Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Middendorf, Paul (CDC/NIOSH/OD) on behalf of WTC STAC (CDC)
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:31 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: FW: Letter to the Committee--> for Docket #248
Attachments: WTC letter.doc

Paul

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark Fishstein [mailto:bigfish2352@optonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:00 PM
To: WTC STAC (CDC)
Subject: Letter to the Committee

To whom it may concern,

Please be advised that attached to this email is a letter to the World Trade Center Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee, docket number 248. It is my intention that this letter be made availible to the committee members.

Thank You,

Mark Fishstein

March 27, 2012

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Mark Fishstein. I am employed by the New York City Police Department and hold the rank of Detective 2nd grade. I am currently assigned to the Major Case Squad. Prior to my tenure in Major Case I was assigned to the 17th Precinct Detective Squad. As such, I responded with my partners to the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 and to other World Trade Center related assignments in the days and months afterward.

As I write to you today, you are considering the question of including cancer in the group of illnesses covered by the Zadroga Act. The decision that you make is one that will affect the lives of a great many of my colleagues as well as myself.

Like many of my co-workers I have suffered over the years with various WTC related illnesses such as reflux, chronic sinusitis, respiratory problems and sleep apnea. I am currently receiving certain treatment for these conditions through the WTC Health Program. However, like a growing number of my co-workers I have also been diagnosed with cancer.

I was diagnosed with bladder cancer in August 2011. When the doctor told me the diagnosis all I could think about was who would take care of my wife and son if I died. Who would provide for his future? My doctors told me they were optimistic that my cancer had not reached an advanced stage and with surgery and post surgical treatments I would recover. They cautioned that my cancer, although treatable was the type that reoccurred and I would have to be vigilant the rest of my life. As a result my life has changed dramatically. I can only imagine how those more severely stricken have been affected and how their families will cope.

The decision to include cancer as one of the WTC illnesses will afford myself and all those with cancer some peace of mind, knowing that their families were provided for. In the end that's all it comes down to. We can't change what happened that day. We did what was required of us. Now we need help.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Fishstein