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**PREPARED STATEMENT OF TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS & OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

MAY 3, 2007

Good morning Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Sensenbrenner and members of the committee. My name is Jonathan Duecker and I am the Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) Counterterrorism Bureau (CTB). I was previously the Director of the Office of Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am pleased to be here today and I thank you for this opportunity to address your committee on a matter that is vital to the health and welfare of, not only the State and City of New York, but our Nation.

When Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly took office in January of 2002, the pyre on the grounds of the World Trade Center was still burning. He made it his personal mission that New York City never fall victim to such a calamity again. Commissioner Kelly's leadership and vision was the nascence of the NYPD Counterterrorism Bureau. The mission: make New York City inhospitable to terrorists, and to their sympathizers, their supporters, and their facilitators.

Fortunately, the NYPD has thwarted more than one plot against New York City since September 11, 2001. One widely reported success was the investigation, arrests and convictions of terrorists planning to blow up the Herald Square subway station two weeks before the Republican National Nominating Convention. In addition, the NYPD's robust deterrence and counter-surveillance program has proved its success, confirmed by Khaled Sheik Mohammed himself, who cited NYPD deployments as the reason that an Ohio truck driver, Lyman

Farris, presently serving a prison sentence for his role in the plot to demolish the Brooklyn Bridge, decided that he could not carry out the plot.

In New York City, we are combating terrorism aggressively. We acknowledge and welcome the synergy that comes with joining state, regional and federal partners, all of whom bring resources and expertise to the fight. Over the past few years, our relationship with the Department of Homeland Security has matured. I can say that, despite differences that crop up from time to time, the level of cooperation we presently enjoy has never been better. It is in this spirit of cooperation and collaboration that I ask you today to ensure that critical federal resources are neither squandered nor withdrawn. I am talking about the yeoman's work taking place at the Environmental Measurements Laboratory (EML) located in Manhattan.

The EML has distinguished roots, dating back to the Manhattan Project. It enjoys a renowned reputation as the subject matter expert in all things nuclear and radiological, from protection to testing to measurement and assessment. Although EML moved organizationally from under the direction of the Atomic Energy Commission to the Department of Energy and then to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), it never left its home in New York City.

The NYPD has found EML to be a responsive neighbor and partner. A few years ago, when we determined that we needed to purchase small, portable but

reliable radiation detectors, we asked our federal colleagues to recommend a laboratory capable of testing the products then available on the market. We were told that we would have to travel across the country to the Northwest, where testing would consume a year's time. The EML stepped up and performed the testing for us in a few weeks and made recommendations that work for us to this day. As a result, the NYPD has acquired approximately 700 hand-held gamma monitors and 120 gamma neutron detectors to detect potential radiological weapons of mass destruction. They have been deployed throughout the Department and are in daily use throughout Manhattan and access points to the city. In addition, advanced gamma detectors and Geiger counters have been assigned to specialized units such as the Emergency Service Unit and the Bomb Squad. The Department continues to seek out and acquire new technologies to aid us in the war on terror. In the future, we plan to procure additional nuclear, biological, and chemical detection and monitoring devices. EML has been instrumental in helping us make wise choices from among available products.

Now, however, the importance of keeping a vibrant EML in New York City is more important than ever. Secretary Chertoff announced last year that the Securing the Cities (STC) initiative would be inaugurated in New York City. Under STC, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) at DHS has been tasked with developing and implementing the deployment of a system to detect the introduction of nuclear material into our cities for illicit purposes. The EML plays a pivotal role in STC-NY, providing technical and management roles.

The Acting Director of EML, Adam Hutter, has served as the key liaison between DHS and the myriad groups of federal, state, and local partners that comprise the STC partners. He has served as a mentor to jump-start initiative activities and has been a key advisor on technical details regarding the acquisition, evaluation and operation of radiological detection equipment and he has provided critical guidance to the operational exercise activities currently underway in support of initiative goals. Without Director Hutter's guidance and assistance from his laboratory, the STC goals of creating a formidable, in-depth defense of the New York region from radiological or nuclear attack would be severely degraded.

In fact, EML stood next to New York City in our early efforts to establish a defense of the city through the successful Regional Radiological Pilot Project. That program yielded significant research and funding which led to the fielding of discrete radiological detection equipment currently used to locate and identify hostile radiological source material.

Clearly, EML's works in the New York region have been tremendously successful and have provided a substantial capability for federal, state, and local agencies to join in a coordinated defense against the terrorist threat of a radiological or nuclear attack against the New York region. In fact, more assistance from EML would be welcome and would help consolidate the initial success achieved through programs such as Securing the Cities. The outcome of that program will result in a significant increase in the numbers of detection equipment deployed

by STC partners, equipment which will need precision calibration and support. Also, private industry is rising to the challenge to enhance the sensitivity and capabilities of radiological detection equipment and we look to EML to provide further guidance on acquisition, evaluation, and operational deployment on technologies yet to be identified. The question is not whether EML has been a success in answering the threat posed by international terrorism; the question is whether EML stands ready to expand its efforts going forward.

The success of STC-NY is important to the country – it is expected to be the model for implementing similar initiatives throughout the country.

I would be delighted to answer any questions you may have.