

October 9, 2025

Pitta & Baione LLP 9/11 Solidarity Network Helps Claimants Obtain Vital Documentation for 9/11 Compensation Fund Claims

Dear Mr. Schock:

Re:

I hope all is well. As you may already know, it is becoming increasingly difficult for some September 11th Victim Compensation Fund claimants to find documents to prove their presence at an eligible NYC Exposure Zone so many years after the terror attacks. In fact, earlier this year, the New York City Police Department (NYPD) went to the State Legislature for assistance in verifying its service members' 9/11 related service. On September 10, 2024, Governor Kathy Hochul signed chapter 390 of the Laws of 2025 which establishes a presumption that a New York City Police Pension Fund member participated in the rescue, recovery, and clean-up operations at the World Trade Center, unless their employer proves the contrary by competent evidence.

The 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) understands this evidentiary challenge and encourages individuals who were present in the NYC Exposure Zone to gather and save their proof of presence documents now, even if they aren't currently ill or planning to file a claim.

To help members of the general public verify their 9/11 related service, Pitta LLP's affiliate 9/11 Victim Compensation Law Firm <u>Pitta & Baione LLP</u> is developing the <u>9/11 Solidarity Network</u>, a system that permits your members to act as witnesses for one another in verifying 9/11 related service. The network utilizes sworn *Witness Presence Statements*, from people who can attest to a claimant's exposure zone presence, which statements are routinely accepted as secondary evidence by the VCF, when primary documentation is unavailable.

By participating in the 9/11 Solidarity Network, your members can provide the crucial testimony fellow members might need, while also securing potential support for their own future claims. This initiative formalizes the collective memory of the network's members to help ensure no one is left to prove their exposure zone presence alone.

Mr. Dennis Schock October 9, 2025 Page 2

For more information regarding the 9/11 Solidarity Network, and about the law firm, please contact Pitta & Baione at 212-658-1766 and please visit the law firm's website: https://911benefits.com/ or www.pittabaione.com.

Very truly yours,

Vincent F. Pitta

VFP/awr

cc:

Pitta & Baione LLP

Pitta LLP