

Piece of World Trade Center coming to Lemon Grove

BY KAREN PEARLMAN

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LEMON GROVE --- Damaged steel from the World Trade Center that was destroyed by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001, will soon be displayed at Lemon Grove fire headquarters.

The Lemon Grove City Council on Tuesday ratified an agreement between the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the city's fire department to get the twisted wreckage.

The Port Authority has received more than 900,000 requests for pieces of the buildings since it started offering them in 2009.

Lemon Grove's piece is expected to be between 2 and 3 feet long and weigh about 150 pounds.

No official date has been set for its arrival. Lemon Grove Fire Fighters, Local 2728 of the International Association of Fire Fighters has offered to pay the shipping costs.

The department hopes to display the piece at the Central Avenue fire station lobby by the end of this year, Deputy Fire Chief Tim Smith said.

City Councilman George Gastil said he was looking forward to having the damaged steel available for children who visit the fire station during school field trips.

"It's wonderful for kids to go see it, when they go to the fire station, in context of seeing how it relates to our firefighters and the work that they do," Gastil said.

Many local firefighters were sent to New York to help in the search and rescue effort after the attacks.

"For me, personally, removing firefighters from the debris was the most emotional part of being back there," said Heartland Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Mike Scott, who was part of an Urban Search and Rescue Task Force sent to Manhattan. "The fire service was significantly impacted with a couple of thousand people being killed, but the fire department also felt connected to the event since 343 firefighters died. Such a large loss of life. It's a big deal to us for many reasons."

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