

## **Position Paper on The Use of September 11 for Political Purposes**

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, New York City was attacked when two hijacked airplanes slammed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Close to 3,000 people died in those attacks. The twin towers and surrounding buildings were destroyed. During the next nine months the debris that resulted from this disaster was carted away as the clean up took place. People in New York City lost their lives, homes, businesses, livelihoods, hopes, and dreams for a safe and secure future.

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, President George W. Bush, Vice President Richard Cheney, and members of their Cabinet have frequently used the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 to justify policies and actions that they have taken. Military actions were taken against two nations that did not participate in the attacks of 9/11. Prisoners, some of whom are American citizens, have been tortured, kidnapped, and held without trial. Phone calls and e-mails by American citizens have been intercepted by the National Security Agency without appropriate court warrants.

While New York City is not the only place that suffered due to the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, many of the citizens of our city do not agree with the policies and actions that our country has taken in the name of the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. We are constantly reminded that more death and destruction as well as a limitation of human rights and the rights of free speech are necessary due to the attacks of 9/11.

It is hard for New Yorkers who have suffered so many losses to be reminded of our tragedy. We therefore request that the New York City Council ask the President, Vice President, and members of their Cabinet to refrain from invoking the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> out of respect for our need to heal.