

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
#12-17

**NEW YORK CITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HONORS UPPER WEST SIDE
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) FOR TEN YEARS OF
VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Mayoral proclamation declares March 1, 2017 Upper West Side CERT day

March 2, 2017 – The NYC Emergency Management Department honored the Upper West Side Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) on Wednesday evening for ten years of volunteer service in their community. NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito, on behalf of Mayor Bill de Blasio, presented the team with a mayoral proclamation naming March 1, 2017, *Upper West Side CERT Day* in New York City. The Upper West Side CERT team is led by Team Chief Sheldon Fine and is sponsored by Manhattan Community Board 7. The team covers Manhattan’s west side from West 59th Street to West 110th Street, and Central Park to Riverside Drive.

“For ten years the Upper West Side CERT team has shown exemplary leadership and dedication when called to assist first responders during emergencies,” said **Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**. “I thank them for their service today and look forward to working with Upper West Side CERT for many years to come.”

The Upper West Side CERT celebrated its tenth anniversary with an event at the American Museum of Natural History on Wednesday evening. WABC-TV news anchor Bill Ritter emceed the event. Since its inception in 2007, the Upper West Side CERT has responded to major emergencies throughout the City including: the East Village and East Harlem gas explosions, the Ebola scare, and Super Storm Sandy. Members of the team also deployed to Haiti in 2010 to assist in earthquake recovery efforts.

The Upper West Side CERT team is made up of twenty-seven west side residents. Each member completed a 10-week training program in disaster preparedness and basic emergency response skills that included lessons in fire safety, search and rescue, traffic management, first aid and triage. Managed by NYC Emergency Management the New York City CERT started in 2003 with 106 volunteers, today the program has over 1,300 certified members and over fifty teams throughout the City. CERTs support their local communities by assisting City agencies that prepare for and respond to emergencies.

For more information about the CERT program, or if you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, call 311 or visit nyc.gov/cert.

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