

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIMS OF THE FIRE AT
69 WEST WASHINGTON**

On behalf of the 22 victims of those of us who survived and for those family members who suffered the loss of a loved one in the tragic fire at 69 West Washington, we would like to say a few words.

Today is a very sad day for all of us, but at the same time we all want to try to put the events of that tragic day behind us. We are satisfied with the hard work that our lawyers, in particular Bob Clifford and Kevin Durkin, put into making sure that all of the defendants reached a settlement in this matter. We wanted answers and through their work these past four and a half years, we have achieved those answers.

All of us are anxious to move forward, and a lengthy trial would have aggravated the permanent wounds created on October 17, 2003. By paying these sums, the City of Chicago, 69 West Washington and all of the parties recognize indisputable culpability for what happened that day. We thought that they owed at least that much to all of us as well as to all of the people who work and live in high rise buildings throughout the city.

Our focus has always been about accountability for the mistakes that were made that day and about changing the policies, procedures and codes of this city to prevent this tragedy from ever being repeated.

Nothing can bring back our loved ones or erase the memories of that horrible day. But with this settlement, we hope that everyone has learned from this and made the city a safer place in which to live and work.