

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2006

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

We are pleased to read media reports that your administration has decided not to appeal the favorable Workers' Compensation Board ruling for former Deputy Mayor Rudy Washington. This should pave the way for Mr. Washington to receive the medical benefits he needs and deserves for his Ground Zero-related illness.

We are sure you are well aware of the medical findings of both the FDNY Medical Monitoring Program and the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring program that continue to find thousands of individuals who are still sick as a direct result of 9/11. As you know, we have been working hard to get help from the federal government to ensure that 9/11 responders can get the medical monitoring and treatment they need and deserve. We are proud the work we did with you and your administration last year as we fought as a united Congressional Delegation to restore \$125 million in 9/11 funds that the Bush Administration had sought to rescind. Through this united effort we were able to dedicate \$75 million for continued medical monitoring and, for the first time, treatment. In February, this cause took another step forward when we were able to secure the appointment of Dr. John Howard as the federal government's 9/11 health coordinator.

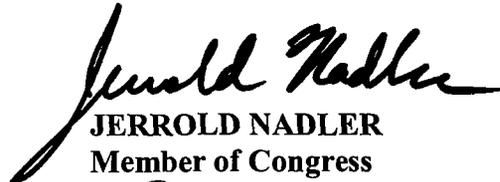
While we are grateful that the city will not appeal Mr. Washington's decision, we are concerned that the city may still be appealing the workers' compensation awards of 290 other city workers who, like Mr. Washington, filed what they believed are valid compensation claims after the passage of the city's two-year deadline. Furthermore, it is our understanding that once the filing deadline had passed, many other injured city workers were persuaded not to even submit otherwise valid claims for injuries sustained during rescue and recovery work.

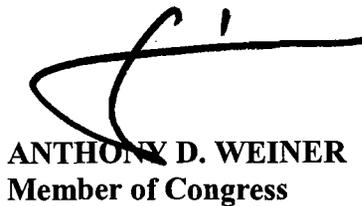
Additionally, while Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo recently testified that the city received more than 1,200 9/11-related workers' compensation claims prior to the deadline and approved benefits to more than 95% of those claimants, we continue to receive numerous reports from injured city workers, and from the Unions that represent them, that the city continues to appeal and controvert nearly all of the workers' compensation claims it has received for Ground Zero-related illnesses.

It is our hope that Mr. Washington's case is a signal of how the city plans to respond to Ground Zero claims and is not just an isolated case. We would urge greater attention to the many thousands of valid claims, including legitimate claims submitted after the filing deadline, that remain unresolved or have been opposed by the city on technical grounds.

Sincerely,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

  
JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress

  
ANTHONY D. WEINER  
Member of Congress

  
JOSE E. SERRANO  
Member of Congress

  
ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress

  
NITA M. LOWEY  
Member of Congress

  
CAROLYN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress

  
TIMOTHY H. BISHOP  
Member of Congress

  
STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress