



Office of the Mayor

Matthew T. Ryan

April 7, 2009

Dear Volunteer Organizations,

I want to thank you for again showing grace and generosity in the face of tragedy and senseless loss, and for coming together to plan and organize a more coordinated, long-term response for the family members of the survivors and victims.

My office and Council members have received countless phone calls from individuals and organizations that would like to make a financial donation to benefit the family members of the victims. We know both Catholic Charities and the Broome County Council of Churches have already established funds and organized collection efforts, and we thank them for their quick actions and their organization's commitment to long-term administration of these accounts.

So we can endorse these as the "official funds," the City Council and I politely ask the group to consider the following:

- Guarantee that 100% of all donations will directly benefit the family members of the victims
- Identify, with as much detail as possible and as soon as possible, how the funds will be used, such as short-term needs (monthly expenses, funeral services, travel) and long-term needs (education fund for children)
- Develop a mechanism by which you will remain accountable to the public
- Pledge to work cooperatively across organizations in administration and disbursement of the funds
- Pledge to use efficiently those resources that might be available through federal, state, county and local agencies
- If possible, identify a secular organization to organize and administer a third fund that works in conjunction with the other two funds and is consistent with the terms above

We greatly value and respect your volunteer efforts, and your compassion to those negatively impacted by last week's tragedy is another testament to our community's strong sense of character and pride.

Thanks for giving this letter your consideration, and as soon as more details are confirmed, City Council and my office pledge to help raise awareness of the fund and direct donors accordingly.

Thank you so much for all you do to make our community stronger, safer, and more welcoming.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Ryan, Mayor