

# **NEWS**

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**From: Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)**

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### **REBNY HOSTS SOLD-OUT TERRORISM AWARENESS SEMINAR**

**NEW YORK, NY – Feb. 1, 2006** – The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) and the Counter-Terrorism Division Shield Unit of the New York City Police Department teamed up on January 30 to offer a terrorism awareness seminar for 400 REBNY members at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Columbus Circle.

“This seminar is a follow-up to the Terrorism Awareness programs presented to REBNY members by the NYPD immediately after September 11. REBNY and the real estate industry continue to do their part to maintain the highest degree of safety and security in our high rise buildings in light of the fact that New York City remains a high threat area for potential terrorists,” said Marolyn Davenport, REBNY’s Senior Vice President of Management Services and Government Affairs.

During the two-hour seminar attended by many building owners, managers, and others involved in New York City real estate, NYPD Detective Michael Savallo discussed how to reduce the risk of terrorist attacks on structures in New York City.

“The intent is to become a ‘hard target’,” said Savallo, adding that all building employees and tenants should be committed to a structure’s security. Savallo said buildings should be assessed according to the terrorist’s point of view, to find any breaches in security or discover covert surveillance positions. Also, Savallo cautioned, “I know that we are creatures of habit, but it’s best to avoid establishing behavior or security patterns that only assist a terrorist in planning,” he advised.

Detective Eric Vandenburg discussed the motivation, equipment, and tactics used by terrorists, and especially suicide bombers. He instructed the group on how to recognize the individual components of explosive devices so that nothing suspicious – even the simple ingredients of a bomb – will get past security measures. Vandenburg notes, however, that no characteristics can define a suicide bomber, although good security should watch for unusual or suspicious activity.

Instituted in 2002, the Office of Counter-Terrorism of the New York City Police Department was a necessary response to the changed atmosphere in the post 9-11 era, as is the ongoing need for New York City real estate professionals to understand and implement security and safety on every level of the industry.

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