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## Move the terror trials, says business group

**Powerful Real Estate Board of New York calls for trying alleged 9/11 culprits someplace other than lower Manhattan; Bloomberg, downtown business group echoes the call.**

By Emily Laermer

Terror trials and Manhattan is a match best not made, said the powerful Real Estate Board of New York on Wednesday in a statement advocating that the federal government find someplace other than downtown Manhattan to try the alleged Sept. 11 terrorists.

"Find a location that makes the least possible impact to the least number of people, and has the least possible economic cost to the city, state and region," said Steven Spinola, REBNY's president. "Lower Manhattan is just the opposite of that. In fact, it likely has the greatest impact."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who announced two months ago that it would be "fitting" to hold the trials close to the World Trade Center site, agreed it would be better for Manhattan if the trial was elsewhere, according to the Associated Press.

It is estimated that the trial will cost over \$200 million per year for security, personnel and equipment. While the federal government will likely pick up the tab, there is concern that all the security check points created throughout the city during the trial may discourage people from visiting certain areas, and may hurt local businesses.

Representatives from REBNY, who have spoken with public officials including Gov. David Paterson and Congressman Jerrold Nadler, suggested moving the trial to a federal or state prison. The organization has also spoken to senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer, as well as several members of the Obama administration.

The U.S. Department of Justice says it will work with city officials to ensure minimal disruptions during the trial.

The Alliance for Downtown New York also released a statement Wednesday afternoon, urging the Department of Justice to reconsider its location decision.