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To NYC-DR@LISTSERVER.JJAY.CUNY.EDU

Cc

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Subject NYC Mediator Resolved WTC Libeskind/Silverstein Dispute

To all: In case you missed this Newsday article on Oct 7, I wanted to share that Simeon Baum served as the court-appointed mediator in the World Trade Center dispute between Silverstein and Libeskind. Best, Maria

WTC SITE

Developer, planner settle flap Libeskind to receive \$370G to end dispute with Silverstein, an amount much less than he had requested

BY ERROL A. COCKFIELD JR.; STAFF WRITER

October 7, 2004

World Trade Center developer Larry Silverstein and the site's master planner, architect Daniel Libeskind, yesterday announced the resolution of a pay dispute that had tainted the summer launch of rebuilding at Ground Zero.

Silverstein, who is now constructing the 1,776-foot Freedom Tower, one of five towers planned for the site, agreed to pay Libeskind \$370,000 for his work on the new skyscraper.

The number both men settled upon fell impressively short of the \$843,750 Libeskind had requested in January. That figure stunned executives at Silverstein's firm, Silverstein Properties, because Libeskind could provide no time records to substantiate the bill.

Libeskind, the Polish-born architectural celebrity known for his perennial uniform of black clothes, dismissed the call to itemize the work of his company, Studio Daniel Libeskind, as an insult and he even termed his price tag a "genius" fee.

Executives at Silverstein Properties noted, however, that Libeskind had produced supporting materials for the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. and the Port Authority, two agencies whose hands are deep in the rebuilding.

The settlement came just days before an Oct. 14 court date when both sides were scheduled to meet in State Supreme Court in Manhattan. Instead, at the order of Justice Karla Moskowitz, they explored compromise through court-appointed mediator Simeon H. Baum and succeeded.

Both sides said yesterday that under the settlement they had agreed to no longer comment on the squabble. Instead they issued a joint statement that featured forward-looking words about the rebuilding.

For his part, Silverstein, who later this month will resume his battle with insurers over his claim that he should receive two payouts for the fallen Twin Towers, said, "I am pleased that the mediation has produced a resolution to this dispute and that both of us again can focus completely on the redevelopment of the World Trade Center."

Libeskind echoed Silverstein's tone with equal cordiality. He said, "I am pleased that we have put these issues behind us so that we can move forward without distraction on the critical tasks ahead, which are so vital to our city and our nation."

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