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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upper West Side CERT to Honor Joe Bruno and Inez Dickens

New York, NY – Upper West Side CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) will hold a benefit reception on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., to raise funds for its educational and emergency preparedness activities, and to recognize **Inez Dickens**, New York City Councilmember, and **Joseph F. Bruno**, Commissioner, New York City Office of Emergency Management, for their support.

The event is being hosted by **Commerce Bank**, and will take place at its Broadway and West 109 Street branch. Elected officials; OEM, NYPD, FDNY, and EMS personnel; Community Board 7 representatives; and other community leaders will attend, along with UWS CERT team members and supporters.

UWS CERT is a member of New York City CERT, a program of the New York Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The OEM seeks to provide the highest level of emergency preparedness to New Yorkers as they face new challenges to safety and security in the 21st Century, and comprehensive emergency response, hazard planning, and disaster mitigation to New York City.

UWS CERT is composed of trained and certified citizen volunteers who provide auxiliary support to the emergency response efforts of the New York Police and Fire Departments of Manhattan's Upper West Side and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

CERT teams are cropping up all over the country as citizens seek to take a more active role in the safety of their communities. UWS CERT was organized in 2006 through the coordinating efforts of Community Board 7 and the generosity of the Young Israel of the West Side in providing training facilities. It has 38 team members: 34 civilian volunteers and four members attached to NYPD Patrol Borough Manhattan North.

The geographical boundaries of UWS CERT are the same as those of CB7: West 59 Street (south), the west half of Central Park (east), Cathedral Parkway (north), and the Hudson River (west).

While its Web site at www.uwscert.org is being built, the team maintains a user group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uwscert/>.

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