

THE REAL DEAL

Park51 Developer Still Does Not Have Funds to Build Community Center

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Following a huge legal victory for Park51, the Islamic community center near Ground Zero, attorney **Adam Leitman Bailey** appeared on Fox News to talk construction costs. The attorney, who defended Park 51 developer Sharif El-Gamal against a lawsuit from former New York City firefighter Timothy Brown, said the developer still does not have the money to build the mosque. “Knocking it down doesn’t cost a lot of money,” he said of the demolition of the former Burlington coat factory at the site, “but building it does.”

Bailey said architects anticipate construction will cost around \$17 million, but political commentator Bill O’Reilly argued that figure was much too low.

O’Reilly continued to criticize **Bailey** and the Park51 developers, calling them insensitive to the families of Sept. 11 victims. “I don’t believe there’s a construction crew in New York or New Jersey that will come over and help you build it,” he said.

Last month, a Manhattan judge dismissed a lawsuit by Brown who was trying to halt the construction of the community center. Brown had tried to overturn a decision by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to deny landmark status to a 150-year-old building on the Park Place site.