

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THE BEST MEMORIAL OF ALL

NEW YORK, April 24, 2008 -- A ten-foot-tall model featuring stunning new Twin Towers and a noble memorial attracted much attention at the Atlantic City Convention Center last week. Kenneth L. Gardner, co-creator of the *Twin Towers II* plan, surprised hundreds of appreciative convention-goers with the information that not only do detailed plans for re-engineered Twin Towers exist, but they could be built sooner and more economically than the current plan. "There is nothing far-fetched about changing plans," Mr. Gardner explained. "The switch could be accomplished seamlessly."

Gardner, a structural engineer who developed the *Twin Towers II* plan along with the late Herbert Belton, an architect on the original World Trade Center, was asked to speak at the Atlantic Builders Convention, the largest event of its kind in the northeast. He shared a detailed vision of a true recovery at Ground Zero, asserting that his plan is much more marketable, more buildable, and more secure. It has been in constant development for over five years and Gardner says that "construction could be underway in six months, if we summon the will."

According to Gardner, every one of the hundreds of people who viewed the model was enthusiastic. "There is profound disappointment over the current development. I was asked over and over again why the public doesn't know that a viable option exists and what they could do to show their support."

He said that many expressed a sense of being powerless. "People love this plan – and we know that many 9/11 families prefer it to the current one, but, the entire LMDC project has gone forward as a stealth operation, under the radar, to defeat the public's prerogative." Mr. Gardner said it is absurd to suggest that the official plan is a reflection of the public's input. "If it were, there would have been much more common sense in evidence. They didn't care to listen. People at the public hearings told officials that driving streets through the superblock was clearly a bad idea. A vibrant 24/7 pedestrian oasis, protected by the superblock, at the foot of spectacular Twin Towers is an idea whose time has finally come. That would be the best memorial of all."

Recent news is encouraging for those who still hope to see the former majesty of New York's skyline restored. "NYPD security concerns, the new governor's call to 'revisit' the plan, and a host of other issues hint at confusion and disarray," Gardner insists. "Given that we are all stakeholders at Ground Zero, the people should be consulted before going any further. This is public land and tens of billions of tax dollars from all across America went into helping New York recover from the attacks, so to suggest that what the public wants is not binding on officials is ridiculous. If there is a single good reason to overrule the popular will, let's hear it."

Mr. Gardner revealed during the Q-and-A period following his speech that there is interest in constructing the complex in New Jersey, where he believes it would be an economic and civic marvel, but he acknowledged a fervent hope that New York will wake up to what is at stake. "I think that even those who would benefit so richly by building the Twin Towers in New Jersey would much rather see them back at the World Trade Center."

Gardner expressed hope that the move last week to replace Anthony Shorris as Executive Director of the Port Authority signals a bold new approach to addressing the defects that were built into the current plan. "If Gov. Paterson exercises his power and honors the public's yearning for new Twin Towers, after all the false starts at Ground Zero, we can still recover by 2011 and the public will have been well-served."

"We know there is a lot of rank and file support for the Twin Towers within the Port Authority. This is a very emotional issue. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that the recent discoveries of 'Freedom Tower' plans in city trash receptacles were the result of a Boston Tea Party-type maneuver to show that people within the PA don't support the current agenda either. If that is case, they are members of a very large club."

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Requests to view the model will be accommodated.