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**A MESSAGE FROM BJA DIRECTOR JON ADLER  
PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS AND 9/11 EXPOSURE CLAIMS  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2018**

In April 2016, the Bureau of Justice Assistance announced the initiation of a protocol for determining Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) claims submitted for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders whose deaths and disabilities were linked to exposure from their heroic rescue, recovery, and clean up efforts on September 11, 2001, and the days, weeks, and months that followed.

Through the dedicated efforts of the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP), following the enactment of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, the WTCHP developed a methodology to determine whether exposure to hazards and toxins resulting from the attacks was substantially likely to have been a significant factor in aggravating, contributing to, or causing many serious medical conditions suffered by the nation's public safety officers who responded to the sites. This methodology is also used by the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF).

BJA's 9/11 exposure claim protocol relies in part on the WTCHP and VCF eligibility rulings to determine PSOB 9/11 claims. Since January 2017, 85 PSOB death claims and 17 PSOB disability claims have been determined. And as BJA is required by law to offset its 9/11 payments with any VCF award, BJA remains in close communication with the VCF regarding its rulings and awards.

In May 2018, new PSOB regulations were published to establish, among other things, additional efficiencies when determining these claims. By regulation, the PSOB Program can now, through its own medical examiners, apply the WTCHP methodology to PSOB's pending 9/11 claims without waiting on a WTCHP or VCF ruling. These collective efforts will help to ensure that America's 9/11 public safety heroes and their families receive accurate and timely decisions regarding their PSOB benefits.

For more information regarding PSOB 9/11 exposure claims or the PSOB Program, please call the PSOB Office at 1-888-744-6513 or visit [www.psob.gov](http://www.psob.gov).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Adler".

Jon Adler  
Director  
Bureau of Justice Assistance