

August 14, 2026

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR ZOHRAN MAMDANI

From Retired Port Authority Police Officers

Re: 25th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks — Ground Zero

Mayor Mamdani:

We write as retired Police Officers of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to respectfully but unequivocally demand that you do not attend the 25th anniversary memorial ceremony at Ground Zero on September 11, 2026.

For us, September 11 is not a political occasion, a photo opportunity, or a platform for public officials. The World Trade Center was our home. The Port Authority owned and operated the complex, and our officers protected it every day. We responded to both terrorist attacks—the February 26, 1993 bombing and September 11, 2001.

On 9/11, 37 Port Authority Police Officers were murdered, along with 47 other members of our Port Authority family. Additional members of our department and Port Authority family have since died from illnesses associated with their exposure to Ground Zero. Others continue to live with serious physical and emotional consequences.

We strongly object to your attendance because of your public statements, political associations, and positions that, in our view, are fundamentally inconsistent with the sacrifice of the victims and the law-enforcement officers who died protecting others. We are particularly troubled by rhetoric and affiliations that we believe have been hostile to law enforcement and sympathetic to individuals or movements antagonistic toward the United States and those who defend it.

The Mayor's office does not create an entitlement to stand at every sacred remembrance. Your presence at Ground Zero on 9/11 would cause profound pain to members of the 9/11 community and risk turning a solemn day of remembrance into a political controversy.

The 25th anniversary belongs to the victims, their families, survivors, and first responders—not to politicians or political agendas.

We therefore demand that you refrain from attending the ceremony at Ground Zero on 9/11. If you wish to express condolences, do so through a public statement or from another appropriate location.

We were there. We remember. We Will NEVER FORGET!

John McDevitt

President

Port Authority Retired Police Association