1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 On Friday, September 11th, 2009 the City will commemorate the eighth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center. The observance will take place at Zuccotti Park, adjacent to the World Trade Center site at Liberty Street between Broadway and Church Street/Trinity Place on the morning of September 11th.

1.2 To read the names of the victims during the ceremony, family members will be paired with volunteers from throughout the five boroughs who will represent the remarkable spirit of compassion and giving that unified our City and our nation in the weeks and months following the tragedy. Music will provide a backdrop throughout the program. The ceremony will pause at four moments – twice to mark the times that each plane hit the towers (0846 and 0903 hours) and twice to mark the times each tower fell (0959 and 1029 hours). The first moment of silence will be at 0846 hours and houses of worship will be encouraged to toll their bells at that time. The ceremony will conclude at approximately noon.

1.3 While the names are read, family members will be provided access to the newly constructed upper-level section of the Memorial site so they may lay flowers and privately honor their loved ones.

1.4 At sundown, the “Tribute of Light” will return as a tribute to the memory of those lost. This poignant symbol will carry us through the night and into the next day.

1.5 As a mark of respect to those members of the Department who made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11th, 2001, all Firehouses, Headquarters, EMS Stations and FDNY Facilities shall affect the following:

   1.5.1 Department Apparatus (where applicable) shall be pulled onto the apron of quarters at 0846 hours where the members shall observe a moment of silence.

   1.5.2 Station officer may read the attached prayer, composed by Monsignor Delendick and Rabbi Potasnik, before placing apparatus back in quarters.

   1.5.3 Stations shall observe additional moments of silence at 0903, 0959 and 1029 hours.

   1.5.4 All FDNY family members are invited to attend the EMS Station/Firehouse ceremony.
1.6 From 0800 hours to dusk, an Honor Guard will be stationed at the Tribute Wall located on the outer wall of Engine 10 / Ladder 10. All members and their families are invited to attend.

1.7 At 0830 hours, the EMS Academy will host its annual September 11th Memorial Service in front of the EMS Academy at Fort Totten, Building 325. All members and their families, as well as members of other city services and the military are invited to attend.

1.8 At 0930 hours, members of Battalion 18 will host the Eighth Annual Memorial Services at the Firefighters Memorial Monument on Riverside Drive and 100th Street (Upper West Side of Manhattan). All members and family members are invited to attend. A Mass at St. John the Divine will follow at 1215 hours.

1.9 At 1400 hours, a Memorial Service will be held at Fire Department Headquarters. All members and their families are invited to attend.

1.10 At 1700 hours, the FDNY Retirees Association, in conjunction with the Alice Austen House, will host the annual Remembrance of September 11 in honor of the 343 members of the Department who lost their lives. The ceremony will be held on the front lawn, overlooking the Manhattan skyline.

1.11 At 1800 hours, the Office of the Staten Island Borough President will host a Memorial Service at the Staten Island September 11th Memorial located adjacent to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. All members and their families are invited to attend.

2. PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

(To be read by officer a few moments before the first minute of silence – 0846 hours)

Religious tradition teaches us that “one who seeks honor finds that honor eludes him, and one who does not seek honor, honor overtakes him.” Today, we honor those who do not desire public recognition but who are most deserving of it.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, our members gathered in their fire houses to begin another day of service to the people of this city not knowing what this day would bring. Many that day gave the ultimate sacrifice so that others could be saved. They may no longer be with us, but they will always be within us. Today we also pay tribute to those who are behind the scenes giving us the strength and support we need during difficult times. Additionally, we thank the many volunteers who selflessly serve all people because they see us all as creatures of one God, who created one human family.

(To be read by officer a few moments after the second moment of silence – 0903 hours)

The Psalmist (Psalm 121) proclaims, “I lift my head to the mountains, from where comes my help? My help comes from The Maker of heaven and earth.” We believe that the Almighty asks us to be human helpers with Him as we seek to make this a better world for all people.
It is said, “The flowers of tomorrow come from the seeds we plant today.” On this difficult day, September 11th, we recall a tragic yesterday. May we plant the seeds for the first National Day of Service and Remembrance, marking the beginning of a triumphant tomorrow.

(To be read at the end of the third minute of silence – 0959 hours)

God of us all, we stand here in your presence and with our minds eye we recall the sight of the once proud South Tower descending to the earth. Most especially we remember the members of our department, both Fire and EMS, those who entered the buildings to assist and bring to safety those in need of our help. Lord, these members of our department are with you. Help us to recognize that they are at peace. We will carry their memories proudly as we continue to love one another as they loved us.

May they rest in peace. Amen

(To be read at the end of the fourth minute of silence – 1029 hours)

God of us all, we stand here in your presence and with our minds eye we recall the sight of the once proud North Tower descending to the earth. In the traditions of this department, our Fire and EMS Members did not hesitate to do your work, the work of saving the lives of the people of this city. Many died in the attack that day. Lord, give us the strength we need to live the values that they exhibited that day, the values of generosity, compassion and commitment. Lord, help us to recognize that as their reward you have taken them to yourself where nothing can ever again harm them. We cannot bring them back to life, but we can honor them in how we love and live with one another.

May they rest in peace. Amen

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF EMS COMMAND