



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOWER MANHATTAN CONSTRUCTION COMMAND CENTER
ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF FRAUD PREVENTION HOTLINE**
TOLL-FREE NUMBER WILL ALLOW FOR CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING

(12/6/05 – New York, NY) – Charles J. Maikish, Executive Director of the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC) today announced the launch of a new hotline aimed at preventing and reporting fraud-related activities associated with construction projects throughout Lower Manhattan.

The number, **1-877-FRAUDLESS (877-372-8353)**, is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Information reported to the Hotline will be kept completely confidential and callers can report details anonymously, if they wish.

The New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) is a partner in this effort and will have their 3-1-1 system operators forward fraud-related calls regarding construction work in Lower Manhattan to the Hotline as well.

“The Fraud Prevention Hotline is a critical component toward ensuring the success of construction activities in Lower Manhattan,” Maikish said. “Illegal and inappropriate activities on construction projects could seriously impact schedules and costs. As such, we are committed to being proactive and doing whatever possible to prevent fraudulent activity from occurring in the first place.”

LMCCC has selected SafirRosetti, LLC and their subcontractor, National Hotline Services, as the Hotline Service Provider. National Hotline Services will receive complaints and transmit the complaints to the LMCCC Fraud Prevention Director. Examples of potential fraudulent activity include: theft, safety hazards, security breaches, bribes or kickbacks, alcohol or drug abuse, prevailing wage violations, or any other unethical or illegal conduct by or on behalf of any agency employee, public official, contractor employee, agent, subcontractor, vendor, or labor official. LMCCC will review the information and refer them to the appropriate agency or Inspector General’s office having jurisdiction over the matter.

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The LMCCC chairs a group of Inspectors General that have oversight responsibility for agencies performing work in Lower Manhattan, or who issue funds for projects in Lower Manhattan. This group, the Lower Manhattan Construction Integrity Team (“LMCIT”), is comprised of the Inspectors General for the State of New York; the New York City Departments of Transportation and Design & Construction; the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey; the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; the United States Department of Transportation; and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Additionally, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation’s Investigations Unit is also a represented on LMCIT, as well as the New York City Business Integrity Commission and the United States Department of Labor Office of the Inspector General and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Office of the Chief Compliance Officer

The Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center was established by Governor George E. Pataki and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg via joint executive order on November 22, 2004 as a division of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and charging it with coordination and oversight of all Lower Manhattan construction projects south of Canal Street, river to river. The Command Center will take steps to minimize the impact of ongoing construction on residents, businesses, and workers in Lower Manhattan and will bring together private developers, public agencies, utilities, businesses, and residents in one location. In addition to its oversight and coordination responsibilities, the LMCCC and its director provide a forum for expeditious and consistent decision-making on disputes among agencies. The Executive Director reports directly to both the Governor and the Mayor.

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