our eight LMDC Advisory Councils will continue to gather ideas and feedback for our planning process, as they have done so ably to date. Additional public hearings will be held throughout the city and region. And, of course, here in Federal Hall, people will have the chance to view the plans and offer their on-the-spot opinions. Lou Tomson will talk in greater detail about these opportunities for public input in a few moments.

A word about the planning process for the memorial in particular. Since construction at ground level will not be possible for a while yet, there is no need to rush. Our discussions with people who have been involved with other memorials indicate that it is desirable to not move too fast in making final decisions. It is appropriate now to begin discussions on what we want the memorial to represent and how the memorial process should proceed. As you know, we have appointed a staff director for our memorial effort, Anita Contini, who is beginning to assemble her thoughts and, talking with others, take the process forward. In general, our preliminary thoughts include an international design competition, open to professionals and amateurs alike, and a jury that will serve as the selection panel. Once again, we invite public input on this critical aspect of our work. We will have more to say about the memorial process next month.

Our thanks go out to our partners in all our work to date, the Port Authority, and particularly its chairman, Jack Sinagra, and its Executive Director, Joe Seymour. Our thanks to Governor Pataki and Governor McGreevey and to Mayor Bloomberg, to Senators Schumer and Clinton, to Congressman Jerry Nadler, to Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senator Joe Bruno, and to a multitude of others who have worked so hard to bring us to this point in the process with a marvelous – and, I understand, quite unusual – cooperative team effort.

Importantly, I would like to express appreciation to all of the LMDC and Port Authority Board Members and Commissioners who gave their time and contributed their ideas to the process that has led up to today's announcement. I would particularly like to thank Roland Betts, the LMDC Board member who, with remarkable skill, kept it all together and made it happen. And I would like to thank Roland's counterpart at the Port Authority, Anthony Sartor, for his partnership, insight, and guidance. Finally, I would also like to commend every member of our LMDC staff, especially Lou Tomson, our President and Executive Director, for doing such a fine job. We are grateful for your leadership, Lou. And I am now glad to turn the rostrum over to you.