



NEWS

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MTA CEO CLARIFIES EARLIER COMMENTS ON CONSTRUCTION IMPACT RESPONSE PROGRAM

"The MTA's new Construction Impact Response Program is designed to aid, not restrict residents and businesses affected by construction activities," said MTA CEO Joseph Drew, clarifying remarks made earlier this week.

"The goal of the program is to get help within 72 hours to people who complain of damaging effects," Drew added. "Anyone who receives help from us does not waive his or her rights to sue the agency. We simply ask that if they are represented by attorneys, that they acknowledge the assistance will be deducted from future court or legal settlements."

Drew reiterated the program will provide a wide range of assistance to those affected by MTA construction work. They will be offered good faith payments on claims, low interest loans, cost of structural repairs for limited physical damage, short term rental and mortgage payment support, and other limited expenses necessary to address construction impact.

An MTA Rapid Response Team will be established for each construction project to respond to the needs of the community. In order to facilitate the evaluation of construction impact, areas where people are tentatively eligible for assistance will be identified by a pre-construction survey consultant.

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Generally, those areas so identified will be within 100 feet of a project alignment, where there is a potential impact from noise, vibration, or dust, or where construction might affect the physical access to properties. The pre-construction viability of an area's business environment also will be considered.

A mitigation program will be developed for any area that is undergoing construction. MTA will work with elected officials, community members, and business organizations to determine the appropriate level of assistance.

The response program is effective immediately, with \$2 million funding set aside in the fiscal year budget through June, 1997.

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