



TWIN TOWERS ALLIANCE

WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT — WHAT NEW YORK NEEDS — WHAT AMERICA DESERVES

March 17, 2008

By Mail and Fax

Mr. Larry Silverstein
Silverstein Properties
250 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Silverstein,

The joy that followed the Hail Mary pass of a lifetime, and the Giants' miraculous victory, would be nothing compared to New Yorkers' thrill on hearing that we are going to rebuild the Twin Towers.

You know that it is not a matter of *can* it be done, but *will* it be done. You can crown a long and productive career by being a patriot first and a tycoon second. You can leave behind a legacy that will do you more honor than any work you have ever done or ever could do.

Rebuilding the Towers would not only make you one of the most popular men in the country, it would also be *very* good business. You've said that you want to build a 21st century Rockefeller Center. The only way you can do that is to put gorgeous Twin Towers back where they belong. We now have a governor who will listen to reason and the public would certainly support a decision to give the Twin Towers back to you. It could be done.

Economic forecasts are notoriously faulty, as Lower Manhattan real estate values keep demonstrating. But if we are indeed going into a protracted downturn, then the best investment you could make would be to *truly* restore the skyline. Just as the Empire State Building and Rockefeller Center soared as the Great Depression deepened, you could inspire the nation and find yourself in control of the most desirable property on earth.

Now that Providence has changed the politics of what is possible, please remember the Towers you fell in love with. Please be true to the Towers you pledged to rebuild. If you search for "Dream No Small Dreams" on Google or YouTube and watch our "Tribute to the Twin Towers," you just may fall in love all over again.

In a letter to Gov. Paterson we likened this moment to a bride poised to go down the aisle, knowing she is about to make a terrible mistake. If you were her father, would you want her to make the worst decision of her life, just to save face? Where does expediency fit in when it comes to the truly momentous choices in life?

Of course, you know that in the case of rebuilding the World Trade Center, it was a forced engagement, and never a love-match. If Gov. Pataki was free to go against our wishes, on our land, and with our money, he would not have staged such an elaborate deception. Why should the people bear the ultimate cost – extending far beyond misspent money and time – of their officials' headstrong misconduct?



People United To Rebuild The Twin Towers, Inc.

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The way you made the best of the constantly shifting situation and overcame the opposition was impressive. If the governor decides to explore the rebuilding option, then you should insist on preferential terms for putting your three towers up elsewhere in the city. They would shine in the right setting, but the World Trade Center is not where they belong. The Freedom Tower, on the other hand, is a mongrel obelisk with very few admirers and it should just disappear from sight.

It would be rash to refuse to take this proposition seriously. The willful destruction of the original Pennsylvania Station should be all the reminder anyone needs that bowing to short-term pressures will result in unnecessary and undesirable consequences. Do you realize that the Twin Towers and Penn Station were the only two out of the 150 structures on the AIA list of "America's Favorite Architecture" that no longer exist? Since new Twin Towers could have opened by now, especially given the enormous support of the construction unions, the fault in both cases – gross arrogance and mismanagement – was completely preventable.

If there were ever a time when money should be no object, this is it. If it would cost more than is available to build a World Trade Center worthy of the name, then just give the public the opportunity to contribute and prepare to be astonished. Americans spent over \$16 billion on Valentine's Day this year. Millions of people would jump at the chance to be part of such an awe-inspiring project. We aren't suggesting that we should exactly duplicate the original World Trade Center, by any means. It could be so much better and more exciting today.

Last September 10th, a man who lives in Brooklyn and had grown up with that view of the Twin Towers sent us a generous donation and a touching message that ended: "I won't ever look in that direction again if the towers aren't rebuilt. There'll be nothing there to see." That, Mr. Silverstein, is as real as it gets.

You must know that there are thousands of images of the Twin Towers displayed all over the city, from the Shea Stadium scoreboard to the mural on the wall in everyone's neighborhood diner. In place of the current plan and the depressing memorial, people want their towers back, along with a noble and fitting memorial. And what is standing in the way of such a proper and reasonable course? *Nothing insurmountable.*

You have the power to turn the lights of the real World Trade Center back on. They were the lights of home. Say "yes" and the rest will follow. Generations of New Yorkers and Americans will thank you and bless your name. We want to cheer for our New York giants again... The Towers deserve another chance and so do we.

Sincerely,

Richard Hughes and Margaret Donovan
for the Twin Towers Alliance

cc: Gov. David Paterson

