



December 31, 2005

9/11 Public Discourse Project Ceases Operations

Thomas H. Kean and Lee H. Hamilton, former Chair and Vice Chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) today released the following statement:

Sixteen months ago, we joined with our fellow former Commissioners to create an unusual entity, the 9/11 Public Discourse Project, to educate the American people about the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and the continuing need for reform.

Today the Public Discourse Project officially ceases operations. Its accomplishments over the past 16 months, with a small staff and limited funding, have been significant. We held numerous public panels, and issued several detailed reports assessing the implementation of 9/11 Commission recommendations. We monitored the passage of historic intelligence reform and testified before numerous committees of the Congress. Finally, we appeared at over 500 speaking and educational events in 36 states. We thank our funders, the America Prepared Campaign, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Drexel Family Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Smith Richardson Foundation, for making this unique endeavor possible. We thank our fellow Commissioners and Public Discourse Project board members for their extraordinary public service. We thank our dedicated and remarkable staff, ably led by Chris Kojm. And we thank the families of the victims of 9/11, who helped and inspired our work.

Three years ago, we were assigned to tell the story of September 11, 2001, and make recommendations to prevent and prepare for future attacks. We felt the weight of that heartbreaking day from the beginning. It drove us to create the Public Discourse Project and to issue its reports, with the goal of driving needed reforms.

We hope the Public Discourse Project has upheld that responsibility. We hope the American people remain engaged in pressing their government for reform. Finally, we hope our leaders heed the lessons of 9/11, and act swiftly to ensure that it never happens again.

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