

Borough Based Jails - Brooklyn Detention Center

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion of the proposed plan for the location of the Brooklyn Detention Center in Boerum Hill.

I agree with Council Member Steve Levin that maybe a better location could be looked into and that we shouldn't be building a bigger system than is anticipated. I don't think it should dominate the area and have serious consequences for those living in that area.

I do support criminal justice reform and closing Riker's Island and the Barge, as well as the plan for several proposals to implement the reforms fundamental for any successful recidivism prevention.

An acceptable far has been proposed to be 8 - 10 instead of the current 17 with a bed capacity of 800.

Respectfully,
Joan Weihe
<wejm042001@yahoo.com>

Mayor's Borough-Based Jails Plan

Dear Council Member Chin,

My name is Diane Stein, a constituent who lives in Independence Plaza. I urge you to vote NO to the Mayor's Borough-Based Jails Plan. I support closing the jail at Rikers Island but do not believe the Mayor's plan to build four large jails is well thought out, nor do I believe it will make our city safer. The \$11 billion that would be used to build these new jails should be used instead for social services, schools, affordable housing, hospitals, and senior services, particularly in under-served areas. Such services would enhance people's quality of life and reduce the need for incarceration.

I appreciate all the work you have done on behalf of the tenants of Independence Plaza and the IPN Senior Center. I hope you will vote NO to the Mayor's plan.

Regards,
Diane Stein
40 Harrison Street
New York, NY 10013
littlediane123@yahoo.com

borough based jails

My name is Patty Ko, and I am a 50 year resident of Manhattan's Chinatown. I am opposed to the massive borough based jails and particularly the expansion of the White Street jail for many reasons.

1. Significantly, the outrageous proposed cost of \$8.7 billion (which was originally claimed to be \$5 billion) for the massive new jails, which will be financed by issuance of bonds to then be paid by New Yorkers. At a time when NYC is losing an increasing number of residents who cannot handle one of the highest tax rates in the country, while also losing the federal deduction for those extremely high NY State, local and real estate taxes, it is the height of folly to impose yet further tax burdens on the already overburdened. I know, because although I am fortunate to earn an upper middle class salary, continued payment of escalating high taxes is quickly becoming intolerable. Finally, given the current financial condition of the city, with multiple billion dollars projects to fix an aged infrastructure such as the subway and the water mains, an overburdened electorate will vote with their feet. How about fixing the mentally ill homeless situation, which has gotten out of hand and dangerous for both the mentally ill and NYC residents. How about spending the billions of dollars on housing and services for the poor and homeless so that they don't end up in jails for petty crimes?!

2. The claim that the new jails are being built so that prisoners can be near the court and their families is based upon false assumptions. A defendant's court case is held in the borough in which he/she committed the crime, i.e., jurisdiction. The proposed number of cells in each borough is NOT based upon the expected number of defendants who commit crimes in their respective boroughs, but rather on an arbitrary figure. What will happen when twice as many defendants commit crimes in Queens than in Brooklyn? The defendants will then be held in whatever jail has space for them, raising the same exact problem that the proposed jails were supposed to fix, i.e., significant distance and logistics in transferring defendants to the court in the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred. No study has been conducted to address this fundamental point/issue.

3. Moreover, again the assumption that defendants' families live in the same borough in which their family members commits their crimes is unsupported and incorrect. Many crimes are crimes of opportunity, and are committed wherever that opportunity presents itself, not just the borough in which one lives. So defendants will be held in boroughs far from their families' home boroughs regardless.

4. The proposed jail is simply too enormous for the neighborhood. Why can't we have community based jails, not just borough based jails? Each will be smaller and more manageable and less likely to become uncontrollable corrupt institutions. Isn't it enough that the courthouses, both county and federal, which are in the same area are already some of the largest structures in the neighborhood? The new jail will be the largest structure for many blocks. Why pound down a neighborhood that already suffered from

decreased business post-911? The park one block away is used by everyone and is lovely. What is the purpose of building an enormous out of place structure in this area?

5. Safety and traffic. The city is currently conducting a multi-year, if not decades long, construction project to replace a century old water main down Worth Street. Traffic has been snarled for years already. Must we add more traffic and construction pits to this very narrow sidewalks and streets area? For what purpose? To build a jail that won't even satisfy the purpose for which they are built, allegedly so defendants can be close to the courthouse and their families? I object to the use of false assumptions to support wasting \$8.7 billion of taxpayer money.

6. Toxic dust. Need I say more?!?!? Will the city put aside the tens of millions of dollars to cover the lawsuits from sickened residents?!?! The federal government is still paying out on 9-11 toxic dust victims.

7. In addition, as a survivor of Hurricane Sandy, what are the city's plans to evacuate this high rise jail should an emergency occur? There was a fundamental claim that Riker's Island would not be safe should the hurricane hit NYC. It turns out that Riker's sustained little damage. The same could not be said for the Chinatown area, which lost power and water for several weeks after the hurricane, as well as serious water damage from the surging river. So, this is not a hypothetical question, but rather a very reasonable one - how is the city planning on safely evacuating prisoners from a high rise jail, without endangering the residents who also live in the area?

8. The issue is not Rikers, the issue is the abusive personnel. It is incredibly silly and a waste of time and money to think that transferring those exact same personnel to new buildings will solve the abuse issues.

Many questions remain about the cost and safety of building high rise jails. No answers have been given. I object to the sinking of tax dollars into an unsustainable future. The money would be better used to build more affordable housing, educational opportunities for pre-schoolers, services for the poor, mental health services and drug rehabilitation services.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Patty Ko

<kops12000@yahoo.com>



September 25, 2019

Margaret Chin
City Council Representative for Manhattan District 1
101 Lafayette St, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Re: Testimony on the Borough-Based Jails – Manhattan

Dear Council Member Chin,

This testimony on the Manhattan Borough-Based Jail is submitted on behalf of the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (NYU CSAAH), a National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) funded National Research Center of Excellence based at NYU School of Medicine.

We are limiting ourselves to one comment: **the impact of long-term demolition, construction and possible relocation on the health of older adults in Chinatown should be taken into consideration when coming to a decision on the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) and plan for the borough-based jail in Manhattan.**

On June 21, 2019, NYU CSAAH convened a meeting of interdisciplinary experts and Chinatown-based community stakeholders focused on reviewing the evidence-based, peer-reviewed scientific research of the impact of long-term demolition and construction on the health of older adults in New York City (NYC). The conclusions of the meeting are summarized in the report “*The Long-Term Impact of Construction on the Health of Older Adults in New York City’s Chinatown*” (attached).

In summary, long-term construction is associated with the following environmental and social consequences that may have greater negative impacts on vulnerable and underrepresented populations, such as Asian American older adults:

- Increases in exposure to **particulate matter** released from construction sites, can not only worsen co-morbidities, including cardiovascular and respiratory disease, but also result in hospitalizations, acute disease episodes, and/or death. Nearly 3 in 4 deaths attributed to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) exposure are among individuals 65 and older in NYC.^{1,2,3}
- Exposure to **unwanted noise** can exacerbate hearing loss, and elicit a fight-or-flight stress response among humans, leading to the elevated release of stress hormones – an action that is associated with increased blood pressure, cholesterol, and heart rate. Long-term exposure to noise is shown to increase a person’s risk for hypertension, sleep disturbances, and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases.^{4,5,6}
- Construction disrupts aspects of the **physical and social environment** that contribute to healthy aging. Unsafe sidewalk conditions may increase the risk of falling; falls are the

- leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations and death among older adults living in NYC.⁷ Fear of falling may force older adults into social isolation, limiting their physical activity and access to vital services, routines and spaces associated with healthy aging.^{8,9}
- Compulsory **relocation** can threaten an older adult's sense of control and comfort, disrupt social networks, and impede their ability to access affordable goods, necessary services and resources. Involuntary relocation and displacement, especially in later life, are well-known predictors of depression, anxiety and deterioration in mental health.^{10,11}

Additionally, this report reviews promising evidence-based best practices for mitigating the harmful health impact of long-term construction through the lens of a largely foreign-born, limited English-speaking community with complex health and social support needs who may be wary of interfacing with mainstream agencies and resources. They include:

1. **Engaging Community Members as Stakeholders throughout the Construction Process:** Community forums, focus groups, interviews of listening sessions could be ways to gather community input and allow community members to offer feedback, suggestions and concerns regarding the impact of construction activity in their neighborhoods.
2. **Creating an Independent Command Center for Construction-Related Activities:** This center, modeled after the highly successful Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC), could coordinate all construction-related activities and serve as a resource accessible for all community members. In order for services to be accessible by all residents, command center staff should be equipped with language skills specific to the community, and services should be culturally-tailored to meet resident needs.
3. **Increasing Monitoring of Environmental Hazards related to Construction:** Routine monitoring and strengthened protocols would ensure that existing provisions to mitigate environmental hazards would be enforced. Third-party monitoring may also help to guarantee accountability.
4. **Prioritizing and Adopting Strategies for Healthy Aging:** The preservation of familiar community environments is critical in maintaining key healthy aging factors such as access to health and social services, culturally-desirable food sources, and the ability to remain physically active and maintain social relationships. Additional healthy aging factors to consider include: neighborhood walkability; improved and expanded transportation services; preservation of community spaces, social services, and local businesses; and emergency relocation and resilience training.
5. **Adapting Benchmarks Related to ULURP Approval:** The benchmarks used to develop the environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the ULURP should be adjusted for projects planned in neighborhoods containing populations most vulnerable to harmful effects of major construction, such as older adults. Standards deemed acceptable for the general population may not adequately protect the elderly. Additionally, the city should consider how the social, economic, and environmental impacts from construction affect the entire neighborhood.



Scientific research has identified the significant influence that long-term demolition, construction and possible relocation may have in undermining and negatively affecting the health of older adults in NYC's Chinatown communities, a vulnerable population. As a global leader in the Age-Friendly Cities movement, NYC has invested significantly in innovative programs and supports for older New Yorkers. We hope that your office will strongly consider these evidence-based research findings and mitigation strategies in consideration of the ULURP and plan for the borough-based jail.

Sincerely,

Simona C. Kwon, DrPH, MPH
Director, Center for the Study of Asian American Health
Associate Professor, Department of Population Health
NYU School of Medicine

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The Long-Term Impact of Construction on the Health of Older Adults in New York City's Chinatown



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Foreword

In an ever changing city such as New York, older buildings are torn down only to be replaced by taller ones. There are now towers that exceed the 984-foot limit dividing the mere skyscraper from the “supertall.” Experts are predicting that there could be at least one mile-high skyscraper by 2050. Imagine all the resources required to construct a building a mile high – the millions of cubic feet of cement, the thousands of steel beams and the countless wires cables and piping. We must also consider how these materials get to the site, and how debris is removed to landfills offsite by thousands of diesel-powered trucks, in an endless caravan that often goes on for years. Imagine also the years of demolition and construction, the noise and dust, and the interruptions in power and water. This all happens within the confines of crowded, narrow streets, flanked by small businesses, daycare centers, senior residences, schools and playgrounds. We may not have to consider a building a mile high just yet, but there are buildings that are well in excess of a thousand feet high today, and more being planned.

In dense, urban environments such as Manhattan’s Chinatown, the impact of regular construction on residents living in close proximity is already exacerbated. Long-term construction from large projects lengthens the period in which residents have to endure the noise, air pollution, traffic, sidewalk detours, disruption in services, stress and potential relocation (planned or otherwise) arising from construction. Yet very little is known about the impact of long-term construction on vulnerable populations such as the elderly. Many seniors in Chinatown live in low-income housing or attend senior centers next to development sites and cannot escape the constant construction, hence threatening their health and well-being.

This report calls attention to the health impacts of long-term construction on older adults in Manhattan’s Chinatown and the Lower East Side, and reviews them through the lens of a largely foreign-born, non-English speaking community who may be wary of interfacing with mainstream agencies and resources. The report also summarizes promising, evidence-based approaches to mitigate the health impact of long-term construction on older adults who may have complex health and social support needs. We strongly urge City representatives, private developers, and community-based organizations to take the issues and strategies highlighted in this report into consideration, so that older New Yorkers can receive the support and resources that they need in order to age in place and thrive in their homes and communities.



Isabel Ching
Executive Director
Hamilton-Madison House



Jan Lee
Chair
The Chinatown Core Block Association

Executive Summary

Various long-term development projects are expected to break ground in Manhattan Chinatown and the Lower East Side. Our objective for this report is to present a review of the scientific published literature on the environmental and psychosocial health impacts of long-term construction on the quality of life and well-being of older adults. This report has been prepared in collaboration with community organizations and leaders to understand the potential health impact of years-long construction and to identify potential mitigation strategies.

Thirty-nine percent of the population in Manhattan Chinatown and the Lower East Side identify as Asian.¹ Nearly 1 in 5 residents in these neighborhoods are over the age of 65.¹ Among the older adult population, nearly 33% live below the federal poverty level², 47% live with a disability³, and 37% experience ambulatory difficulties.³ Long-term construction is associated with the following environmental and social consequences that may yield a greater negative impact on vulnerable and underrepresented populations, such as Asian American older adults:

- Increases in exposure to particulate matter released from construction sites, even in the short-term, can not only worsen co-morbidities, including cardiovascular and respiratory disease, but also result in hospitalizations, acute disease episodes, and/or death.^{4,5}
- Asian Americans residing in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic are exposed to 75% more fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) compared to white residents in these same regions.⁶
- Nearly 3 in 4 deaths attributed to PM_{2.5} exposure are among individuals 65 and older in New York City (NYC).⁷
- Exposure to unwanted noise can exacerbate hearing loss, and elicit a fight-or-flight stress response among humans, leading to the elevated release of stress hormones – an action that is associated with increased blood pressure, cholesterol, and heart rate.⁸
- Long-term exposure to noise is shown to increase a person’s risk for hypertension⁹, sleep disturbances¹⁰, and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases.^{9,11}
- Unsafe sidewalk conditions may increase the risk of falling; falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations and death among older adults living in NYC.¹²
- Fear of falling may force older adults into reclusion, limiting their access to vital services associated with healthy aging.
- Compulsory relocation can threaten an older adult’s sense of control and comfort, disrupt social networks, and impede their ability to access affordable goods, necessary services and resources.^{13,14}

Strategies for Mitigation

This report highlights several evidence-informed best practices for mitigating the harmful health impacts of long-term construction. These include:

1. **Engaging Community Members as Stakeholders throughout the Construction Process:** The creation of participatory spaces for community members to offer feedback, suggestions, and concerns regarding the impact of construction activity in their neighborhoods could accomplish this community engagement. These participatory spaces may take the shape of community

forums, focus groups, interviews, or listening sessions as a way to gather community input and identify resources to mitigate any construction-related health impacts.

2. **Creating an Independent Command Center for Construction-Related Activities:** This center could coordinate all construction-related activities and serve as a resource accessible for all community members. In order for services to be accessible by all residents, command center staff should be equipped with language skills specific to the community. The services offered should be culturally-tailored to fit the needs of the residents.
3. **Increasing Monitoring of Environmental Hazards related to Construction:** Routine monitoring and strengthened protocols would ensure that existing provisions to mitigate environmental hazards such as air and noise pollution would be enforced. Third-party monitoring may also help to guarantee that companies remain accountable for their actions and involvement in development projects and certify that construction sites remain compliant with city codes and regulations.
4. **Prioritizing and Adopt Strategies for Healthy Aging:** The preservation of familiar community environments is critical in maintaining key healthy aging factors such as access to health and social services, food sources, and the ability to remain physically active and maintain social relationships. Additional healthy aging factors to consider include: neighborhood walkability; improved and expanded transportation services; preservation of community spaces, social services, and local businesses; and emergency relocation and resilience training.
5. **Adapting Benchmarks related to Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) Approval:** The benchmarks used to develop the environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the ULURP approval should be adjusted for projects planned in neighborhoods containing populations most vulnerable to the harmful effects of major construction, such as older adults. Additionally, the city should consider how the social, economic, and environmental impacts from construction influence the entire neighborhood, compared to only the areas adjacent to construction.

Introduction

Several long-term development projects are expected to break ground in Manhattan Chinatown and the Lower East Side. These projects pose serious potential health risks for older adults residing in close proximity. Long-term construction has been shown to increase the amount of air and noise pollution in areas surrounding the work site. Construction also disrupts a person's connectedness to their physical and social environment, which are key aspects of healthy aging. Designated by the World Health Organization as the first Age-Friendly City in 2010, New York City has made extraordinary progress in making the city a better place to grow old by promoting an 'age-in-everything' lens across all aspects of city life. Our objective for this report is to present a review of the scientific published literature on the environmental and psychosocial health impacts of long-term construction on the quality of life and well-being of older adults. This report has been prepared in collaboration with community organizations and leaders to understand the potential health impact of years-long construction and to identify potential evidence-based mitigation strategies for government decision-makers at all levels, community-based organizations, and the private sector in order to ensure that older New Yorkers are able to age with comfort and dignity in their communities.

Background

Manhattan Chinatown and the Lower East Side Demographics: Manhattan Chinatown and the Lower East Side are two neighborhoods primarily situated in Community District 3 (CD3) in the Manhattan borough of New York City (shown in Figure 1), however areas of Manhattan Chinatown extend into Community District 1 and Community District 2. Community District 3 is roughly 1.7 square miles and has a population of over 160,000 residents.^{2, 15} Thirty-nine percent of the population in this locality identify as Asian,³ a rate nearly four times higher than that of New York State.² Of this population, 90% report being of Chinese descent.¹ Over one-third of residents (36%) in CB3 identify as foreign-born, with 69% of this group immigrating to the United States from an Asian country.² Furthermore, nearly 32% of adults in this neighborhood speak an Asian language at home.²

The Lower East Side and Chinatown neighborhoods are the third highest gentrifying districts in Manhattan, as seen through a 26.6% rent increase from 2010 to 2014.¹⁶ Despite this increase in rent, over half of all households report making less than \$50,000 annually.² In fact, 1 in 4 people in CD3 live below the poverty line, a rate nearly double that of the state of New York.² Over 30,000 residents in the Lower East Side and Chinatown reside in public housing¹⁷ and nearly 27% of all public housing units in Manhattan are located in these neighborhoods.¹⁸



Figure 1: Community District 3. Chinatown and the Lower East Side make up Community District 3 in Manhattan, New York. It is bounded by 14th Street to the north, Bowery Street to the east, and the East River along its southwest border.¹⁹

Older Asian American Adults in Chinatown and the Lower East Side: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing segment of the senior population in New York City²⁰ (see Figure 2). Within Manhattan Chinatown and the Lower East Side, nearly 1 in 5 residents are over the age of 65.¹ Of these senior citizens, nearly 33% live below the federal poverty level², 47% live with a disability³, and 37% experience ambulatory difficulties.³ Many Asian American seniors rely on social service organizations to meet social, nutritional, and informational needs.¹⁹ CB3 houses 37 culturally sensitive senior centers that fit the needs of the members of the older adults residing in those neighborhoods.³

Race/Ethnic Profile	2000 Census	2016 ACS	% Change 2000-2016
White (Non-Hispanic)	533,982	489,585	-8.31%
Black	185,088	274,210	48.15%
Hispanic	138,840	248,466	78.96%
Asian/Pacific Islanders	59,056	145,973	147.18%
All Minorities	382,984	668,649	74.59%

Figure 2: Older adults in New York City. Among all older adults age 65 and over in New York City, the number of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders older adults has seen a 147% increase from 2000 to 2016.²¹

Health Outcomes of Long-Term Construction

Long-term construction plans and preparations should consider the impact of several key environmental factors on acute and prolonged community and individual health outcomes that result from such development. As the magnitude of the project increases, the timeline needed to complete construction will also be extended, leading to greater emission of environmental pollutants. Several environmental hazards associated with construction are detailed below.

Air Quality

Air pollution is a leading environmental health concern for people living in urban settings⁷, where air pollutants are most commonly produced through vehicular and industrial site emission.²² Particulate matter (PM) refers to all air pollutant particles suspended in the air and are typically classified by two sizes: PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. PM_{2.5} refers to fine particles that can penetrate deep within airways, adversely affecting both respiratory and cardiovascular system functions. PM_{2.5} can be emitted from combustion, power plant emissions, vehicle exhaust, and construction activities. The particulate matter output released into the air from construction processes is directly breathable not only by those in direct contact with the construction, but also to individuals who are regularly exposed to construction because they reside or frequent the vicinity. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) estimates that nearly 3,000 deaths in NYC are attributed to PM_{2.5} pollution.⁷

Older adults are highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of particulate air pollution⁴; preexisting cardiovascular or respiratory conditions and low socioeconomic status can further increase their susceptibility to negative PM-related health effects.²³ Adults older than 65 years old are 4.5 times more likely to be hospitalized for a cardiovascular event resulting from high PM_{2.5} exposure as compared to younger adults.⁷ A 2011 report from the New York City DOHMH asserted that nearly 3 in 4 deaths attributed to PM_{2.5} exposure were among individuals 65 and older in NYC.⁷ Exposure to particulate matter is also associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, elevated blood pressure, lung disease, asthma, and premature death⁴, as well as daily cardio-respiratory mortality and acute hospital admissions.⁵

PM_{2.5} emitted from vehicles that use fossil-based fuels indirectly affect minority communities; Latinx and Asian American residents residing in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic experience 75% and 73% more PM_{2.5} exposure respectively, compared to white residents (see Figure 3).⁶ Additionally, research shows that neighborhoods with high proportions of Asian American residents speaking a non-English language and Asians who are US-born are at high risk of the harmful effects of carcinogenic hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).²⁴ HAPs refer to all toxic particles that are known or expected to cause cancer²⁵; neighborhoods with higher proportions of Chinese, Korean, and South Asian residents are shown to have significantly higher cancer risk burdens compared to non-Hispanic white residents.²⁴

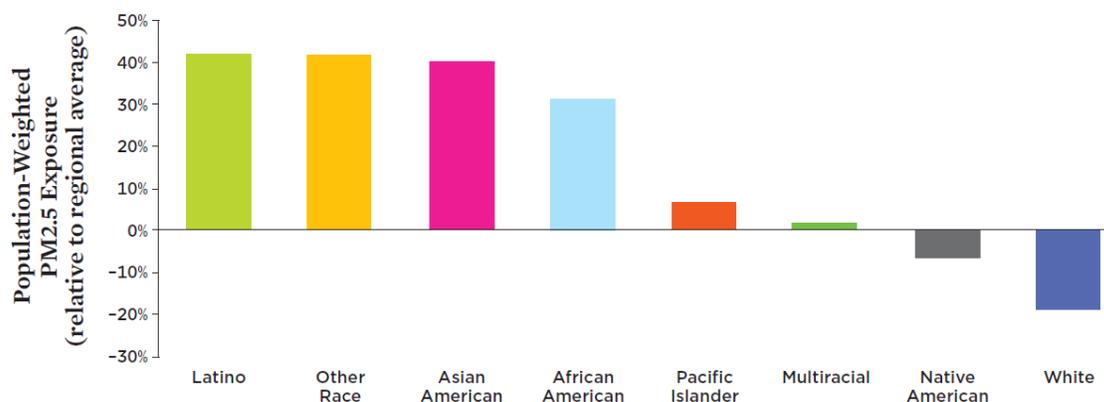


Figure 3: PM_{2.5} exposure in the Northwest and Mid-Atlantic. Latinx and Asian American residents are exposed to 42% and 40% more PM_{2.5} compared to an average resident; meanwhile, white residents are exposed to 19% less

PM_{2.5} compared to an average resident. Thus, Latinx and Asian American residents are exposed 75% and 73% more PM_{2.5} respectively, compared to white residents.⁶

Noise Pollution and Construction-Related Vibration

The use of heavy machinery, vehicles, and other tools often creates strong, recurrent noise. Exposure to noise is associated with significant health impacts—permanent hearing damage may occur with extended exposure to sound(s) exceeding 85 decibels²⁶; however, noise does not have to be loud in order to be harmful to health. Exposure to any noise for an extended period can affect a person’s quality of life and mental well-being, causing mood swings and diminished productivity, and inciting social conflict.^{27, 28} It has been hypothesized that exposure to noise elicits a fight-or-flight stress response among humans, leading to the elevated release of stress hormones, an action that is associated with increased blood pressure, cholesterol, and heart rate.⁸ Long-term exposure to noise has been shown to increase one’s risk for hypertension⁹, sleep disturbances¹⁰, and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases.^{9, 11} Noise is the number one complaint among residents in CB3³ and construction-related noise complaints are the second most reported noise complaint to 311 in Manhattan behind loud music and parties.²⁹ Older adults are at increased risk to noise pollution due to sensory changes that take place in the aging process. Individuals’ auditory perceptions change over time; as individuals age, their tolerance for loudness and high frequency noise decreases, and low frequency noise is magnified.³⁰

In addition to noise, construction projects generate physical vibrations at the ground site that may not only be disruptive, but which affect people who physically feel and absorb vibration into their bodies by being present near the site. Though there is limited research on the health impact of vibrations for residents living near major construction projects, construction activities such as demolition, pile driving, and the use of power tools have been shown to lead to negative health impacts among construction workers. Vibration-related effects are classified as whole body vibration (WBV) and hand-arm vibration (HAV), both of which are associated with poor health outcomes. Whole body vibration refer to vibration that is transmitted by the surface supporting one’s entire body, such as through a seat or the floor.³¹ Exposure to WBV can increase one’s risk for musculoskeletal disorders and cause and/or exacerbate lower back pain, motion sickness, bone damage, heart conditions, and poor balance.³¹ HAV has been shown to cause and/or exacerbate vibration white finger, carpal tunnel syndrome, sensory nerve damage, and muscle and joint damage.³¹ Prolonged exposure to vibration is positively associated with negative health outcomes.³² These construction-related vibrations are likely to affect non-construction-related individuals, such as local residents living in close proximity to the construction site—for example, home-dwelling older adult residents of adjacent housing complexes.

Health-Related Quality of Life

Construction disrupts aspects of the physical and social environment of the area at and surrounding the construction site. The effects of long-term construction projects may therefore negatively affect the health and well-being of older adults by reducing or altering the physical and social environments that contribute to a livable community.

Accessing Community Resources: Uneven sidewalks and footways combined with litter, roadside hazards, poor signage, and/or seasonal weather conditions, such as heavy rains, snow, and ice, may contribute to unsafe throughways and untenable walking conditions. Falls are the leading cause of

injury-related hospitalizations and death in older adults living in NYC.¹² Additionally, among oldest adults aged 85 and over, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have the highest rate of fall-related mortality in NYC.³³ Fear of falling may force older adults into reclusion and avoidance of venturing outdoors, reducing their levels of physical activity. Fear of falling may also isolate older adults from their loved ones and restrict their use of social services and senior centers. Older NYC residents who fell outdoors stated that unsafe sidewalk and street conditions increased their risk of falling.³⁴

Fall risk is a significant concern for urban-dwelling older adults as walking is the most common type of reported physical activity among older adults; 45% of older adults report walking as a leisure-time activity.³⁵ However, uneven surfaces, can increase the imminent dangers related to falling. In 2011, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the Complete Streets Act to mediate the risk of falling; the act imposed that road and sidewalk conditions must be made accessible for individuals of all ages and ability.³⁶

Major construction projects can alter familiar community environments for urban-dwelling older adults. In a focus group of older adults at New York City-based senior centers, participants explained that unsafe sidewalk conditions have prevented them from coming to the center, resulting in some older adults staying in their apartments, afraid to venture out. Older adults expressed dismay at missing the social contact and activities at their local senior center because of poor environmental conditions.³⁷ This has a significant health-related impact on the quality of life of older adults in NYC. Those who attend senior centers often have the lowest incomes, fewest resources, poorest health, greatest social isolation, and are in most need for services. Attendance and participation in activities at their local senior center has been shown to increase physical and mental health and reduce social isolation.³⁸

Construction may also disrupt Manhattan Chinatown's food economy, displacing numerous ethnic grocers in the area and impacting the food security of many residents who are reliant on the low-priced and culturally significant foods that these grocers carry. Chinatown's food system supplies an abundance of fresh and culturally appropriate fruits and vegetables year round³⁹ and accounts for 25% of the jobs in the area.⁴⁰ The displacement of these food sources by at least half a mile can negatively impact the food access and security of low-income neighborhoods, contributing to poor health outcomes.⁴¹ Coupled with construction-impacted walkways, older adults and other vulnerable populations could face added barriers to gaining access to nutritious foods.

Public Space and Green Space: Long-term construction may impede accessibility to public spaces. Urban green space refers to parks, fields, and all other open green land situated within an urban environment.⁴² Access to open space for physical activity has benefits not only for an older adult's physical health, but also for their psychological well-being.⁴³ Access to parks and green space is positively associated with achieving the recommended amount of physical activity among older adults⁴⁴ and may also help to reduce the prevalence of social isolation.⁴⁵ Green space also serves an additional physical function of mitigating the impact of pollutants in the air; neighborhood greenness is associated with lower personal exposure to PM_{2.5}⁴⁶ and PM₁₀.⁴⁷

Research also indicates that many older adults are prone to low levels of Vitamin D and may benefit from being outside in the sun. Home-dwelling older adults with low sun exposure were shown to have low serum Vitamin D deficiencies.⁴⁸ Healthy sun exposure has the possibility to increase Vitamin D levels, which is essential for bone health and may reduce the risk for high blood pressure, stroke, and heart attack in older adults.^{49,50} Vitamin D deficiency is also associated with an increased risk of

autoimmune diseases such as asthma, irritable bowel disorder, multiple sclerosis, and arthritis.⁵⁰ In addition to being a source of Vitamin D, healthy sun exposure is associated with improved attitude and increased energy.⁵¹ Older adults residing in urban environments where green space is already limited may be particularly vulnerable to reduced accessibility to public parks and similar green spaces because of construction projects.

Shadows can also negatively affect healthy sun exposure as large buildings may cast shadows that greatly influence the amount of sunlight in homes and green spaces, and on streets. Most neighborhoods in Manhattan on an average day are covered in shadows for at least half of all daylight hours⁵², limiting sunlight exposure for many residents. Currently, New York City has no restrictions on the amount of shadow over a location, though this is a concern of many residents and community members. In 2015, the Central Park Sunshine Task Force released a policy brief regarding the impact of shadows on the southern region of Central Park, urging for zoning changes to protect community access to areas of green space and sunlight.⁵³

Compulsory Relocation and Mental Health: Community members or residents adjacent to construction sites may be asked to relocate during the construction period to reduce their exposure to poor air quality, noise pollution, and unsafe physical environment changes. Compulsory relocation resulting from long-term construction projects may threaten an older adult's sense of control by weakening social networks and dictating tenable residence options. Being able to remain independent and age in a familiar place helps a person to sustain connections to their social environment, a crucial component of healthy aging.

Compulsory relocation may reduce an older adult's access to caregiving networks, leading to further social isolation.^{13, 14} Among individuals with dementia, involuntary relocation and displacement lead to greater accelerated cognitive decline.⁵⁴ Additionally, older adults forced to relocate from a long-term place of residence were more likely to pass away in the following year compared to older adults who were not asked to relocate.¹³

Relocation stress syndrome (RSS) is a condition characterized by feelings of loneliness, depression, anxiety, anger, and confusion. Risk of RSS can increase when relocation comes with little notice and uncertainty about where a person is being placed.⁵⁵ Lack of a relocation plan may lead to increased stress when asked to leave a long-term place of residence. For example, in 2009, the six-story tenement on 128 Hester Street in Manhattan Chinatown was demolished after it was damaged by the construction of the Wyndham Garden Chinatown Hotel next door. The tenants of 128 Hester Street, half of whom were older residents, were forced to evacuate their homes and did not have adequate time to collect their belongings or mentally prepare for this change. This involuntary evacuation caused some residents to lose their jobs, disrupted their access to social services, and rendered some residents homeless.⁵⁶

Strategies for Mitigation

This section highlights various strategies informed by evidence-based best practices to mitigate the health and social effects associated with long-term construction. These strategies were jointly identified by representatives and leaders from community organizations in Manhattan Chinatown and academic institutions throughout New York.

1. Engage Community Members as Stakeholders throughout the Construction Process

Create Spaces for Community Input: Community stakeholders should be engaged before, during and after the construction process through the creation of participatory spaces to offer feedback, suggestions, and concerns regarding the impact of construction activity in their neighborhoods. These spaces may take the shape of community forums, focus groups, key informant interviews, or listening sessions as a way to gather community input and identify resources to mitigate any construction-related health impacts. The comments and concerns posed by community members should be disseminated to relevant stakeholders and integrated into construction processes to ensure the safety of older residents and the preservation of their communities.

Provision of Mitigation Resources for Community Members: The provision of mitigation resources for community members during the period of construction may be effective in reducing the social-environmental impact of construction. These provisions may be identified during the community forums and listening sessions and would include items that community members deem as important in managing construction-related environmental hazards. Examples of resources that are effective in mitigating poor health outcomes at an individual level are listed below:

Air-conditioning units and HEPA filters

Air-conditioning units and HEPA filters are effective in reducing the impact and exposure of particulate matter in the home. Among older adults 65 and older, air-conditioning prevalence at home was associated with a lower prevalence of health effects due to particulate matter exposure.⁵⁷ Short-term use of low-cost air filtration systems and HEPA filters are effective in reducing PM_{2.5} exposure and lowering systolic blood pressure (SBP) among older adults living in US urban environments.⁵⁸

Hearing protection devices (HPDs)

Providing hearing protection devices (HPDs), such as ear plugs, to community members impacted by construction-related noise can be a cost-efficient method to reduce noise exposure.⁵⁹ Wearing ear plugs correctly has been shown to be effectively prevent temporary hearing loss when exposed to high amounts of recreational noise for a prolonged period of time.⁶⁰ In spite of these results, research indicates that older adults are significantly less likely to use HPDs though they understand the risk associated with prolonged noise exposure.⁶¹ Therefore, higher level mitigation strategies, such as noise mitigation at the source or along the path of transmission, may be more effective in reducing the health impacts of noise among this population. These strategies are addressed further below.

2. Creation of an Independent Command Center for Construction-Related Activities

Major construction projects may take several years to complete, thus establishing a temporary command center with on-site staff representatives to inform and provide easily accessible services to the residents of Manhattan Chinatown and the Lower East Side impacted by construction-related activities is needed. To ensure that services are accessible to and useable for residents, the command center staff should be equipped with language skills specific to the community and the services offered should be culturally-tailored to fit the needs of the residents. The command center, located close to the construction site, would carry out the following objectives throughout the entire construction phase:

- (1) To provide information regarding daily road closures and construction-related activities to avert construction-related traffic congestion and accidents
- (2) To delineate clear paths of travel for pedestrians and inform pedestrians of alternative routes not impacted by construction to protect their safety
- (3) To assist community members in accessing social and medical services, such as the nearest, open senior center or medical clinic
- (4) To respond to medical and construction-related emergencies in a timely manner
- (5) To inform members of the community of possible relocation due to structural failure related to construction activity
- (6) To educate and prepare community members for the possibility of relocation
- (7) To serve as a hotline for construction-related complaints and provide status updates regarding personal grievances

The command center could be modeled after the highly successful Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC). LMCCC was created in 2004 to work with public and private partners involved in various revitalization projects after the events on September 11, 2001. During its time of operation, LMCCC coordinated all construction activities that took place in Lower Manhattan from 2004 until 2013, working to ensure construction compliance and mitigating any and all construction-related conflicts related to traffic, rodent control, environmental protection, and residential safety.⁶² LMCCC managed over 22 million square feet of private and public construction projects south of Canal Street and held frequent meetings to coordinate all construction-related activities, ranging from managing day-to-day street closures to delivering construction materials to the correct site.

Involving community members and community-based organizations in the staffing and management of the proposed command center may garner community support for the development projects. LMCCC was created and sustained through federal, state, local, and private funds from the Federal Transit Administration, the Port Authority, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the state Department of Transportation, the City of New York, and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. Though LMCCC cost roughly \$17 million per year to operate, the command center was a cost effective program, saving the government and private contractors an estimated \$300 million dollars.⁶³

3. Increase Monitoring of Environmental Hazards related to Construction

On-Site Management of Construction-Related Environmental Hazards: There are existing provisions to reduce the amount of construction-related environmental hazards exposed to New York City residents. Mitigation strategies for air, noise, and vibration are listed below:

Air pollution mitigation

Wetting and securely covering construction materials are common strategies to prevent the spread of particulate matter into the air. According to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Section 1043 of the New York City Charter and Section 24-146 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, protections must be upheld to prevent the emission of dust from construction-related activities. Chapter 13 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York (RCNY) states that:

“Provision shall be made at every construction site to control the amount of airborne dust released off site from construction operations, by wetting the construction material as necessary with appropriate spraying agents, provided wetting will not damage utility infrastructure or create any safety hazard.” Furthermore, *“[t]rucks and other vehicles used to transport particulate matter shall be covered and any particulate matter kept on site shall be sufficiently wetted or stored to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne.”*⁶⁴

Municipal efforts to reduce PM_{2.5} levels present in the air by 10% has shown to prevent more than 300 premature deaths, 200 hospital admissions, and 600 emergency room visits each year.⁷

Noise mitigation

Noise pollution may be mitigated at the source, along the path of transmission, and at the receiver end. Applying noise reduction methods at the source is the most effective strategy in reducing or eliminating noise. Noise mitigation at the source is also the easiest to oversee at construction sites, allowing construction workers and planners greater control.⁶⁵ Strategies for source mitigation include: synchronizing the timing of noisy operations, insulating construction components to absorb noise, using modern equipment with better engine insulation and mufflers, and restricting the time duration in which high noise operations take place.⁶⁶ Using a muffler to insulate and absorb noise is effective in decreasing the intensity of noise by at least 10 decibels,⁶⁷ which is equivalent to a 50% reduction in sound.⁶⁸ Using less noisy equipment is one of the most effective ways to reduce noise pollution; electric compressors are shown to be much quieter to operate compared to gasoline or diesel-engine powered compressors.⁶⁹ Active noise control, also known as noise cancelling, is an effective noise mitigation strategy for reducing sound resulting from the use of loud construction equipment including earth augers, vibration rollers, dump trucks, and excavators; however, this method tends to be expensive to enact and is not recommended for all construction equipment.⁷⁰

For noise that cannot be controlled at the source, path control mitigation strategies may be an effective option. Sound barriers may provide a 10 to 20 decibel reduction through the absorption and reflection of sound waves.⁶⁶ To make the barrier more efficient at blocking noise, the physical height of the barrier should be greater than twice the distance from the source to the barrier⁷¹ and the barrier should be placed as close to the source of noise as possible.⁶⁶

Lastly, the effects of noise can be mitigated at the receiver end, namely to those individuals and communities who are directly impacted by construction-related noises. This could include providing hearing protection devices (HPDs) such as ear plugs to community members. Though HPDs are not very costly to supply and distribute, noise mitigation at the receiver end tends to be the most difficult and costly to enforce long-term, as it is very reliant on individual behaviors.⁶⁶ Among construction workers exposed to loud construction-related noise during 70% of their work day, HPDs were worn less than 20% of the time.⁷² Therefore, in situations where noise control is dependent on mitigation at the receiver end, temporary relocation of individuals may be a more effective, long-term solution during construction, especially for home-dwelling older adults.

Vibration mitigation

Conducting an initial preconstruction survey to assess the environmental conditions that could be affected by vibration may mitigate the impact of construction-created vibration on surrounding structures. This preconstruction survey should assess the soil condition underneath buildings, as well as the age and foundation of the buildings as these factors could mediate vibrational effects.³⁰ Results from the preconstruction survey should be used to determine the level of vibration monitoring and control during the construction phase.

Routine Monitoring and Enforcement of Environmental Hazard Management: Enforcement of routine monitoring at all construction sites is needed to ensure that prescribed environmental hazard management procedures are followed. In addition to certifying construction compliance, such routine monitoring can help gather useful data during and after the construction process to assess the impact of implementing strategies for air, noise, and vibration mitigation.

Air quality inspections

In New York City, contractors who are constructing, demolishing, or operating machinery that can emit air pollutants must have a Dust Plan Mitigation Form documenting all processes of the development project that may cause the emission of air pollutants. This form must be visibly displayed on the site of development. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for updating and enforcing New York City's Air Pollution Control Code. Air quality compliance inspections may occur when there are residential complaints, however, they may also occur at any point in the construction process by the DEP. Establishing a routine air quality inspection protocol may be a more effective process to ensure that all construction sites are compliant with their Dust Plan Mitigation Form. This process would be especially beneficial to impose during the phases of construction where the risk of releasing pollutants into the air is the highest.

Noise Mitigation Plan checks

Similarly, contractors are also required to develop a Noise Mitigation Plan prior to beginning construction. The plan must also be visibly displayed at the construction site. If there is a construction-related noise complaint through 311, an inspector will visit the construction site and check if the mitigation plan is being followed. The inspector will also determine whether the mitigation plan requires modification to better suit the demands of the community residing at and around the construction site. Rather than a complaint-driven system, routine check-ins by city inspectors may be more beneficial for noise code compliance. Having this process in place may improve engagement for community residents,

especially in neighborhoods such as Manhattan’s Chinatown and Lower East Side, where low-English proficient residents may not know how to issue a complaint or are less likely to report a concern.

Use third-party agents to monitor and enforce construction compliance

Third-party monitoring is widely utilized to ensure partner compliance and accountability on a wide range of development projects. Evaluations of development projects that used a third-party agent to assess compliance reported benefits on project performance and impact.⁷³ Third-party monitoring should begin prior to the start of construction to establish baseline measurements for environmental hazards and continue through the post-construction phase, focusing on the following two areas:

Air Quality: Consumer aerosol monitors (CAMs) should be provided to community members in the areas affected by construction to monitor changes in air quality and report heightened concentrations of PM_{2.5} to the independent command center and city officials. CAM tools also provide an actionable step, and therefore a sense of self-agency, for local residents to contribute to the public safety of their neighborhood. CAMs such as Foobot, Speck, and AirBeam retail for less than \$300, offering a cost-effective approach to provide valid measures PM_{2.5} in the air compared to that of photometers which retail for \$6,000 to \$15,000.⁷⁴

Academic institutions have previously collaborated with the city to establish baseline air quality measures prior to the start of construction and collect data throughout the construction phase to research and improve mitigation strategies. For example, after the events of September 11, the NYU Department of Environmental Medicine conducted research on the air quality in lower Manhattan and the health impacts associated with air pollutant exposures and for several years after, and made efforts to inform the public of the air pollutant exposure in the lower Manhattan area through organizing public forums and distributing newsletters with the results from their air quality research.⁷⁵

Noise Pollution: NYC has an existing network of noise sensors and individuals for large-scale, continuous noise monitoring. There is an ongoing collaboration between city health and environmental agencies and the Sounds of New York City (SONYC) project to strategically identify and mitigate noise, and to study the public health impact of noise.⁷⁶ This effort could be extended to third-party monitoring of specific construction sites to ensure compliance with Noise Mitigation Plans.

4. Prioritize and Adopt Strategies for Healthy Aging

The preservation of familiar community environments is critical in maintaining key healthy aging and quality of life factors such as access to health and social services, food sources, and the ability to remain physically active and maintain social relationships. This includes the following factors:

Increased Walkability and Transportation Services for Older Adults: Unsafe sidewalk and road conditions are major deterrents for older adults as they can increase one’s risk for falling. During construction, clear signs should be provided to highlight uneven sidewalks and accessible detours for older adults to take. The focus groups and interviews suggested above can also serve to gather community input throughout the construction phase regarding walking conditions and the content and placement of signs. Having policies in place to increase outdoor walkability could mediate the risk of falling among older adults, which accounted for nearly \$50 billion in medical costs for non-fatal falls and \$754 million in medical costs for fatal falls in 2015.⁷⁷

Older adults in Manhattan Chinatown and the Lower East Side area rely on public transportation services to get around the neighborhood and access senior centers, key components to maintaining social inclusion among older adults.⁷⁸ In 2015, 51% of older adults in New York City reported having poor transit access.⁷⁹ Access to public transportation for older adults, such as Access-A-Ride (AAR) services or similar paratransit services, should be expanded as approximately half of all older adults in Community Board 3 live with at least one disability.⁸⁰

Additionally, creating a comprehensive transportation plan for pedestrians, Access-A-Ride, ride share services, leisure and medical appointment transportation, and emergency services transport would ensure the safe conveyance of older adults across New York City. The plan should include measures for the safe pick-up and drop off locations for older adults, and continual assessment of sidewalk and crosswalk conditions to ensure that older adults can access their neighborhood with ease throughout the construction period. The transportation plan should also include the most efficient routes to nearby hospitals in order to prevent any delays during a medical emergency. This suggested transportation plan should be compliant with the accessibility requirements outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) stating that:

“[T]he path of travel to the altered area and the restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities [...] A “path of travel” includes a continuous, unobstructed way of pedestrian passage by means of which the altered area may be approached, entered, and exited, and which connects the altered area with an exterior approach (including sidewalks, streets, and parking areas), an entrance to the facility, and other parts of the facility.”⁸¹

Strengthen Social Networks and Preserve Local Businesses: Having sustained connection to one’s social environment is crucial for healthy aging. This involves being able to access senior centers, adult day cares, grocery stores, doctors’ offices, and family and friends with ease. A focus on how construction and development may displace many local businesses and social services that are essential for the health and well-being of older adults is needed. Preserving community-owned businesses and shops allows older adult residents to maintain familiar social network ties and offers regular access to groceries, household goods, and other common services within walking distance.

Disrupting the food economy of Manhattan Chinatown has strong negative effects on the livelihood and nutritional status of many CD3 residents that rely on local grocers for affordable, culturally-significant foods. In the past 15 years, there has been a 58% reduction in produce carts, 33% fewer produce stores, and 58% fewer produce storefront vendors⁸² in the Manhattan Chinatown area due to displacement from rising rents and more rigorous street vending enforcement. As construction activities begin, accessing neighborhood grocers may prove to be an increased challenge for older adults and vulnerable populations as they themselves or their affordable food sources may be displaced from the community.

Creation of an Emergency Relocation Plan for Residents within the Construction Zone: In instances where temporary relocation might be a possibility for residents during the construction phase, an emergency relocation plan is necessary. According to the NYC Administrative Code Section 26-301, it is the responsibility of the commissioner of housing preservation and development to provide and maintain tenant relocation services and make suitable accommodations for the tenants that are being relocated.⁸³ The relocation plan should be created prior to the initiation of any major construction projects and should outline not only where older adults and other residents will be temporarily

relocated, but also how the relocation process would occur. As much as possible, planners and developers should seek to replicate the current environments of residents when designing a relocation plan, particularly for the communities of Chinatown and the Lower East Side, many of whom come from minority backgrounds and have limited English capabilities.

Resilience Education and Training in Response to Relocation: Additionally, in the case of emergency relocation for older adults living in areas of construction, older adults should receive emergency relocation training and education prior to the start of construction. Drawing from disaster preparedness education for older adults, engaging older adults with their social networks to develop skills needed to safely age in place can help improve their disaster preparedness and resilience.⁸⁴ Tailoring emergency preparedness training to be culturally-responsive and meet the needs of older adults may increase their preparedness in the case of a natural disaster⁸⁴, as well as ameliorate any stress, confusion, and concern over the relocation process.

5. Adapt Benchmarks related to Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) Approval

The ULURP was developed in 1979 to standardize land use and development in New York City. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be drafted before the ULURP is put in place. The EIS provides an assessment of how development would impact the surrounding construction area in terms of land use, environmental hazards, and neighborhood character both during and after the construction period. An EIS also outlines mitigation strategies in order to reduce the expected adverse impacts related to the construction project.

To understand the short and long-term impact of new development on different groups, the benchmarks used in the EIS should be adjusted for communities that are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of major construction. For example, standards deemed acceptable for the general population may not adequately protect the very elderly. Additionally, city representatives should consider how social, economic, and environmental impacts from construction influence the entire neighborhood, compared to only the areas adjacent to construction.

Shadows: Though the EIS evaluates the effects of shadows on public sunlight-sensitive resources, the EIS does not include an assessment of private open spaces.⁸⁵ For example, Chung Pak LDC is a senior housing complex that sits adjacent to the proposed Manhattan borough-based jail site. The development of the Manhattan jail site will cast a year round shadow on the rooftop garden that serves as a resource for older adults to get fresh air and sunlight. Temperatures can drop by as much as 20 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter in areas covered by shade⁵³, leaving the rooftop garden area unusable to its residents. City planners, developers, and city representatives need to consider the impact of construction on the resources of vulnerable populations through adapting the guidelines that measure and monitor building-related shadows according to the community affected. Adopting changes to the EIS to include private open space, such as yards, patios, and private gardens as sunlight-sensitive resources may support vulnerable populations, as these may be their only exposure to sunlight and green space.

Environmental Impact: The 400-foot radius used in the EIS to evaluate construction-related environmental hazards should be expanded in order to more accurately assess the impact of

environmental hazards based on the vulnerable communities affected. Once airborne, particulate matter (PM) emitted from construction sites are able to stay in the air for hours or weeks depending on its size⁸⁶ and the wind conditions in the area. PM_{2.5} is able to travel long distances as these particles are smaller and lighter. Four hundred feet in Manhattan is approximately only a block and a half when traveling north to south.⁸⁷ As stated previously, concentrations of particulate matter that are acceptable for the general population may be harmful for older adults and other vulnerable populations, and the full scope of potential environmental hazards should be accurately measured.

Socioeconomic Impact: When measuring socioeconomic impact, the demographic features of a community should be included in the evaluation, as socioeconomic changes could have greater impact for vulnerable and underserved communities. For example, EIS guidelines note that the displacement of businesses which collectively total less than 100 employees is not considered a significant impact, regardless of the type of business being displaced.⁸⁵ Anecdotal evidence support the idea that the displacement of small businesses that offer affordable goods has a strong impact on low and medium-income residents.⁸⁸ This was the case in the development of Myrtle Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, where longstanding locally owned businesses that served the needs of the community (a laundromat, a 99-cent store, and supermarket) were displaced due to residential high-rise building developers. This had a significant impact on community members who had to travel farther for their groceries, household goods, and complete errands, and also posed significant challenges for the older, mobility-restricted adults residing in that neighborhood.⁸⁸

Conclusion

NYC is a city where change and development are key to its identity. However, the harmful health impacts of the constant construction that accompanies the city's reinvention poses serious questions for policymakers, community-based organizations and the private sector.

The recommendations in this report are aligned with NYC's commitment to create a city environment where older New Yorkers can flourish and thrive. As the first global Age-Friendly City, New York City has made extraordinary progress in making the city a better place to grow old. This report highlights several evidence-based best practices for mitigating the health impact of long-term construction on older adults. These include the involvement of community members in the decision-making process, the creation of an independent command center for construction-related activities, the monitoring and enforcement of existing construction mitigation plans, and the prioritization of strategies to ensure that older adults can age with comfort and dignity in their communities. The wisdom and experience of older adults enrich our communities. With more people living longer than ever before, it is time to renew our commitment to older New Yorkers and ensure that they flourish and thrive in this city they helped build.

For a list of detailed action steps to implement the mitigation strategies suggested, please refer to **Appendix A**.

About the Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH)

The NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH) is a National Institute of Health (NIH) National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) funded Specialized Center of Excellence based in the Section for Health Equity within NYU School of Medicine's Department of Population Health at NYU Langone Health.

Established in 2003 through an NIH NIMHD Project EXPORT (Excellence in Partnership, Outreach, Research, and Training) Center grant, CSAAH is the only center of its kind in the country that is solely dedicated to research and evaluation on Asian American health and health disparities. CSAAH's work is guided by a population health equity framework. In close collaboration with over 75 local and national community partners, we have evolved our mission and goals to advance health disparities research within a health equity framework.

CSAAH's guiding principles are as follows:

- We believe in systemic change through multi-pronged strategies and working with diverse stakeholders
- We believe in equitable collaboration and partnerships
- We believe in action-oriented research
- We believe in strengthening the research capacity of both community and academic partners to fully engage in the research process
- We believe in multi-cultural evaluation

For more information, please visit us at: <https://med.nyu.edu/asian-health>.

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

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Appendix A: Action Steps

Our recommended action steps are divided into strategies before, during, and at the conclusion of construction. They are outlined as follows:

<p>Before Construction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify Chinatown and Lower East Side residents of all upcoming long-term construction, including the timeline for construction and neighborhoods and areas impacted 2. Create spaces for community members to voice their concerns, feedback, and suggestions regarding the long-term construction impacting their neighborhoods 3. Engage with community members through listening sessions, focus groups, and interviews to assess the impact of long-term construction 4. Develop an emergency relocation plan for community members of Chinatown and the Lower East Side, being sure to identify vulnerable populations such as older adults that may need additional assistance in the event of relocation 5. Develop emergency preparedness and relocation training for older adults and community members that will be impacted by construction 6. Work with third-party agents to establish a baseline of environmental hazards associated with long-term construction, namely air pollutants and noise 7. Equip the construction area with appropriate signage in order to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Alleviate the risk of falls b. Support transportation services during medical emergencies, pick-up, and drop-off 8. Establish an independent command center to monitor construction-related activities and serve as a direct contact to community members 9. Adapt Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) guidelines to better assess the impact of construction on vulnerable populations
<p>During Construction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with community members through listening sessions, focus groups, and interviews to assess the impact of long-term construction 2. Monitor and enforce on-site management of air pollutants, noise, and other construction hazards to ensure that construction sites remain compliant 3. Utilize third-party monitoring methods to oversee air quality and noise pollution in the neighborhoods impacted by construction 4. Provide resources to community members to mitigate environmental hazards on the receiving end, such as air filtration devices and hearing protection devices (HPDs) 5. Utilize the independent command center to provide daily updates regarding construction and road closures, respond to medical and construction-related emergencies, inform the community of possible relocation, and provide status updates on reported grievances 6. Educate older adults and community members to develop an emergency preparedness plan, build advocacy skills, and learn to adapt in the case of relocation
<p>After Construction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue monitoring the air quality and noise pollution in areas impacted by construction to assess any long-term impacts 2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the command center and educational campaigns 3. In the event of relocation, ensure that all residents and businesses were restored to their respective neighborhoods

Upcoming Vote on New Jails

I'm writing you about the upcoming vote on the new jails plan. Given how closely we once worked together, I feel a moral obligation to reach out and urge you to oppose the plan. To me, this vote is a crossroads. A \$9 billion investment in housing, education, employment and healthcare can create truly transformative change, it can lift whole communities up, and it can eliminate so many of the social and financial factors that compel some people to engage in "criminal" behavior in the first place. Meanwhile, a \$9 billion investment in new jails will ensure future generations of low-income black and brown New Yorkers continue to get locked up, it will force the City to move detainees *to* Rikers for years while the facilities are built, and it will perpetuate a cycle of state violence onto these communities. There's simply no such thing as a "good" jail, including these proposed facilities.

I've admired bold, brave stances that you've taken before -- one of my proudest moments as a staffer was when you were fighting for supervised injection facilities, to name just one example. I truly believe this is one of those moments when, with your leadership, NYC can become a worldwide leader in criminal legal reform. Or we can just build more jails. I really hope that you support the former.

I submit this with respect and appreciation for your time and consideration. And I would love to come by sometime soon and say hello to the team if you'll have me.

Sincerely,
David Moss

dcm341@gmail.com>

CLOSE RIKERS I BEG - End Policing to End Incarceration

To the Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination and the Department of Corrections:
I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails, and I insist on closing Rikers now. Rather than diverting money from social programs and community resources to build new jails that will harm our communities, we need to focus on the source of the problem: policing. The impact on public policy of the new jail plan will be to lock us in to policing and incarceration into the future. Criminalizing poverty, homelessness, mental health, substance use, sex work, immigration, and being a person of color gives the NYPD outsized and unwarranted power to surveil our most vulnerable community members, with disastrous results. Recent changes to policing in NYC are too little, too late and embed racial disparities even in the "reforms." The 2017 budget for the NYPD was \$5 billion dollars. With those resources, the NYPD preys on working-class people of color every day to fill beds on Rikers Island, The Manhattan and Brooklyn Detention Complexes, and The Boat. It will fill the beds of these new jails too. Serious, meaningful changes have to start with the police, and until that happens we will not be safe.

Sincerely,--
Ileri Jaiyeoba

Founder and Executive Director of Code Red
<http://www.coderedco.org>
New York University 2020
ioj203@nyu.edu

No New Jails!

Dear New York City Council,

I want to voice my opposition to Mayor Bill De Blasio's plan to build four new borough based jails in New York City as resident of this city and a student at New York University. Building new jails in our city is not a good plan, it is not conducive to community growth and care, it is not a healthy way for our city to move forward. Never has incarceration been the solution.

The money from this proposal (~\$11 Billion) not only should, but must be allocated to community programs, educational programs, public transportation development, and other such programs for the sake of this city's safety and future.

Having jails closer to our communities is also not a healthy plan, as Mayor De Blasio has framed it to be. Having these jails in our communities will only make our areas less safe for communities often targeted by and vulnerable to police brutality (Black and brown folks, Muslim folks, homeless folks, etc.). Jails will not make us safer. Jails will not make our communities stronger. The only way forward is to dismantle Rikers while shifting our focuses to restorative and collective justice through community programs designed to help the most vulnerable of us.

No New Jails!

Sincerely,
John Kallas
Pronouns: he/him
New York University 2022
College of Arts and Science
B.A. in Middle Eastern Islamic Studies
Senator at-Large for Middle Eastern and North African Students
Policy and Advocacy Chair of the Governance Council of Minority and Marginalized Students
(703)623-2312

jjk659@nyu.edu

Opposition to Proposed Community-Based Jails in NYC - NYC Council Members

Please be advised that I have testified before the City Council on a few occasions and submitted an attachment to most of you in August with respect to my position on the proposal before you on the closing of Riker's and the four borough based jail initiative.

I have indicated that I am strongly against it because of how it was initiated by the mayor under the pretext of transparency which was not the case. My position was and still is that the plan is ill-conceived with no real design and subject to racism and profiteering motivations. NYC residents throughout the boroughs could be better served by placing the billions of dollars into communities that would raise the quality of life for underserved residents. I made a number of suggestions in my attachment as to quality of life issues in those communities. In the long run, they would benefit all New York city residents.

We are witnessing a slow erosion of a democratic process not only in our city but across our country. As an individual who was born and has lived in New York City all my life, I worry about the legacy we are passing on to future generations. Please reconsider the feasibility of this current proposal and where the billions of dollars could be better spent in the boroughs. We need cultural and social justice reform in the criminal system and a revitalization of our communities.

Please respect the voices of your constituents. I strongly urge you to vote this proposal down.

Respectfully yours,
Maria (Mary) Lefkarites
Kew Gardens Resident

<MariaLefk@msn.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To whom it may concern,

I am a student at NYU. I stand strongly against the addition of 4 new jails in the city, especially next to my campus.

The monstrous amount of money spent for this project could be used in ways to better the lives of those living in the city. The new jails will not provide “better conditions” without education and changing the system as a whole and bettering communities within NYC first.

Best,
Amanda

Amanda Sara Chen
<amanda.chen@nyu.edu>

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you to let you know that I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE CLOSING OF RIKERS and the building of jails in our neighborhoods. I live in Kew Gardens and the area and this is an already very congested area. We have a serious homeless problem which you should be addressing as well as infrastructure to absorb the already crowded subways and highways.

I believe this is a real estate grab. A true sign of corrupt politicians closing Rikers to allow a real estate developer to develop the island with you possibly receiving some kind of quid pro quo.

If this jail were in your back yard I am sure you would oppose it. I have outlined below some bullet points for your review and I urge you to vote NO to build the jails in our neighborhoods.

- 1) The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested *community-based* jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for KG. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
- 3) Kew Gardens, Queens will be accommodating far more detainees than can be justified by the number of detainees who reside in Queens. Queens will be getting 25% of the jail beds (same as the other 3 boroughs) despite having *less than 15%* of the detainees. (Staten Island's detainees will all be housed in the other 4 boroughs!)
- 4) Costs of busing detainees to court will not be eliminated, as claimed, since the system requires that all detainees be tried in the borough in which they are arrested.
- 5) On Rikers Island there are **outdoor areas** for recreation, but not in these high-rise jails.
- 6) After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population.
- 7) Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained -- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.???
- 8) Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult or even impossible to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency?
- 9) A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens both by its height and mass and by the nature of the activity attributable to *such a large penal institution operating round the clock, seven days a week.*
- 10) Rikers Island can certainly be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds on four new jails which may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan

Correctional Center in Manhattan when they were not maintained ??? At its opening in 1975 that Center was hailed as an advance in jail design!

11) If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, as well as in any new buildings misplaced around the City.

12) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

Eileen Witschger

123 81st AVENUE

KEW GARDENS, NY 11415

office: 718.268.7000

fax: 718.268.8876

email: eileenwitschger@aol.com

Please be advised that I have testified before the City Council on a few occasions and submitted an attachment to most of you in August with respect to my position on the proposal before you on the closing of Riker's and the four borough based jail initiative.

I have indicated that I am strongly against it because of how it was initiated by the mayor under the pretext of transparency which was not the case. My position was and still is that the plan is ill-conceived with no real design and subject to racism and profiteering motivations. NYC residents throughout the boroughs could be better served by placing the billions of dollars into communities that would raise the quality of life for underserved residents. I made a number of suggestions in my attachment as to quality of life issues in those communities. In the long run, they would benefit all New York city residents.

We are witnessing a slow erosion of a democratic process not only in our city but across our country. As an individual who was born and has lived in New York City all my life, I worry about the legacy we are passing on to future generations. Please reconsider the feasibility of this current proposal and where the billions of dollars could be better spent in the boroughs. We need cultural and social justice reform in the criminal system and a revitalization of our communities.

Please respect the voices of your constituents. I strongly urge you to vote this proposal down.

Respectfully yours,
Maria (Mary) Lefkarites
Kew Gardens Resident

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Please respect the voices of your constituents. I strongly urge you to vote this proposal down.

Respectfully yours,
Maria (Mary) Lefkarites
Kew Gardens Resident

Mary P. Lefkarites
MariaLefk@msn.com

Closing Rikers

Dear Honorable Councilman Rodriguez,

As our City Councilmember, we urge you to please vote **“No”** on building any jail in or adjacent to any NYC residential neighborhood whether or not our district is involved. Thank you.

Sidney, Rosalyn and Abraham G. Strauss, 24 Bennett Avenue

sidney.strauss@verizon.net

Please vote against the mega-jails

Dear NYC Council Members,

As a former resident of Kew Gardens for 27 years, I am copying below all the points, with which I fully agree, that were suggested by the Kew Gardens Civic Association as to why the proposed mega-jails in four boroughs is a terribly misconceived idea. **Please vote against it.**

- 1) The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested *community-based* jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for Kew Gardens. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
- 3) Kew Gardens, Queens, will be accommodating far more detainees than can be justified by the number of detainees who reside in Queens. Queens will be getting 25% of the jail beds (same as the other 3 boroughs) despite having *less than 15%* of the detainees. (Staten Island's detainees will all be housed in the other 4 boroughs!)
- 4) Costs of busing detainees to court will not be eliminated, as claimed, since the system requires that all detainees be tried in the borough in which they are arrested.
- 5) On Rikers Island there are **outdoor areas** for recreation, but not in these high-rise jails.
- 6) After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population.
- 7) Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained -- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.???
- 8) Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult or even impossible to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency?
- 9) A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens both by its height and mass and by the nature of the activity attributable to *such a large penal institution operating round the clock, seven days a week.*
- 10) Rikers Island can certainly be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of

funds on four new jails which may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan when they were not maintained??? At its opening in 1975 that Center was hailed as an advance in jail design!

11) If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, as well as in any new buildings misplaced around the City.

12) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

Sincerely,

Mim Eisenberg

former president of the Kew Gardens Improvement Association

mimbrava@mindspring.com

Kew Gardens Mega Jail

Please reject this jail for Kew Gardens.

This has been a quiet mostly single family homes fashioned after "Kew" botanical gardens in London.

This would be a travesty to allow a Mega Jail to be built which would overshadow such a beautiful neighborhood

Our neighborhood would become overcrowded with cars, people visiting inmates and so close to our wonderful schools and parks in which children play.

Please vote NO against this insanity and ruin a wonderful and beautiful neighborhood.

Save Kew Gardens an "urban village" one of a kind remaining.

Thank you

I trust that you will do the right thing and vote NO

Best regards, David

David M

clubkew@gmail.com

Opposition to Proposed Community-Based Jails in NYC

I urge you to vote against this ill-conceived proposal for borough-based jails. There is no doubt that Rikers as well as the criminal justice system needs to be overhauled and rehabilitated but these problems should not be moved to any residential neighborhood in New York City.

New York City has many pressing needs. The homeless population is out-of-control and is many more times the number of prisoners in our jails. The billions of dollars that will be needed for these community-based jails should be directed to those less fortunate, law-abiding citizens of New York City.

Please listen to the voices of your constituents who elected you and are overwhelming opposed to the mayor's plan.

Thank you,

Rosanne Rosano
Kew Gardens, NY

Rosanne_Rosano@glic.com

Please cancel the queens jail!

- 1) The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested *community-based* jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for KG. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
- 3) Kew Gardens, Queens will be accommodating far more detainees than can be justified by the number of detainees who reside in Queens. Queens will be getting 25% of the jail beds (same as the other 3 boroughs) despite having *less than 15%* of the detainees. (Staten Island's detainees will all be housed in the other 4 boroughs!)
- 4) Costs of busing detainees to court will not be eliminated, as claimed, since the system requires that all detainees be tried in the borough in which they are arrested.
- 5) On Rikers Island there are **outdoor areas** for recreation, but not in these high-rise jails.
- 6) After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population.
- 7) Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained -- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.???
- 8) Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult or even impossible to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency?
- 9) A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens both by its height and mass and by the nature of the activity attributable to *such a large penal institution operating round the clock, seven days a week.*
- 10) Rikers Island can certainly be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds on four new jails which may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan when they were not maintained ??? At its opening in 1975 that Center was hailed as an advance in jail design!
- 11) If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, as well as in any new buildings misplaced around the City.
- 12) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

simeon godick
simeondgodick@yahoo.com

Jail

- 1) The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested *community-based* jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for KG. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
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- 5) On Rikers Island there are **outdoor areas** for recreation, but not in these high-rise jails.
- 6) After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population.
- 7) Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained -- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.???
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- 12) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

Joe Pfifferling
joe1923@icloud.com

Rikers closure

Dear Council members:

No doubt you have all heard from your constituents about the issues surrounding the closing of Rikers and the building of huge mega-jails in surrounding communities. The extraordinary cost of the jails, the violation of nearly every requirement in the ULURP process, the serious adverse effects on local communities, voting on a concept instead of the actual plans for the buildings, and the total disregard for the realities of planning and building such a monumental project should cause you to oppose this ill-conceived project.

I am especially concerned about one terribly important aspect of these jails that has not received very much attention. That is, how can you evacuate a 30 story jail with upwards of 1500 incarcerated people plus the hundreds of correction officers should the building become seriously compromised?

I asked this question at two different Neighborhood Advisory meetings and received very disturbing answers. In the NYC written response to my concern, they wrote: "In the event of a major catastrophe where the building's integrity is compromised...the building will be evacuated into a sally port where detainees will be loaded onto vehicles within a security perimeter..."

I asked how large the sally port is and they could not answer. Could this area even hold nearly 2000 people? Imagine getting so many people to this area and then expecting them to patiently wait for hundreds of buses to take them away from a building that is seriously compromised. Queens Blvd as well as the streets surrounding the other jails already have huge amounts of traffic which would make it nearly impossible for buses and other emergency vehicles to even get to the jail.

We saw what happened to the midtown office tower when a helicopter crashed on the roof and the building had to be evacuated. Office workers were able to leave the building without too many problems-but these were office workers who did not have to wait for buses to take them away.

These huge jails are a disaster waiting to happen. They cannot be evacuated during emergency conditions. Many people will get injured or die should a serious catastrophic event occur.

You must protect these detainees by opposing the building of these ill-conceived and poorly planned jails.

Sincerely,

Seth P. Welins, Ph.D.

spp pps
sppny@hotmail.com

Kew Gardens jail

Dear Sirs-

As a lifelong queens resident, a longtime Kew Gardens resident, a citizen and a mother I ask that you vote against the community based jail proposed for Kew Gardens. A jail of the size and nature proposed will overwhelm our already traffic taxed community. Good things are happening here with a vibrant arts movie theater, solid public schools, independent bookshops and a CSA. Don't make a regrettable choice.

I understand that there is concern about the buildings at Rikers and the way that the department of corrections functioned there. Neither problem will be solved by reciting the jails in the boroughs. Instead you will have lost all of the advantages an island provides in keeping a jailed population away from law abiding citizens. From a pure cost perspective too, you will have duplication from disaggregated jails. Not sure what you hope to do with Rikers, but decommissioning the jail in this fashion seems a poor decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Lori Stella Asquith

83-40 Austin Street

Kew Gardens, NY 11415

- :1) The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested *community-based* jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for KG. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
- 3) Kew Gardens, Queens will be accommodating far more detainees than can be justified by the number of detainees who reside in Queens. Queens will be getting 25% of the jail beds (same as the other 3 boroughs) despite having *less than 15%* of the detainees. (Staten Island's detainees will all be housed in the other 4 boroughs!)
- 4) Costs of busing detainees to court will not be eliminated, as claimed, since the system requires that all detainees be tried in the borough in which they are arrested.
- 5) On Rikers Island there are **outdoor areas** for recreation, but not in these high-rise jails.
- 6) After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population.
- 7) Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained -- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.???
- 8) Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult or even impossible to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency?

9) A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens both by its height and mass and by the nature of the activity attributable to *such a large penal institution operating round the clock, seven days a week.*

10) Rikers Island can certainly be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds on four new jails which may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan when they were not maintained ??? At its opening in 1975 that Center was hailed as an advance in jail design!

11) If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, as well as in any new buildings misplaced around the City.

12) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

-----Dominick Pistone, *President*, KGCA

-----mhberger, for KGCA

Lori

lorihatem@hotmail.com

I, Sinetta Avram, from Kew Gardens, am against the building of a jail behind the Court House, for the following reasons:

- Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained (After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population.))-- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.???
- Rikers Island can certainly be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds on four new jails
- The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget, so the vote will be on an open door.. no budget, no plans, no design.
- The Lippman Commission had suggested **community-based** jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for KG. A community based jail would entail a 3 story building for 100 inmates at most, located in the heart of the area that used to be their home. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.- A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens both by its height and mass and by the nature of the activity attributable to *such a large penal institution operating round the clock, seven days a week.*
- Costs of busing detainees to court will not be eliminated, as claimed, since the system requires that all detainees be tried in the borough in which they are arrested.
- If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, there should be no need to change the area to change the "culture".

Sinetta Avram
sinetta.avram@verizon.net

Oppose Building of Mega Jails

Dear Council member,

We the home owner in Jew Gardens, Queens strongly oppose building of Mega jail in a residential community. Please consider the following issues that have yet been addressed.

- 1) The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested community-based jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for KG. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
- 3) Kew Gardens, Queens will be accommodating far more detainees than can be justified by the number of detainees who reside in Queens. Queens will be getting 25% of the jail beds (same as the other 3 boroughs) despite having less than 15% of the detainees. (Staten Island's detainees will all be housed in the other 4 boroughs!)
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- 11) If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, as well as in any new buildings misplaced around the City.
- 12) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

Please reconsider your vote carefully.

Regards,
Liang family
80 Road
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Judy Liang - judyliang2@hotmail.com

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 9/18/19

PHONE: 401-248-8042

NAME (S): Sifth Ahmed

BORO: MAN

CD# 3

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails

POSITION

Oppose _____

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson Wants to know if a new

jail will open in District 3 under this plan

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 09/26/19

PHONE: _____

NAME (S): Ms. Anna Applebaum

ADDRESS: email: ada534@nyu.edu

BORO: _____

CD# _____

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Regarding Borough Jails you are voting for next week

POSITION

Oppose x

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson I don't think it is good. It's like you are just
building more jails to hold people in instead of reform.

Thank you.

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 9/25/19

PHONE: 917-892-2269

NAME (S): Helen Campbell

helen.campbell@law.nyu.edu

BORO: _____

CD# _____

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails

POSITION

Oppose

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson

Supports no new jails; wants

to know Speaker's position

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 09/23/19

PHONE: 818-926-7296

NAME (S): Ms. Courtney S.

ADDRESS: _____

BORO: _____

CD# _____

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Regarding Jail Plan

POSITION

Oppose x

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson it seems with the plan we will only have new jails.

we should have less jails not more. What is your position?

please respond back.

Thank you.

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 09/27/19

PHONE: _____

NAME (S): Ms. Amy Joseph

ADDRESS: email: aej260@nyu.edu

BORO: _____

CD# _____

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Regarding Jail Plan

POSITION

Oppose x

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson

Thank you.

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 09/16/19

PHONE: _____

NAME (S): Ms. Sana Siddiq

ADDRESS: email: sana.siddiq94@gmail.com

BORO: _____

CD# _____

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Regarding New Jails

POSITION

Oppose _____

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson What is your position on the new Jails?

please respond back as soon as possible.

Thank you.

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 9/4/19

PHONE: 718-793-9437

NAME (S): Rosemary Sironi

BORO: _____

CD# _____

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Community based jails

POSITION

Oppose ✓

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 09/27/19

PHONE: _____

NAME (S): Ms. Hannah Sotnick

ADDRESS: email: hrs2129@gmail.com

BORO: _____

CD# _____

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Regarding Borough Base Jails Plan

POSITION

Oppose x

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson vote no on jail plan. What is your position on this
plan?

Thank you.

FORWARDING

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers MUST be closed WITHOUT borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and ENDANGERING our communities ([Venters, 2019](#)). Creating jails WILL lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have NOT been convicted of a crime ([Sawyer & Wagner, 2019](#)). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails ([Quigley, 2016](#)), and we will NOT tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer ([Stemen, 2017](#)); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

I am a resident of Flatbush (11226) and I demand that no new jails be built AND that Rikers be closed - IMMEDIATELY.

Best,

--

fyzah tajdin
(they/them)
<taj.fyzah@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers **MUST** be closed **WITHOUT** borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and **ENDANGERING** our communities (Venters, 2019). Creating jails **WILL** lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have **NOT** been convicted of a crime (Sawyer & Wagner, 2019). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails (Quigley, 2016), and we will **NOT** tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer (Stemen, 2017); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message,

Samantha Royson

<samantha.royson@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers MUST be closed WITHOUT borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and ENDANGERING our communities (Venters, 2019). Creating jails WILL lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have NOT been convicted of a crime (Sawyer & Wagner, 2019). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails (Quigley, 2016), and we will NOT tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer (Stemen, 2017); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

I am a resident of Flatlands Brooklyn (11234) and I demand that no new jails be built AND that Rikers be closed - IMMEDIATELY.

Tahirra Enriquez
<tahirrak@yahoo.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers **MUST** be closed **WITHOUT** borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and **ENDANGERING** our communities (Venters, 2019). Creating jails **WILL** lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have **NOT** been convicted of a crime (Sawyer & Wagner, 2019). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails (Quigley, 2016), and we will **NOT** tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer (Stemen, 2017); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

I am a resident of East New York (11208) and I demand that no new jails be built **AND** that Rikers be closed - **IMMEDIATELY**.

Nancy Bachan

<nancybachan@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers MUST be closed WITHOUT borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and ENDANGERING our communities ([Venters, 2019](#)). Creating jails WILL lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have NOT been convicted of a crime ([Sawyer & Wagner, 2019](#)). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails ([Quigley, 2016](#)), and we will NOT tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer ([Stemen, 2017](#)); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

I am a resident of East New York (11208) and I demand that no new jails be built AND that Rikers be closed - IMMEDIATELY.

Selima Jumarali

<selima.jumarali@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion plan. I oppose building any new jails. I insist on closing Rikers now.

All jails are TOXIC and a hazard to public health. Jails and prisons are toxic for people and their communities. Rikers Island is a perfect example of environmental racism and the new jail plan cannot guarantee a toxicity-free environment with the way the sites are being zoned and because of their locations.

Pretrial detention must come to an end. Keeping people locked up in cages while they wait for trial is economically ruinous for working class families and communities and does not keep anyone safe. It is possible to close Rikers without opening new jails. We must decriminalize poverty, invest in transformative justice and eliminate pretrial detention.

Divest from jails and invest in COMMUNITIES. The city needs to invest in services that help our communities like truly affordable housing, homeless shelters, community services and NOT new jails.

Ciara Brewer
<cb3616@nyu.edu>

Borough-based jails

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails. I insist on closing Rikers NOW.

We need to end pretrial detention. Keeping people locked in cages while they wait for trial is economically ruinous for working class families and communities and does not keep anyone safe. By decriminalizing poverty, investing in transformative justice, and eliminating pretrial detention, we could close Rikers immediately without opening any new jails.

No New Jails. Close Rikers Now.

Sincerely,
Maddie Weikel

Maddie Weikel

New York University | College of Arts & Science

B.A. Candidate in Sociology and Environmental Studies – Class of 2020

She/her/herself

<mnw266@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

Dear City Council Representatives,

DO NOT BUILD THESE JAILS!

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails, and I insist on closing Rikers now. Rather than diverting money from social programs and community resources to build new jails that will harm our communities, we need to focus on the source of the problem: policing. The impact on public policy of the new jail plan will be to lock us in to policing and incarceration into the future. Criminalizing poverty, homelessness, mental health, substance use, sex work, immigration, and being a person of color gives the NYPD outsized and unwarranted power to surveil our most vulnerable community members, with disastrous results. Recent changes to policing in NYC are too little, too late and embed racial disparities even in the "reforms." The 2017 budget for the NYPD was \$5 billion dollars. With those resources, the NYPD preys on working-class people of color every day to fill beds on Rikers Island, The Manhattan and Brooklyn Detention Complexes, and The Boat. It will fill the beds of these new jails too. Serious, meaningful changes have to start with the police, and until that happens we will not be safe.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hansen-Kemp

<hansenkempj@gmail.com>

Borough-based jails

To the Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination and the Department of Corrections:

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails, and I insist on closing Rikers now. Jails and prisons are toxic for people and communities. Rikers Island is a perfect example of environmental racism: sited on a former landfill, the conditions there are hazardous to incarcerated people and workers alike. The new jail plan can't guarantee a toxicity-free environment because of how the sites are being zoned and where they are located. In general, jails deprive poor and working people of color of access to healthcare and safe housing and exacerbate existing racial health disparities. Jails harm the health of incarcerated people and make them more vulnerable to sickness due to malnutrition, barriers to healthcare, lack of autonomy over movement and bodily care, and stress. Trans and gender nonconforming people who are incarcerated are denied medically-necessary care and subjected to incredibly high rates of sexual violence and harassment. Jails tear communities and families apart by disappearing loved ones, taking a massive psychological toll on incarcerated people and their families. Jails also harm the mental and physiological health of people who work in them, who come into contact with the same toxic environmental conditions as incarcerated people and suffer psychological distress from their work. We should spend ten billion dollars on community resources like schools, childcare services, healthcare, drug counseling, food programs, and public space. Not new jails.

Sincerely,
Sarah Rosenwald
<snr328@nyu.edu>

Borough-based jails

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails. I insist on closing Rikers NOW. Divest from jails to invest in communities. The city should invest in services communities need: truly affordable housing, homeless shelters, community services, and NOT new jails.

Sincerely,

Ito Choho

<ito.choho@gmail.com>

Borough-based Jails

Hello,

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails and insist on closing Rikers now. All jails are toxic and a hazard to public health, as well as for people and communities. Rikers Island is a perfect example of environmental racism and the new jail plan can't guarantee a toxicity-free environment because of how the sites are being zoned and where they're located.

Divest from jails and invest in communities instead.

Best,
Paola Nagovitch
<pn815@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

Hello,

As an NYU student and New York resident over the past four years, I implore you to consider reallocating the 10 billion dollars that is currently prepared for closing down Rikers for 4 new jails around New York. The homeless situation, especially around NYU and the east village, has amplified each year to the extreme population that currently exists. The effect of long term housing in other cities is paramount, and the only leading solution for a city as large as New York. The New York right to shelter of decades past operated as a solution until the end of Micheal Bloomberg's, and even then homeless people within New York City prefer the streets to the substandard, overcrowded and often violent shelters. The Salt Lake City reduction of their homeless population by 91% provides an excellent case study for the success rate of providing free long-term housing. This will allow for larger amounts of productive members of society, cleaner streets, and an increase in safety. Additionally, and perhaps most economically-significant, the addition of long-term housing in New York will significantly decrease the costs in maintaining expensive shelters - meanwhile, closing Rikers and building new jails will only cost money. To put this in perspective, shelter beds in New York City cost approximately \$3,000 per month, and city costs exceed a billion dollars a year. With the reallocation of funds, we can recover funds and futures for millions of citizens.

Thank you for your time.

--

Natasha Murcia

Historian, Delta Phi Epsilon NYU Alpha Chapter

Senior Director of Programming, NYU Student Government

Gallatin School of Individualized Study, English and Politics B.A

New York University '20

nm2721@nyu.edu

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers **MUST** be closed **WITHOUT** borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and **ENDANGERING** our communities (Venters, 2019). Creating jails **WILL** lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have **NOT** been convicted of a crime (Sawyer & Wagner, 2019). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails (Quigley, 2016), and we will **NOT** tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer (Stemen, 2017); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

I am a resident of East New York (11208) and I demand that no new jails be built **AND** that Rikers be closed - **IMMEDIATELY**.

-L

Leah Warwick

<lcwarwick1@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers MUST be closed WITHOUT borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and ENDANGERING our communities ([Venters, 2019](#)). Creating jails WILL lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have NOT been convicted of a crime ([Sawyer & Wagner, 2019](#)). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails ([Quigley, 2016](#)), and we will NOT tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer ([Stemen, 2017](#)); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

I am a resident of Park Slope (11217) and I demand that no new jails be built AND that Rikers be closed - IMMEDIATELY.

--

"Let the beauty of what you love be what you do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground."

-Rumi

Amira Shouman

<amira.shouman@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To the Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination and the Department of Corrections:

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails, and I insist on the closing of Rikers immediately. These new borough-based jails would only tear communities, families, and people's lives apart. And frankly, the ten billion dollars allocated for building these jails would have better use elsewhere. We should spend ten billion dollars on community resources like schools, childcare services, healthcare, drug counseling, food programs, and public space. Not on new jails.

Sincerely,
Stirling duBell
<sd3427@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

I am writing to you to state my strong opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails and expanding the prison industrial complex that derails people's lives and disproportionately affects marginalized communities. Jails do not make us safer -- they make us all more vulnerable. I insist on closing Rikers now. **DIVEST FROM JAILS AND INVEST IN COMMUNITIES.**

Victoria Glista

E 9th St. New York, NY

<veg240@nyu.edu>

Borough-based jails

To whom it may concern,

I am a New York University student writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails, and I insist on closing Rikers Island NOW.

All jails, public and private, are toxic and a hazard to public health. Jails and prisons are toxic for people and communities. Rikers Island is a perfect example of environmental racism and the new jail plan can't guarantee a toxicity-free environment because of how the sites are being zoned and where they are located.

We need to end pre-trial detention. Keeping people locked in cages while they wait for trial is economically ruinous for working class families and communities, and does not keep anyone safe. By decriminalizing poverty, investing in transformative justice, and eliminating pre-trial detention, we could close Rikers immediately without opening new jails.

Divest from jails to invest in communities. The city should be using resources to invest in community-based service, NOT new jails or prisons.

Morgan Smith

--

Morgan Smith

New York University | College of Arts & Science

B.A. Candidate in Social and Cultural Analysis, Spanish, and Urban Education Studies – Class of 2020

She/her/herself

<mes906@nyu.edu>

BOROUGH-BASED JAILS

Hello,

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansions. I **OPPOSE** the building of any new jails. I insist on closing Rikers now.

All jails are toxic and a hazard to public health. Jails and prisons are toxic for people and communities. Rikers Island is a perfect example of environmental racism and the new jail plan can't guarantee a toxicity-free environment because of how the sites are zoned and where they are located.

Divest from jails to invest in communities. New York City should invest in services communities need: truly affordable housing, homeless shelters, community services, but **NOT** new jails.

Kayla Herrera-Day
<khd248@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building ny new jails. I insist on closing Rikers NOW.

Sophie Ewh

<sae381@nyu.edu>

Borough-based jails

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing express my opposition to the proposed creation of borough-based jails in NYC. Rikers Island should be closed as well. The money spent on new jails should be invested into communities instead. It is time to move on from relying on prisons to fix social and economic issues. Incarceration does not prevent harm or reduce it. Creating new borough-based jails will only perpetuate violence in our community.

Thank you,

Sonya

<sonyaste093@gmail.com>

BOROUGH-BASED JAILS

Hello,

I am writing to state my opposition to the city's proposed jail expansion. I oppose building any new jails. I insist on closing Rikers NOW.

The city should invest these funds in truly affordable housing, shelters, and services in communities in need. Invest in the future of diminishing crime not in the promotion of current and past crimes.

I am a proud Brooklyn resident. I attend school in Manhattan. I pay taxes and contribute to the economy that you wish to use to promote criminalization of humans and communities that need your financial help.

Sincerely,

Haley Shaw

<hjs424@nyu.edu>

Scott Limbacher
251 Conover Street - 3rd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11231

District 38 Office
4417 4th Avenue, Ground Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11220
(718) 439-9012

September 13th, 2019

Dear Councilmember Menchaca,

I'm writing to you as a constituent of District 38, a member of the [NoNewJails coalition](#), and a neighbor deeply concerned about the future of our city. I understand you share my view that Rikers Island, an institution capable only of generating cycles of racist torture and trauma, must close now. You have maintained an admirable reputation as a progressive leader, and I'm placing faith in you to truly engage with the marginalized voices that ask you today to take a radical stance. As the City Council's vote on the proposed construction of four borough-based jails approaches, I urge you from the bottom of my soul to reject calls to replace Rikers with infrastructure that would dramatically extend the scope and lifetime of our current carceral system. We can and must close Rikers without building new jails; please join our movement in demanding that the city reinvest the billions budgeted for the plan into the communities that need it most.

The jails proposal has often been referred to by its supporters in city agencies as "the plan to close Rikers." In fact, the only future this plan ensures for Rikers is that it will remain open for at least another seven years. The closure of torture island will be left up to our future elected officials, who will have no binding obligation to uphold the mayor's promise. Even in the event that they choose to see it through, we will inherit a cruel and resilient replacement: 4,000 jail cells, brand new in 2026, designed, in the mayor's estimation, as a "[multi-generational investment](#)." As my friends in NoNewJails remind us, "If they build it, they will fill it." Simply put, a vote for this plan is a commitment to continue locking up thousands of our neighbors at a time for decades to come.

It would be deeply irresponsible for us to trust that the builders and overseers of cages will live up to their promises of reducing harm. City officials have already confirmed, for example, that the jails plan would actually involve sending more people to Rikers (again, with no guarantees that it will actually close): as jails like the Brooklyn Detention Complex are demolished to make way for larger replacements, the people currently caged there will be [relocated to Rikers](#) while the years-long construction process is underway. We cannot claim to stand up for a safer world by campaigning for a system that *we know* will continue to brutalize our city's marginalized communities. And we certainly cannot wield the cruelty of Rikers to justify a plan that *we know* will involve sentencing more people to suffer there.

It is impossible to "decarcerate" by building new jails. Investing billions of dollars into our city's cages would work to profoundly legitimize and more deeply entrench the white supremacist system of incarceration, reinforcing the political will that keeps it running. When we champion "innovative" or "humane" jails, we fuel the myth that these systems are no longer violent, and offer space for those in power to portray carceral solutions to complex social problems as acceptable and effective. Every new prison and jail promoted in this city (including Rikers) was presented as a new, progressive, state-of-the-art facility – but ultimately, all of these institutions further perpetuated racism, abuse, violence, and inequality. Acting on the belief that any cage can facilitate individual or community healing gives even more power to an institution rooted in slavery, perpetuating cycles of dehumanization and punishment.

Instead, we have a responsibility to develop strategies for dismantling white supremacist systems without reproducing them. We must work to shift perspectives towards a world based on healing, community support, economic justice, and prevention of the root causes of social problems - a world in which everyone can survive and thrive.

Advocates of the borough-based jails insist that their plan is the *only way* Rikers will close. In effect, these officials and experts are choosing to hold hostage the Black and Brown communities that will be targeted by these systems, threatening the continued survival of torture island if their demands for new facilities are not met. Instead of investing in a future where jails are a certainty, however, we can shutter Rikers by ending pretrial detention, eliminating arrests for parole violations, decriminalizing minor offenses, and radically transforming sentencing law. Community activists and organizers throughout the city and state continue to make steady progress toward these goals today. Rather than deciding to clip the trajectory of decarceration now, we can work to reduce the number of people in jail below the city's non-Rikers capacity of around 2,400 beds. We don't have to wait 7 years to close Rikers for good, and we certainly don't have to divert billions from our poorest communities to build its replacements. We can create a world without cages only by diminishing the city's power to lock people up, not reinforcing it.

When we demand funding of this scale for resources our communities actually need, we are told over and over again that we simply can't afford it; but when developers identify an opportunity to add to our jailing arsenal, an otherwise inconceivable number appears easily within reach. By supporting the plan to build new jails, reformers sustain a reality made possible by white supremacy: that it is politically easier for the city to invest in cages for Black and Brown people than it is to invest in life-affirming resources that actually address the root causes of harm. With the \$11 billion it will cost to construct new jails, we could repair and secure the future of NYCHA, which the city currently plans to privatize. For a fraction of the jails plan budget, we could provide housing for all of the city's more than 60,000 homeless people. Or we could build an unprecedented mental healthcare network that would actually work to heal, rather than perpetuate, the violence inflicted by incarceration.

We are hurtling towards a future marred by the same violence, the same racism, and the same inequality that our repeated commitment to incarceration has inflicted on the generations that preceded us. You have a chance to change that. You can fight to demand the immediate closure of Rikers under a no-build plan. You can call for that funding to be redirected into truly transformative systems of community healing and accountability. You can help expand our city's political horizon beyond a fixation on punishment, and towards a future without cages. Vote no on the borough-based jails plan, and join the members of your community working to manifest a radical vision of real justice and safety for everyone.

Sincerely,

Scott Limbacher

The Deadly Exchange Campaign of Jewish Voice for Peace NYC

Testimony of The Deadly Exchange Campaign of Jewish Voice for Peace NYC to New York City Council on The Mayor's Borough Jails Plan.

The Deadly Exchange campaign of Jewish Voice for Peace New York City adamantly opposes the city's borough-based jails plan. We call upon the New York City Council to vote against the plan. We also call upon the New York City Council to urge the city to close Rikers now and to use the \$11 billion cost for these jails for life affirming community resources. The Deadly Exchange campaign shares an abolitionist vision and long term commitment to end incarceration, policing and surveillance as we create a transformative world that does not rely on cages, dehumanization, punishment, social control and white supremacy.

The Deadly Exchange campaign of JVP-NYC is part of a national campaign to expose and eliminate U.S. police exchange programs with Israel. Under these exchanges, worst practices are shared to promote & extend discriminatory & repressive practices in both countries including broken windows policing exported to Israel by Mayor de Blasio & NYPD, extrajudicial killings, shoot to kill, police murders, racial profiling, massive spying, surveillance, deportation, & attacks on protesters and other human rights defenders. All of these practices feed into systems of incarceration in NYC, the U.S. & Israel that are rooted in white supremacy, racial capitalism and imperialism. To organize around our concerns, JVP-NYC partners with groups throughout NYC that are building movements to resist state violence and oppression in New York City and abroad.

To that end, we oppose the city's borough jails plan for the following reasons:

- We believe the \$11 billion dedicated to the borough jails plan should be used for vital community resources for working class and poor Black and Brown communities, such as New York City Housing Authority repairs, housing for the homeless, health care, education, etc.
- Just as we oppose Israel as an occupying force in Palestine with a massive system of incarceration as a tool of repression fueled by the U.S. as well as NYC government and NYPD — we oppose the building of new & expanded borough jails in NYC that will exacerbate the domination, occupation, and repression of mostly Black & Brown communities in our city.
- We believe new and expanded borough jails will reproduce the violence repression, racism, Islamophobia, and economic inequality that exist on Rikers in our boroughs.
- We oppose new & expanded borough jails because arrests and incarceration are pathways to deportation & expanded criminalization of immigrant communities- especially under broken windows policing.
- We oppose state surveillance & new & expanded borough jails will augment surveillance in the boroughs.
- Just as we believe violence against some communities abroad will not create safety and security for others, we believe incarceration of some people in New York City and elsewhere does not keep anyone safe and actually exacerbates violence and social problems. We believe safety is enhanced through solidarity, community networks, and by making sure everyone has adequate resources to survive and thrive in order to live fulfilling lives.

The Deadly Exchange Campaign of Jewish Voice for Peace NYC

- The false marketing scheme of The Mayor's Office for Criminal Justice and the Department of Corrections in promoting the borough jails plan obfuscates, legitimizes, and normalizes the inherent toxic, racist, and violent nature of jails and all forms of incarceration under the guise of "culture change." They claim the borough-based jails plan cultivates "culture change" and will be a humane, innovative jail system with state-of-the-art design and programming. However, EVERY new jail and prison in New York City and the nation was promoted with similar promises but ALL of them resulted in violent and corrupt institutions.
- We believe Rikers can be closed immediately and permanently without building new and expanded jails if there is the political will to do so. The city can close Rikers by ending broken windows policing, cash bail, pre-trial detention, and laws that criminalize vulnerable communities.
- Harm can be addressed and prevented with effective and humane community accountability practices such as transformative and restorative justice .
- It will be harder to decarcerate and close new & expanded jails once they are built.
- The best way to decarcerate is to STOP building new jails & dismantle the systems feeding them.

From NYC to Palestine No More Cages! From NYC to Mexico to Palestine Tear Down The Walls!

New York City Council

This is testimony from the Deadly Exchange Campaign of Jewish Voice for Peace NYC - the fastest growing Jewish organization- against the borough jails plan. We also call upon Speaker Corey Johnson to stop strong arming and bullying other Council Members to vote for this egregious plan!

Sincerely,
Maureen Silverman

<maureensilverman@gmail.com>

Queens Residents United

Honorable Speaker Corey Johnson
NYC Council
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

October 6, 2019

Dear Council Speaker Johnson,

My name is Charlotte Picot and I am a founding member of Queens Residents United which is working together with nine other associations* (listed below) across Queens, Manhattan, Bronx, and Brooklyn to oppose Mayor De Blasio's "borough-based" jail project. I am also a board member of Forest Hills South Owners, Inc., a 7-building apartment complex located 2 blocks from the proposed jail in Queens. Together, our nine associations represent approximately 800,000 residents whose quality of lives we want to protect. As you know, Mayor De Blasio is bulldozing a plan to build four massive, Yankee stadium-size jails (Exhibit 1- Scale of Project) in these four boroughs at a cost of \$11 billion (\$30 billion with financing). At a recent Queens Advisory Committee meeting with the Mayor, we asked him why his plan totally ignored the Lippman Commission's recommendations of not siting jails in residential neighborhoods and limiting occupancy to 500 detainees or less. He answered, "The Lippman Commission is not my bible," and concluded, "You'll get used to it."

Something's clearly going on here, and it's not criminal justice reform. The only beneficiaries of the project thus far are Perkins Eastman (paid \$7.6 million for the design), and AECOM-Hill that was awarded a \$107.4 million contract for Project Management, before the Planning Commission and Council even voted. The Mayor and his team have conflated closing Rikers with approval of this massive construction project, as if one cannot be accomplished without the other.

The Planning Commission and Council members are using the "higher purpose" of criminal justice reform to cast the opponents of the plan as "NIMBY" and to dismiss the "No" votes of 5 Community Boards and Borough Presidents. The residents of all affected communities feel abandoned because the Council members of the four affected districts have aligned themselves with the Mayor for political purposes. (Council member Koslowitz admitted that she is against the plan but voting for it in order to "have a seat at the table.") Since the Council traditionally defers to the wishes of the member in the affected district, a positive vote is likely, unless someone steps in. Importantly, this is the first time in NYC history that a design/build ULURP for all boroughs is subject to a single vote.

There is a much better, faster and cheaper way to close Rikers--an alternate plan. We have 14 existing jails across the four boroughs that can be renovated in one to two years versus eight, at a fraction of the cost. Essentially, this lower cost plan will enable working toward a fresh culture of mutual respect between detainees and corrections staff (with reform programs such as the TRUE Program in Cheshire, CT) at least 6 years earlier. If the incarcerated numbers are going down, why build these massive jails? The detainees will not benefit from being enclosed in experimental towers with little outdoor recreation. And, the objective of "borough-based" jails is not even met in the current plan because Queens is slated to receive more than 2X the population than actually comes from this borough (only 500). So, most of the detainees will still have to be transported to different courts and will not be any closer to their relatives.

On the “pretext” of accomplishing reform, Council Members are turning a blind eye to this huge incursion into residential communities and the adverse health impact on our citizens and environment that goes with it. Kew Gardens and Forest Hills are already suffering from a massive, sprawling KGIP highway construction project that began in late 2010 with no end in sight, in exactly the same location as the proposed jail. (Please see Exhibit 2 - Photo of KGIP construction and Exhibit 3- Present traffic congestion on 78th Avenue). No one is addressing the most important aspect of the jail initiative—the required culture change. A massive construction project will not solve that and will actually delay implementation of such reform by 6 years or more.

Who is watching over and protecting our residents who will be severely affected by demolition and years of construction, especially children, seniors and the more fragile among us? Who is ensuring that work starts on reforming jail culture sooner rather than later?

Honorable Speaker Johnson, we believe that if you voice your objection to this cost-prohibitive, ill-conceived initiative, it will give permission for the rest of the Council Members to do the same. Such action on your part would certainly garner city-wide public approval. We hope you can help us.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Picot

Vice President Forest Hills South Owners, Inc.

*Community Preservation Coalition and Kew Gardens Civic Association (Queens); Boroughs United, Human Scale and NUBC/Neighbors United Below Canal (Manhattan); South Bronx Unite and Diego Beekman Mutual Housing Association (Bronx); and Preserve our Brooklyn Neighborhoods and Brooklyn Preservation (Brooklyn).

Email: cbpsoprano@gmail.com Phone: (718) 263-0558
112-50 78th Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 --Scale of Intended Jail in Queens
- Exhibit 2-- Current KGIP construction project
- Exhibit 3- Present traffic congestion on 78th Avenue going to Queens Blvd.
- Borough-Based Jails – Fact Sheet

EXHIBIT 1- SCALE OF PROJECT—OVERSHADOWS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY



EXHIBIT 2- CURRENT KGIP 10-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ALREADY PLAGUING AREA

8/21/2019

20190718_120415.jpg



**EXHIBIT 3- PRESENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON 78TH AVENUE GOING TO QUEENS BLVD.—
MAXED OUT**



Existing morning traffic congestion on 78th Avenue approaching intersection with Queens Boulevard.

BOROUGH-BASED JAILS (BBJ) FACT SHEET

ASTRONOMICAL COST

- BBJ Project cost estimate is **\$11 Billion**, with financing **\$30 Billion**, which will impact all NYC taxpayers for decades.

DELAYS CLOSING RIKERS – FASTER, MORE HUMANE, LESS COSTLY OPTIONS NOT CONSIDERED

- Construction of 4 massive jails will take 8+ years.
- NYC has 14 existing jails in the boroughs that can accommodate more than the projected number of beds needed that could be renovated in 1-2 years enabling a much earlier closing of Rikers at a fraction of the cost.

DETAINEES WILL NOT BENEFIT

- Detainees will not benefit being enclosed in experimental towers with little access to outdoor recreation except for rooftops and small cubicles.
- In case of fire, detainees will have to be brought down to street overwhelming the number of corrections officers available.

LIPPMAN COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS IGNORED

- Jails should not be sited in residential neighborhoods nor near schools
- Jails should be "smaller" accommodating no more than 500 detainees

OVERSIZED

- The Kew Gardens Jail is certified for **29+ stories, 1.3 million square feet** (same size as Yankee-Stadium)
- Provides beds for 1,150+ detainees.
- Massive structure will block the present expansive open sky view on the north side of Queens Boulevard and destroy visual landscape.
- Will overshadow the entire neighborhood and cast a shadow four (4) times its height all the way to the Fedex store on Queens Blvd. and 78th Avenue.
- Will dwarf our historic 3-story Queens Borough Hall.

INCREASES TRAFFIC AND MASS TRANSIT CONGESTION

- Will bring 800+ additional vehicle trips 2X per day causing increased traffic congestion to already overburdened narrow streets and highways and unavoidable adverse environmental Impacts that DEIS admits cannot be mitigated at 78th and 77th Avenues at Queens Blvd. and 3 other locations.
- Two new garages will be built for correction officers and visitors accommodating 608 cars creating scarcity of street parking for local residents.
- Buses, trains and platforms cannot absorb additional numbers that BBJ would bring as they are now dangerously bursting with people due to the organic growth that has occurred over the years.

QUEENS GETTING MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE

- Staten Island was excluded because it has the least number of detainees, while Queens, with the least number detainees vs. other boroughs is getting the same number plus a Women's Jail for all boroughs.
- Objectives to bring detainees closer to relatives and to the Court will not be met in Queens as 60% of jail population will come from other boroughs.
- Kew Gardens site is across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- 82nd Avenue will be de-mapped, closing the street to vehicular and pedestrian traffic between 126th Street and 132nd Street, prohibiting hundreds of pedestrians from using the footbridge they currently use as a short-cut to subway on Queens Blvd.

Citizen Action Statement on Closure of Rikers Island

Dear New York City Councilmembers,

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out to share Citizen Action's recent position [statement on the Mayor's plan to close Rikers Island](#) (also copied below). Citizen Action is committed to ending mass pretrial jailing, divesting in carceral infrastructure and incarceration, and securing significant fiscal investments in community.

We continue to advocate statewide for strong implementation of the new bail and discovery laws, and to advance community centered interventions that address the root causes of harm and violence in communities - drivers like poverty, trauma, housing instability, unmet mental health and health needs and untreated substance use disorder. The recent [tragedy](#) in Lower Manhattan is evidence of the need to address these causes, rather than driving people with social needs into jails. Every time we have tried to reconfigure the system - it's failed to achieve the necessary outcomes - because it's not been coupled with investments in community based mental health, substance use treatment, restorative justice programs, supportive and affordable housing, education and other critical social service supports. We hope that you will center these essential components in your advocacy to close Rikers.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or my colleague Stanley (cc'd) with any questions. We look forward to working with you.

Best,
Erin

--

Erin Leigh George, M.S.W.

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Civil Rights Campaigns Director

Citizen Action of New York | www.citizenactionny.org

[@ErinLeighGeorge](#) | (c) 408-691-7372

CITIZEN ACTION STATEMENT ON CLOSURE OF RIKERS ISLAND

New York City—In response to Mayor de Blasio’s plan to construct new jails to replace Rikers Island, **Stanley Fritz, Citizen Action of New York’s Political Director**, issued the following statement:

“Citizen Action of New York cannot support Mayor de Blasio’s plan to construct new jails to replace Rikers Island, or any plan that builds new prisons or jails. The Mayor’s proposal perpetuates a racist status quo that has devastated families across New York City. It would replace one inhumane institution—the Rikers Island Jail Complex—with another.

“We urge the New York City Council to reject the Mayor’s plan and commit to closing Rikers by advancing implementation of bail and discovery reforms, razing unused jails on the Island, and making broad investments in our communities. Elected officials need to invest in solutions that create safer and healthier communities, like affordable housing, health care, mental health services, violence interruption and substance use programs, and interventions rooted in harm reduction and restorative justice – not a proposal that calls for an \$11 billion investment in jails and fails to direct funds to community services and supports. The No New Jails campaign has outlined a strong plan for community investments in their [“We Keep Us Safe”](#) guide.

“Citizen Action is focused on the fight to end mass incarceration, close Rikers Island and the Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center (“The Boat”), implement the new bail and discovery laws, stop the over-policing of Black and Brown communities, hold district attorneys accountable to decarceration and end the racist War on Drugs.”

###

Borough-based jails

Dear NYC council members,

My name is Owen Marschall, and I am a resident of Bedford-Stuyvesant in Robert Cornegy's district. The question you face is simple: do you invest in the continued growth of the carceral state, or do you invest in communities? The former will bring violence and pain to New Yorkers for generations, while the latter actually prevents crime and improves safety. If we build these jails, they will fill up, continuing the cycle of state-mediated violence on New York residents. This council has the opportunity to take a courageous, substantive step towards breaking this cycle. Will you do it?

Sincerely,

Owen Marschall

<owen.marschall@gmail.com>

Borough-based jails

Hello,

My name is Anqa Khan and I'm a resident of Flatbush, Brooklyn. I'm writing to strongly support the closing of Rikers WITHOUT borough-based jails expansion. In my field as a public health academic, I have worked with formerly incarcerated parents to assess the intergenerational health and social impacts of incarceration and find jails to undoubtedly serve as a form of cruel and unusual punishment. I believe that the No New Jails group has outlined a wonderful abolition plan that proves that we can close Rikers without creating any new jails, and I don't think that fact can be ignored. I urge the council to consider moving forward with an understanding that jails are fundamentally inhumane and New York City can serve as a leader in this vision of a world without them.

Warmest,
Anqa

--

Anqa Khan (*they/them*)
Research Junior Staff, Guttmacher Institute
Board of Directors, The Reconcavo Collective
Muslim Youth Leadership Council Fellow, Advocates for Youth
<anqakhan2016@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

My name is Sarah Flatto Manasrah and I am a former city employee and current advocate, organizer, writer, and birth worker focused on gender, reproductive, immigrant, and refugee justice. I am writing to support the "No New Jails" campaign. I strongly believe that NYC, the largest city in America, must set a new national standard by divesting from violent, destructive incarceration and re-investing in education, housing, healthcare, and wellness to strengthen our communities.

Since it is the eve of Yom Kippur, I am thinking about the powerful passages from Isaiah 58 that Jewish communities around the world will read at High Holy Day services tomorrow morning.

*"No, this is the fast I desire:
To unlock the fetters of wickedness,
And untie the cords of the yoke
To let the oppressed go free;
To break off every yoke.
It is to share your bread with the hungry,
And to take the wretched poor into your home;
When you see the naked, to clothe him,
And not to ignore your own kin.
Then shall your light burst through like the dawn
And your healing spring up quickly;
Your Vindicator shall march before you,
The Presence of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then, when you call, the LORD will answer;
When you cry, He will say: Here I am.
If you banish the yoke from your midst,
The menacing hand, and evil speech,
And you offer your compassion to the hungry
And satisfy the famished creature
Then shall your light shine in darkness,
And your gloom shall be like noonday."*

These holy words inspire me to work every day to practice what we preach. It is clear that we CAN close Rikers WITHOUT building new jails - it is simply a

matter of political will and living the values of justice, freedom, and equity we say we believe in.

I first started working for New York City in 2011, as a NYC Service Civic Corps member placed at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. The goal of Immigrant Affairs was to support the wellbeing of immigrant communities, since 40% of New Yorkers are immigrants and 60% are the children of immigrants. I myself am the grandchild and great-grandchild of Jewish refugees. In 2012 I progressed to Project Manager, leading "One NYC One Nation," the first-ever citywide immigrant civic engagement initiative. I facilitated hundreds of community "Know Your Rights" forums, neighborhood-based leadership trainings and volunteer opportunities. Our programs focused on connecting immigrants to life-saving services such as healthcare, education, public benefits, and housing, and participating in city decision-making. One of the primary concerns of immigrant communities was always safety and fears of criminalization. Even though NYC is supposed to be sanctuary city, it was common knowledge that once an immigrant is arrested by NYPD, fingerprinted, and placed in Rikers, their identifying information could be transferred to ICE where they could be placed in deportation proceedings or immigrant detention even if they were not convicted of a crime. This problem has significantly worsened today under the racist Trump administration, when a record number of immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers are being caged in torturous for-profit detention systems. If new borough-based jails open, will ICE be able to have free rein there? How will we prevent immigration enforcement from deporting our immigrant brothers and sisters who have not yet been convicted of a crime, but are being held on pre-trial detention because of unjust bail?

From 2013-2016, I was the Director of Programs & Community Partnerships at the NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan, part of the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence - now called the Office to End Gender-Based and Domestic Violence. Our primary goal was providing a free, confidential, comprehensive services at a public walk-in center for survivors of intimate partner violence and their families. Our resources included case management, counseling, childcare, public benefits, housing, family and immigration law, yoga, meditation, and even criminal justice services if survivors were interested in filing police reports. What I found out was that instead of being protected by police, survivors were often arrested themselves due to unjust "mandatory arrest" policies for domestic violence incidents. In addition, many survivors did not want their abusers arrested, as it would simply make it worse for them upon release and did not end the abuse. According to the "Survived and Punished" project, 60%-90% of people in women's prisons are survivors of abuse. Many other cisgender and trans women,

and gender-nonconforming people also experience sexual violence from guards and others. The violence and trauma endemic in the incarceration systems needs to end.

In New York City, the majority of people imprisoned in Rikers have NOT been convicted of a crime -- they merely cannot afford bail while awaiting trial. We already know that "broken windows" policing practices disproportionately target black and brown communities for low-level offenses such as jumping a turnstile or "loitering." What we need to do is drastically change our policing and incarceration practices, which have become emergency response for social issues of poverty, lack of access to affordable housing, sexual and domestic violence, and mental illness. New York City Council, which claims to be progressive, should absolutely NOT be in the business of building new jails, no matter how "humane" they are.

Human beings, who are so often survivors of compound traumas of displacement, migration, white supremacy, police brutality, and intimate and sexual violence, NEVER deserve to be put in cages. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Best,
Sarah

--

Sarah Flatto Manasrah
639 Bay Ridge Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11220
<sarahflatto@gmail.com>

Borough-based jails

I'm a PhD student in a STEM field at NYU and I live in East Williamsburg. Antonio Reynoso is my councilmember.

I do not usually comment on city council motions, but I feel very strongly about this. Please do not open any new jails. If you build them, they will be used, even though everyone in the community knows that they shouldn't be. New York City has the highest level of homelessness since the Great Depression-- almost 1 in every 130 New Yorkers is homeless. Don't you think the money would be much better spent elsewhere? Don't you think that money should be put toward initiatives that are really going to increase the health and happiness of the inhabitants of our neighbours? I want my taxpayers to go toward positive change, not more jails and the incarceration of folks who are down on their luck and who just need love and financial support from our community institutions.

Everybody knows that jails don't make us any safer-- they destroy families and communities. Please put this \$11 billion towards making our communities positive and loving places to live and raise our families. Create mental health networks, invest in community-based violence prevention, community education, and shelters to provide transitional spaces for the homeless.

Please do the right thing, councilmembers!

Jennifer Lee
<jenn.laura.lee@gmail.com>

BOROUGH-BASED JAILS

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my concern with Mayor De Blasio's Borough-Based Jail Expansion plan and why I believe the \$10 billion that he plans to allocate to its implementation once Riker's is closed can be put to far better use. The \$10 billion could be used to...

- 1) solve the problem of the cities growing homeless population and unsafe shelter system
- 2) strengthen NYCHA and create better quality affordable/public housing for New York City's large low income communities

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Sincerely,
Julius Venuti

Julius Venuti | New York University 2020
B.A. Metropolitan Studies & Environmental Studies
jdv5@nyu.edu

Borough- Based Jails

To whom it may concern: Sorry for my possibly very emotional rant, but I feel strongly about this and it seems there is no time to be politically cool, calm and collected. And anyone who knows me and the battles we've been up against to protect our tenants at Independence Plaza, or to fight for the residents after 9/11, knows that I am upfront and honest and fight hard.

It is with this continued attitude, that I contribute the following thoughts -

My name is Diane Lapson. For purposes of identification only, I am the president of the Independence Plaza North Tenants Association, a recently former member of CB1 for 12 years, a co-founder of the 9/11 Environmental Action group, an original community assistant in the creation of the 9/11 department of Health Health registry; a helper and supporter of the original Zadroga Bill; an original member of the DOH Community Action Committee, appointed by Mayor Bloomberg; A co-founder of the Girl's Softball League as part of Downtown Little League, a member of the committee that helped change the New York City and States law regarding child welfare in the situations of suspected child abuse, as a result of the Lisa Steinberg murder. I have been elected many times to County Committee and Judicial Committee on the ballots during NYC elections ...and many other appointed and elected positions that I have held. I also was very involved in early environmental issues in NYC in the early 80s, environmental issues after 9/11, etc.

I mention all of this because especially for the past 45 years I have been an activist on behalf of citizens of New York City. I have always worked for a living, but my spare time has been mostly devoted to the needs and issues of the public. The working class. The poor. And anyone who cannot speak for his or herself to get a message across. I have even been invited to other states to speak on behalf of the public in cases of emergency, how to organize and how the people are the solution to many of our serious disasters.

It is with this experience that I carefully examined the proposed plans of our Mayor regarding jails and "reform." And with my years of experience of carefully looking into the many problems we face and often suffer with in New York, I have come to the conclusion that this plan regarding the jails is unacceptable, unfair and quite damaging.

There are so many people who are writing about the reasons this plan must not go through, that I am not going to focus on that. Instead, I would like to focus on the fact that we now have a terrible and unforgivable situation in the White House, because I believe, my beloved Democratic party has failed to pay attention to what really concerns our citizens for too long. We have not had many leaders FOCUSING ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING, THE DRUG SITUATION, HOMELESSNESS, PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOOD — JOBS JOBS JOBS....THE HIGH PRICE OF EDUCATION AND THE STRUGGLE OF PAYING FOR THAT EDUCATION, FOR YEARS AND YEARS (when you could be putting the money into your own children's futures) The unfairness of stop and frisk; the unfairness of racial discrimination and profiling; the terrible conditions that NYCHA housing has been in — the fact that most people who grew up in NYC cannot afford to continue living here! (We are losing our citizens continuously and they are being replaced by either the wealthy - who by the way will not support the democratic candidates — or by foreign money, where the people investing don't even live here - or by young people whose wealthy parents pay their rent. Our own children cannot live near their families. This is a disgrace. And the real estate market has closed so many small shops. Tribeca itself, where I live, looks like a ghost town. Another shop on Greenwich Street just closed two days ago.

Let's put the money where it is really needed - so that people who have been paying taxes as I have, for my entire young and adult life, can see the funds going back into our communities. And not hear sometimes that a fire station must be closed for lack of funds - really - then where did all this money come from? Hard to keep trust in this city. Hard to keep trust.

I can go on and on - but the bottom line is that while we are playing with billions of dollars for someone's seemingly weird agenda, the folks who pay the taxes here are not being served. The people who work in the city are not being heard. This is a ridiculous idea and will not make the majority of us happy.

Is this another situation of the 99 percent? But in this case, is the democrats who are pushing for an issue that detracts from our real problems?

I am absolutely disgusted at not only this plan, but the fact that we have to beg our city council not to push it through. PLEASE! WAKE UP. THE PUBLIC IS AGAINST THIS.

I am against this and I do indeed represent a lot of people. Though I cannot speak on behalf of my organizations, because I have not polled the majority of tenants I can tell you that all of the tenants I speak to HATE THIS IDEA.

I surely hope someone is listening. I surely hope City Council will turn around to Mayor DiBlasio and any other elected who is just pushing for this - and says NO.

Let's stop making the mistakes that created Donald Trump in the white house. He will be re elected if we don't start taking care of our people in this country. And New York is in the lead - we are supposed to be the greatest city in the world. But for a long time, we stopped deeply serving the people who make this city so great. What happened to the NYC I knew as a young adult? Full of hope, potential — and possibilities to live here and grow here. Not for everyone but we could have made it for everyone.... instead of going backwards.

Thanks you very much for listening and considering. Thank you for understanding why the NO MORE JAILS participants are also very emotional and outspoken. They believe in this so deeply.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Lapson
40 Harrison Street
New York, NY 10013
dlapson@verizon.net

borough-based jails

Hello,

I do not support any new borough based jail expansion-this would be a huge mistake on New York's part. We need to be spending money on education for children and young adults so that people have more opportunities to do things other than get in trouble! We want to set people up for success, not assume they will go to jail. Not to mention, who are you expecting to fill these jails with? While old white men crooks in the senate or police system get away with rape and murder, we put away black and brown people for minor crimes or no crime at all! There is clearly a problem. The system is rigged. Please do not be a part of this. I always think of NYC as one of the most liberal, free places-if you build these jails it will once again prove me wrong to believing in humanity. Believing we can be better than the 13th amendment-which basically enables slavery within the prison system. PLEASE do not build these jails. We want Rikers closed now and NO JAIL EXPANSION!!! Education is the way, not punishment in a cell for years and years. Humans have so much potential and hope, I beg you to be a part of this change and not the problem we're trying to solve. I don't want my kids dealing with this problem...

Sincerely, Alaena

Alaena Punzi
<alaenapunzi12@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern and to my District 4 council member, Mr. Keith Powers:

My name is John Tsombikos, I was born and raised in Manhattan's 4th council district in the upper east side. I am writing out of concern for the so-called borough-based jail system you are about to vote on. I believe that reinvesting all those billions of dollars into more jails is ineffective, a waste of money, and a wasted opportunity to actually address this issue of mass incarceration and its effect (and affect) on the mental and social well-being of everyday New Yorkers.

Currently, my older brother is being held in Riker's Island. He is mentally ill and addicted to amphetamines, which only further pushes him into psychosis. He has been in and out of jails and hospitals and always ends up living on the streets in desperation. This spring he was sent to Woodhull Hospital where he ended up assaulting a psychiatrist. He has been in Riker's since May, un-medicated and un-cared-for.

I believe the (minimum) \$11 billion budget for these new jails can be better allocated for art programs, jobs trainings, affordable housing, mental health systems and infrastructures, education, or any number of alternative non-traumatic pathways toward helping New Yorkers meet their full potential. Trauma only breeds more trauma.

Close Riker's and de-carcerate New York!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
John Tsombikos
<jtsombikos@gmail.com>

Borough Based Jails

As an NYU student, I DO NOT support the creation of new jails around the area.

I stand with No New Jails.

Olivia Lalae Najafi

<oln207@nyu.edu>

Borough based jails

As an NYU student I stand with No New Jails and ask you to vote no on the proposal for 4 new jails in New York.

Tara Jones

<tmichaelaj@gmail.com>

NO NEW JAILS

To whom it may concern,

As an NYU student, I am deeply concerned that opening a new jail and torture cell to further incarcerate more innocent people. A “progressive” jail is still a jail. STOP THIS ACTION NOW!!!!

Sarah

Sarah Aneeq Ahmad
<saa804@nyu.edu>

No New Jails

Hi my name is Cecilia Innis and I'm an NYU student against the plan to build new jails in the five boroughs. The building of more jails will only aid mass incarceration and infractions against human rights. Please heed this people's protests against this plan. Thank you.

-Cecilia

Cecilia Innis
<cecilia.innis@gmail.com>

No New Jails

Tear Down The Cages

De Blasio's plan to open borough based jails, supposedly in substitution of Riker's, is immoral and wrong. Prisons are a morally bankrupt concept that should be opposed at every turn. \$11 billion in city funding is being diverted to cage, restrain, and attack human beings. As an NYU student and new NYC resident, I condemn this plan and any councilman who votes for it.

Sincerely
Joe Whitcomb

<jw5906@nyu.edu>

Borough Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

As a New York University student and a concerned citizen, I am writing to implore you to consider the harm these jails will cause to our society. This money should be used for schools and infrastructure and creating a safer city, working towards preventing more black and brown people from ending up in the criminal justice system in the first place.

Best,
Natalie Sharpe
Class of 2020
<ns3594@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

Hello,

My name is Olivia Huang and I am currently a 3rd year student at New York University studying Computer Science and Ethics. I am reaching out regarding Mayor de Blasio's proposal to fund the construction of 4 new jails to be built within the boroughs of NYC. As a computer science major, my field of study rarely crosses paths with humanities and the social sciences, but I study ethics because it is something that I have always felt strongly passionate about.

I believe it is the responsibility as human beings to preserve and enhance the well-being of others, and I understand the institutionalization of building more prisons to be a deliberate violation of ethical political responsibility. The \$10.6 billion plan is bare of community input, and lacks any binding commitment to abolish Rikers Island. This will only cause preexisting issues in our incarceration system to proliferate, while simultaneously presenting the threat of staggering unforeseen issues.

As an NYU student, I believe I can speak on the behalf of my peers that my student body absolutely does not want 4 new jails in our city. Even more critically, we do not want a \$10 billion budget to fund it, whereas such an endowment would have much more practical use elsewhere. Students move to NYC to seek opportunity, not to bear the burden that rise from political policies feeding off of profit and punishment. A \$10 billion budget can be more impactful when invested in holistic mental health services, inmate rehabilitation, and accessibility of education. Mass incarceration has historically been a notoriously ineffective way of providing proper mental health treatment, adequate housing, and preventing the convicted from reoffending. In fact, it facilitates the exact opposite and is a short-term and surface-level solution to a deeply complex issue.

Abolition has been proposed for Rikers Island, as well as all other prison institutions in our incarceration system, and I am reaching out to support these facilities' immediate closure. I do not support the Prison Industrial Complex because it values policing, surveillance, imprisonment, and

government interest over social and ethical interests. The PIC preserves its power and influence through the oppression of marginalized groups who lack the agency and platform to voice their concerns. Please do not continue to look away, and consider the urgency in my message. Mass incarceration has littered and our history and exacerbated the incarceration issue. With this system, the solution is nowhere in sight. Please vote to veto the borough-based jails plan and consider the following articles:

<http://criticalresistance.org/about/not-so-common-language/>

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/06/19/the-case-for-abolition>

<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/>

Best,
Olivia Huang
<oh486@nyu.edu>

Borough-based jails

Good morning,

I oppose the borough-based jail expansion proposed to "make space" for inmates upon the closure of Rikers Island. What is needed is bail reform that will keep untried and innocent people out of these institutions and low income housing to reduce the impact of the criminalization of poverty in this city. Please consider how the \$10.6 billion directed to this project could be applied to keep people OUT of jail.

I urge you, please close Rikers without constructing new jails.

Thank you,
Zed Lucienne
620 Union Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215
<zed.l@nyu.edu>

borough-based jails

Good morning,

I am writing in opposition to the plan to build 4 new borough-based jails in the City.

New York City can and should lead the transformation to a justice system based on restorative models. Jails are inevitably signs of racist, classist oppression that perpetuate cycles of violence and dehumanization. While social separation of offenders is sometimes required, this can be accomplished without building four new jails. The money should be spent on alternatives to incarceration, education, healthcare, housing and other supportive services for limited-income and vulnerable New Yorkers.

Thank you,

John Loranger
439 Carroll St.
Brooklyn, NY 11215
<lorangjr@gmail.com>

Land use application comment

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Amandeep Singh and I'm a resident of Prospect Lefferts Garden neighborhood Brooklyn, in district 40 - Council member Mathieu Eugene's district. I vehemently oppose this land use application for the rezoning of Mott Haven, Downtown Brooklyn, Chinatown, and Kew Gardens in order to build borough based jails. I believe that Rikers must be shut down immediately and permanently. Rikers has been, and continues to be, a dangerous, brutalizing place for incarcerated people. But we can and must shut down Rikers without new jails.

Additionally, although the project documents make reference to the city's roadmap to closing Rikers, the zoning application includes no mechanism nor timeline to close the Rikers jails. This land-use decision only determines whether the city adds jail cells – or not.

- Nearly seven in 10 people in city jails are awaiting trial and either have a bail that can be paid or a remand that can be fought. These people should be home.
- Data shows that 85% of people that NYC jails have diagnosed mental illness or substance addictions. People need access to health services and housing, **not** incarceration, which only worsens their conditions.
- People should not be punished with months of jail time because they miss a meeting mandated under punitive parole programs.
- Divert resources from the over-policing and incarceration of communities and deciding instead to invest in public housing, and education, and jobs in those communities.

There are many policies that you and other City electeds have power over to actually prevent incarceration in the first place. You have the power to stop this cycle of violently punishing New Yorkers for the Mayor's actions - for the continued use of broken windows policing and war on drugs policies, for failing policies of affordable housing or fixing the MTA, and the related criminalization of poverty and homelessness.

The question I have for YOU, Councilmembers, is whether you will commit the future of NYC to incarceration or if you'll break the cycle. Will you invest in the resources and the services for communities that actually keep us safe?"

Best,

Amandeep Singh

<amansng2@gmail.com>

The NYC Council should vote NO!!!! on the blatantly flawed and incomplete borough-based jails ULURP

FOR YOUR COMPLETE ATTENTION!

This letter is coming to you from a woman that has lived in Kew Gardens since 1973. This letter is coming to you from a woman who loves Kew Gardens because it is a friendly, welcoming, diverse, very safe community. This letter is coming to you from a woman who chose to bring her only daughter up here, is very active in the community, values the truth and believes that what one says is important but what one does is more important. This letter is coming to you from a woman who is slow to anger BUT I am angry, very angry NOW!

You are scheduled to vote on the Mayor's proposal to build four high-rise jails, in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. We are all hoping that you will reflect on the community voices that you have heard and the letters that you have received asking that you and your committee follow the suggestions of the Lippman Commission. They recommended small community jails instead of mega jails that are 27 stories high with options to go even higher! We all agree that the culture of our prison system needs to change and from my reading the size of the buildings, the number of inmates in that building, the availability of recreational areas, continuing education opportunities, a strong psychological and social work team, music and the arts, etc. can manifest positive change. **A series of smaller neighborhood, community-based jails in each of the four boroughs should be considered.**

If you approve these four massive mega jails you will not be improving the culture of the prisons and you will be responsible for negatively impacting four communities. We prevail upon you to put a hold on this project, a project that requires further research. **Your actions matter a great deal!**

Sincerely,

Carol Lacks

carollacks@aol.com

CITY COUNCEL VOTE OCTOBER 17 TO BUILD BOROUGH BASE JAILSHello Speaker Johnson:

I am writing to you , as a very concerned citizen, to ask you to vote NO on October 17 regarding building the borough based jails. Since we live in a Democratic state, I feel that this whole process has not been Democratic at all. My representative has not listened at all to her constituents and has repeatedly rejected their concerns. I might add that the Mayors team has done so as well. They claim that they met with us and listened to our concerns but that is a lie which can be substantiated by every single person who attended the meetings. Please see below the reasons that I feel you should vote NO. I hope to be able to say that in America my voice still counts. And please note that we remember who stands with us and who stands against us when it is time to vote again.

- 1) The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested *community-based* jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for KG. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
- 3) Kew Gardens, Queens will be accommodating far more detainees than can be justified by the number of detainees who reside in Queens. Queens will be getting 25% of the jail beds (same as the other 3 boroughs) despite having *less than 15%* of the detainees. (Staten Island's detainees will all be housed in the other 4 boroughs!)
- 4) Costs of busing detainees to court will not be eliminated, as claimed, since the system requires that all detainees be tried in the borough in which they are arrested.
- 5) On Rikers Island there are **outdoor areas** for recreation, but not in these high-rise jails.
- 6) After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population.
- 7) Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained -- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.???
- 8) Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult or even impossible to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency?
- 9) A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens both by its height and mass and by the nature of the activity attributable to *such a large penal institution operating round the clock, seven days a week*.
- 10) Rikers Island can certainly be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds on four new jails which may deteriorate into high-rise

slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan when they were not maintained ??? At its opening in 1975 that Center was hailed as an advance in jail design!

11) If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, as well as in any new buildings misplaced around the City.

12) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

Malka Fraenkel

MEF Marketing

malka@mefmarketing.net

Queens County Skyscraper prison

I oppose the skyscraper prison in Queens. For the following reasons:

- 1) The Dept of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested **community-based** jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community; neither is true for KG. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
- 3) Kew Gardens, Queens will be accommodating far more detainees than can be justified by the number of detainees who reside in Queens. Queens will be getting 25% of the jail beds (same as the other 3 boroughs) despite having **less than 15%** of the detainees. (Staten Island's detainees will all be housed in the other 4 boroughs!)
- 4) Costs of busing detainees to court will not be eliminated, as claimed, since the system requires that all detainees be tried in the borough in which they are arrested.
- 5) On Rikers Island there are **outdoor areas** for recreation, but not in these high-rise jails.
- 6) After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population.
- 7) Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained -- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.???
- 8) Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult or even impossible to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency?
- 9) A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens both by its height and mass and by the nature of the activity attributable to *such a large penal institution operating round the clock, seven days a week*.
- 10) Rikers Island can certainly be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds on four new jails which may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan when they were not maintained ??? At its opening in 1975 that Center was hailed as an advance in jail design!

11) If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, as well as in any new buildings misplaced around the City.

12) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

Herb Gingold, Ph.D.
NYS Licensed Psychologist
President and Clinical Director of
The Kew Gardens Center for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis
The Georgian House
118-11 84th Avenue, Suite: B1
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
(917) 853 6509
HerbGingold.com

Remember, your insurance company is NOT your friend.

VOTE NO TO THE JAIL

Dear Margaret Chin, Carolina Rivera, and Corey Johnson,

I am writing to you as a resident and woman-owned, small-business owner based in Chinatown.

I am asking that you vote NO when the city votes on Oct 17th for deBlasio and Speaker Johnson's 4 new skyscraper jails. We do not want this in our neighborhood! We don't want 10-years of construction dust. It's not healthy for our bodies or communities.

Please focus on alternatives to incarceration! Education, Mental Illness Programs, Pretrial Services, TASC and Drug and Alcohol Programs, etc.

Thank you,

Jackie Klempay

--

--

Jackie Klempay

<jackie@situations.us>

SITUATIONS

127 HENRY ST

NYC, NY 10002

www.situations.us

NO TO JAILS

I am a constituent and will be watching closely to see if you vote NO to the ill-conceived Borough Based Jails plan at the [October 17th](#) meeting.

It is appalling to me that you have not tried to shut down this ill-conceived plan that is likely to snarl the area with further construction, lead to a blight on the neighborhood, depress property values, lead to more mass incarceration **and all with the same DOC staff overseeing jails leading to ZERO improvement over Rikers.**

Should you vote yes on this plan I will be voting NO on another term for you at the ballot box.

Wake up. This is bad for the city and fails to improve the situation at Rikers - it merely imports it to our borough.

Egregious. Political malpractice to not oppose. I will donate and campaign and vote on this issue come the next election.

Sarah Jacobson

sarah.ar.jacobson@gmail.com

Letter Regarding Upcoming Vote on Rikers Island Proposal

Dear Councilmember,

We write as Kew Gardens residents and New York City taxpayers concerned about the proposal to close Rikers Island. In our view, this is a terrible proposal that will have negative consequences for New York City for generations. We also note that the proposal is extremely unpopular among New York City residents, and those of you that vote against the city's interest will be remembered in future elections.

The reasons for our viewpoint are straightforward. First and foremost is cost. Our city has numerous pressing problems, including laggard transportation infrastructure and an increasing homeless problem. There are many uses to which the city could put the approximately tens of billions of dollars at stake – the initial estimate, which is only preliminary, is already \$11 billion. The *physical* facilities of Rikers are in working order and there is no reason to undertake a boondoggle project that will waste taxpayers' money on erecting unnecessary new buildings. The problems at Rikers relate to the faulty culture and lack of oversight—that's where the reform efforts and necessary funds should be focused. The plan to move locations and spread inmates around is like pushing peas around a plate to make it look like dinner was eaten, and everyone can see right through it.

Second, the process undertaken by the City Council and related committees has been entirely undemocratic. The timing is suspect – this proposal was created promptly after Mayor De Blasio was re-elected and then implemented with a sense of urgency. The likely explanation is that the mayor realized the proposal would be unpopular and wanted to avoid the democratic process. That is shameful. If the proposal is such a good idea, the people of New York City should have at least one election cycle to vote on it. It is quite clear the people would vote against it: *all* of the relevant Community Boards rejected the proposal outright. Yet the Mayor's office decided to ignore that outcome through the City Planning Commission and approve the project anyway. There is no reason to even have community boards and other organizations if the Mayor's office will pay them lip service and act directly contrary to the views of actual New York City taxpayers.

Third, a stated rationale for the project is that the jails will be "community-based," located closer to detainees and their families. Yet the actual siting of the jails belies this explanation. Very few detainees live in Kew Gardens, for example, and no evidence has been presented otherwise. In fact, no study has been done to evaluate from where detainees typically originate and therefore where jail placement would actually accomplish the stated rationale—ensuring that the jails are close to detainees' own neighborhoods and their likely

visitors. It is irresponsible for the City Council to randomly pick a few neighborhoods (one per borough) to be the sacrificial lambs for new jails with no evidence. More thorough analysis is required.

Finally, the jails will have huge negative impacts on the affected neighborhoods. The protests are evidence enough that property values would be affected (the protests showed no one wants to live next to a mega jail). The selected four neighborhoods should not have to bear the collective burden of the entire city. Moreover, the proposed height of the buildings—particularly in the residential neighborhoods of Boerum Hill and Kew Gardens—is completely out of character with the neighboring areas. The jails will literally cast a shadow over the neighborhoods, forcing their names to become synonymous with the mega jails. It is also unfair that the Kew Gardens site will receive 25% of jail beds even though Queens as a borough is responsible for fewer than 15% of detainees, not to mention the puzzling exclusion of Staten Island altogether.

If this flawed proposal were to proceed, and the City Council were serious about ensuring the chosen neighborhoods were less negatively affected, the Council should ensure genuine offsetting benefits for the local communities in these neighborhoods. For example, to assuage homeowners and families in the neighborhoods, the city should improve resources and funding at the local public schools. The City Council could also improve express subway services and ensure Kew Gardens will be a beneficiary of the planned implementation of “East Side Access” to Grand Central via LIRR. LIRR trains going directly between Kew Gardens and Grand Central would facilitate access to the neighborhood to benefit of residents, detainees, and prison personnel, yet I understand the MTA may propose to not include Queens stops on westward trains to Grand Central or eastward trains from Grand Central. Finally, while it is true that the Kew Gardens site involves a Public Parking Garage, the parking garage is located far away from any neighborhood residents or businesses—this garage should be scrapped so that the jail’s height could be lowered via a larger horizontal footprint. A parking garage is not necessary given the public transit options nearby.

Sincerely,

Dorothy and David LeRay

daveleray@gmail.com

Stop the Mega Prisons

Dear Cory Johnson,

As a 50-year resident of downtown Manhattan, I strongly opposed Mayor de Blasio's plans to shutter Rikers by 2026 and to replace it with four new high-rise jails in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and the Bronx. It doesn't make any sense. Prison reform has to do with prison culture not buildings. Help us to stop this madness which will saddle our city with huge debts for decades to come and only exacerbate New York City's prison system.

A team of activist architects has proposed a visionary plan for a new campus-like complex on Rikers Island — a plan for reform similar to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's. With this, Rikers would include room for family visitors, a ferry to make transportation easy, educational facilities, gardens and much more — true prison reform. None of this would be possible in a 50-story concrete building destined to become as dilapidated as all the other prison buildings in Chinatown. Rebuilding Riker's would cost the city much less than erecting four mega-jails. The only rationale for de Blasio's plans would be for profit, namely to turn Riker's over to private developers.

PLEASE HELP US OPPOSE THIS MISGUIDED PLAN. PLEASE PROTECT OUR CITY AND YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

Sincerely,

Aura Rosenberg

<aurarosenberg@gmail.com>

SAY No Jail in South Bronx

Good evening Speaker Corey Johnson,

My name is Melissa Barber and I am a constituent in the Mott Haven-Port Morris section of the South Bronx. I am urging you as well as my Councilwoman, Diana Ayala, to say NO! to the new jail plan in our city.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to place new jail facilities in most boroughs except Staten Island. We do not need or want any new jails in our city, especially in our South Bronx neighborhood. Our city as well as many others have incarcerated and criminalized poor men and women of color for far too long and for the most minor criminal offenses, when we could easily implement more restorative ways to deal with crime.

Our community supports the grassroots efforts of the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan for creating a model of self-care and affordable housing and organizations such as Friends of Brook Park, which have used restorative justice methods to educate at risk youth/men/women and turn them into gardeners and entrepreneurs and completely turn them from lives of crime.

Again, I oppose the creation of these new jails throughout the city and call on you as an elected official to vote in agreement with your constituents, those who elected you.

Sincerely,

Melissa Barber

hijadejah2003@yahoo.com

Jails

Good Morning

Please refer to the New York Post article, October 6, 2019, "Architects Make Case Against deBlasio's Plan For City Jails".

Consider the negative effects on the communities when you vote.

Vote NO to new jails.

Your communities need you now.

Shirley Chin

<schin2350@yahoo.com>

No borough based jails

Please don't spend our money on this inhumanity. We can be on the right side of history and be better than this. 10 billion ..

Marya Draw
<draw.marya@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

I urge you to vote no new jails, and to close rikers immediately. No new jails has put forward a plan, read it, engage with it, and put it into action.

Ian Alexander
Flatbush 11226
<ianjamesalexander@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

The Mayor is asking the question - how do we build new, better jails? It's the wrong question. The question we should be asking is what keeps our communities safe?

Closing jails actually increases safety. When Cincinnati closed Queensgate facility - which was $\frac{1}{3}$ of their jail space - it led to a 40% drop in violent crime along with another 40% drop in felony arrests. When the NYPD did a work slow down in 2014, it led to a significant drop in crime and violence, with 2,100 less complaints of crimes and lower assaults and serious felonies. If you want to increase safety you close jails and put resources in the hands of our communities.

We know that jails don't make us safer. They create a cycle of violence where people who have done harm get brutalized and then are put back into their neighborhoods with no resources. For the last 50 years we know that cages do not create safety. Rikers is named after a slave catcher and like all jails is rooted in slavery.

So we have an opportunity to do something different. We can create safety by putting \$11 billion into the hands of our communities to first guarantee people's basic needs like ending homelessness, creating holistic mental health networks, but also massively investing in community based violence prevention, intervention and accountability.

Creating safety in our communities is closing jails, divesting from policing, investing in basic needs, and empowering community led efforts to prevent and intervene when violence occurs.

NO NEW JAILS.

Jakiyah Bradley
<jeb765@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

Good evening -

I am writing as a resident of Crown Heights, Brooklyn and law student at NYU School of Law to oppose the proposed construction of borough-based jails. From the outset, I want to voice my gravest concerns for what such a plan would mean for our city. If the last three years have taught us anything, it is that we need to seriously reconsider our societal values-- our conceptions of fairness, dignity, and community. Constructing new jails is reproducing the punitive, oppressive underbelly of American society, at a time when New York City should be championing a "radical," progressive vision for what our society could look like. If this plan goes into effect, it will be a step backward for a city that prides itself on always stepping forward.

Constructing new jails will not make our communities safer. Numerous case studies of other U.S. cities, including Cincinnati, show that closing jails reduces arrests and violent crimes. When Cincinnati closed its main jail, eliminating 36% of jail beds, the city experienced a 38.5% drop in violent crimes, 18.9% drop in property crime, while felony arrests and misdemeanor arrests dropped by 121.3 percent and 32.7 percent. The reason is quite simple: jails do not rehabilitate people, communities rehabilitate people.

Constructing new jails will not make our jails safer. The proposed borough-based jail construction has been hailed as a means to reduce violence inside prisons and improve conditions. Ironically, Rikers was built as a "more humane" replacement to Blackwell Island. Borough-based jails are no more humane than a central jail. Existing neighborhood jails in our boroughs have documented histories of inhumane conditions - as one example, MDC Brooklyn (lack of heating during winter and subsequent cover-up).

I am deeply concerned about the communities that would be impacted by the jail construction plan. Our city does not need \$8 billion worth of more jails. It needs \$8 billion worth of substance addiction clinics, anti-poverty relief, mass transit improvements, and homelessness prevention. I hope the Council will consider the many ways that our communities can be uplifted, rather than torn apart.

Sincerely,

Chiraayu Gosrani
NYU School of Law Class of 2021
Current resident, Crown Heights
Former resident, El Barrio and Washington Heights
<cpgosrani@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It Concerns:

I am writing to voice my opposition to borough-based jails. I live in District 8 and am represented by City Council Member Diana Ayala. I wholeheartedly support closing Rikers, but the reasons to close Rikers apply to all jails. Jails are simply a holding place for harm and pain, they do not solve any root issues nor do they claim to. As a paralegal working in public defense I have seen first-hand day in and day out the harms jails do to folks, their families, and their communities. People claim incarcerating folks makes communities safer, but when did those who commit harm cease to be apart of the community? And who has not committed harm? The reality is that most folks in jails like Rikers will be coming out no matter the outcome of their case and I believe it is important to focus on making sure folks can thrive in community than ensuring we can lock them away.

This is not to mention that jails are designed specifically to hold folks that are pretrial and therefore legally innocent. Caging people because they cannot afford bail is disgusting and wrong. Putting people in cages full stop is disgusting and wrong. These are realities that Rikers and **all other jails perpetrate**. That is why I oppose borough-based jails and instead want to see those resources allocated to rehabilitation, transformative justice, employment training, education opportunities, and general community resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Juliet Vicari
E 120th, New York, NY 10035
<juliev2030@gmail.com>

borough-based jails

Hello,

My name is Mamoun Friedrich-Grosvenor. I am a New York City resident, and I am strongly opposed to the creation of any new jails, or confinement centers in New York.

I am in support of humane infrastructure, and the release of petty convicts from all intermediate holding facilities.

Thank you,

Mamoun

Mamoun Nukumanu Friedrich-grosvenor
<mfg347@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based jails

To the City Council of New York,

My name is Julia Chang and I am a constituent in Council member Margaret Chin's District 1. I am writing to urge each and every one of you to vote NO on the jail construction plan. I believe that ending the prison-industrial complex is absolutely necessary. Anyone who bears witness to the injustices of prisons is being called upon to say no more jails.

I have been following the decision to close Rikers Island since the call to action came from grassroots campaigns. I believe that Rikers must be closed, but the solution does not lie in building new "humane" jails. Indeed, the construction of Rikers itself was pitted as a "model penitentiary". The lesson that can be learned from the atrocities that have occurred at Rikers, including the deaths of Layleen Polanco and Kaleif Browder, are that jails are inherently violence and inhumane. Therefore, jails can never be improved through reform--the abolition of all prisons is the only way.

Nearly 80% of the people in NYC jails are just awaiting trial and have not been convicted of any crime. They could be released with a bail payment or a remand fight. Why not put resources into releasing these people so that we can close Rikers with no new jails?

If NYC has \$10 billion to invest in communities, why is it not pouring resources into needs that your constituents have, time and time again, clearly laid out for you? Just this week, 4 homeless people were murdered in Chinatown. You say that you care about these people. Why aren't you doing everything within your power to dedicate resources to fixing NYCHA and providing housing for all New Yorkers? \$10 billion could end homelessness in New York, expand mental health services, fund harm reduction resources, and expand access to education, especially for folks who have experienced incarceration. *This is how we end the cycle of violence.* Not through incarcerating more people.

Again, I urge the City Council members of New York to vote NO on building new jails and instead invest in a city that does not cage its Black and Brown residents. The end of jail building is over. As stewards of this city, you hold an undue amount of power of this decision to either expand the carceral state or create a future driven by the stated needs and desires of your constituents, especially Black and Brown community members who are surveilled, tortured, and separated from their families because of jails.

Listen to your constituents and say NO to prisons before cementing yourself on the wrong side of history. The whole world is watching you.

Sincerely,
Julia Chang
<juliarchang@gmail.com>

Written testimony of David Dartley
Date of hearing: Oct. 3, 2019
Subject: East Side Coastal Resiliency
Committee: Subcommittee on Landmarks, Sitings, and Dispositions

Dear Council Members:

I live in Stuyvesant Town and my family and I frequently use East River Park for recreation, and its bike path for transportation.

The currently-approved plan for East River Park is outrageous. Instead of it:

1. Dome over the entire FDR with usable green space. That alone would provide ample flood protection, and would leave the highway operational. Also, it would allow vastly greater access to and egress from the park for park users. Currently, park users have to travel far out of their way to cross over the busy highway, to one of only a very few inconvenient walkways. It is astonishing that the current plan maintains such mid-20th-Century-style mistreatment of pedestrians. Somewhere, Robert Moses is dancing a jig. Would-be park users should have unlimited space by which to access and leave the park; they should not be forced to travel far out of their way just to go to or from the park. Also, doming over the highway with usable space would dramatically improve, in many ways, the quality of life for nearby residents, generations of whom have been subjected to myriad harms of living next to such a multi-lane highway.
2. Don't do anything to the park unless and until it gets damaged. Make *plans* for *post*-flood repairs. Plans can be improved over the time during which floods do *not* occur. The park should be repaired only when a damaging flood does occur. If a damaging flood does occur, the park would likely need at least some disruptive repair anyway, even if the current plan has been implemented. The city can avoid pain and save an enormous sum of money by leaving the park alone and repairing it only after a flood damages it, and those repairs would be better informed than those called for in this plan which is based only on projections.

Leaving the park alone until it needs to be repaired will be politically more expedient for all public officials, in addition to simply being a better plan. Repairing the park only after it's damaged will be politically more expedient for all public officials, in addition to simply being a better plan.

I know you will make a good decision by allowing input from neighbors and park users to significantly alter the current plan for the park.

David Dartley
david.dartley@gmail.com

Borough-based Jails

Councilmembers, thank you for your time and your consideration of these comments. I would like to express my opposition to the plan to utilize the proposed land use application to construct four new jails via the zoning change. Besides the plan to erect four new jails being deeply disturbing considering the direct relationship between slavery and mass incarceration and the relationship between mass incarceration and the criminalization of poverty and homelessness, it is also troubling that the zoning application itself includes no direct mechanism or timeline with which Rikers would be closed; this is incredibly misleading as the plan was originally marketed as an opportunity to close Rikers. Instead, the land-use decision would only resolve whether or not new jail cells would be built. I know people who work on Rikers, where the four new jails have been marketed to employees as a "humane" replacement to Rikers; unfortunately, I have never heard of a "humane" jail, and there are no details as to how a "humane" jail will be run and maintained (especially considering that there is no historical precedent).

Rikers is an inhumane, brutal facility, which must be permanently shut down, and no jails should be erected in its place. On the New York City Council's website it plainly states the statistics against incarceration: the majority of those incarcerated in New York City are pretrial and so presumed innocent with either a bail that can be paid or a remand that can be fought (and all of these people should be at home, as they have not even seen a trial); almost all are men and people of color.

Data shows that 85% of people in NYC jails have been diagnosed with a mental illness or a substance addiction. Access to health services and housing would allow for an ultimately safer, more humane, community environment throughout the city instead of locking people up in harsh environments meant to systematically damage their mental and physical well-beings and then releasing them with little to no support from the city.

Instead of approving this plan, please consider diverting and investing the \$11 billion into resources for the community, such as public housing, education, healthcare, and jobs, as well as community-based violence prevention and accountability programs. We New Yorkers and the communities we love, the city we love, we all deserve more creative, innovative, human solutions than more jails.

Danielle Chu
<danichu@gmail.com>

borough-based jails

I cannot believe that new jails are being built in a country that is based on the foundation of liberty, and yet has among the highest incarceration rates. This is not only unacceptable but against the values, each and every American stands for.

Invest in reforming and helping communities to prevent crimes from occurring rather than spending money on prisons in Rikers.

Nicole

Nicole Beremovica
<nb2699@nyu.edu>

Brooklyn Jail Plan

Good evening Councilmember Levin,

With under two weeks before the City Council votes on the Close Rikers ULURP proposal, the City's lack of transparency in the process remains frustrating and disconcerting. The City has refused to disclose its final proposed plans for any of the jail sites. Moreover, as demonstrated in this linked article: <http://www.tribecatrib.com/content/1000-demonstrators-chinatown-march-against-citys-mega-jail-plan>; MOCJ appears to have not revised any designs to the proposed facilities despite statements by MOCJ representatives at the few community outreach events held--which you and your representatives attended--wherein they insisted that the size of the buildings would be reduced. Are we to conclude that those statements were made merely to quell public rebuke without any desire to work with the affected communities?

Since MOCJ will not be open and honest about this plan, I implore you to publicly state your position about what you are willing to accept for the community you represent that will be impacted by the new facility. Insist that the original and only jail proposal that has been made public is too large and you will not accept it without modifications and the City must focus concurrently on real reform and real community consideration. Acknowledge that absent real transparent and considerate proposals, the City should only build as of right--which would still allow the number of beds the City wants to accommodate at the Brooklyn site--without the need for variance or the improper use of the ULURP process.

Councilmember Levin, we trust you to represent all of our collective interests. We trust you to make yourself heard when your community is not being heard. We stand with you on appropriate jail reform. We ask that you not follow MOCJ's apparent course of waiting to the eleventh hour without following through on their promises. We ask that you make your position clear; that you insist on a facility of the appropriate size and design to complement the area and not create additional issues; that you represent our interests while working toward a better criminal justice system.

Please take our concerns to heart and we will support you. Should you want to discuss anything within this correspondence, I would be happy to speak with you or any of your representatives.

Sincerely,

Howard Feldberg

Member of the Downtown Brooklyn community

<hfeldberg@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

Hello my name is Claire Schapira and I oppose the current plans to expand the borough based jails. The only plan I support is one which immediately closes Rikers WITHOUT investment in new jails. Below are some of my more specific issues with the current bills.

Let me be clear, this is a wedge issue to me. My community does not want more jails, and we are ready to show up and be heard.

Kind regards,

Claire Schapira

Levin's bill to establish "a commission to make recommendations on reinvestment in communities impacted by Rikers Island":

1. This bill does not redirect investment from criminalizing systems, it merely establishes a commission to study what we already know: that incarceration is driven by racism and classism, and communities need investments in housing, education, mental and physical health, and transformative justice.
2. This bill establishes a commission which will be comprised of all the usual players in criminal justice reform — large nonprofits and philanthropists who are investing in jail construction.
3. The recommendations provided by the commission will not bind City Council to actually invest in communities not cages.
4. Communities harmed by generations of policing and caging do not need another commission, they need direct investment now.

Councilmembers Ayala's and Levin's bill to "require the Board of Correction to report on the impact on incarcerated individuals of closing jails on Rikers":

1. Again, this bill establishes more reporting requirements without establishing any mechanisms to change practices or cultures within city jails.

Years of reporting — from the Nunez Commission, the Lippman Commission, and the Floyd v. NYPD stop and frisk settlement — have not substantially changed abusive practices within these departments.

2. Much of the data this bill requires to be reported is already available; moreover, the bill will require the notoriously untrustworthy DOC to report on itself.

3. The bill also continues to link the closure of Rikers Island with the construction of new jails, even though there is no legally binding commitment to close Rikers, and Rikers can be closed without building new jails.

Councilmembers Power’s and Rosenthal’s bill to “amend the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to amending the bill of rights for incarcerated individuals and ensuring minimum standards of design”:

1. This bill amends the City’s administrative code to change the minimum standards governing conditions in city jails. The minimum standards contain the recipe for their own violation via the ‘variances’ mechanism, which allows the DOC to request exceptions from following the rules.

2. The DOC has been in continual violation of one or another minimum standard since their implementation, in the 1970s. This bill includes no enforcement mechanism to ensure that the DOC comply with the new standards.

3. The bill includes new provisions for the design and construction of new jails, which assumes that the problem with conditions in city jails is only in how they were built, not in the fact that there is no incentive to maintain them.

Claire Schapira
<claire.schapira@brooklaw.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

Good evening,

My address is 4** MacDonough St. Brooklyn, and I go to school at NYU Law. I am opposed to the proposal to build new jails in NYC. I believe that jails are an ineffective method for handling crime. I also do not believe that we need to build new jails to shut down Rikers and believe that we should be scaling back the mass caging of humans.

Best,
Marissa Crook
<mfc437@nyu.edu>

borough-based jails

Jail is not humane never have they been, never will they be.

Maya Greenberg
<mayagreenberg22@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Jail Plan Comments

Corrected statement below, without my employment affiliation--I'm speaking on my own behalf as a constituent, not as a representative of an organization! Thank you.

I am writing with regard to next week's city council vote next week concerning the Mayor's jail plan. I am in strong support of the closure of Rikers Island with NO new jail construction. With the bail and discovery reforms coming into effect, with scrutiny and accountability movements pushing DAs to incarcerate less people, and with the billions of dollars of funds dedicated to jail construction redirected to housing, health, and mental health services, it is entirely possible to close Rikers with no new jails. Given the history of Rikers Island as a reformed, "humane" jail, and Blackwell's Island before that, we must learn from the city's experience of incarceration and avoid making the same mistakes. Jails will always be inhumane. If the city council votes to build new jails, New Yorkers will be working for the closure of those jails yet again after it becomes clear that people are severely harmed and mistreated in cages. Please, stop the cycle by closing Rikers with no new jails.

On Tue, Oct 8, 2019 at 4:22 PM Nicole Follmann <nfolmann22@gmail.com> wrote:
To whom it may concern:

I am writing with regard to next week's city council vote next week concerning the Mayor's jail plan. As a former employee of the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, a current employee of the NorthLight Foundation, and a resident of Harlem, I am in strong support of the closure of Rikers Island with NO new jail construction. With the bail and discovery reforms coming into effect, with scrutiny and accountability movements pushing DAs to incarcerate less people, and with the billions of dollars of funds dedicated to jail construction redirected to housing, health, and mental health services, it is entirely possible to close Rikers with no new jails. Given the history of Rikers Island as a reformed, "humane" jail, and Blackwell's Island before that, we must learn from the city's experience of incarceration and avoid making the same mistakes. Jails will always be inhumane. If the city council votes to build new jails, New Yorkers will be working for the closure of those jails yet again after it becomes clear that people are severely harmed and mistreated in cages. Please, stop the cycle by closing Rikers with no new jails.

Thank you,

Nicole Follmann
4** W 147th St
New York, NY 10031

no new jails

Hello,

My name is Soo Chung and I have been a resident of Battery Park City, in Council member Margaret Chin's district, for four years. I vehemently oppose this land use application for the rezoning of Mott Haven, Downtown Brooklyn, Chinatown, and Kew Gardens in order to build borough based jails. I believe that Rikers must be shut down immediately and permanently. Rikers has been, and continues to be, a dangerous, brutalizing place for incarcerated people. But we can and must shut down Rikers without new jails.

Additionally, although the project documents make reference to the city's roadmap to closing Rikers, the zoning application includes no mechanism nor timeline to close the Rikers jails. This land-use decision only determines whether the city adds jail cells – or not.

- Nearly seven in 10 people in city jails are awaiting trial and either have a bail that can be paid or a remand that can be fought. These people should be home.
- Data shows that 85% of people that NYC jails have diagnosed mental illness or substance addictions. People need access to health services and housing, **not** incarceration, which only worsens their conditions.
- People should not be punished with months of jail time because they miss a meeting mandated under punitive parole programs.
- Divert resources from the over-policing and incarceration of communities and deciding instead to invest in public housing, and education, and jobs in those communities.

There are many policies that you and other City electeds have power over to actually prevent incarceration in the first place. You have the power to stop this cycle of violently punishing New Yorkers for the Mayor's actions - for the continued use of broken windows policing and war on drugs policies, for failing policies of affordable housing or fixing the MTA, and the related criminalization of poverty and homelessness.

The question I have for YOU, Councilmembers, is whether you will commit the future of NYC to incarceration or if you'll break the cycle. Will you invest in the resources and the services for communities that actually keep us safe?

Thank you for your time,
Soo Chung
<soochung@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

Hello,

My name is Abby Cunniff and I am a garden and kitchen teacher at Brooklyn Gardens Elementary School in East New York. As a teacher I have seen how much children's lives are affected by incarceration of their family members, and while there is harm to be corrected, incarceration seems to only exacerbate the issues that people are facing.

In regards to building new jails, the mayor has the wrong approach. Instead of asking how to build new jails he should be looking at what makes communities safe and how to support those initiatives.

Closing jails actually increases safety. When Cincinnati closed Queensgate facility - which was $\frac{1}{3}$ of their jail space - it led to a 40% drop in violent crime along with another 40% drop in felony arrests. When the NYPD did a work slow down in 2014, it led to a significant drop in crime and violence, with 2,100 less complaints of crimes and lower assaults and serious felonies. If you want to increase safety you close jails and put resources in the hands of our communities.

We know that jails don't make us safer. They create a cycle of violence where people who have done harm get brutalized and then are put back into their neighborhoods with no resources. For the last 50 years we know that cages do not create safety. Rikers is named after a slave catcher and like all jails is rooted in racism.

Close Rikers and reject the plan that commits a large part of the city budget to locking people up for the foreseeable future. Embrace the call for systems that give people the help they need without torturing them.

Thank you,
Abby

<aecunniff@gmail.com>

Borough-Based jails

To Whom It May Concern:

This message is to express my opposition to the jail expansion plan that the NYC City Council is voting on next week. Instead of spending \$10 billion on jails, we should spend this money on improving marginalized, low-income communities - building affordable housing, providing social services, helping our homeless neighbors, and strengthening NYCHA.

Prisons are not making our communities safer, but this money could be used in so many other ways to actually make them so.

Thank you,
Scott Davis
<davi2526@gmail.com>

Subject: Borough-Based Jails

To City Council:

My name is Jaime Mishkin and I'm a resident of Harlem, in Councilmember Mark Levine's district.

In front of you is a land use application: a zoning change to allow the construction of four new jails. Although the project documents make reference to the city's roadmap to closing Rikers, the zoning application includes no mechanism nor timeline to close the Rikers jails. This land-use decision only determines whether the city adds jail cells – or not.

Rikers must be shut down immediately and permanently. Rikers has been, and continues to be, a dangerous, brutalizing place for incarcerated people. But we can and must shut down Rikers without new jails.

Nearly seven in 10 people in city jails are awaiting trial and either have a bail that can be paid or a remand that can be fought. These people should be home.

Data shows that 85% of people that NYC jails have diagnosed mental illness or substance addictions. People need access to health services and housing, not incarceration, which only worsens their conditions. People should not be punished with months of jail time because they miss a meeting mandated under punitive parole programs.

Divert resources from the over-policing and incarceration of communities and deciding instead to invest in public housing, and education, and jobs in those communities.

There are many policies that you and other City electeds have power over to prevent incarceration in the first place. You have the power to stop this cycle of violently punishing New Yorkers for the Mayor's actions - for the continued use of broken windows policing and war on drugs policies, for failing policies of affordable housing or fixing the MTA, and the related criminalization of poverty and homelessness.

Will you commit the future of NYC to incarceration or will you break the cycle? Will you invest in the resources and the services for communities that actually keep us safe? Please close Rikers Island with no new jails.

Sincerely,
Jaime Mishkin
4** W 147th St
New York, NY 10031
<jaime.mishkin@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To City Council:

I am writing with regard to next week's city council vote next week concerning the Mayor's jail plan. I am in strong support of the closure of Rikers Island with NO new jail construction. With the bail and discovery reforms coming into effect, with scrutiny and accountability movements pushing DAs to incarcerate less people, and with the billions of dollars of funds dedicated to jail construction redirected to housing, health, and mental health services, it is entirely possible to close Rikers with no new jails. Given the history of Rikers Island as a reformed, "humane" jail, and Blackwell's Island before that, we must learn from the city's experience of incarceration and avoid making the same mistakes. Stop the cycle by closing Rikers with no new jails.

Kyla Crisostomo

Brooklyn, NY 11215

<kabcrisostomo@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

Dear City Council Members,

I sincerely agree with the decision to close Rikers. However, building new jails is not the only option. New York City could be a leader in this country if it were to say “No New Jails” and put the billions towards community based rehabilitation instead. If we build new jails, we will fill them up. But if we focus on why crime occurs in the first place, and financially support the communities where crime is most prevalent, this great city of ours could be a shining example for the nation, for the world, on how we can morally, ethically, and humanly address criminal behavior. No one should go to jail for being poor, for the actions they commit due to their poverty. Just because someone commits a crime, doesn’t mean they will do it again. But sending them to jail ENSURES that they will do it again. Our prison system is blatantly creating criminals and violent behavior. There must be another way. We are all human. Humans make mistakes. And jail, and the torture that ensues, is NOT THE SOLUTION. Please. I am begging you. Give me hope for humanity, and don’t build new jails. Help me not give up. Help your fellow New Yorkers. Believe in a better future, where we don’t lock each other in cages, torture each other with solitary confinement, beat each other when shackled, humiliate each other, spit on each other, ignore each other.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nora Demere

<ndemere@correctionalassociation.org>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers MUST be closed WITHOUT borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and ENDANGERING our communities (Venters, 2019). Creating jails WILL lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have NOT been convicted of a crime (Sawyer & Wagner, 2019). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails (Quigley, 2016), and we will NOT tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer (Stemen, 2017); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

I am a resident of East New York (11230) and I demand that no new jails be built AND that Rikers be closed - IMMEDIATELY.

Thank you for your time,

Léah

--

Léah Miller

[they/them/theirs/themself]

Coordinator of Operations at the [Downtown Minyan](#)

Visitor Experience Assistant at the [Jewish Museum](#)

Technical Collaborator, [New York Neo-Futurists](#)

<leaharmiller@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Bryan Welton, and I am a New York City resident of District 45, represented by Councilmember Farah Louis. Although I do not live in the immediate neighborhood where the current jails and proposed expansions are sited, as a Flatbush resident and someone who was briefly jailed at the Brooklyn Detention Complex in 2012, I am negatively impacted by this proposal. I wish to go on record that I share the concerns of community activists in the No New Jails Coalition and I support their proposal for closing Rikers while reinvesting in community safety without carceral expansion, as outlined in their We Keep Us Safe plan.

I hope to speak to the environmental hazard and social harm of jail expansion. Rather than provide for public safety, I have experienced first-hand how NYC's Department of Corrections organizes and concentrates vulnerability and violence. For that reason, I encourage the immediate and permanent closure of the Rikers Island jail complex, and I oppose the proposed expansion of the DOC's borough-based jail system. As a doctoral student of environmental health at CUNY, I believe the city's emphasis on neighborhood aesthetics, infrastructural pressures, and property values too-narrowly defines the scope of environmental hazard and harm. The Brooklyn Detention Complex and Rikers are both equally toxic and damaging places that no well-intentioned reform, much less architectural re-design, will remedy.

The violence the DOC has proven time and again incapable of abating at Rikers is not an outcome of geographic distance or building design. Rather, it results from the un-checked power DOC officers and administrators exercise over the people they confine, and their impunity is a consequence of the political influence of their union. The proposal for borough-based expansion does nothing to substantively address this issue - rather, it superficially rehabilitates the image of these very same guards as it implants them in these new, larger and 'legitimized' jails.

While jailed at the Brooklyn Detention Complex, I experienced first-hand the abusive jail environment and its impact. The jail denied privacy, mobility, and adequate attention and care for health conditions. I witnessed guards ignore desperate requests for necessities such as water and medication. Over time, I observed the declining state of people under confinement. The sociality and mutual concern among the people I shared a cage with was strained to a breaking point by these conditions, and mental health crises were aggravated by the guards' contempt. The resulting stresses, illnesses, and injuries would not be limited to the people imprisoned in the Brooklyn Detention Complex, the impact of the jail environment and experience ultimately imposes an additional burden on the people in our community that care for us. The determinants of violence in the DOC were not the aesthetic of the jail's exterior or the color of the walls inside, it was the power relations of imprisonment itself.

The city's design for expanding the DOC's borough-based jail system ignores this issue of power by foregrounding cosmetic reform. The euphemistic branding and the fantasy promoted of a jail as a "good neighbor" obscures the cruel reality of human caging and its impact on communities. Moreover, the plan for building four new jails remains silent about the mechanism that fills them: the saturation of policing in distressed working class and poor communities of color. In

doing so, the city fails our communities by wasting this political opportunity for making meaningful change; choosing to invest ten billion dollars toward building more cages rather than increasing the capacity and scope of supportive community-based services that address the underlying issues of poverty, interpersonal conflict, and mental health. This plan would further cement the city's commitment to policing and imprisonment as a crude response to complex social, economic, and political problems. As such, the community will continue to vocally and forcefully oppose it, and currently-elected officials who vote in favor of advancing jail expansion can expect to be held accountable at the polls.

The city has an opportunity and political mandate to close Rikers. The proposal for expansion of borough-based jails defers this promise, growing the DOC's capacity while neglecting alternatives to imprisonment. Having attended three of the scoping hearings and witnessed the public's powerful opposition to the city's expansion plan, it is clear that there is no need or consensus to replace the Rikers Island jail complex with more cages in any borough. Rather, I saw residents insisting that criminal justice priorities be replaced by an agenda that advances human health and freedom for their communities. Ten billion dollars should be invested in building a more capacious system of supports that secure the basic needs of New Yorkers, toward preventing, mitigating, and undoing harm and establishing conditions where healthy communities flourish.

Sincerely,
Bryan Welton
Brooklyn, NY 11230
<weltonbryan@gmail.com>

Close Rikers with No New Jails

I am writing with regard to next week's city council vote next week concerning the Mayor's jail plan. I am in strong support of the closure of Rikers Island with NO new jail construction. With the bail and discovery reforms coming into effect, with scrutiny and accountability movements pushing DAs to incarcerate less people, and with the billions of dollars of funds dedicated to jail construction redirected to housing, health, and mental health services, it is entirely possible to close Rikers with no new jails. Given the history of Rikers Island as a reformed, "humane" jail, and Blackwell's Island before that, we must learn from the city's experience of incarceration and avoid making the same mistakes. Stop the cycle by closing Rikers with no new jails.

Elon Cornelius

Zip Code: 11201

<efcornelius@gmail.com>

Borough-Based jails

Hi there,

My name is Harlee Ludwig and I am a lifelong resident of New York City. I have also been an abolitionist for as long as I can remember. Those identities are not 2 that coexist inside of me, but they are heavily intertwined with many other identities. For example, being a person of color, abolitionist New Yorker go together more than many may see.

In 1986, my father was falsely incarcerated for 2 years for a \$20 robbery that was a set up framed by the NYPD in order to railroad another innocent black man in NYC for slave labor. For what they said was \$20, they took 2 years of his life to be turned for slave labor. He spent his days making license plates, and cleaning the many facilities they transferred him through those two years.

I beg of you all, who have been elected by the people, to reject this heinous jail expansion plan that we were told for so long was actually a plan to close Rikers. Not only was that now an obvious lie and manipulation of the people, but now those who capitalize off of the slave labor in prisons are planning on bringing more prisons to the worlds country with the highest policing, police violence, and prison incarceration rate.

I write to you all to beg you not to proceed down this path that will only hurt and harm more and more people and more and more families and more and more communities. If we have learned anything from these past years, it is how corrupt the prison industrial complex is, and how deeply flawed the criminal justice process is. We need to take a stand and lead the way for the rest of the country to follow. This year has already marked some trailblazing moments for criminal justice. California put a moratorium on death row and Ohio has kept up theirs. Amber Gruyer was brought to justice for the murder of an innocent man. And even Texas, the most active death row state these days, has been issuing stays of approval for multiple inmates. We CANNOT be the state to go against these changes and resort back to more prison and more criminalization. Taking people out of their communities is never the answer.

We need to re-invest this money in communities. Give people second changes, and give them first chances first. We need to make the people feel supported so they can support. We cannot do any of this by continuing to lock up people. More jails means more space to fill them, more people who cannot afford \$2.75 for a train,

more people who resort to sex work because they don't have any other viable options.

We need a Larry Krasner. We need someone in our government that we can elect to finally care and support the targeted marginalized communities for once, because if this plan for more jails passes, it will be clear that NO ONE in the government does currently care about these communities. And the only way to fix that will be for us people to organize and vote you all out.

Be on the right side of history and more importantly, be a good ancestor.

- Harlee Ludwig, Queens resident
<harlee.ludwig@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

Hello,

I oppose the creation of new jails rather than using this funding toward creating safe, strong neighborhood supports and programs, such as increasing funding for proven-to-work education, housing stability, re-entry, and other social programs.

Thank you,

Rebecca Guterman
2** 10th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215
<rebecca.guterman@law.nyu.edu>

Opposition to new jail plan

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the mayor's new jail plan. Jails, detention centers, and Rikers in NYC are emblematic of mass incarceration in America and our city should be putting money towards supporting and rehabilitating at-risk individuals rather than pulling people out of our communities. Dedicating an incredible amount of resources to new jails in NYC would be a significant demonstration of City Council's apathy towards those in the greatest need. Existing detention centers are poorly managed and there is no reason to believe that new jails would be any different. Public monies should be spent on the real needs of our communities including public education, comprehensive healthcare, and affordable housing for marginalized people, not jails.

Sincerely,

Tian Lei

Tianqi Lei
<tianqi.lei@law.nyu.edu>

Borough-Based jails

To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned citizen of New York City (zip code 10009) who opposes the plan to create new jails in each of the boroughs. I am a law student training to be a public defender and we should not be expanding our infrastructure by which we incarcerate people in our fundamentally unjust system.

Thanks and best,

Max Baumbach

--

Max Baumbach

NYU School of Law / Class of 2021

J.D. Candidate

<mb7391@nyu.edu>

Vote No to the Borough-Based Jails Plan

Hello,

My name is Samah Sisay and I live between 127th Street and St. Nicholas Terrace in District 9. I am a constituent of Bill Perkins and I believe that City Council should vote no to the jail expansion plan. This decision will have major citywide impacts for generations and does not guarantee that Rikers will actually be closed. The only thing guaranteed by this proposal is that we will have more jails with more beds. We can and must close Rikers without new jails. The billions of dollars allocated for jails should be redirected to our real needs like NYCHA, affordable housing, education, and other community needs.

Thank you,
Samah

Samah Sisay
<samahmcgona@gmail.com>

Borough-based jails - written comment

I am writing as a NYC resident living in Councilmember Helen Rosenthal's district.

Almost nobody in this entire city supports the jail expansion plan. That's because as New Yorkers, we know what our city needs to do in order for us all to be able to realize safety. We need NYCHA to be fully funded and not privatized, we need affordable housing, we need a better public transportation system, and we need access to physical and mental healthcare for all.

Instead of funding any of these things - the things that actually take care of us, and keep our communities healthy and thriving - you, New York City Council, are trying to push through a plan to spend \$11 billion to build cages in which you plan to lock up Black and Brown community members, poor community members, houseless community members, and trans and queer community members.

If you go forward with this jail expansion plan, despite deep opposition, you will cement yourselves in history as the New York City Council who built cages for human beings. Jails are fundamentally sites of torture, abuse, and sexual violence. If you vote yes on this plan, you are voting for those things. For each of you who vote yes, you will be personally responsible for the torture, abuse, and sexual violence that will inevitable happen to thousands upon thousands of New Yorkers if these jails are built. And if you build these jails, there is no coming back from it. There is no way for you to undo that harm once it is done. The only way you can avoid that legacy is to vote no on this disastrous plan to expand jails, close rikers, and invest in our communities.

Eli Hadley
<kh3017@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based jails

My name is Cynthia Lee and I reside at 4** MacDonough Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233 in District 36. I am writing to oppose the plan to build borough-based jails. Expanding jail capacity will enable the over-policing of black and Latinx communities to continue unabated. In the vast majority of situations, incarcerating someone does not resolve issues and if anything exacerbates underlying contributing factors of many crimes such as poverty, racism, and ableism. Public funds should instead go towards reducing inequality by, for example, having equitable funding for schools, building affordable housing, and providing free essential health services.

c11409@nyu.edu

Borough-Based jails

I'm writing in strong opposition to the current jail expansion plan. We need less incarceration, not more of it. We need to close jails, not open new ones. Please, be on the right side of history here.

--

Keiler T. Beers

NYU School of Law | Class of 2020

Pronouns: He/him/his

<ktb305@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

Dear NYC Council Members,

I'm writing to you in **opposition** of Mayor DeBlasio's plan to create new borough-based jails.

I am a Brooklyn resident and licensed New York State social worker. In my field I have had the opportunity to work with formerly incarcerated New Yorkers and those at risk for incarceration due to uncontrolled substance use, mental health, and/or unstable housing. These vulnerable New Yorkers have committed no crime except to live in poverty. I strongly believe that diverting funds *away* from criminal justice and *into* our communities in the form of safe, affordable housing, quality mental health care, and harm reduction programming for those who use substances will actually decrease the need for more jails in the first place. I care deeply about my NYC community, both professionally and personally, and I believe it is our duty as New Yorkers to close Riker's Island, halt plans to build new jails, and invest in the safety and wellbeing of of neighbors who are most at risk.

As my elected officials, I hope that you can hear my concern about Mayor DeBlasio's plan and vote against it. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you more about this issue...

--

Lauren Clapp, LMSW
Behavioral Health Patient Navigator- Callen-Lorde
pronouns: she/her/hers
<lauren.clapp1@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to express my opposition to the plan to build new jails in the boroughs. I want to live in a city that looks to reduce its jail population, not increase it. Rikers can, and should, be shut down without increasing the number of jails in the city.

Sincerely,

Diana Rosen

--

Diana Yanguas Rosen
NYU School of Law
J.D. Candidate 2021
pronouns: she/her/hers
<diana.rosen@law.nyu.edu>

Borough-Based Jails

Hi,

I am a New York City resident and am writing to express my strong opposition to the plan to build borough-based jails.

Regards,

Karen Brill

<klb627@nyu.edu>

Borough-Based jails

Hi,

I am writing to share my opposition to the new jail expansion plan. I'm a Brooklyn resident living at 501 Atlantic Avenue.

Best,

Vishal Reddy

vishal.reddy1@gmail.com

Close Rikers without Expansion

Hello,

I am a Queens County resident at:

21-** 33rd Street Astoria, NY, 11105

I am submitting a formal comment saying that Rikers Island should close without borough-based jails expansion

Thank you,

J. Goforth

Jo Goforth
<jogoforth11@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

Dear City Council,

My name is Ella Nalepka. I'm a resident of Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, and my council representative is Brad Lander.

I'm writing to you as a concerned citizen, urging you all to vote no on the land-use proposal that would make way the expansion of NYC's prison system. I'm writing to you today to remind you that you are the representatives of the people, and it is your sworn, elected duty to act in your people's best interests. I implore you all to think of how building four new jails would serve your communities. Would it serve them better than comprehensive investment in mental health, housing, and employment resources? What kind of impact would the expansion of jails in NYC have on your community? Is this really the most effective way to spend \$11 billion tax-payer dollars?

Contrary to popular belief, opening new prisons does nothing to improve the safety and well-being of our communities. Statistics show that closing jails is better harm-reduction and leads to increases in safety. For example, when Cincinnati closed Queensgate facility - which was $\frac{1}{3}$ of the city's jail space - it led to a 40% drop in violent crime along with another 40% drop in felony arrests. When the NYPD did a work slow down in 2014, it led to a significant drop in crime and violence, with 2,100 less complaints of crimes and lower assaults and serious felonies. If you want to increase safety you close jails and put resources in the hands of our communities.

We now know that jails don't make us safer. Prisons only lead to a cycle of violence where people who have done harm get brutalized and then are put back into their neighborhoods with no resources, forever stigmatized and excluded from employment, receiving public benefits and, in some cases, voting, which is a fundamental right granted to us by the Constitution.

You have an opportunity to do something different and make tangible, meaningful change in the way our justice system operates. We can create safety by putting \$11 billion into the hands of our communities to first guarantee people's basic needs like ending homelessness, creating holistic

mental health networks, but also massively investing in community based violence prevention, intervention and accountability.

Creating safety in our communities is closing jails, divesting from policing, investing in basic needs, and empowering community led efforts to prevent and intervene when violence occurs.

Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

Ella Nalepka
4** Clinton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231
<ellanalepka@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom It May Concern:

Rikers MUST be closed WITHOUT borough-based jail expansion. The human rights violations at Rikers are unacceptable and ENDANGERING our communities (Venters, 2019). Creating jails WILL lead to the filling of them, which is unacceptable; more than 500,000 people in jail have NOT been convicted of a crime (Sawyer & Wagner, 2019). Poor Black and Brown communities will be the ones targeted to fill these jails (Quigley, 2016), and we will NOT tolerate this any longer. Jails do not make us safer (Stemen, 2017); instead they put poor Black and Brown communities at risk of increased violence at the hands of the State. That money must instead be used to invest in communities, and should be put towards affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.

I am a resident of Brooklyn (11225) and I demand that no new jails be built AND that Rikers be closed - IMMEDIATELY.

~

Christina Chala

<cgchala@gmail.com>



October 15, 2019

NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson
City Hall Office
New York, NY 10007
212-788-7210

Re: Testimony on the Borough-Based Jails – Manhattan

Dear Council Speaker Corey Johnson,

This testimony on the Manhattan Borough-Based Jail is submitted on behalf of the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (NYU CSAAH), a National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) funded National Research Center of Excellence based at NYU School of Medicine.

We are limiting ourselves to one comment: **the impact of long-term demolition, construction and possible relocation on the health of older adults in Chinatown should be taken into consideration when coming to a decision on the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) and plan for the borough-based jail in Manhattan.**

On June 21, 2019, NYU CSAAH convened a meeting of interdisciplinary experts and Chinatown-based community stakeholders focused on reviewing the evidence-based, peer-reviewed scientific research of the impact of long-term demolition and construction on the health of older adults in New York City (NYC). The conclusions of the meeting are summarized below:

Construction Site Emissions

Particulate matter (PM) refers to the mixture of small and extremely small particles and liquid droplets suspended in the air. Fine particles, such as exhaust from diesel-powered construction equipment, are invisible and can penetrate deep into the alveoli in lungs, affecting both respiratory and cardiovascular system functions.

PM can cause and exacerbate chronic diseases. Exposure to such particles has been associated with the following acute and long-term health conditions(1):

- Cardiovascular disease
- Lung cancer
- Increased blood pressure
- Aggravation of respiratory diseases, such as asthma
- Decreased lung function
- Irritation of the respiratory system, eyes and skin
- Early onset dementia
- Premature death in people with heart or lung disease

The World Health Organization states that PM pollution causes 8% of all lung cancer deaths, 5% of cardiopulmonary deaths, and 3% of respiratory infection deaths. People with heart or lung diseases, children, and older adults are considered highly vulnerable for the adverse effects of PM pollution. Concentrations deemed acceptable for the general population may not adequately

protect the very elderly(2). Elderly subjects appear more vulnerable to PM, with particular effect on daily cardio-respiratory mortality and acute hospital admissions for pneumonia and asthma/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease(3). In NYC, nearly 3 out of 4 deaths attributable to fine particulate matter occur in older adults(4).

In summary, increases in exposure of the elderly to elevated levels of PM from construction sites, even short-term, can not only worsen co-morbidities, including cardiovascular and respiratory disease, but also result in hospitalizations, acute disease episodes, and/or death.

Noise

There is growing evidence that noise can lead to adverse physiological and psychological effects that degrade both health and well-being. Permanent hearing damage can be sustained when levels of sound exceed 85 decibels (dBA), especially when exposure lasts longer than 8 hours.

However, it is important to note that sound does not have to be loud to be harmful. Sound that is deemed obtrusive and unwanted can lead to elevated stress, anger, agitation, mood swings, interference with concentration and communication, diminished productivity, and social conflict.

Repeated, long-term exposure to noise can lead to the following long-lasting physiological changes(5, 6):

- Blood pressure elevation and hypertension
- Sleep disturbances
- Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases
- Cognitive decline in school-aged children

Lower-frequency sounds, especially those coming from industrial machines, are often accompanied by vibrations. Whole-body vibration can cause or exacerbate the following(7):

- Lower back pain (damage to vertebrae and discs, ligaments loosened from shaking)
- Motion sickness
- Bone damage
- Variation in blood pressure from vibration
- Stomach and digestive conditions
- Respiratory, endocrine and metabolic changes
- Impairment of vision, balance or both

Older adults are at increased risk to noise pollution due to sensory changes that take place in the aging process. Individuals' auditory perceptions change over time, and as they get older, their tolerance for loudness and high frequencies decreases, and low frequencies are magnified(8).

Health-Related Quality of Life

Long-term major demolition and construction will negatively affect the components of the physical environment that contribute to a "livable", aging-friendly community.

Construction could adversely affect walkability and safety through blocked or broken sidewalks, missing or loose handrails, elevator shutdowns and inadequate lighting due to scaffolding or renovations. Transportation routes and route frequency could be changed. Increased traffic would cause congestion, blocked access roads, and contribute to poor parking access for older adults with disabilities, to whom accessibility is critical for maintaining routine care. Construction-

related water run-off and ice may lead to increased fall risk for seniors. Access to services and facilities such as community parks, retail stores, health centers and vendors selling affordable, nutritious, culturally desirable foods could be compromised.

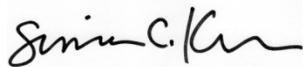
These changes in the physical environment could lead to the following:

- *Increased fall risk:* Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations and deaths in older adults in NYC(9).
- *Restricted movement and reduced physical activity:* Long-term major construction may block off access to safe walking areas and other outdoor activities, exacerbating existing health conditions and increasing new ones(10).
- *Increased wandering:* People living with dementia who rely on routine and familiarity may find routes rendered unfamiliar by construction scaffolding and detours, leading to increased risk for wandering and becoming lost(11).
- *Disruption of established daily routine and social relationships:* There is substantial scientific evidence that social isolation significantly increases the risk for premature mortality in older adults(12).
- *Reduced sense of control, dignity and autonomy:* Older adults may feel disempowered and stripped of their decision-making capacity(12).

Construction activities may necessitate the relocation – planned or otherwise – of residents living in adjacent buildings. Relocation threatens people’s sense of control and comfort, and may reduce environmental access to essential components of healthy aging. Involuntary relocation and displacement, especially in later life, are well-known predictors of depression, anxiety and deterioration in mental health (13, 14).

Scientific research has identified the significant influence that long-term demolition, construction and possible relocation may have in undermining and negatively affecting the health of older adults in NYC’s Chinatown communities, a vulnerable population. As a global leader in the Age-Friendly Cities movement, NYC has invested significantly in innovative programs and supports for older New Yorkers. We hope that your office will strongly consider these scientific research findings in consideration of the ULURP and plan for the borough-based jail.

Sincerely,



Simona C. Kwon, DrPH, MPH
Director, Center for the Study of Asian American Health
Associate Professor, Department of Population Health
NYU School of Medicine

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WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

You must not allow this proposal to pass. To truly represent the interests of residents and small businesses in the area, you need to understand that this project is designed from beginning to now with only profits involved. No one is considering our voice, meanwhile we are the vast majority. We simply do NOT want a jail built near our residences. The reasons are clear, as they are universally. At some point or another, we need to decide that a residential neighborhood, should, stay residential. I, like everyone else in the community, work hard and pay rent or our mortgage in the hopes of being comfortable and safe in our community, a community that should be enjoyed and preserved, not one to be sold out. I've lived in Queens my entire life, and it is home to me. It's a shame to see now that rampant financial fraud by those who are supposed to have our best interests at heart is going completely ignored.

What will happen, say in 5, or 10, or 15 years? Property values in the area will decrease, many will sell their properties and move to different neighborhoods, others who rent will move as well, as it won't be worth the inflated cost of living in a "jail town". There will be a big new jail in town and all the problems that come with it. Residents (and their spending power) will leave, and that will destroy the community. Life will go on, I'm sure, but there will now be another community that could have stayed strong and true to their beliefs and roots, that budged and move out of the way of loud voices and big money.

I urge you to do whatever is in your power to block this ridiculous, illegal, dangerous project from proceeding. We live in a representative country, where we, the people, are represented, not large corporate or governmental interests.

Sincerely,

Asif Badar

7714 113th Street, Apt 5L

Forest Hills, NY 11375

1-347-300-2055

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
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These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested

traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains

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fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10

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no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote.

There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities
and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you
cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.
Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full
community involvement.

Asif Badar
<asifmbadar@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT:

Dear Council Member,

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain. Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Patricia Manrique
Walter Arditto

GIRARD APARTMENTS
FOREST HILLS RESIDENT

PATI VARGAS ENTERTAINMENT

Artist Agency

Minka @ Futurama Art Galleries

305.223.2245 | Miami

<pati@pativargasent.com>

VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT_

Dear Council Member,

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Quinn
Forest Hills, NY
<CYNQ@AOL.COM>

Borough Based Jail Plan = please reconsider height of Kew Gardens jail

Hello. A mega jail does not belong in Kew Gardens. It will adversely affect the life of everyone who lives here. Our community board voted NO each time and gave constructive input. Our infrastructure is falling apart; the congestion which is already unbearable on buses and trains in Kew Gardens will only become worse. The quality of life should also be considered for the residents who live in this area. Please limit the size of this jail to one in keeping with the neighborhood, Thank you.

Patricia Bertagnolli
7*** 113th Street
Forest Hills, NY 11375
<pcbparis.icon@gmail.com>

Vote NO on Kew Gardens Proposed Jail and other Borough Jails

Dear Council member,

My name is Glenn Mathes and I am a resident of Kew Gardens I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

They will reduce the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

They will increase traffic in our neighborhoods.

In the case of Kew Gardens, it will result in a large mega-jail that will blight our landscape and put a jail within blocks of an elementary school.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Glenn Mathes

11415

<gmathesii@gmail.com>

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

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These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you,
Erica Lazarow
7*** 113th street
<erical2002@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE “NO” TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Regards,

Elie Hatem

Kew Gardens, NY

<ehatem@curtisswright.com>

VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: WE URGE YOU TO

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,

Wendy Lai

Forest Hills, NY Resident

<wendl922@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,
Julia and Wil Moss
<julia.meador@gmail.com>

October 17th City Council vote to close Riker's Island facility and build new prisons

2**-** 43rdAvenue
Bayside, NY 11361-2617
October 15, 2019

Councilman Paul Vallone
42-40 Bell Blvd., Suite 507
Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Councilman Vallone,

As my elected Councilman, I am writing to you to ask you to vote "No" on October 17th regarding the proposal that would authorize the building of a new high-rise prison in Kew Gardens, Queens. The Riker's Island facility would be closed under this proposal. The new prison project in Queens would cost the taxpayers 11 billion dollars to complete, perhaps more. New prisons would also be established in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx as well.

I feel that this project is a huge waste of taxpayer money. It would make more sense to refurbish the facility at Riker's Island and to establish programs and policies that would help incarcerated people at Riker's change their lives to prepare them for life outside of prison. We already have the infrastructure present at Riker's. It would cost far less money to fix what we already have then to pour billions of dollars into a new facility.

I understand that the local community board that represents the community of Kew Gardens unanimously opposes this proposed new prison in their neighborhood. I have been reading in the local papers just how controversial this project is and the negative impact that it would have on the Kew Gardens residents. I truly believe that there has not been enough transparency about the new project itself and its effect on the Kew Gardens community. For these and many other reasons, I believe that this proposal is a bad idea and would set a precedent for further intrusion of problematic projects into our neighborhoods.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and giving it your consideration.

Sincerely,
Henry Euler

CC: NYC Councilmembers

<hpeuler28@aol.com>

Kew Gardens & Borough Jails - The People Have Spoken - Vote NO

Dear Council Members:

As a Kew Gardens resident, I can go on and on about how appalled I am to have a jail built in my backyard. But the arguments against it are much more compelling and far less self-serving. Let's start with the borough-based jail idea itself. It is a truly absurd notion that closing Rikers Island and replacing it with mega jails inside quiet residential communities will solve any systemic problems in the criminal justice system.

There is a reason why prisons are built on islands in the first place - because in a large city you need ample space for a large amount of prisoners, and room to expand that space as that city grows. The mayors' pie in the sky idea assumes that crime will continue to go down, even in a city where the population continues to rise.

Kew Gardens cannot sustain a mega jail, nor should it be expected to. It is a quaint, quiet, and safe suburban landscape within a big city. There are very few high rises of ANY kind, let alone jails. The community does not need its streets crowded with the type of traffic that comes and goes to a prison. It will pollute the air, increase crime, lower property values, and completely damage the charm and character of this historic neighborhood. In the last month ALONE there were at least two dangerous suspects who escaped police custody while being transported to or from the courthouse in Kew Gardens. I can only imagine what would happen when hundreds or thousands of inmates are being moved to or from the proposed jail.

We did nothing to deserve this, and neither did any of the other communities that will be damaged by the construction of these mega prisons. We deserve a say, and New York deserves much better ideas than this. It is no secret to us that the mayor continues to block the press from any of his (very rare) meetings with Kew Gardens officials and residents. Even he must know what a bad idea this is. And we will certainly hold our elected officials accountable at the polls if this idea goes forward. Fix Rikers - don't send its many problems into our communities.

Sincerely,

Matthew Nadelson
<drivenspirit@outlook.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

simeon godick
simeondgodick@yahoo.com

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

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- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

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This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anna Ng
Forest Hills, Queens, NY
<mailboxang@gmail.com>

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Sincerely,

Sandy Zhang

Resident of Forest Hills, NY 11375

<sandyz18@msn.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Laura and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens and Forest Hills, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Forest Hills resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Laura Chau
11375
<laurakchau@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Elaine Mai

<elainem2288@gmail.com>

URGENT: VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hurwitz

Forest Hills Resident and mother

<ddhurwitz@gmail.com>

NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal - QUEENS

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Emily A. and I am a resident of Forest Hills Gardens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Forest Hills/Kew Gardens, the safety of our kids, community and schools will be jeopardized to no end, our real estate prices will be depressed to no avail (esp. the oldest planned community in the nation - Forest Hills Gardens with multi million dollar reach) and our community's reputation will be damaged beyond repair. I, as well as my neighbors are already contemplating an exit strategy from this area if you vote in supportive of the mega jail.

There is no place for a jail in any RESIDENTIAL community. It makes absolutely no sense and it is incredulous that such a proposal was even raised and now most likely supportive of DESPITE UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION from the community and borough President Melinda Katz. It's your moral and ethical obligation to vote NO on the borough based jails. The community has spoken and our voices should be the ultimate determinant of this proposal.

In closing, I, as a New York and Forest Hills resident, urge you to vote NO to the Mayor's proposal on Oct 17th.

This city council will regret its legacy if New York becomes known worldwide as the city with the 4 skyscraper jails. There will be a mass exodus and I will be there - front and center.

Emily A,

Zip code: 11375

<fidexlity@hotmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
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- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,

Phichaya Pinyo, Forest Hills, NY

<phichaya1979@hotmail.com>

Dear Council member,

My name is Michael Marcus and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Michael Marcus
<mmz.marcus@gmail.com>

Vote NO on the prison in Kew Gardens.. You will destroy Queens and Queens Blvr

Dear Council Members,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

The Council already destroyed Queens economy by letting the Amazon site be taken away now you are going to cause more damage to Queens. Do you realize how bad Queens Blvd will become with all the proposed traffic.. VOTE NO please.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
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- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms.

The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote.

There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents.

If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

JJ

[<24silentone68@gmail.com>](mailto:24silentone68@gmail.com)

No on borough based Jail plan

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: WE URGE YOU TO VOTE

“NO” TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

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- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already

overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms.

The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us.

Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in

sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP

for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote.

There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept.

This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents.

If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass.

Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Michael and Lynne Ritchie Forest Hills

<mritchie@nyc.rr.com>

Dear Council Member,

**YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS!!
THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS
ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:**

- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES**

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- **A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet**
- **Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools**
- **Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center**
- **A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs**
- **A 24-hour Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs**

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a highway construction project KGIP going on for 10 years with no end in sight in exactly the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four (4) boroughs is subject to one vote. There are no specifics or concrete plans in this proposal. You are being asked to vote on a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass. We urge you to vote **NO** as did all 5 Community Boards in the

impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the council with a **NO** vote, then you must **abstain!!** Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you.

Damian Cazachkoff
<damiancaz@hotmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

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Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. **The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us.** Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

A. Christov - Forest Hills, NY 11375 <amchristov@aol.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, WE PLEA TO YOU TO LISTEN TO THE RESIDENTS WHO WILL BE GRAVELY AFFECTED BY THESE PROPOSED BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT.

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

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These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

THERE WAS ALSO AN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN TO MODERNIZE THE RIKERS ISLAND. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS ALTERNATIVE...

<https://nypost.com/2019/10/06/architects-make-case-against-de-blasios-plan-for-city-jails/>

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Debby Lee
A Registered Voter
Forest Hills, NY
<deblee002@aol.com>

Borough-Based Jails

Dear Council Member,

I am a Forest Hills resident and I strongly oppose the proposal of building 4 new jails in our boroughs.

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS!!

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FOLLOW THE MAYOR INTO THE FIRE !!
YOUR CONSTITUENTS ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO VOTE NO
ON THIS ISSUE.**

**WE LIVE HERE AND YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO OUR CONCERNS.
PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND
VOTE NO.**

**THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS
ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:**

- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES**

Iris LeBron

<irislebron17@gmail.com>

Dear Council Member,

Please, you must not allow this proposal to pass. I'm a resident in Forest Hills South a Co-op of 604 apartments with many seniors, professionals and young families, located about 2 blocks from the proposed Kew Gardens jail. This jail will have many negative impacts on Kew Gardens, Briarwood and Forest Hills. The **Lippman Commission** Recommendations for these new jails are being ignored.

- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES.** The Kew Gardens jail will be a Yankee sized stadium of 1.3 million square feet and tower up to 27 stories in a residential hamlet.
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS.** This jail will be near PS 99 and close to 7 other schools.
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES.** This jail will house men and women across all 5 boroughs. This jail will have 2 times the number of beds the former Queens detention center had. A 24 hour dialysis center for detainees for all 5 boroughs will also be located here.

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, especially Kew Gardens hamlet. This will cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms.

The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a highway construction project KGIP going on for 10 years with no end in sight in exactly the same location as the proposed jail.

This is the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP

for four (4) boroughs is subject to one vote. There are no specifics or concrete plans in this proposal. You are being asked to vote on a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass. We urge you to vote **NO** as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents.

If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the council with a **NO** vote, then you must **abstain!!** Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you,

Mark Wright

<gardentyrant@gmail.com>

Community Jails - A RESOUNDING NO!

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is going to be short.

We do not want a jail in our already overburdened neighborhood. This is one of the worst ideas of the DeBlasio administration and there's been a few.

Here are a few things to consider as you make your decision:

About 5+ years ago, I received a plan about how Queens Boulevard was going to look after they had put an incredible amount of dollars in it to improve the roads, improve crossing, improve the greenery. Someone needs to take a walk to see how that project is going and dragging out and the fact that it looks remotely like that picture I saw all those years ago.

We are on the E line, and I look every day when the subways are full of homeless people and right beside them our visiting tourists who are on their way into the city from JFK; the use of the AirTrain and subway promoted and this is how they are repaid - disgrace. These very same tourists are then subjected to subways that are constantly overcrowded and out of commission on weekend, right when they are traveling. I feel so bad for them when I see them with their young kids dragging luggage up the stairs at Kew Gardens to now board a bus to Jamaica and then to (not easily) transfer to the AirTrain. Why isn't there someone assigned to these subways at JFK to tell them to please get a taxi so that they are not exhausted by this now two-hour commute that we have promoted?

We already have a homeless problem, and since they allocated the hotel in Kew Gardens as a homeless shelter several years ago it has gotten so much worse with all sorts of undesirables walking the streets day and night, hanging around subway. It is literally dangerous.

Thank you for listening.

Mary Gallivan

Forest Hills at 78th Street and Queens Boulevard (soon to be a neighbor to a jailhouse -- thanks!)

This is the most ridiculous plan I have ever heard of, and it is not fair to the people of any of these communities.

<magallivan@yahoo.com>

VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

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These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with

no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote.

There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,

Jane Thornton

Resident of Forest Hills South apartment complex

<ashcombe36@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Da Ma

Forest Hills, NY

<mada.hyside@gmail.com>

Vote NO on the Borough Jails Proposal PLEASE!

My name is Ying Kwok and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

The private jails' budget (including total interest for the cost of borrowing) could be used to fix up all of NY's public housing benefiting more than 400,000 people living in dire conditions rather than just 5,000 inmates on Rikers.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the ***borough they are arrested in***, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

I personally do not feel safe living next to a high rise jail. A prisoner escaped the courthouse on Queens Blvd just a few weeks ago, and you want to bring another 1,000 over permanently?!

In addition, Kew Garden / Forest Hills homeless problem is getting worse from all of the hotel shelters the mayor promise to reduce but instead had increased since he took office. A local resident here was stabbed by a homeless person at my subway station 2 months ago because he was being a good samaritan trying to save a woman from being harassed by the homeless guy. PLEASE DON'T ADD another stress to the neighborhood.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and a Queens resident, urge you to vote **NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Ying Kwok
<personal@yingkwok.net>

Vote NO on the Borough Jails Proposal PLEASE!

My name is Johnny Kwan and I am a resident of Woodside, Queens. I am writing to you to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

The private jails' budget (including total interest for the cost of borrowing) could be used to fix up all of NY's public housing benefiting more than 400,000 people living in dire conditions rather than just 5,000 inmates on Rikers.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the **borough they are arrested in**, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

I personally do not feel safe living next to a high rise jail. A prisoner escaped the courthouse on Queens Blvd just a few weeks ago, and you want to bring another 1,000 over permanently?!

In addition, Kew Garden / Forest Hills homeless problem is getting worse from all of the hotel shelters the mayor promise to reduce but instead had increased since he took office. A local resident here was stabbed by a homeless person at my subway station 2 months ago because he was being a good samaritan trying to save a woman from being harassed by the homeless guy. PLEASE DON'T ADD another stress to the neighborhood.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and a Queens resident, urge you to vote **NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Johnny Kwan
<helladuh@gmail.com>

My name is Ping Lee and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

The private jails' budget (including total interest for the cost of borrowing) could be used to fix up all of NY's public housing benefiting more than 400,000 people living in dire conditions rather than just 5,000 inmates on Rikers.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the ***borough they are arrested in***, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

I personally do not feel safe living next to a high rise jail. A prisoner escaped the courthouse on Queens Blvd just a few weeks ago, and you want to bring another 1,000 over permanently?!

In addition, Kew Garden / Forest Hills homeless problem is getting worse from all of the hotel shelters the mayor promise to reduce but instead had increased since he took office. A local resident here was stabbed by a homeless person at my subway station 2 months ago because he was being a good samaritan trying to save a woman from being harassed by the homeless guy. PLEASE DON'T ADD another stress to the neighborhood.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and a Queens resident, urge you to vote **NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Ping Lee
<pinglee2000@gmail.com>

Vote NO on Borough-Based Jail Proposal

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to urge you not to approve the borough-based jail plan.

These four massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed Queensjail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Respectfully,

Patrick McGrath

Forest Hills, NY

<mcgrathcom@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Maggie Soffer and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and [Your Neighborhood] resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Maggie Soffer
11418
<misoffer@yahoo.com>

Vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Yang Zhang and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to reopen and expand a jail at 126-02 82nd Ave, Kew Gardens. This proposal will impose tremendous risks on the children and the communities of Kew Gardens and Forest Hills.

The proposed site is extremely close to many schools and children's playgrounds, such as Kew-Forest School, Preschool of America Daycare, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Academy, elementary schools P.S. 101, P.S. 196, P.S. 144, and Archbishop Molloy High School. Sex offenders, just released prisoners and criminal activities in the neighborhood will impose tremendous risks on the children.

Both the communities of Kew Gardens and Forest Hills will suffer tremendous economic loss. Many parents and local business are planning to move out if the proposal goes ahead, likely to result in a crash of nearby housing markets.

Road infrastructure nearby will not be able to handle the dramatic increase in traffic that will occur after the proposed expansion. The nearby Queens Boulevard is already one of the deadliest streets in the city.

We support the effort to close Rikers Island and the goals of making our municipal jails more humane. However, the choice of 126-02 82nd Ave Kew Gardens is so wrong on so many levels.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Forest Hills resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Yang Zhang
<zy82m@yahoo.com>

Dear Council Member,

**YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS!!
THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS
ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:**

- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES**

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- **A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet**
- **Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools**
- **Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center**
- **A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs**
- **A 24-hour Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs**

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a highway construction project KGIP going on for 10 years with no end in sight in exactly the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four (4) boroughs is subject to one vote. There are no specifics or concrete plans in this proposal. You are being asked to vote on a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to

allow it to pass. We urge you to vote **NO** as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the council with a **NO** vote, then you must **abstain!!** Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you.

A voting Forest Hills resident:

Bruce Beckwith

1**-** 78th avenue

Forest Hills, NY 11375

<beckwithlcs@gmail.com>

Vote NO on jail bill

I urge you to vote NO on the proposed bill to construct four borough based jails to replace Rikers Island. It is clear that something has to be done with the conditions at Rikers. Constructing these facilities is not the answer.

There has been minimal community engagement in this process. The ULURP is approving a concept not an actual proposal, which is counter to the intent of community input.

What is being proposed is counter to the recommendations of the Lippman Commission recommendations. Have you read the Lippman report in detail?

Lastly the \$9 billion cost will surely increase putting further pressure on the City's tax base and need for other social and housing services.

This vote will follow you throughout your political career. Is this something you feel you can defend given your fiduciary responsibility to the City's tax payers? For those of you who are retiring, is this what you want your legacy to be?

VOTE NO!

Adam Whiteman
1** 82 Avenue
Queens, NY 11415
<adamjwhiteman@aol.com>

Dear Council Member,

Please consider alternate plan to close Rikers proposed in attached letter from Queens Residents United before casting your decisive vote on Thursday. Please also see photo exhibits showing out-of-scale rendering of proposed Kew Gardens Jail, current on-going KGIP construction project in same location as jail, present congested traffic on 78th Avenue and Fact Sheet.

We hope you will consider the adverse impacts on your constituents and the communities you represent and vote "NO" to this BBJ project. If you cannot vote "NO" then, you must abstain! **Do not allow this proposal to pass.**

Sent it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Respectfully,
Charlotte Picot
<cbpsoprano@gmail.com>

Queens Residents United

Honorable Council Member
New York City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

October 15, 2019

Dear Council Member,

My name is Charlotte Picot and I am a founding member of Queens Residents United which is working together with nine other associations* (listed below) across Queens, Manhattan, Bronx, and Brooklyn to oppose Mayor De Blasio's "borough-based" jail project. I am also a board member of a 7-building apartment complex located 2 blocks from the proposed jail in Queens. Together, our nine associations represent approximately 800,000 residents whose quality of lives we want to protect.

As you know, Mayor De Blasio is steamrolling a plan to build four massive, Yankee stadium-size jails (Please see Exhibit 1- Scale of Project) in these four boroughs at a cost of \$11 billion (\$30 billion with financing). At a recent Queens Advisory Committee meeting with the Mayor, we asked him why his plan totally ignored the Lippman Commission's recommendations of not siting jails in residential neighborhoods and limiting occupancy to 500 detainees or less. He answered, "The Lippman Commission is not my bible," and concluded, "You'll get used to it."

Something's clearly going on here, and it's not criminal justice reform. The only beneficiaries of the project thus far are Perkins Eastman, paid \$7.6 million for the design, and AECOM-Hill that was awarded a \$107.4 million contract for Project Management, before the Planning Commission and Council even voted. The Mayor and his team have conflated closing Rikers with approval of this massive construction project, as if one cannot be accomplished without the other.

There is a better way to close Rikers--an alternate plan. We have 14 existing jails across the four boroughs that can accommodate more than the projected number of beds needed, that can be renovated in one to two years versus eight, at a fraction of the cost. Essentially, this lower cost plan will enable the City to begin building a fresh culture of mutual respect between detainees and corrections staff (with reform programs such as the TRUE Program in Cheshire, CT) at least 6 years earlier than with new construction. If New York City has the lowest crime statistics of any city in the United States, and the incarcerated numbers are going down, why build four massive new jails that will be indelible symbols of systemic failure? The detainees will not benefit from being enclosed in experimental towers with little outdoor recreation. And, the objective of "borough-based" jails is not even met in the current plan because Queens is slated to receive more than two times the population than actually comes from this borough (only 500). So, most of the detainees will still have to be transported to different courts and will not be any closer to their relatives.

Queens Council Members must ask themselves why is Queens getting a Women's Jail and 24-hour Dialysis Center for all the boroughs, further disrupting residential neighborhoods with construction and congestion and against the City's stated objective of housing detainees in the borough where they reside? Staten Island was exempt because of its low numbers of detainees, while Queens, that has the least number of detainees of all the other boroughs, is getting much more than its fair share. Why?

Kew Gardens and Forest Hills are already suffering from the massive, sprawling KGIP highway construction project that began in late 2010 with no end in sight, in exactly the same location as the proposed jail. (Please see Exhibit 2 - Photo of KGIP construction and Exhibit 3- Present traffic congestion on 78th Avenue). Who is watching over and protecting our residents who will be severely affected by demolition and years of construction, especially, children, seniors and the more fragile among us?

No one is addressing the most important aspect of the jail initiative—the required culture change. A massive construction project will not solve that and will, in fact, delay implementation of such reform by 6 years or more. Who is ensuring that work starts on reforming jail culture sooner rather than later?

If Council Members are voting for the borough-based jail plan under the assumption it will help them maintain a seat at the table, they are sadly mistaken. The Mayor is already renegeing on promises to Council Member Koslowitz to eliminate the borough-wide infirmary in Queens only to now slip back in a borough-wide dialysis center. You have the power to control the outcome of this project now with a "NO" vote. Once it passes, it will be too late; the Council will start down a slippery slope where it loses all control of the process.

This is the first time in NYC history that a design/build ULURP for all boroughs is subject to a single vote. This project impacts far too many people and communities for you to give up your independent judgement and vote in favor of the Council's tradition of deferring to the Council Member in the affected district. Five Community Boards in the four impacted areas have all voted and spoken loud and clear against the plan as have Queens and Bronx Borough Presidents Melinda Katz and Ruben Diaz.

We urge you to join them and vote "NO" on this ill-advised, multi-billion-dollar plan to build massive, high-rise jails. We need a better, faster and fairer alternative to reform and humanize the City's criminal justice system while respecting the communities you serve.

If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the council with a NO vote, then you must abstain! **Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,



Aida Vernon
President, Queens Residents United
Email: speakupbriawood@gmail.com
Phone: 917-676-8740



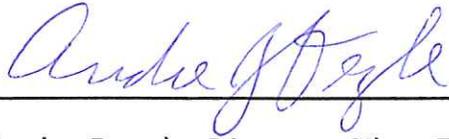
Charlotte Picot
Vice President, Forest Hills South Owners, Inc.
Email: cbpsoprano@gmail.com
Phone: 718-263-0558

*Community Preservation Coalition and Kew Gardens Civic Association (Queens); Boroughs United, Human Scale and NUBC/Neighbors United Below Canal (Manhattan); South Bronx Unite and Diego Beekman Mutual Housing Association (Bronx); and Preserve our Brooklyn Neighborhoods and Brooklyn Preservation (Brooklyn)..

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 --Scale of Proposed Jail in Queens
- Exhibit 2-- Current KGIP construction project
- Exhibit 3- Present traffic congestion on 78th Avenue going to Queens Blvd..
- Fact Sheet

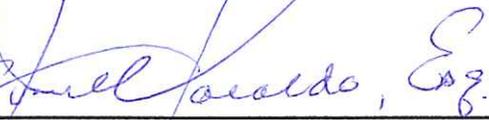
Letter to Council Members from Queens Residents United October 14, 2019



Andre Deazle, Director, Silver Towers Owners Corp.



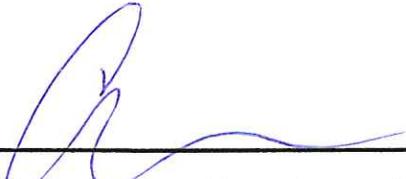
Bruce Carney, Secretary, Silver Towers Owners Corp.



Joseph Faraldo



Yma Sherren



George McGrath, President Forest Hills South Owners, Inc.

EXHIBIT 1- SCALE OF PROJECT—OVERSHADOWS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY



EXHIBIT 2- CURRENT KGIP 10-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ALREADY PLAGUING AREA

8/21/2019

20190718_120415.jpg



**EXHIBIT 3- PRESENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON 78TH AVENUE GOING TO QUEENS BLVD.—
MAXED OUT**



Existing morning traffic congestion on 78th Avenue approaching intersection with Queens Boulevard.

BOROUGH-BASED JAILS (BBJ) FACT SHEET

ASTRONOMICAL COST

- BBJ Project cost estimate is **\$11 Billion**, with financing **\$30 Billion**, which will impact all NYC taxpayers for decades.

DELAYS CLOSING RIKERS – FASTER, MORE HUMANE, LESS COSTLY OPTIONS NOT CONSIDERED

- Construction of 4 massive jails will take 8+ years.
- NYC has 14 existing jails in the boroughs that can accommodate more than the projected number of beds needed that could be renovated in 1-2 years enabling a much earlier closing of Rikers at a fraction of the cost.

DETAINEES WILL NOT BENEFIT

- Detainees will not benefit being enclosed in experimental towers with little access to outdoor recreation except for rooftops and small cubicles.
- In case of fire, detainees will have to be brought down to street overwhelming the number of corrections officers available.

LIPPMAN COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS IGNORED

- Jails should not be sited in residential neighborhoods nor near schools
- Jails should be "smaller" accommodating no more than 500 detainees

OVERSIZED

- The Kew Gardens Jail is certified for **29+ stories, 1.3 million square feet** (same size as Yankee-Stadium)
- Provides beds for 1,150+ detainees.
- Massive structure will block the present expansive open sky view on the north side of Queens Boulevard and destroy visual landscape.
- Will overshadow the entire neighborhood and cast a shadow four (4) times its height all the way to the Fedex store on Queens Blvd. and 78th Avenue.
- Will dwarf our historic 3-story Queens Borough Hall.

INCREASES TRAFFIC AND MASS TRANSIT CONGESTION

- Will bring 800+ additional vehicle trips 2X per day causing increased traffic congestion to already overburdened narrow streets and highways and unavoidable adverse environmental Impacts that DEIS admits cannot be mitigated at 78th and 77th Avenues at Queens Blvd. and 3 other locations.
- Two new garages will be built for correction officers and visitors accommodating 608 cars creating scarcity of street parking for local residents.
- Buses, trains and platforms cannot absorb additional numbers that BBJ would bring as they are now dangerously bursting with people due to the organic growth that has occurred over the years.

QUEENS GETTING MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE

- Staten Island was excluded because it has the least number of detainees, while Queens, with the least number detainees vs. other boroughs is getting the same number plus a Women's Jail for all boroughs.
- Objectives to bring detainees closer to relatives and to the Court will not be met in Queens as 60% of jail population will come from other boroughs.
- Kew Gardens site is across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- 82nd Avenue will be de-mapped, closing the street to vehicular and pedestrian traffic between 126th Street and 132nd Street, prohibiting hundreds of pedestrians from using the footbridge they currently use as a short-cut to subway on Queens Blvd.

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Maria Hudon and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Garden resident, urge you to vote *no* to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Maria Hudon
11415

<maria.hudon@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Cindy Martinez and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

We do NOT want these jails in our neighborhoods. Stop pushing these jails on us. We do NOT WANT them here!
Renovate Rikers!

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Cindy Martinez

<cinmartinez81@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Joseph and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bertran
<bertrj01@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers - vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal!

Dear Council member,

My name is Isaac J. Beylin and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens (and neighboring Forest Hills) , this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the **borough they are arrested in**, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Forest Hills resident, urge you to **vote NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th!

Sincerely,

Isaac J. Beylin

11375

ib@advantekny.com

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Ellen Weisman and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

<ellen.weisman@gmail.com>

Dear Council member,

I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Marcello Alcoba
<marcelloalcoba@gmail.com>

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS!!

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES**

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- **A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet**
- **Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools**
- **Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center**
- **A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs**
- **A 24-hour Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs**

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a highway construction project KGIP going on for 10 years with no end in sight in exactly the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four (4) boroughs is subject to one vote. There are no specifics or concrete plans in this proposal. You are being asked to vote on a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass. We urge you to vote **NO** as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the council with a **NO** vote, then you

must **abstain!!** Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Katie Weitzman (Forest Hills resident)

<katiepweitzman@gmail.com>

Please represent us - Vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal!

Dear Council member,

I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Joey Carpenter
<duhud@hotmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to VOTE NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Khristopher Marang and I am a resident of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens and Briarwood, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded, especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail— no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New York resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Khristopher Marang
zip code 11229
<kkmarang@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to VOTE NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Christopher Cassetta and I am a resident of Briarwood, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens and Briarwood, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded, especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail— no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Briarwood resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Christopher John Cassetta
zip code 11435
<c.j.cassetta@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Denise Wallace and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight. Parents will no longer feel safe letting their children walk to and from PS 99 or to the subway for middle school and high school. We value the serenity of our small community. This is a working class neighborhood where the main investment people have is in their modest apartment. With a jail nearby (or even the threat that one will be built), the value of those apartments is decreasing.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office, but rather to the developers who have their eyes set on Rikers island. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Denise Wallace

11415

<denise.stockman@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to VOTE NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Eva Cassetta and I am a resident of Briarwood, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens and Briarwood, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded, especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail— no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Briarwood resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Eva Cassetta
zip code 11435
<design.evak@gmail.com>

My name is Mai Le and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

The private jails' budget (including total interest for the cost of borrowing) could be used to fix up all of NY's public housing benefiting more than 400,000 people living in dire conditions rather than just 5,000 inmates on Rikers.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the ***borough they are arrested in***, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

I personally do not feel safe living next to a high rise jail. A prisoner escaped the courthouse on Queens Blvd just a few weeks ago, and you want to bring another 1,000 over permanently?!

In addition, Kew Garden / Forest Hills homeless problem is getting worse from all of the hotel shelters the mayor promise to reduce but instead had increased since he took office. A local resident here was stabbed by a homeless person at my subway station 2 months ago because he was being a good samaritan trying to save a woman from being harassed by the homeless guy. PLEASE DON'T ADD another stress to the neighborhood.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and a Queens resident, urge you to vote **NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Mai Le

<maile926@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Ryoko Mathes and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the ***borough***

they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and [Your Neighborhood] resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Ryoko Mathes
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
<ryokom165@gmail.com>

No Kew Gardens Jail

Dear Council member,

My name is David Madrick and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens, Queens]. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and [Your Neighborhood] resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

David Madrick
11415

Best regards, David

<clubkew@gmail.com>

Please vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Janet Ellen Holwell and I am a resident of Forest Hills. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Forest Hills resident, urge you to vote *no* to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Janet Ellen Holwell

Janet Ellen Holwell
6*-** Ingram Street
Forest Hills, NY 11375
<jholwell@aol.com>

I'm in favor of the new detention center in Queens

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am in favor of the proposed new detention center in Kew Gardens, mainly because I haven't heard a coherent argument against it. The original detention center stood at the same spot and was in use for 40 years until it was decommissioned in 2002. It did not result in detainees escaping and causing mayhem, or contribute to a rise in crime (which has been at its lowest levels since the 1960s), or bring property values down.

Please convince me.

Best,

Marc Morgenstern

marc.morgenstern@me.com

<https://www.morningstareducation.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/markymapoe/>

Mayoral dictatorship

Dear Council members,

The Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island is a bad idea but compounding it with an even worse idea is unconscionable and irresponsible. The proposal to build four borough-based jails costing taxpayers over \$30 billion dollars instead of building schools or community centers will be the straw that broke this City's back. If most of NYC is against this plan, how you possibly justify pushing this plan through? It's undemocratic first of all and secondly, the idea of closing down a jail because of violence and building brand new jails in another location is nothing new; just Google Newgate, Blackwell's Island.

Nothing will change unless you push to create real reform within the Correctional Department itself with real power given to an external oversight committee and real mental health and follow-up protocols, post jail. In the meantime, you will be risking the safety of your constituents and failing in your duty to serve those who voted for you, not to mention shortening the lifespan of seniors as you look to construct a mega tower jail next to a senior citizen center in lower Manhattan. Statues are a poor trade for the living and every subsequent death or harm dealt to your constituents will be part of your legacy and New Yorkers have a long memory.

Amy Tse
<de.merovingian@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

I Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Robert Berger and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets

<rbergerfh@aol.com>

Dear Council member,

My name is Bogdanova Lyudmila and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who

entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote NO to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Lyudmila Bogdanova

NY, 11415

<lbogd2009@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Mikhail Goshteyn and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote not to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Mikhail Goshteyn
NY, 11415
<mgosh2001@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Grace Chang
<gracechang25@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Flor Angela Castro and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Forest Hills resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Flor Angela Castro

6*-*** Dartmouth Street
Forest Hills, NY 11375
<facastro@nyc.rr.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Ann Whyte and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so? In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Ann Whyte
6*-** Dartmouth Street
Forest Hills, NY 11375
<awhyte777@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Asha Unni and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and a Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Asha Unni
11415

<hopegr8@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Michelle Pepe
<pepeat70@aol.com>

Please vote no to closing Rikers

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Janice Dillman and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of New York City taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Janice Dillman
<jane51eyre@gmail.com>

Please vote NO to closing Rikers

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is James Dillman and I am a resident of Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
James Dillman
<jamesdillman7@gmail.com>

Please Vote NO on Borough Jails

Dear Elected Representatives,

I am Yury Gariev from Kew Gardens.

I urge you to vote against the wasteful and ill-conceived proposal regarding the borough-based jails.

Any political gain from this bill will be short-lived, but the damage done may be irreparable. Please do not bend under pressure from bureaucratic and commercial vested interests that are pushing this effort. Please stay on the side of common sense and economic realities of our beloved city, neither of which justify this ill-advised project.

Counting on your wisdom. Please vote "NO" on October 17.

Respectfully, Yury Gariev, 11418

<yurygariev@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Vivian November [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Vivian November
dvnovember@verizon.net

VOTE NO ON JAILS BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY

Dear Council member,

My name is VIVIAN KURZ and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens] I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This is plan has not been correctly arrived at and in fact real search for locations was done! Another idea of De Blasio that is not consistent with reality and you will be blames forever on voting if you do not vote NO.

The notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote *no* to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

VIVIAN KURZ 11415

Vivian Kurz/Shechen

<shechen@sprynet.com>

Dear Council member,

My name is Stephanie Rosenberg and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Stephanie
11415

Regards,

Stephanie Love Rosenberg

<rosenlove@gmail.com>

O: 347-450-7550

F: 877-292-0407

<http://RosenLoveVA.com>

OCT 17th- PLEASE VOTE NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council Member,

My name is Peter Matty and I have been living in Briarwood for the last 9 years. This email is being sent to express my opposition towards the proposed jail in Kew Gardens.

Are you really thinking about us? The residents whose taxes pay your salaries? Whose taxes make this construction possible? This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails will be a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and will also adversely affect all of New York City for the following reasons:

1. The citizens of NYC don't want you spending our money this way. Fix Rikers. I don't want a **NEW** corrupt prison 2 blocks away from my apartment. Fix the old corrupt prison.
2. The stretch of Queens Blvd where the Borough Hall, Courthouse, and the site of this proposed prison are located, is becoming a hotbed for homelessness. A large prison there is only going to make the area worse.
3. **Kew Gardens is a family-friendly neighborhood. Is a prison family-friendly? Would you accept a prison where you live? If you do, I would love to hear from you.**
4. What about the traffic this will create on Queens Blvd.
5. You have not been transparent with us- what will this prison look like? How much will it cost? How will the construction affect the area? The Van Wyck construction has affected Kew Gardens the last 9 years. We don't want a prison built right after that is finished only to have more chaos in our neighborhood.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th. There has to be another way to resolve this. Why must it involve building more jails?

Sincerely,
Peter Matty
<pmatty78@gmail.com>

VOTE NO TO CLOSING RIKERS AND LOCATING JAILS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS - THIS IS A REAL ESTATE GRAB

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, is to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is EILEEN WITSCHGER and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. This is a real estate grab and stinks of quid pro quo. Why not renovate Rikers? Why bring the jails to our neighborhoods?

I am especially disappointed in Karen Koslowitz, who is not running again. She represents Kew Gardens and is backstabbing us on her way out. She is disgusting.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention,

the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Eileen Witschger

1** 81st AVENUE

KEW GARDENS, NY 11415

email: eileenwitschger@aol.com

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Nazim and I am a resident of Briarwood, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Briarwood resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Nazim
11435

Nazim Ally
nally0729@gmail.com

Vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Dear Council member,

My name is Gabriela Donescu and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote ***no*** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Donescu

Kew Gardens, 11415
<arizonagabi@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Agata Koscinska and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and [Your Neighborhood] resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Agata Koscinska
<agathakos@yahoo.com>

Community Jails

Dear Council member,

My name is Alison Carper and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote *no* to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Alison Carper

Zip Code 11415

Alison Carper, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
270 Lafayette Street
Suite 1008
New York, NY 10012
<http://alisoncarperphd.com>

Vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Alice Perry and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and a Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote *no* to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Alice Perry
Zip code -- 11415

<codebluealice@yahoo.com>

From: mebergerny@aol.com

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2019 1:52 PM

Subject: Vote NO To Outrageous Jail Plan

I live in midtown Manhattan but with a "yes" vote for this poorly devised plan, you give me a solid reason to abandon New York City after a lifetime of living here. The four large buildings are ill-suited to improving life for prisoners and their families, will destroy neighborhoods, do not correspond to the Lippman Commission's recommendations, have not been responsibly planned for the longterm. Go back to the drawing board to properly replace Riker's current jail and do not railroad this irresponsible plan through. It makes no sense to affect so many New Yorkers in this manner for so few. I -- and many others -- will remember your vote when it is time to vote for you.

M. E. Berger

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Max Rowe and I am a resident of Kew Gardens Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Max Rowe
<rowe.maxp@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Peggy Isern and I am a resident of Briarwood, Queens. I live on the other side of the Van Wyck on 134th Street and Hoover Street, right across from the Queens County Criminal Court.

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Riker's Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. For Kew Gardens/Briarwood, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded-especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees. This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Riker's and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Riker's is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget. How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

The area is home to many families with children, and elementary schools. Exposing our families and children to further danger (we already have a homeless shelter with men who are mentally ill cruising the streets in this area that the City once again, brought in without consulting the community). One child has already been criminally attacked and nearly killed. Why would we bring more disruptive elements here to further endanger the community? When will the politicians instead of catering to real estate interests and their own gain start thinking about the people and communities that they serve?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Briarwood resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Peggy Isern
8*-** 134th Street
Briarwood, NY 11435
<iceboxp7@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

Please, for our sakes vote NO!

My name is Jenny Speed and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Jenny Foehner-Speed

<jennykspeed@rocketmail.com>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Jacqueline Byron and I am a resident of Kew Gardens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

[Insert your comments/sentiments regarding your opposition to the proposal here]

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Byron
<jackyrbyron@me.com>

Testimony in support of Intro 1378 (foie gras sales ban)

Oct 14, 2019

New York City Council Health Committee

Dear Health Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Intro 1378, a common-sense measure that will prevent the sale of foie gras from birds who have been cruelly force-fed. Our treatment of other animals is a reflection of our humanity, and the extreme mistreatment of birds on foie gras farms is outside the bounds of acceptable conduct in our society. Feeding animals by tubes then slaughtering them is just as not being able to have an abortion. The mother simply has to stay full term till baby arrives and keep it. You don't know what these woman go through so don't even try to understand them. These animals should be free. Just like us humans. We get every right to do something and animals should be able to have a family without worrying about anything happening to them. Animals die from heat, cruelty, eating stuff they aren't supposed and more. Don't you think that's enough? The government is fu*ked up in so many ways and you guys make it worse. Police go for the wrong people, white people get special treatment. You do know we're all the same just different color and the way we act. It's like bulldogs. People think they're bad but some aren't depending on how you treat them like a Caucasian person and a colored person, who will the Caucasian police officer choose? Well that depends on how he/ she was raised. Do people know how much the animals go through? What goes through their head never seeing those they loved. Screaming for help.

And us just eating them. Not even once thinking about them. We definitely need to change that ASAP. Just like we need to work on climate change. At least make a rule that every resident should have at least 2 plants. Or people who have houses should plant a tree. Is it that hard? You may think I'm rude but I'm just being honest and straight up. There's nothing wrong with that. Is there? Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniela Octavia Gaspar

07011

danielagaspar94@yahoo.com

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Alfonse Salamina and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

<aldie1960@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
ALFONSE SALAMINA
1** 81 Avenue
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
<aldie1960@aol.com>

Vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Friends on the City Council,

My name is Dan Rigazzi and I have been a resident of Kew Gardens for 20 years. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

I believe that this proposal, as full of good intentions as it is, is ill-conceived and will permanently change the face of my community for the worse. At present, the mayor is asking for a blank check - there is no design or real budget for these facilities. All we know about them is that they are huge high rise jails that will dwarf the communities being forced to house them.

I researched the Palmer commission report - it advocates for community jails that hold no more than 500 inmates, are low-rise manageable facilities with outdoor space, that are not placed in residential communities. The mayor's plan defies all three of these criteria. What we will be left with is urban blight, horrible conditions for the prisoners, and an enormous price tag.

With so many other issues facing the city - our worsening homeless crisis, failing schools, aging infrastructure - isn't there a better way to spend tens of billions of dollars?

Please at least do a cost study for re-making Riker's before giving the mayor a blank check.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dan Rigazzi
www.danrigazzi.com

Your ethical duty towards New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Maddy Farooqui and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens.

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. For ALL New Yorker's this means a haphazard plan will unfold throughout our city over the next several years, redirecting resources away from NYC-taxpayers, stealing resources from other programs that need and deserve attention for ALL New Yorkers and building archaic mega-jail complexes, monuments celebrating incarceration - on a gargantuan scale, such that the modern civilised world has never before seen.

For residents of Kew Gardens, Forest Hills and Briarwood, as well as neighboring towns - a round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office.

We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge each of you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Ms Farooqui

Kew Gardens NY 11415
<madyf416@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens and am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for.

Right now, Kew Gardens is already experiencing the effects of a marked increase in the number of homeless which may trace back to the creation of the "hotel" that is, in fact, a homeless shelter. Had the shelter been designated for homeless families, I doubt the reaction would have been very strong. But with the property housing homeless men, some of whom have criminal backgrounds or mental issues, our objections can't be overstated. Add to this the horrific attack on a child last week by a homeless man with a lengthy criminal record and anyone can understand the community's outrage. Prior to that incident, we worried something MIGHT happen...now it HAS happened and we're hoping additional incidents won't follow.

The jail is simply a continuation of the destruction of our neighborhood. Yes, it is hoped that the criminals will be held securely within any jail but you can't guarantee against a break-out, riots, and, certainly, visits from unsavory associates to the inmates.

We urge you to aggressively oppose this latest affront to Kew Gardens by voting NO on the disastrous proposal to construct these borough-based jails.

Judi Cuervo

<Judi.Cuervo@hbgusa.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Iwona Pietruczuk and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets

<iwonaagency@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Christa Spreizer and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Christa Spreizer
<ces63@mindspring.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Alison Carper and I am a resident of Kew Garden], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Alison Carper

Alison Carper, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
270 Lafayette Street
Suite 1008
New York, NY 10012
<http://alisoncarperphd.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member, My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight. Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees. This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place. Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget. How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so? In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
diana shaman
<dshaman791@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Karen Koffler and I am a current resident of Forest Hills, having spent 15 years previously in Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Forest Hills resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Karen Koffler
<karenkoffler19@gmail.com>

I vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Firdaus Chandra and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Firdaus Chandra
<vfchandra@gmail.com>

I vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Keh-yueh Chen and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Keh-yueh Chen
<carriechen.tsc@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Alex Reyfish and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Alex Reyfish
<alexreyfish@icloud.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Andrea Stratton, and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Andrea Stratton
<andreastratton@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Kristine Murtha
<kristina1208@icloud.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Patricia Nuzzi and my husband is Michael Nuzzi, we are residents of Briarwood Queens. We are writing to you to express our strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens and Briarwood this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, we as New Yorker and Briarwood residents, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Patricia and Michael Nuzzi
<pattinuzzi@prodigy.net>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Cindy Ross and I am a resident of Forest Hills Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Cindy Ross
<cross64@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Donna Karkouta and I am a resident of Briarwood, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Briarwood resident, urge you to vote NO to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

As a homeowner, I assure you that if this agenda is passed you will lose my vote and confidence in all the future elections you participate in. This will include the votes of my friends and families who agree with my conviction that this initiative is just simply wrong and unfair.

Sincerely,

Donna B Karkouta
<legendb@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Catherine Grillo and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Catherine Grillo
<cathykerz@gmail.com>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Paula Dupraz-Dobias and my family has lived for three generations in Kew Gardens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

I am deeply disturbed by the proposal. Why are so many billions of dollars (the initial estimate is \$11 billion, which may rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion after financing costs) being committed for so few people, when the City already needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, and other venues that benefit communities? Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult, or even impossible, to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency? A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens, not only by its height and mass, but also as a large penal institution operating [24/7](#) in an already congested community. Ricker Island CAN be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal would require. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds? Not to mention these four new jails may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, which at its opening in 1975 was hailed in the NY Times as an "advance in jail design!" If Rikers' most serious problem is allegedly its culture and treatment of detainees, can't these issues be addressed internally on Rikers Island instead?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote NO to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Paula Dupraz-Dobias

Paula Dupraz-Dobias
Journalist/Producer

<paula.dupraz@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Florian and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Florian
Borana Flori Gjoka

<gjokaderguti@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is David Carrasco and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

--

Regards,

David Carrasco
<carrasco.dc@gmail.com>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Roberta Shwide and I am a 40 year resident of Kew gardens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. It will destroy my neighborhood forever

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

[Insert your comments/sentiments regarding your opposition to the proposal here]

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Roberta Shwide

<msrs20@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Barry Wollner and I am a resident of Forest Hills Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Forest Hills, Briarwood, Kew Gardens, Kew Gardens Hills, and Richmond Hills this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

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How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Barry Wollner
<brdwollner@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Judy Roth
<judy31956@icloud.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Nima and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Nima
<nima_vyas@yahoo.com>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Caroline Dupraz and I am a resident of Kew Gardens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

I am deeply disturbed by the proposal. Why are so many billions of dollars (the initial estimate is \$11 billion, which may rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion after financing costs) being committed for so few people, when the City already needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, and other venues that benefit communities? Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult, or even impossible, to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency? A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens, not only by its height and mass, but also as a large penal institution operating [24/7](#) in an already congested community. Ricker Island CAN be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal would require. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds? Not to mention these four new jails may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, which at its opening in 1975 was hailed in the NY Times as an "advance in jail design!" If Rikers' most serious problem is allegedly its culture and treatment of detainees, can't these issues be addressed internally on Rikers Island instead?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Caroline Dupraz

<carolinedupraz@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Ryan Morgan and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I live on Union and Austin Streets which is very close to the proposed Kew Gardens jail. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Ryan Morgan

Deloitte & Touche LLP

remorgan05@gmail.com

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Jieyun Zhou and I am a resident of Forest Hills. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

My family and I strongly oppose Mayor de Blasio's proposal to reopen and expand a jail at 126-02 82nd Ave, Kew Gardens. This proposal will impose tremendous risks on the children and the communities of Kew Gardens and Forest Hills:

- The proposed site is too close to so many schools and children's playgrounds. The following schools are all within walking distance, with the closest one only 5 minutes' walk: Kew-Forest School, Preschool of America Daycare, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Academy, elementary schools P.S. 101, P.S. 196 and P.S. 144, Archbishop Molloy High School etc. Detainees, just released sex offenders or child predators wandering around the neighborhood will impose tremendous risks on the children. Not to mention the potential impact of gang activities, or violent fights happening so close to kids' schools and playgrounds.
 - Another potential risk is the increase of people with weapons in the neighborhood. This will greatly increase the probability of massive shooting in nearby schools and playgrounds. My kid is currently in Kew Forest school. One day we received an email from the principal saying the second grade students were verbally assaulted by a passerby through the playground fence so the teacher called policemen. I can not imagine what could have happened if that passerby had a gun.
 - Both the communities of Kew Gardens and Forest Hills will suffer tremendous economic loss. A lot of parents and local business will move out the communities, resulting in a crash of nearby housing markets.
 - Road infrastructure nearby will not be able to handle the dramatic increase in traffic that will occur after the proposed expansion. The nearby Queens Boulevard is already one of the deadliest streets in the city.
- We support the effort to close Rikers Island and the goals of making our municipal jails more humane. However, the choice of 126-02 82nd Ave Kew Gardens is ridiculously unacceptable given its closeness to schools. We strongly suggest reconsidering another site.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Forest Hills resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Jieyun Zhou

<beatayun@gmail.com>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Jerry Li, and I am a resident of Forest Hills. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

Simply to say! NO any reason for this silly and stupid proposal!!!!

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Jerry Li

Zhiyu Li

<lizhiyu70@hotmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Jerry Li, and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Forest Hills - Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Jerry
Zhiyu Li

<lizhiyu70@hotmail.com>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Wilfrido Castillo and I am a resident of Kew Gardens I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

[Insert your comments/sentiments regarding your opposition to the proposal here]

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Wilfrido Castillo

<castillopwg@icloud.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Theresa and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Theresa Planell
<theresaplanell@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Yin Yin and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Queens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Yin Yin

<yinxiaoyin@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Catherine Ortiz and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight. Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence.

In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees. This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place. Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget. How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so? In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Catherine Ortiz
<cath264@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member, My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight. Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees. This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place. Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget. How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so? In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17. Sincerely,

<cath264@aol.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Vivian Kurz
<shechen@sprynet.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Arshdeep Singh and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Arshdeep Singh
DDS Candidate 2020 | NYU College of Dentistry
BS Biology 2016 | Adelphi University

Dr. Penugonda and Associates
as7442@nyu.edu

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member, My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight. Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees. This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place. Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget. How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so? In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17. Sincerely,
<barbdambrosio@aol.com>

Vote NO on the Queens Jail - the community doesn't want it! Stand up for those who voted you in!

Dear NYC Council members,

My name is Yvonne and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to open four new borough-based jails, especially here in Queens.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight. In addition to significantly driving down property values.

It's incredibly disheartening, especially in these trying times, when politicians only support themselves instead of the communities they represent. Stand up for us!

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget. The community says NO to this project, and you, as entrusted voted members of that community should support that.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Lindahl

<yvonnemlindahl@gmail.com>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Anthony and I am a resident of Kew Gardens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

Borough based jails will destroy the the way of life in our community. It will increase the amount of traffic that has already increased in the past few years. It will also reduce the quality of life and security of the community without the discussion that should be had before a plan like this is approved without the votes to the constituents that put you in Office to represent us.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Anthony Pasquale
<pasquale13@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Anthony Pasquale and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Anthony Pasquale
<pasquale13@gmail.com>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

If our purpose is to help the families, we could run free express buses from Bed-Stuy (etc) to Rikers, starting tomorrow, and for very little money.

We could even run ferries from Staten Island & Far Rockaway.

Vote NO to close Rikers Island.

Vote NO to build four new "community" jails.

Cheers,

Michael Storch

<chasidot@pobox.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Kew Gardens], Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

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In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,
Jenn Yandrisevits
<jenn.yandrisevits@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

Good morning,

I'm a New York City Resident in District 33, Council Member Stephen Levin's district (zip code 11201). I'm writing because I strongly oppose the building of four new borough-based jails. This is plan, which is being hailed by the Mayor, Speaker Corey Johnson, and sadly my own city council member, is not the only way to close Rikers. Building new jails will lead to an increased number of New Yorkers incarcerated. Rikers must be closed but the building of new jails will not solve the toxicity and violent culture of Rikers -- all jails are violent as they are by their nature cages. The money proposed to build the new jails should instead be used to invest in New York City communities around affordable housing, access to health care, education and transportation.

The whole country is looking to New York and if we build these jails, others will follow -- increasing the incarcerated of Black and Brown communities not only in New York but across the US. Look towards LA County which just voted down a proposal to build a new jail. We can do the same.

Thank you,
Genia Blaser

3* Clinton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
<gblaser@gmail.com>

Borough-Based Jails

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my respectful disagreement with the Borough-Based Jails plan. Rikers must be closed, with no new jails built. These billions of dollars would be better spent on education and housing for our communities.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Kirstin Munro, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Economics and Finance St. John's University
8000 Utopia Parkway
Queens, NY 11439
<munrok@stjohns.edu>

Speaker Johnson: I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city. While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

The city's jail population has fallen from a high of 21,674 in 1991 to under 9,000 earlier this year through a combination of falling crime rates and criminal justice reforms, and we challenge the city to further reduce the number of people in jail through a combination of bail reform, decriminalization of minor offenses, and more restorative ways to deal with crime that would make the construction of a new facility unnecessary.

We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>). If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjlxemttNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Sincerely

Angel Garcia
7** Tinton Avenue
Bronx, NY 10455
mellowdia@aol.com

Speaker Johnson:

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Respectfully,

Rev. Rubén S. Austria
ruben.austria@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson:

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If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjlxemttNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDIr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Libertad Guerra

libertadguerra@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson:

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New jails make possible continued systemic racism through unnecessary open ended incarcerations of minorities, ripping apart families and making it more difficult for marginalized groups to gain a leg up or maintain momentum to better their situation. Before voting yes on this new jail, a jail that isn't needed, please first consider social programs that could benefit or be devolved with the HUGE amount of money it would cost to build this prison.

Please do the right thing for our community and our city. Bolster, dont imprison.

Tate Jorgensen

--

T A T E J O R G E N S E N
tatejo@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city.

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esperon7

esperon7@aol.com

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Camila Gelpi-Acosta

camilagelpi@gmail.com

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tamaramrls

tamaramrls@me.com

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Dee Knight Intro

deeknight816@gmail.com

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Thank you,

Ileana Estrada

i.estrada736@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson:

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Lopez

southbronxlopez@gmail.com

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Monxo Lopez

monxolopez@gmail.com

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Paloma

palomanina123@aol.com

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Robert Schwab

rschwab@ymail.com

Speaker Johnson:

As a writer, professor, and concerned South Bronx resident, I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city.

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Urayoán Noel
Associate Professor of English and Spanish and Portuguese
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
New York University
<http://urayoannoel.com/>

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New York University
13-19 University Place, 4th floor
New York, NY 10003
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Claudia Waterton

h2oton@gmail.com

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xtfr@aol.com

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Sincerely,

Ana Marton
1** E 7 Street
NY NY 10009
anamarton@yahoo.com

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Edwrin Sutton

pastor@ctbronx.com

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ana-maria.cardenas@live.law.cuny.edu

Speaker Corey Johnson:

I call on you to Vote No on the borough jails plan on October 17- and to advocate to Close Rikers with No new and expanded jails. Your race for mayor and future career will suffer if you vote for this disastrous plan - incarcerating our future. To that end- I call upon you to stop bullying & strong arming other council members to vote along with you and the mayor! Rikers Can Close without building new & expanded jails/ - further criminalizing vulnerable populations - locking up future generations of black and brown people - many of whom are trans, gnc, and queer - as they are targeted by the state! I urge you to advocate to redirect the \$11 billion cost of the jails plan for life affirming community resources that create real safety and address the root causes of incarceration. The only way to end mass incarceration is to Stop building new jails!

-I have ccd others on this - to call further public attention to the gravity of what is at stake!
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Maureen Silverman
New York City resident –
<maureensilverman@gmail.com>

PLEASE VOTE NO FOR WHITE STREET JAIL PROPOSAL

I remember clearly of that day on 9/11, when the world trade buildings came down. I live only half a dozen blocks from that site.

I remember the faces of people covered with soot around their mouths and noses as they tried to breathe. To this day the workers who worked at that site suffer ill health effects.

People living in the surrounding areas such as myself had to throw our air conditioners, rugs etc., and buy air purifiers to detoxify our homes.

The Tombs are built rock solid. It would require very drastic measures to deconstruct them (dynamite?). The resulting pollution would create a similar to 9/11.

Please recognize that there would be unintended consequences that I am only beginning to touch upon that would impact our Chinatown and other communities.

Columbus park is the only refuge from congested living for seniors. Children from local schools use this as the only playground in the neighborhood. The park would become unusable due to pollution and noises.

Getting the interiors of the present facilities to make more efficient use of the interior of the Tombs would be expeditious and a financially sound way to go. Wishing for a safe Chinatown.

Yours truly,

Dorothy Thom
Dothytho@gmail.com

To Our City Council Members

Closing Rikers – Borough Based Mega Jails
Less Criminal Justice Reform; More Real Estate Development

Introduction

The Lippman Commission Report and Criminal Justice advocates are proposing closing down Rikers Island jail facilities as a solution towards Criminal Justice Reform. As a precondition, it is proposed to lower the jail population as a gateway to closing Rikers by reducing the jail population from 7000 to approximately 4000 inmates and building skyscraper mega-jail towers with modern facilities to rehabilitate prisoners.

I'm convince that the arguments made in Lippman's Report and subsequent testimonies at various community boards and borough hearings that I have attended to justify closing Rikers and building the proposed Mega Jails is flawed. The idea that building these jails in the outer boroughs can resolved the problems plaguing Rikers is absurd.

In examining various aspects of the proposal, I will address some of the issues argued in Lippman's report and various hearings in NYC.

Closing Rikers will be more Convenient

In Lippman's report, it is argued that borough mega jails will be more accessible for families visiting inmates, lawyers need not to travel to Rikers to have greater access to clients and Corrections officers will have easier access to work. In fact, Corrections Union (COBA) is complaining that parking of their cars will be problematic and Rikers has adequate parking. Under current judicial procedures, an accused inmate who lives in one borough but commits a crime in another borough must have their criminal proceedings in the borough he/she commits the crime. So the convenience question is out the window. Lawyers can have access to their clients more easily by administrative procedure since jails already exist in boroughs in question. Justification for closing Rikers Island was its inaccessibility. But, Rikers can be more accessible. A subway stations at E143rd st and E.149th st. on the #6 train can be linked to a ferry to Rikers Island. This will provide an additional option.

The Staten Island exception: Despite all the arguments for convenience to justify building mega-Jails, it doesn't apply to Staten Island. Dana Kaplan, the mayoral spokesperson on the issue claimed a jail facility in Staten Island would be too small to justify the costs. A rather silly argument given the fact the overall proposal would be \$11 billion. The most likely reason is racism.

Double Standards in Implementation: With Staten Island getting a pass, Chinatown was not given any alternatives. It was argued that it was necessary to have the jails adjacent to the courthouses in Manhattan yet; the proposed jails are not physically near the courthouses in the Bronx or Brooklyn. In addition, Lippman himself did not recommend mega jails as proposed.

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/03/22/inside-the-battle-to-close-rikers>

DeBlasio Administration's decision not to look at alternatives because it wasn't politically possible violates the principles of *fair share* and clearly discriminates against the Chinese community downtown. The scoping process was not properly executed and the combining of ULURP was unprecedented.

- Building a more Humane Jail for the 21st Century?

The Corrections Union (COBA), the members who work in the NYC Jail system have stated that the proposed jails will not resolve the violence in the jails and accuse the Mayor DeBlasio of avoiding the issues in supporting the closure of Rikers.

<https://www.cobanyc.org/news/correction-unions-condemn-plan-close-rikers>

<https://www.cobanyc.org/news/advocates-correction-officers-defend-punitive-segregation-violent-inmates-rail-proposed-reform>

It will be the same administration that currently runs the jails – NYC Dept. of Correction and the same personnel Correction Officers Benevolent Association (COBA). We expect the same problems to exist even with the new facilities.

In addition, COBA have argued real estate interests that want Rikers for developmental purposes are driving the proposal.

Issues with Vertical Jails: Mayor DeBlasio with the support from real estate developers are pushing for jails that are essentially sky scrappers. There are no other examples where the NYC can draw from in operating a huge vertical jail yet the proposal is to spend billions to build them. And, it isn't clear that it can be operated safely since inmate and staff movement will have to use elevators. This will be critical in dealing with violent situations.

No Contingency on Emergency Situations: The Environmental Impact Statement fails to address issues pertaining to emergency situation such as fires and prison riots. If it was necessary to move inmates out of the prison, where would they go? At Rikers they would probably end up in the courtyard of the jail. Whereas, the mega jails inmates would be in the streets.

Rikers the Better Option? Despite the conditions that exist in Rikers currently, the Island has greater potential than the mega Jail proposal to reform and rehabilitate inmates. It has one thing that the borough based doesn't – Land. With 413 acres of land, a lot more can be done. In fact, an architectural firm Bialosky & Partners has submitted a proposal to completely overhaul Rikers as an alternative to the mega jails proposal.

https://www.qchron.com/editions/central/opponents-of-new-neighborhood-jails-propose-ferry-system-to-save/article_2a37c3b2-e6e7-11e9-9060-8f25b7f353e4.html

Reducing the Jail population

A prerequisite in closing Rikers is to lower the jail population. The goal is to reduce of current population from roughly 7000 to 4000 inmates. Policy changes include separating youth up to 18 years of age from the adult inmate population. No jail time for certain non-violent felonies and misdemeanors. Bail reform allowing for more of the accused to be free until trial. Decriminalization and possible legalization of various drugs including marijuana will lower the inmate population. Enforcement is disproportionately targeting people of color. It should be noted that U.S. Foreign policy is allowing illegal drugs to flourish.

These procedural issues amongst others policy proposals can effectively lower the jail population. However, like any other procedural changes, they can be reversed especially if they are not popular or feasible. Again, the lowering of the inmate population is not necessarily an indication of drastic lowering of crime, but a product of enforcing the law.

The recent attack by a mentally ill person with a criminal record killed 4 people in Chinatown raises the question whether reducing the jail population can be done safely.

Total Disregard of the Communities affected

The Lippman Report and advocates for building mega-jails didn't take into account the impact on the communities. Effects of Construction on the community center for the elderly, Chung Pak was ignored. Similarly, given the size of the proposed jail in Chinatown, the construction can have negative effects on the businesses and the structural foundations of older tenements buildings surrounding the construction.

Once the jails are built the impact on businesses is unclear given the traffic taking parking spots away from shoppers, the shadows impacting the communities surrounding the area and the potential violence towards our schools and children.

At a community board 1 hearing, Just Leadership, a non-profit in support of the mega jails accused the Chinatown community of NIMBY for its opposition. This false charge is outrageous given the fact that Chinatown has 3 jails in the community.

Wasteful spending

The proposed price of the mega-jail is a projected \$11 billion. This would dwarf other priorities such as housing, infrastructure rehabilitation, schools and transportation for the next 10 years. Money wasted on unproven solutions and risks putting the city into disastrous debt.

The Real Drivers of Mega-Jails and the Closing of Rikers

Of course the real beneficiaries are the bankers, bondholders, real estate developers and the non-profits such as Just Leadership along with the foundations associated with them. They constitute the backbone for the Lippman report where they are heavily represented and have the most to profit. The Ford, Rockefeller and Open Society foundations are examples of institutions whose agenda will not address the issues in question and will have a negative consequence on the communities where their agenda is being implemented. Non-profits are paid by these foundations to carry out their agenda while developers like the Ratners benefit with their handshake deals with the foundations.

It appears the plan to develop waterfront property is prime reason developers want Rikers island. Much of the industrial development on the waterfront in outer boroughs would be moved there and be replaced by luxury housing development. This doesn't justify ramming mega jails in our communities.

Conclusion

While Reform is needed, the proposed closing of Rikers Island and the building of mega jails have nothing to do with criminal justice reform. It will not solve the issues plaguing our criminal justice system. It's about real estate development benefitting the wealthiest New Yorkers.

The utilization of vertical jails is unproven and potentially dangerous

COBA, the rank and file members who work in the jails has stated the proposal won't solve the problems including gang violence in them.

An alternative plan to rebuild Rikers and remake our criminal justice system are the best steps towards reform such as the one issued by Bill Bialosky's architecture firm. Attached is the document. It is an alternative template to the mega jail proposal. It's cheaper costing \$5.6 billion in 5 years as oppose to \$11 billion in 10 years. Rikers will offer the flexibility of taking in more inmates in case the reduction of the inmate population fails.

More importantly, the communities affected would not bear the burden by the issues the mega jails represent and suffer the consequences from policies being imposed on our communities.

I urge you to vote NO on the Mega Jail proposal!

Irving Lee

Chinatown Resident

chinoche1@gmail.com

An Alternative to Borough Based Jails

Is this Prison Reform ?

The city has proposed the borough based jail system—skyscrapers for the incarcerated with ill-conceived plans for outdoor space, evacuation and impact on the family neighborhoods in which each will reside.

City Proposal for Prison Reform —

Borough Based Jail System

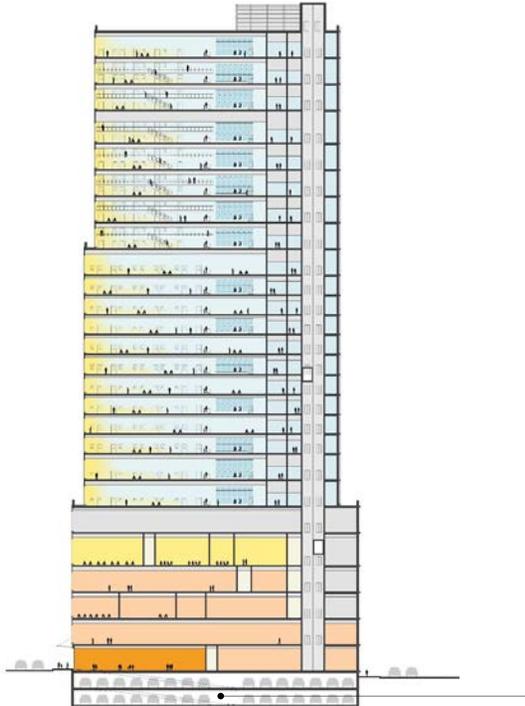
Real prison reform goes
beyond closing Rikers
and replicating the same
mistakes in skyscrapers



Proposed Jail Towers

Tower versus Campus —

Right Sizing, Safety and Spatial Environment



Tower

- Operational capacity should never exceed one thousand offenders.
- Large, crowded spaces increase an offender's sense of isolation and anxiety.
- Lack of variety in housing type diminishes the operation of rehabilitative programs and magnifies an institutionalized feeling.

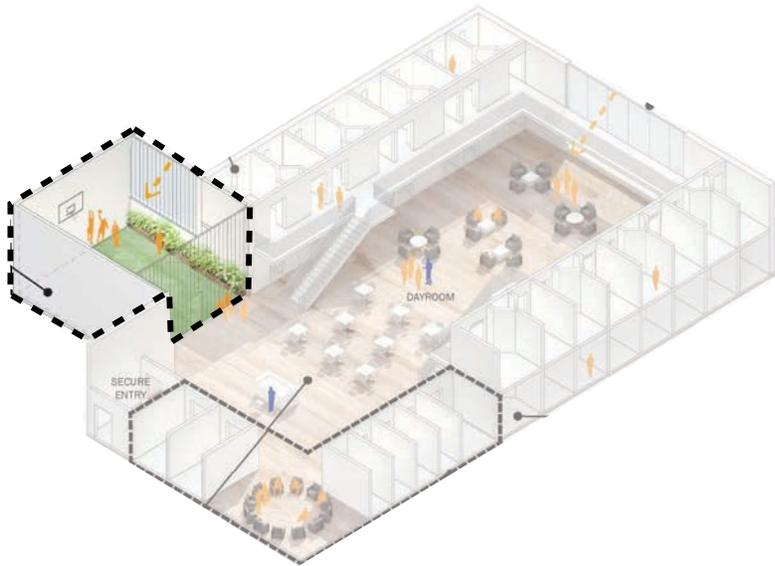


Campus

- To aid in rehabilitation, facilities should be broken down into small units appropriately sized in accordance with security risk and needs.
- To encourage positive socialization, movement and the experience of seasonal change, multi-purpose spaces should be spatially organized in a campus-like setting consisting of several stand-alone buildings (rather than a large imposing institution), organized to maximize use of shared resources.

Tower versus Campus —

Outdoor Space



Tower

- Each Outdoor Space is estimated to be at the minimum allowed 1,000 SF. These “outdoor” spaces are not open to the sky and enclosed by solid walls on all sides with the exception of 1/2 of one wall.
- inspired by statutory minimums.

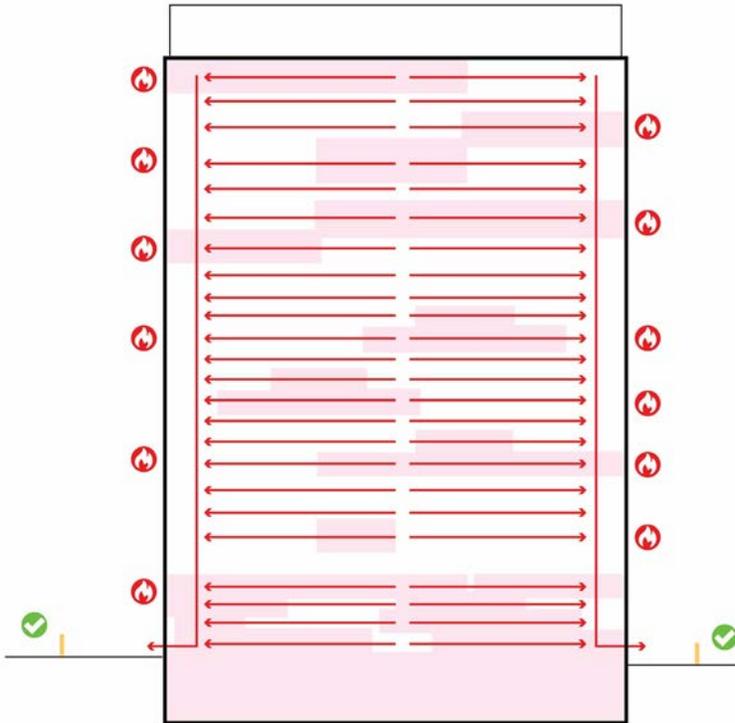


Campus

- Outdoor space includes, grassy fields, wide open spaces, walking paths, amphitheater and a central quad.
- inspired by higher education campus design.

Tower versus Campus —

Emergency Evacuation



Tower

- In the event of a catastrophic emergency, detainees may be required to navigate over 20 flights of stairs in order to reach safety.
- Once detainees reach the outside they will empty into unsecured neighborhood streets.



Campus

- In the event of a catastrophic emergency, detainees can safely and efficiently egress to a secured, central outdoor space.

Tower jails are not safe

What would a fire look like in a new tower jail? —



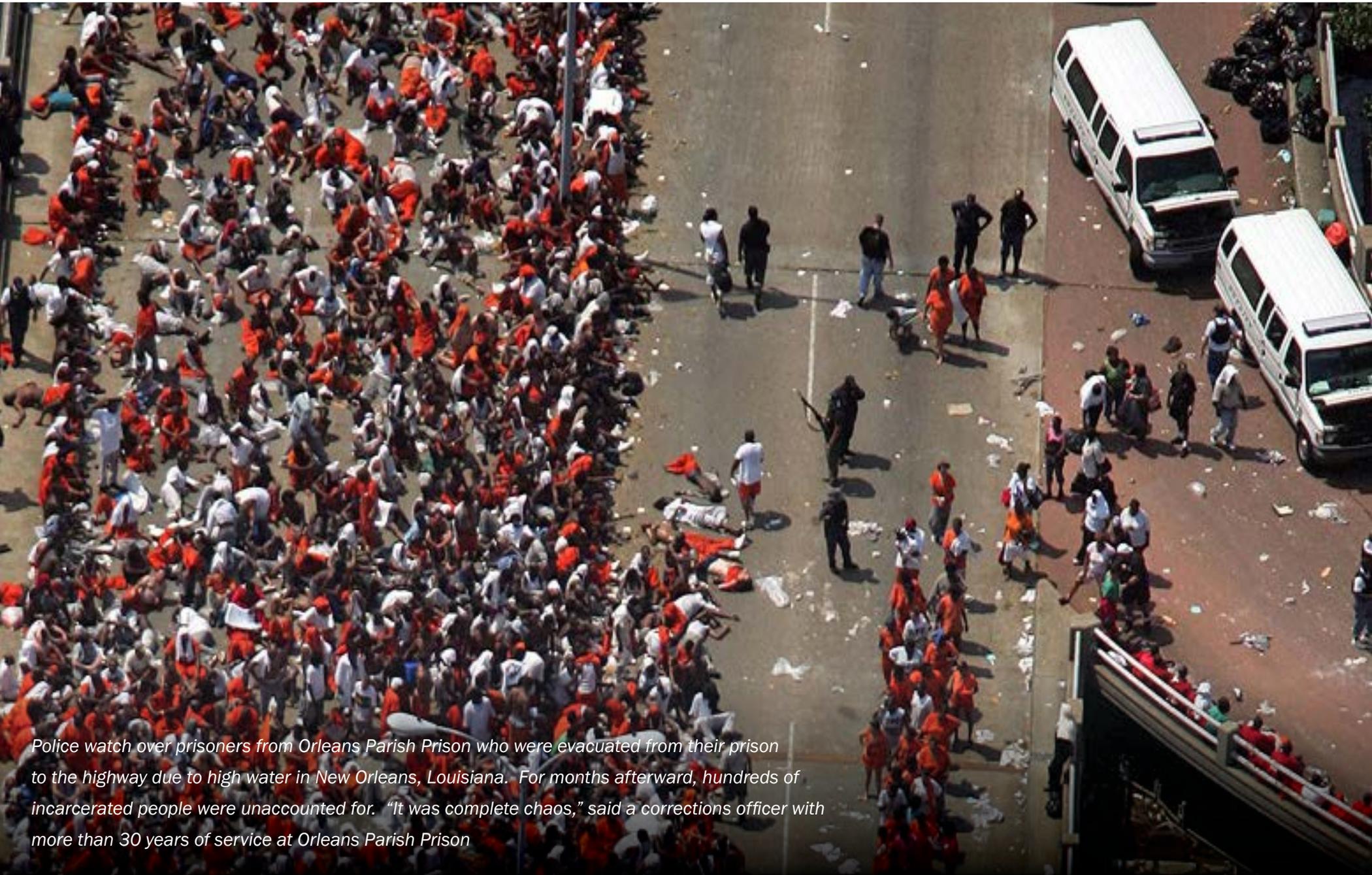
Saturday, February 12, 2005, a fire was detected on the 21st floor of this building. The fire spread quickly throughout the entire building, leading to the collapse of the outermost, steel parts of the upper floors. It took firefighters about 24 hours to extinguish the fire.

What would a blackout look like in a new tower jail? —



More than a thousand inmates were stuck in freezing cells earlier this year at a federal jail on the Brooklyn waterfront. The jail switched over to emergency power, leaving the corridors lit only by dim lights, the cells dark and inmates confined to poorly heated cells during the coldest days of the winter

What would 1,150 inmates on the street look like in the event of an emergency evacuation in a new tower jail? —



Police watch over prisoners from Orleans Parish Prison who were evacuated from their prison to the highway due to high water in New Orleans, Louisiana. For months afterward, hundreds of incarcerated people were unaccounted for. "It was complete chaos," said a corrections officer with more than 30 years of service at Orleans Parish Prison

A Tower Jail will not work

Prison Reform should be based on “evidence-based practices.” Evidence shows the beneficial mental and social aspects in a treatment-oriented environment of access to natural light and fresh air, connectedness to nature, thermal and acoustic comfort, and variety of outdoor spaces and views to experience the changing of seasons.

Precedents

Correction Facilities Designed for Wellness

Designed through the use of evidence-based criteria, these modern facilities have been shown to foster the rehabilitation and wellbeing of their occupants. Such aspirations have been achieved in part by implementing design programs that encourage humane treatment, provide access to daylight, and create a closer connection to the natural environment.

Precedent —

Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center

Name

Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center

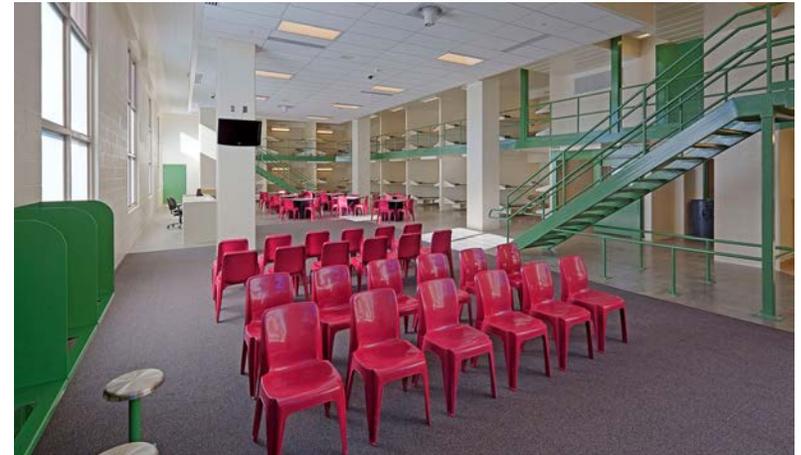
Location

Denver, Colorado

Architect

RicciGreene Architects / Hartman-Cox
Architects

“The new 1500 bed Denver Detention Center in the heart of the Civic Center and new Justice Center will express the dichotomy between the difficult job of incarcerating those awaiting trial, sentencing or placement and the longer term mission of returning detainees and inmates successfully and productively into the community. Materials and forms will illustrate the seriousness of purpose and permanence, as well as optimism for the future”



Precedent —

Justice Center

Name

Justice Center

Location

Leoben, Austria

Architect

Joseph Hohensen Architects

“In its execution as a ‘belle façade’ facing the city, the court building comes across as an open and transparent building representing the new self-image of justice. No ‘judicial palace’, but a modern open ‘service facility’ for citizens... The detainment units are designed like flat-sharing communities, each housing up to fifteen people. Each unit has a small kitchen, sanitary unit, gym and day room as well as a loggia that extends internal freedom of movement by the dimension of ‘stepping outside’.”



Precedent —

Iowa State Penitentiary

Name

Iowa State Penitentiary

Location

Fort Madison, Iowa

Architect

HOK

“The organization of collegiate campuses inspired the layout of this eight-building penitentiary.... To create a less institutional-feeling environment, the design gives offenders and staff expansive exterior views while drawing large amounts of natural light deep into the core of the buildings. Access to natural ventilation and sophisticated automated temperature controls improve energy efficiency while contributing to health and well-being. Natural plants and healing gardens incorporate the Iowa landscape.”



Precedent —

Las Colinas Women's Detention & Reentry Facility

Name

Las Colinas Women's Detention & Reentry Facility

Location

San Diego, California

Architect

KMD / HMC Architects

"It's our hope that the Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility can do more. That it can transform inmates' lives. Acknowledging that over half of prisoners in America's corrections system suffer from abuse, trauma and mental illness, the County of San Diego and the Sheriff's Department recognized that building a healing environment to promote well-being and prevent further psychological deterioration was imperative"



The one area in the city that allows for space for programming and serving the incarcerated in a humane way is a reimagined Rikers Island.



Why Fix Rikers ?

In concert with a deep rethinking and comprehensive reforms to operations, personnel, oversight, land-use, and site accessibility—and by demolishing every existing structure on the island and building anew—we believe we can create a resilient and rehabilitative environment that will serve all New Yorkers far better than the Mayor’s current plan.

Rikers today is broken —



Dehumanizing & Outdated Infrastructure



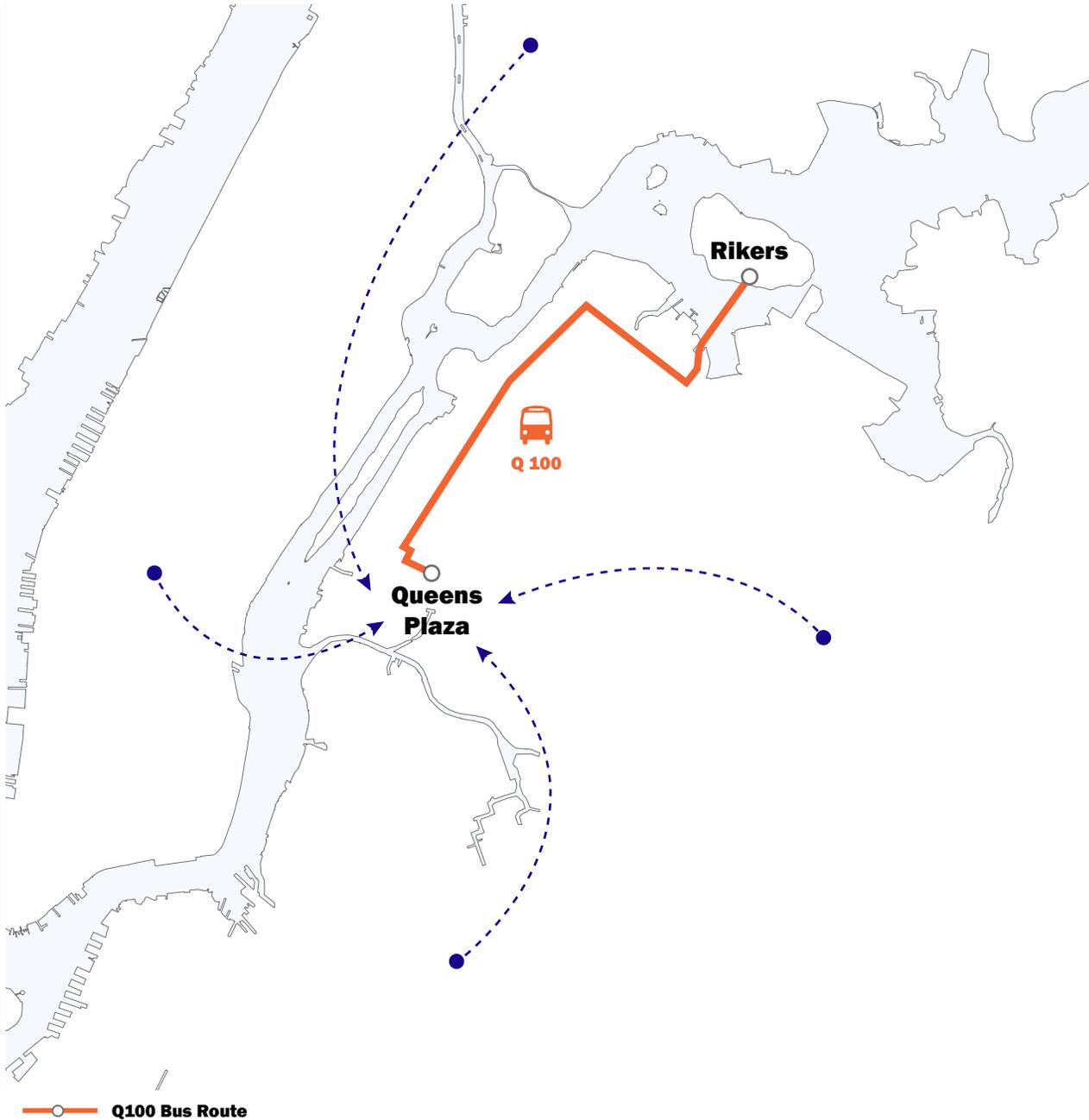
Existing Conditions

Temporary & Obsolete

1/3 of the Structures
are temporary dorms or
obsolete buildings



Limited Access



Public Transportation options for visitors and staff are currently limited to the Q100 Bus

One Choice

How do we solve the challenges facing Rikers?

- Dehumanizing & Outdated Infrastructure
- Temporary & Obsolete
- Limited Access



Master Plan Goals

- Replace all existing structures with state of the art facilities.
- Design to standards that promote physical and mental health, including air quality, access to nature, daylight, and other appropriate lighting levels
- Provide state of the art medical treatment that is local to the island
- Embrace the city's sustainability goals, to create a healthy living environment
- Provides a cost effective phasing solution



At Las Colinas Women's Detention & Reentry Facility, services are housed in separate buildings, and the inmates are escorted by deputies between the dining hall, the medical building, and the recreation and education facility.

We believe that people who are incarcerated should be treated with dignity and offered opportunities that encourage rehabilitation by nurturing the mind, body and soul. We see this through state of the art health facilities, education, vo-tech, access to nature and daylighting.



Masterplan Goals —

Environmental Strategies

- Maximize natural daylighting
- Maximize natural ventilation & purification
- Improve acoustics
- Establish connection to natural environments
- Natural Materials



Masterplan Goals —

Cost Benefit

- No temporary swing space construction that will be demolished
- No discretionary land use action (ULURP)
- Low rise construction
- Phased construction to align with prison reform
- No environmental legal risk from neighborhoods
- Easier access for construction material and labor
- Shorter construction time



*Construction of Las Colinas Women's
Detention & Reentry Facility*

Cost Comparison

Borough Tower Jails

\$ **11** Billion

Over 10 years

v.s.

Rikers Island Transformation

\$ **5.6** Billion

Over 5 years

A prison reform campus will cost half that of a tower jail and be constructed in half the time

Improved Access

- Provide easy access that will also provide a positive experience for visitors.
- Provide timely, secure and easy transport to the court houses.
- Provide easy access for construction materials and labor.



New York is built on its waterways —



Benefits of Ferry Service

“

The ferry service, on the other hand, is much more promising, and we believe warrants further consideration and analysis. In particular we think the potential user population as well as the availability and cost of appropriate dock sites with sufficient parking and proximity to public transportation need to be examined to determine if the ferry could be an attractive and viable service.

”

— Stanley Brezenoff
Rikers Alternate Means of Access
Report by the DOT 1984

Benefits of Ferry Service

“

In less than two years, NYC Ferry has become one of the most reliable, affordable, and beloved transit systems in the city. Expansion of the system means getting even more New Yorkers where they need to go, increasing access to good-paying jobs, schools, and other neighborhoods, all for the price of a subway ride. We are proud to have delivered an invaluable asset to the city that makes all five boroughs fairer and stronger.

”

— James Patchett
NYC Economic Development President 2019

Benefits of Ferry Service

“

Perhaps most important to note....: boats, docks, and terminals can be established relatively fast and are exceptionally cheap in transit dollars. Unlike subway expansion, which famously takes decades to complete, ferry terminals and vessels can be up and running within a year or two—in the case of NYC Ferry, they actually launched rapidly. And, seriously: the cost of a few million to build a new ferry stop might buy you inches of the Second Avenue subway line.

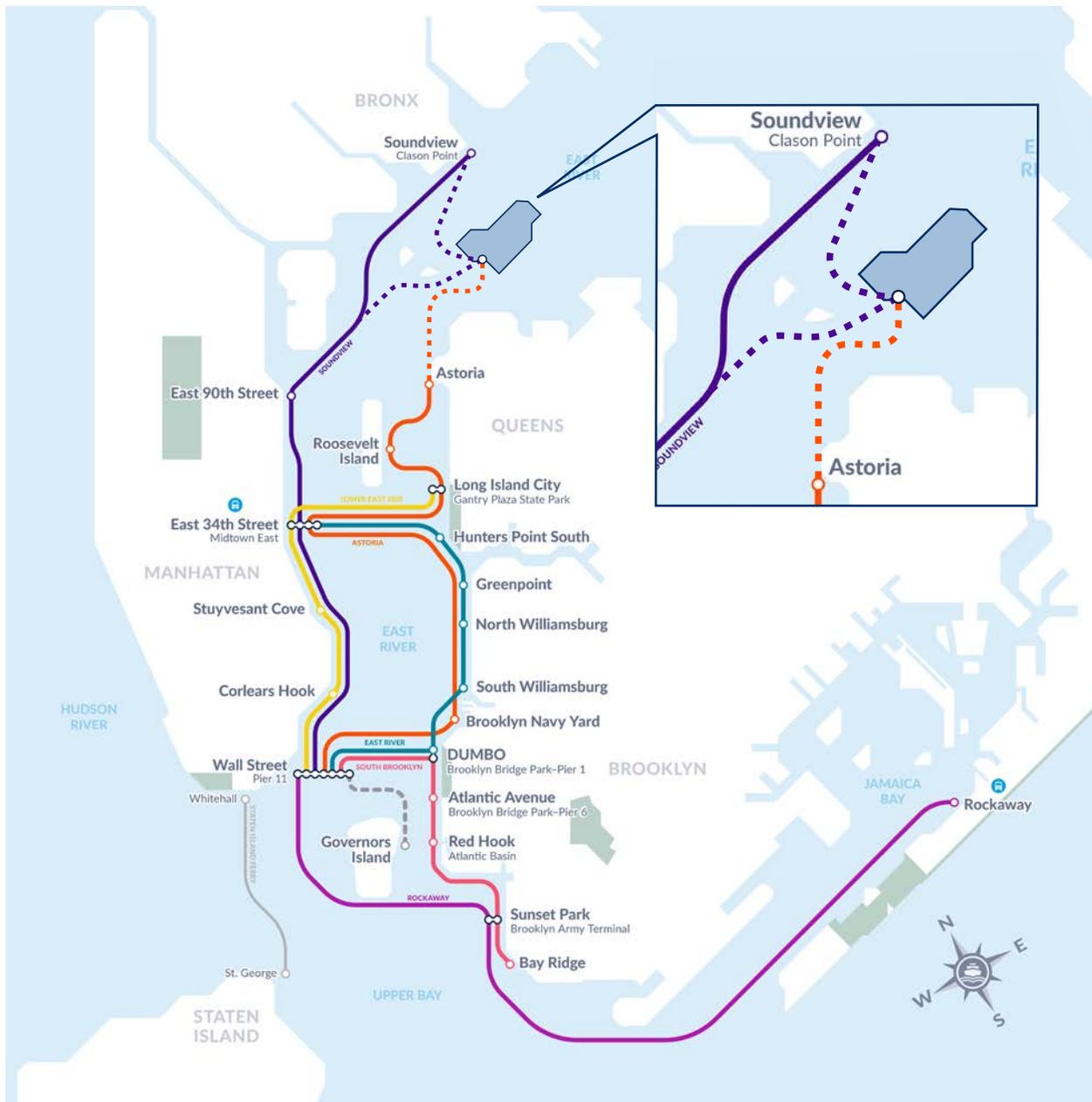
”

— Roland Lewis
CEO & President Waterfront Alliance 2019

Ferry Services



Improved Access

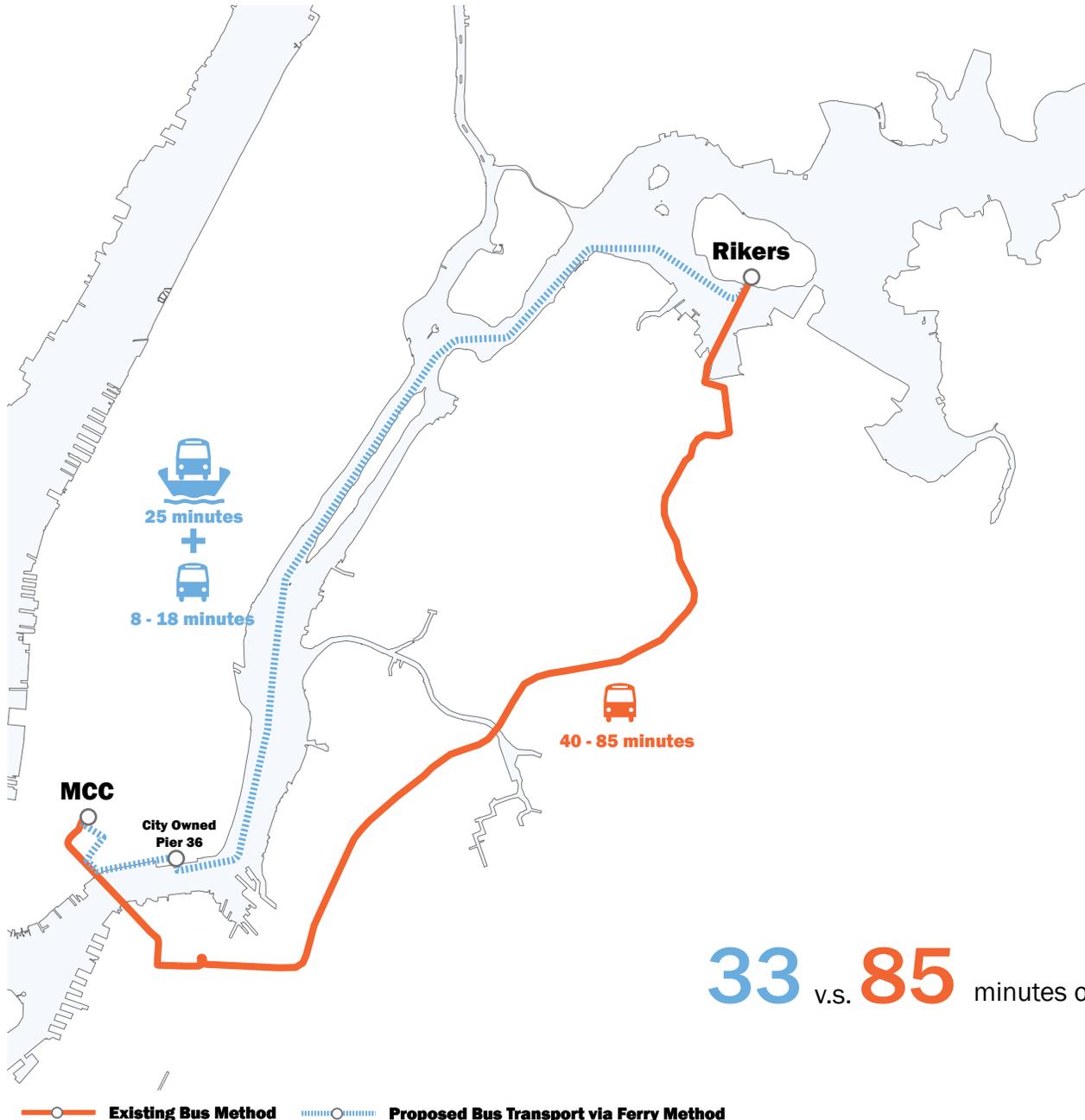


Adding a Rikers Ferry stop to the existing NYC Ferry Astoria and Soundview routes will provide easy access for staff and visitors from all five boroughs. This will also humanize the experience of accessing Rikers at a much lower cost than alternative transportation methods. In addition, the proposed Air Train LGA provides an opportunity to expand access to Rikers Island from Grand Central, Penn Station and beyond.

Average Ferry Speed (18 kt/20.7 MPH) determined by using Blount Passenger Cargo Ferry 100 LT performance metrics. All proposed ferry terminals are on city owned sites and will need to be built to support cargo ferry. Vehicular travel times calculated using google maps arriving at Courthouse at 9AM on a weekday. Cargo Ferry will also allow for easy transportation of materials and laborers during construction

Visitor and staff public transportation

Improved Access
Manhattan

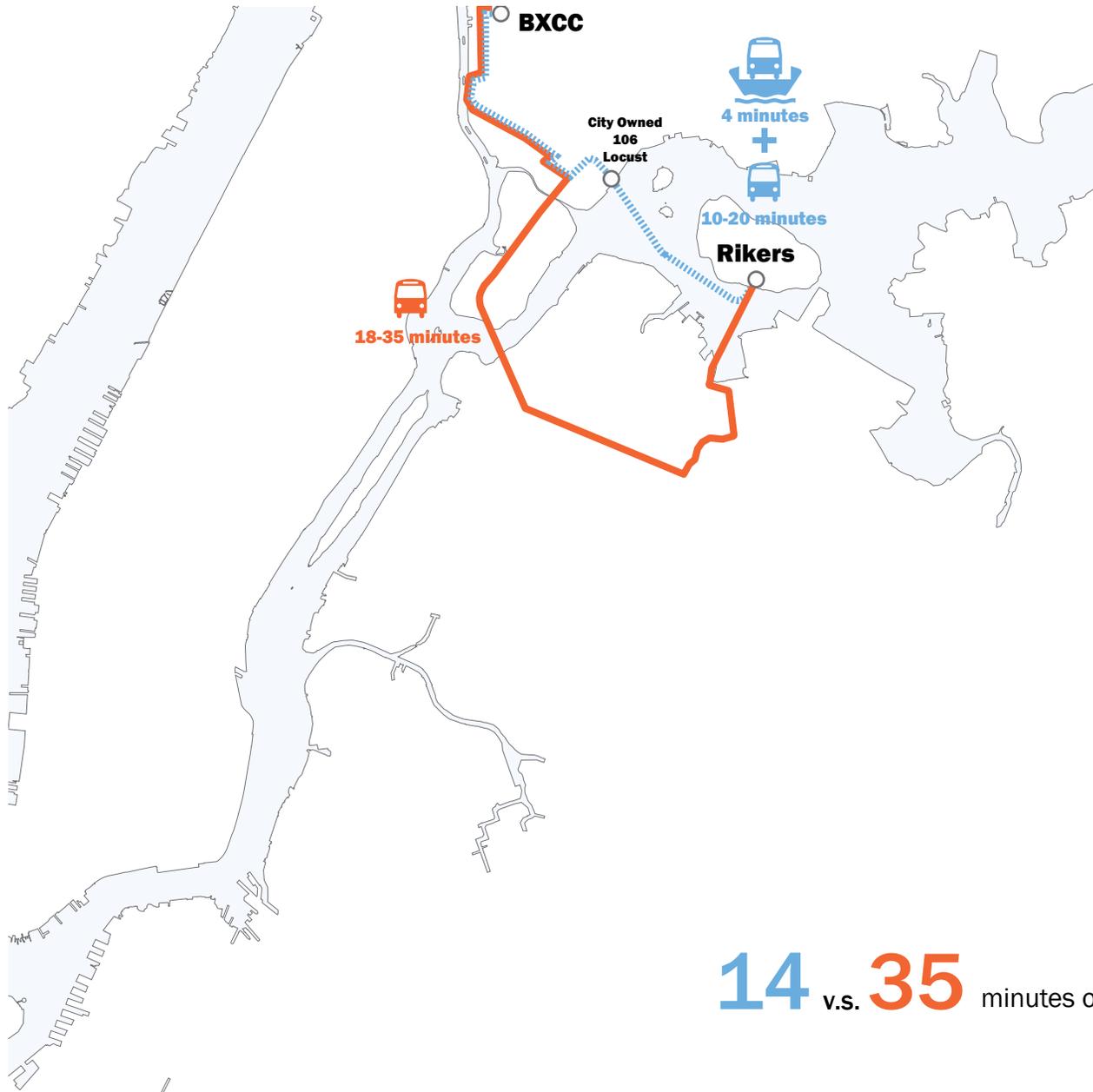


A ferry can transport detainees to their court appearance at MCC without leaving the security of the bus and potentially save a maximum of 52 minutes one way

Average Ferry Speed (18 kt/20.7 MPH) determined by using Blount Passenger Cargo Ferry 100 LT performance metrics. All proposed ferry terminals are on city owned sites and will need to be built to support cargo ferry. Vehicular travel times calculated using google maps arriving at Courthouse at 9AM on a weekday. Cargo Ferry will also allow for easy transportation of materials and laborers during construction

Improved Access

Bronx



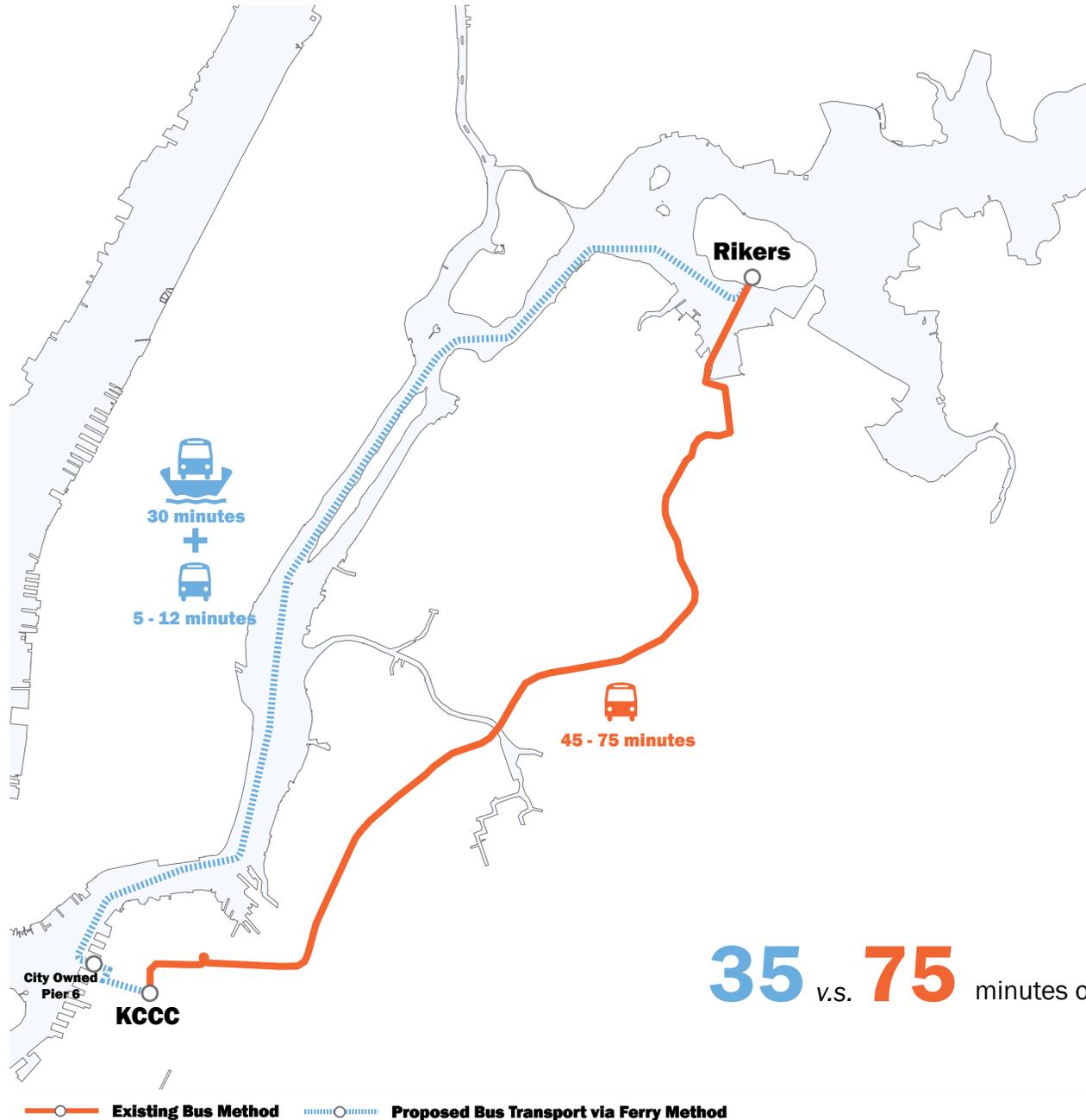
A ferry can transport detainees to their court appearance at BXCC without leaving the security of the bus and potentially save a maximum of 21 minutes one way

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Existing Bus Method Proposed Bus Transport via Ferry Method

Detainee transportation

Improved Access
Brooklyn

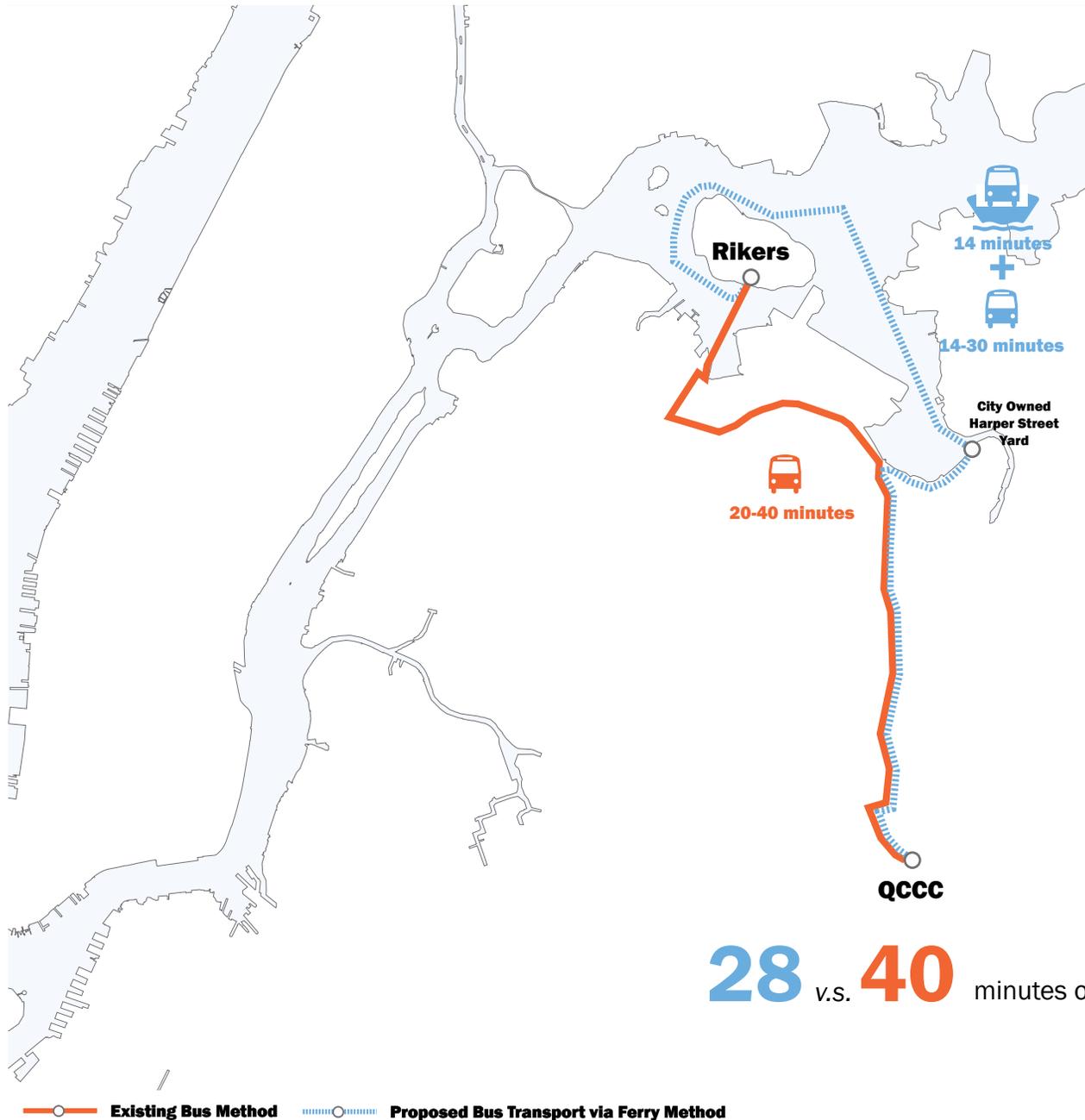


A ferry can transport detainees to their court appearance at KCCC without leaving the security of the bus and potentially save a maximum of 40 minutes one way

Average Ferry Speed (18 kt/20.7 MPH) determined by using Blount Passenger Cargo Ferry 100 LT performance metrics. All proposed ferry terminals are on city owned sites and will need to be built to support cargo ferry. Vehicular travel times calculated using google maps arriving at Courthouse at 9AM on a weekday. Cargo Ferry will also allow for easy transportation of materials and laborers during construction

Detainee transportation

Improved Access
Queens



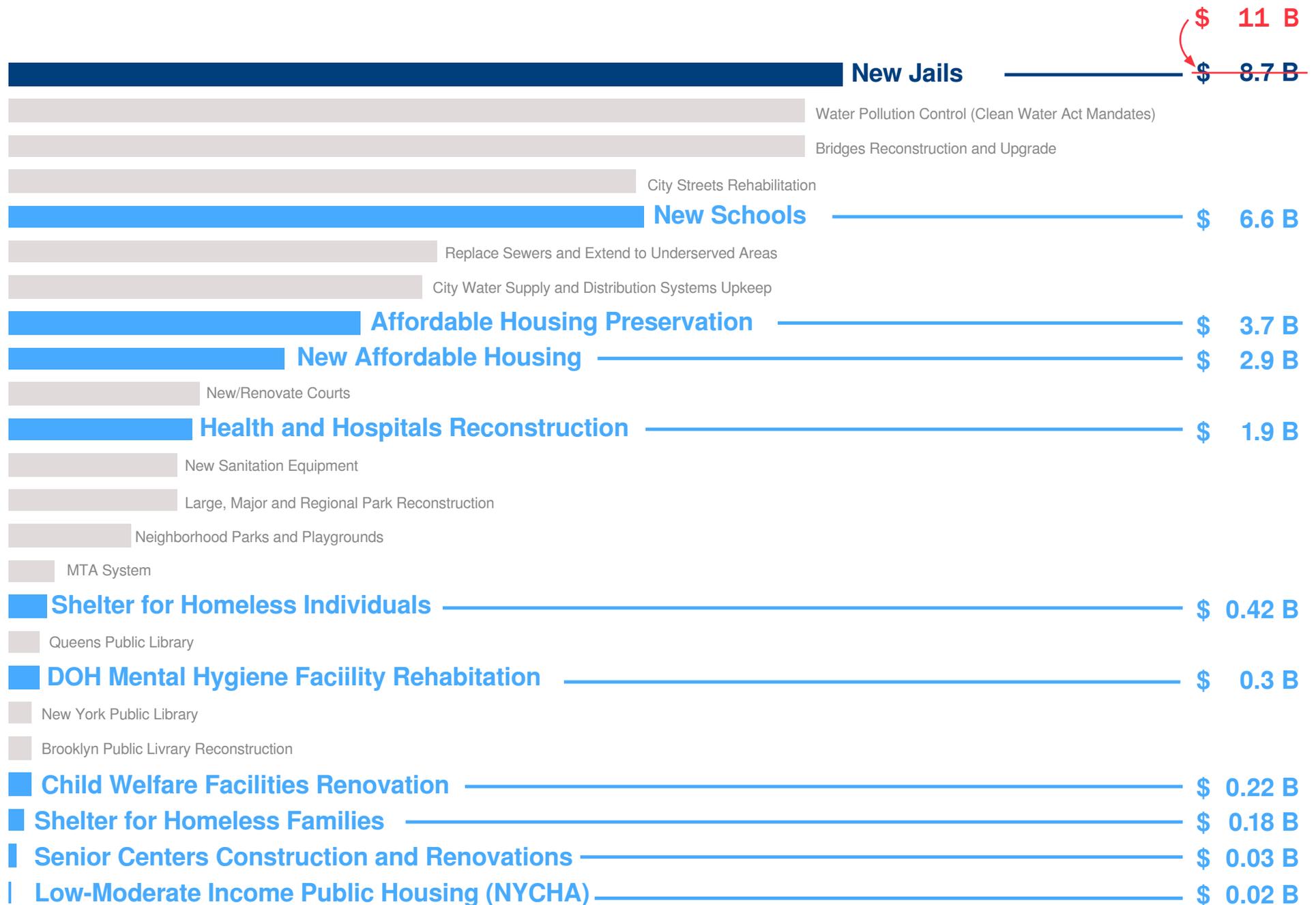
A ferry can transport detainees to their court appearance at QCCC without leaving the security of the bus and potentially save a maximum of 12 minutes one way

28 v.s. **40** minutes one way

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Detainee transportation

How will a tower jail impact the capital strategy?



New Jails

\$ **11** Billion

2020 - 2029

v.s.

New Schools

\$ **6.6** Billion

2020 - 2029

Why are we allocating nearly twice the amount of money for new jails than we are for new schools?

New Jails

\$ **11** Billion

2020 - 2029

v.s.

Housing & Health Care

\$ **9.7** Billion

2020 - 2029

Why are we allocating more money for new jails than we are for housing and healthcare combined?

Is this really what prison reform looks like?



Before



After

This is a moment when the city can do the right thing, not the easy thing, and serve all of the community by lifting those who are incarcerated, their families, as well as the neighborhoods in each borough who are already doing their fair share. —



VOTERS DON'T WANT MORE JAILS.

I'm among them. My family is among them.
My neighbors are among them. Listen to us.
VOTE AGAINST THE JAILS.

Grover Dale

1** Park Row

New York, NY 10038

groverdale@gmail.com

Vote NO on All 4 Jail Proposals

Dear Council Speaker Johnson:

Please vote NO on the 4-Jail proposals! It is bad the physical, mental and emotional health of the residents of NYC.

We need money for educational programs and schools instead of new jails. VOTE NO!

Best,

Alvin Tsang,

NYC Resident

hawkfinn1@gmail.com

I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

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These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

--

Jeffrey M. Bochner, President
1**-** 71 Road Apartments, Inc.
Forest Hills, NY
<jmbochner@gmail.com>

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Sincerely

Xiang Li

Forest Hills resident

<xiangqingli88@gmail.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council Members,

My name is Diane Nuzzi and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote NO to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Diane Nuzzi
11415
<dianenuzzi@aol.com>

Borough Based Jail

Dear Council Member,

Please vote No regarding the proposed jail complex for Kew Gardens. Why?

I am a ten year resident of Kew Gardens in the Courtview Co-op, directly across Queens Boulevard from the Queens Court complex and the defunct Queens House of Detention. I am also a 9 year member of my Co-op's Board of Directors and active participant in my thriving community.

This is a disturbing proposal to move a jail facility from an industrial neighborhood into a thriving residential neighborhood. Myself and every resident in this community moved here with an understanding that our representatives would work to uphold our zoning protections and not place an industrial scale facility in the heart of a middle class neighborhood. If the proposed tower were an Amazon.com or Walmart warehouse, this kind of zoning change would be universally condemned.

I have read the proposed benefit to those that work at the jail and the inmates, and there are two primary benefits; shorter commute for visitation, and improved prison conditions. Both of these benefits could be achieved by simply building a humane Rikers Island prison and smaller satellite borough prisons at less than the cost of the current plan and less of the social disruption. I have seen no viable arguments that demonstrate how those outweigh the needs and rights of the people that make Kew Gardens or similar neighborhoods in the other affected boroughs.

I have lived with construction of two high rise buildings directly behind my apartment in the last 8 years, and with the rebuilding of the Kew Gardens interchange for the last 4 years and will for the next three. And I can tell you that the quality of life decrease is real and a burden. Increases in congestion and noise associated with the construction and operation of this massive prison facility, in conjunction with the risks associated with placing a prison complex adjacent to three public schools are incomprehensible compared with utilizing the existing prison location. Queens has many industrial zoned neighborhoods for the explicit purpose of housing industrial complexes like this, and they should be used for this purpose! It is unethical to place an industrial complex in the middle of a residential neighborhood, in violation of a century of zoning laws designed to stop such practices.

As a member of my Co-op's Board of Directors, I have seen firsthand what stresses this type of development can cause. For example, our neighborhood has already been affected by the Department of Homeless Services placement of homeless individuals in our neighborhood, and been adversely affected. Loitering and crime have increased, homeless presence has dramatically increased, violent attacks by homeless have increased, and the neighborhood residents have more paranoia and anxiety when they commute to work at off-hours, and living expenses have increased to provide greater lighting and camera installations. I speak to this firsthand; my wife leaves for work at 5:30am and returns after 8pm, walking 2 blocks on Queens Boulevard, and she walks in far more fear now than when we moved into this neighborhood 10 years ago.

I have yet to see a single city council member volunteer to live across the street from one of these new prison sites for the three to five years of site construction, so why is my block being volunteered for this noise and disruption?

Now let's talk about these construction estimates. Everything I have read quotes price tags over 10 billion dollars, and every councilman knows how poor the city construction process is at estimating these kinds of large scale projects. Quite frankly, this is another example of ideology writing a blank check that will be cashed on the back of taxpayers like this community. I am a fiscally responsible person, and so is every shareholder in my Co-op. We make difficult decisions on a daily basis how to balance our budget and live within our means. Why can't our City Council act similarly? This

financial aspects of this proposal are staggeringly void of detail and the price tag could easily double. The DeBlasio administration has long ignored proposals with any financial responsibility, can't the City Council act responsibly as a check against this wholesale violation of basic responsibility to our city's residents?

Now let's talk about community involvement. There has been none, and this is the biggest lie perpetuated by the DeBlasio administration. This community, and the others that are being asked to host Borough based prisons, were never involved in this planning, because there is no reason they would accept such a one-sided arrangement. There is nothing about the current prison proposal that benefits these neighborhoods.

In short, this proposal is:

- 1) An unnecessary burden on many neighborhoods.
- 2) Completely and utterly fiscally irresponsible at this point in time.

Please do not allow this proposal to pass. Please send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement, and with a responsible approach for the taxpayers of today and tomorrow.

Thanks for your time in reading this letter and consideration of this residents opinion,

Akiva Sklar
1**-** 82nd Road
Kew Gardens, NY, 11415

<aa_sklar77@yahoo.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

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These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

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<mwinkler@nyc.rr.com>

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Sincerely Yours

Forest Hills Resident, Vincent Jiang

<vincentjjiang@yahoo.com>

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

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This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote.

There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community INVOLVEMENT

FRUMA NAROV

--

Jeffrey M. Bochner, President
Gem Wheelchair Scooter & Stair Lift Service
Since 1951
718-969-8600

FNarov

<fnarov@narov.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
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Sincerely,
Kathleen Vuong
Forest Hills
<kathleen.vuong@yahoo.com>

I URGE YOU TO VOTE NO

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

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<fnarov@narov.com>

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Sincerely,

Gila Gevirtz
Forest Hills, NY
<gilagevirtz@gmail.com>

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Best Regards,

Raymond Chaw

Forest Hills, NY

<raymondchaw@gmail.com>

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Yael Redelman-Sidi, Forest Hills, NY

<yredelman@gmail.com>

Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

The city's jail population has fallen from a high of 21,674

1991 to under 9,000 earlier this year through a combination of falling crime rates and criminal justice reforms, and we challenge the city to further reduce the number of people in jail through a combination of bail reform, decriminalization of minor offenses, and more restorative ways to deal with crime that would make the construction of a new facility unnecessary.

We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>).

If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjIxmNtNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Thank you for taking this seriously and not burdening the poorest of the 5 Boros with a JAIL

Polly Eustis
pollyeustisesq@hotmail.com

Vote NO against a new jail in a community of color
Council Member Johnson,

On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. So far, you have done nothing to stop it. But you can still prove you care about the people of the South Bronx.

ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.

There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,
A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Irene Alonzo
alonzo.irene@gmail.com

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Jairo Alonzo
jaab66@gmail.com

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Max Rivera
maxr1950@gmail.com

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT_

Dear Council Member,

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THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Quinn
Forest Hills, NY

<CYNQ@AOL.COM>

Council Member Johnson,

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A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

zulma rodriguez
zulma35@msn.com

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Regards,

Elie Hatem

Kew Gardens, NY

ehatem@curtisswright.com

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Sincerely,

Wendy Lai

Forest Hills, NY Resident

wendl922@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson: I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city. While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>). The city's jail population has fallen from a high of 21,674 in 1991 to under 9,000 earlier this year through a combination of falling crime rates and criminal justice reforms, and we challenge the city to further reduce the number of people in jail through a combination of bail reform, decriminalization of minor offenses, and more restorative ways to deal with crime that would make the construction of a new facility unnecessary. We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>). If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons. The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjlxemttNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

I am against the normalization of adding jails to then community as just another structure. There's the church, the bank, the high school, the grocery store, the jail. We know who these jails are being built for. Not your kids. You get to get rich from building them; we get to visit our kids incarcerated within them. DON'T NORMALIZE JAILS AS JUST ANOTHER COMMUNITY STRUCTURE.

Gloria S.
sdogma1@aol.com

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Thank you,
Paloma Bido
bidopaloma@gmail.com

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A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Josie Rosa

Jay

jvazquez7377@gmail.com

Dear Council Member,

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,

Sandy Zhang

Resident of Forest Hills, NY 11375

sandyz18@msn.com

Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

The city's jail population has fallen from a high of 21,674 in 1991 to under 9,000 earlier this year through a combination of falling crime rates and criminal justice reforms, and we challenge the city to further reduce the number of people in jail through a combination of bail reform, decriminalization of minor offenses, and more restorative ways to deal with crime that would make the construction of a new facility unnecessary.

We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>).

If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjIxmmtNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

nyblanco55

nyblanco55@gmail.com

Dear Council member,

My name is Laura and I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens and Forest Hills, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Forest Hills resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Laura Chau
11375
laurakchau@gmail.com

Council Member Johnson,

On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. So far, you have done nothing to stop it. But you can still prove you care about the people of the South Bronx.

ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.

There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Alma Medina

aim2250@aol.com

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hurwitz

Forest Hills Resident and mother

ddhurwitz@gmail.com

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,

Phichaya Pinyo, Forest Hills, NY

phichaya1979@hotmail.com

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Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Delores Gray
deegray012@yahoo.com

Council Member Johnson, On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. So far, you have done nothing to stop it. But you can still prove you care about the people of the South Bronx. **ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.** There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing. Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse. Sincerely, A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Felix Ramirez
felixramirez65@gmail.com

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Cynthia Santos
scynthia30@aol.com

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ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:**

- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS**
- **JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES**

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- **A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet**
- **Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools**
- **Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center**
- **A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs**
- **A 24-hour Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs**

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a highway construction project KGIP going on for 10 years with no end in sight in exactly the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four (4) boroughs is subject to one vote. There are no specifics or concrete plans in this proposal. You are being asked to vote on a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass. We urge you to vote **NO** as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the council with a **NO** vote, then you

must **abstain!!** Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you.

Damian Cazachkoff
damiancaz@hotmail.com

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Wendy Baptiste

baptiste.wendy@gmail.com

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Nikki Ortiz
nortiz315@yahoo.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

orv est

orvella51@hotmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Maria Bruno

jeja1951@hotmail.com

Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

The city's jail population has fallen from a high of 21,674 in 1991 to under 9,000 earlier this year through a combination of falling crime rates and criminal justice reforms, and we challenge the city to further reduce the number of people in jail through a combination of bail reform, decriminalization of minor offenses, and more restorative ways to deal with crime that would make the construction of a new facility unnecessary.

We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>).

If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjlxemttNXVylWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Thank you
Monica Castellanos

Mon Cast
moncast31@gmail.com

Dear Council member,

My name is Maria Hudon and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Garden resident, urge you to vote *no* to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Maria Hudon
11415

Dear Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city. I am a resident of the Bronx, and coordinator of North Bronx Racial Justice.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

The city's jail population has fallen from a high of 21,674 in 1991 to under 9,000 earlier this year through a combination of falling crime rates and criminal justice reforms, and we challenge the city to further reduce the number of people in jail through a combination of bail reform, decriminalization of minor offenses, and more restorative ways to deal with crime that would make the construction of a new facility unnecessary.

We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>).

If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjIxmmtNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Scarlott
Bronx, NY 10463
jen.scarlott@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson:

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Gabrielle Engh

youareom@gmail.com

Council Member Johnson,

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ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.

There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Lucia della Paolera

lucia.dellapaolera@gmail.com

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evelyn delavega

purpledivabx@yahoo.com

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Christy V

christyyanis@gmail.com

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RATASHIQ@YAHOO.COM

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We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>).

If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjlxemttNXVYLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Carlos Olivencia

cogaston@me.com

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ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Joleiny Gonell

leiny4543@icloud.com

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Yesenia Polanco

ypolanco17@gmail.com

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jeannette firpo

jfirpo1@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

John Mercado

jmercado79@hotmail.com

Good morning Council Member Ayala and Speaker Johnson

On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. If your care are about the people of the South Bronx. ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO TO CLOSING RIKERS ISLAND.

We don't need new JAILS! Use that **10.6 BILLONS DOLLARS** for more **SCHOOLS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, more RECREATION FACILITIES for OUR YOUTH.**

If an inmate is missing or escape from Rikers Island, they can lock down the island. If a inmate is missing or escape from a jail in our neighborhood, are they going to lock down the Bronx?

If Rikers Island (Building), is a problem. Building new jails at a cost of 10.6 Billons will not solve the problem if you have the same programs. If the building is the problem, renovate the building.

They claim that they want inmate's friends and family to be closer to the inmates by putting them in jails near their family and friends is nonsense. Many family and friends don't want them near them. The inmates who killed Junior are on Rikers Island, do you thing that people want them in our neighborhood. Why impact all the Good Citizen of New York City by putting them in our backyard! Also, NO JAIL is being built in Staten Island. They must be house in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan or Queens jails, what about their family and friends? Plus, there will be only one Women's Jail in New York City. What about their Family and Friends!

Rikers Island have schools and athletics fields for inmates, what type of education and outside activities are they going to get in a neighborhood jail. You can only build so high, which will be a safety hazard if there is a fire.

What about the gangs on Rikers Islands, how are they going to keep them separated with this limited space in the neighborhood jail. Mixing Gangs together will put other inmates and correction officers in a dangerous situation.

SAY NO TO CLOSING RIKERS ISLAND! ANYONE WITH COMMON SENCE KNOWS THIS IS ABOUT BUILDING MANSIONS AND COMDOS ON RIKERS ISLAND! IT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HELPING THE INMATES!

Sincerely,

A voting New Yorker

Winston Dinkins
watclt@aol.com

Council Member Johnson,

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mistisun@yahoo.com

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Max Rivera

maxr1950@gmail.com

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Loyra Peralta

loyrap@yahoo.com

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Luis Mejia

luismejia0713@gmail.com

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Judith Wong

wongjudi3350@gmail.com

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Ana Rivera

anariv01@hotmail.com

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Bruce Rosen

bxqny@icloud.com

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Barbara Johns

ford_674x4s_lady78@yahoo.com

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vsanabria77

vsanabria77@aol.com

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Jennifer Yadav

4** East 142nd St. 10454

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jenniferyadav@yahoo.com

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Eddy Coello

alquimia76@hotmail.com

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Sarah Eisenstein

sarah.eisenstein@gmail.com

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Thank you.

Sincerely,
Christina Harcar
3*** Henry Hudson Parkway 3DN

harcarchristina@gmail.com

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Catherine Navas

c_navas01@yahoo.com

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steven10456@yahoo.com

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Allen Chavez

allenjchavez@gmail.com

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David Emanuel

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davidcemanuel@gmail.com

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Gregory Jost
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gregory.a.jost@gmail.com

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Debbie Bujosa

debbiebujosa@yahoo.com

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There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Emergency Mobile Thrift Shop

emtsjan@gmail.com

Council Member Johnson,

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Gabriel Quiles

gquiles@ms343.com

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Kay Dundorf

kaydundorf@gmail.com

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Wayne Suiter Matamoros

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/waynesuiter>

Wayne Suiter Matamoros

wsuiter@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Steven Toledo

steven.toledo@gmail.com

Vote NO against new jails

Council Member Johnson,

ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN and everywhere else.

Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

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If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjIxmmtNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Har Oce

harrybubbins@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Ivette Medina

ivette-medina825b@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

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Richard Guadalupe Lebron

richguada@gmail.com

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Lance Anderson

andersonlance125@yahoo.com

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Sam Oglesby

og139@aol.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Alexis Santiago

alexis931.as@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Jody McLaughlin

jaudymac@yahoo.com

Dear Council member,

My name is Patricia Farrell and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and [Your Neighborhood] resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Patricia Farrell
Resident of Kew Gardens
Zip code 11415
pfarrell@nyc.rr.com

Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

The city's jail population has fallen from a high of 21,674 in 1991 to under 9,000 earlier this year through a combination of falling crime rates and criminal justice reforms, and we challenge the city to further reduce the number of people in jail through a combination of bail reform, decriminalization of minor offenses, and more restorative ways to deal with crime that would make the construction of a new facility unnecessary.

We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>).

If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjIxmmtNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Best regards,

Marlon Castro
mcastro456@gmail.com

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Hyacinth Johnson

hyajohn801@gmail.com

Dear Council Member,

My name is Peter Matty and I have been living in Briarwood for the last 9 years. This email is being sent to express my opposition towards the proposed jail in Kew Gardens.

Are you really thinking about us? The residents whose taxes pay your salaries? Whose taxes make this construction possible? This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails will be a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and will also adversely affect all of New York City for the following reasons:

1. The citizens of NYC don't want you spending our money this way. Fix Rikers. I don't want a **NEW** corrupt prison 2 blocks away from my apartment. Fix the old corrupt prison.
2. The stretch of Queens Blvd where the Borough Hall, Courthouse, and the site of this proposed prison are located, is becoming a hotbed for homelessness. A large prison there is only going to make the area worse.
3. **Kew Gardens is a family-friendly neighborhood. Is a prison family-friendly? Would you accept a prison where you live? If you do, I would love to hear from you.**
4. What about the traffic this will create on Queens Blvd.
5. You have not been transparent with us- what will this prison look like? How much will it cost? How will the construction affect the area? The Van Wyck construction has affected Kew Gardens the last 9 years. We don't want a prison built right after that is finished only to have more chaos in our neighborhood.

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th. There has to be another way to resolve this. Why must it involve building more jails?

Sincerely,
Peter Matty
pmatty78@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

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If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons.

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Amaris Efthimiou

amarisefthimiou@gmail.com

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Marc Shi

marcfshi@gmail.com

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This is not a question of both / and, it's one of either / or. Which do you choose this time?

Analisa
E. 138th St

Analisa Freitas

afreitas1@gm.slc.edu

Speaker Johnson:

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Gerrigregg@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson:

I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city. As a teacher and resident in Mott Haven for 10 years, and a supporter of our local grassroots alternatives to incarceration programs, I believe there are wiser and more just alternative to new jails.

While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>).

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Concerned citizen,
Amber Cogswell
ambercogswell2@gmail.com

Speaker Johnson: I am urging you to vote NO on October 17 with respect to any measure that makes way for the city to spend \$8.7 billion on building new jails in our city. While I support the plan to close Rikers Island for the inhumane activity which has occurred during its existence, I unequivocally reject the city's plan to build new jails, including in the South Bronx where more than 6,500 people have signed a petition to prevent a new jail from being built (<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mayor-s-plan-to-build-a-new-jail-in-mott-haven-on-a-site-vital-to-community-revitalization-efforts-22-years-in-the-making>). The city's jail population has fallen from a high of 21,674 in 1991 to under 9,000 earlier this year through a combination of falling crime rates and criminal justice reforms, and we challenge the city to further reduce the number of people in jail through a combination of bail reform, decriminalization of minor offenses, and more restorative ways to deal with crime that would make the construction of a new facility unnecessary. We believe that Rikers Island can be safely and responsibly closed without constructing new jails as shown in the plan laid out by No New Jails NYC (<https://www.nonewjails.nyc/no-new-jails-close-rikers-now-we-keep-us-safe-guide>). If the city builds new jails, the city is going to fill them up. With more than 2.3 million people imprisoned across the US, mass incarceration is the greatest moral and racial injustice of our time. We need bold investments in people, not prisons. The answer to our communities' problems is not to expand the criminal justice footprint and the carceral state, but rather to support grassroots community efforts for self-care, affordability, and inclusion like the Diego Beekman Neighborhood Plan (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LKGXo5_MmMbVFSbjIxmmtNXVyLWhPclFxb3dLTW9KeDlr/view) and restorative justice methods used by organizations like Community Connections for Youth and Friends of Brook Park to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, men and women - all examples from the South Bronx.

Mary Kay Finneran

mkfinneran@gmail.com

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Judith DeFour-Howard

edujoy62112@gmail.com

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
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These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Tao Ho

Resident at 1**-** 71st Road, Forest Hills, NY 11375

<ottotho@yahoo.com>

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Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Futerman, Forest Hills. NY

<allys.futerman@gmail.com>

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Very truly yours,

Ron and Marcia Oberlander

Forest Hills, NY Residents and Owner of a Coop. Apt. in Forest Hills, NY

<ronoberlander@aol.com>

NYC Jails- Vote NO!!!

SUBJECT: I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

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- Allan J Rolnick

www.taxcoachspecialist.com

www.tristatetaxresolution.com

<allan@taxcoachspecialist.com>

: I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Members,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS. This will be detrimental to our children, our businesses, our neighborhoods, and our safety. We are already seeing our neighborhood in serious decline with the influx of homeless and mentally ill people in shelters. You cannot allow this to go on any longer.

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

-Jordana Fried

Forest Hills, NY

<jordana.marx@gmail.com>

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Winnie Loo

Resident of 1**-** 71st Road, Forest Hills, NY 11375

<winnieyyloo@yahoo.com>

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Edward Wong

Forest Hills, NY

<ekwtrading@gmail.com>

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<hemlockpa@yahoo.com>

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you.

Fang Li

1**-** 71ST Road

Forest Hills, NY 11375

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 10/15/19

PHONE: 212-317-2475

NAME (S): Makline Burger

BORO: Manhattan

CD# 5

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails

POSITION

Oppose ✓

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson

Not well thought out; poor

financing; doesn't object to a plan, just

objects to this plan in its current form.

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 10/15/19

PHONE: 646-731-7927

NAME (S): Michelle Clementine

BORO: Bronx

CD# 8

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails (Mott Haven jail proposal)

POSITION

Oppose ✓

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson Lives in the area and is opposed

to this idea. wants to be in touch with someone
from the Speaker's office to talk about why it

FORWARDING

would be harmful to the community.

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 10/15/19

PHONE: 914-441-6196

NAME (S): Winston Dinkins

ADDRESS: Co Op City

BORO: Bronx

CD# 12

REFERENCE

INTRO#

RES#

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails

POSITION

Oppose

Support

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson

Doesn't like Rikers but thinks

Money can be spent to renovate; if prisoner escapes from prison, it is easier to contain them on an island

FORWARDING

than in our neighborhood.

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 10/15/19

PHONE: 631-737-9629

NAME (S): Dolores

ADDRESS:

BORO:

CD#

REFERENCE

INTRO#

RES#

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails

POSITION

Oppose



Support

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson

Rikers Shouldn't be closed because

it isn't in anybody's neighborhood.

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 10/15/19

PHONE: 718-729-6204

NAME (S): Elaine Hoo

BORO: Manhattan

CD# 1

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails (Chinatown jail)

POSITION

Oppose ✓

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 10/8/19

PHONE: cks709@nyu.edu
Email

NAME (S): Carter Statton

BORO: _____

CD# _____

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails

POSITION

Oppose ✓

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson Need to close Rikers without
building new jails

FORWARDING

LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY

DATE: 10/15/2019

PHONE: 718-263-2250

NAME (S): Robert Weston

ADDRESS: _____

BORO: Queens

CD# 29

REFERENCE

INTRO# _____

RES# _____

DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

Borough based jails (specifically Kew Gardens jail)

POSITION

Oppose

Support _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Speaker Corey Johnson

Lives across the street from the

Proposed site; says it would negatively impact community.

FORWARDING

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

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Sincerely,

Ed Reynoso

Forest Hills, NY

<edrey20@hotmail.com>

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Tatyana Lipkina

<tlipkina@gmail.com>

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Nathan Lipkin

<natlipkin77@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
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- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
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Ji Li

Forest Hills, NY

<jili423@gmail.com>

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Thank you.

Amy Lei

Forest Hills, NY

<jlyjxc@gmail.com>

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Jasmin Ilkay

<jasminilkay@yahoo.com>

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<mscslin@aol.com>

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Gary Chin - Forest Hills, NY

<gary_chin@hotmail.com>

I Urge you to Vote NO

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Thank you!

Barbara Cooper

Barbara Cooper, Ed.D.
1**-** Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills, NY 11375
<barbaracooper@fastmail.com>

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Jack Gostl

Forest Hills, NY

<jackgostl@fhjc.org>

From: yma sherren <ymasherren@me.com>

Subject: Borough Based Jail Plan

Council Members,

My name is Yma Sherren, I live in Silver Towers building at 125-10 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens and represent the feelings of the 357 family's that live here.

On Thursday you will all be voting on this very controversial plan of Borough Based Jails. You will be affecting the futures of thousands of members of the communities that have pretty much all voiced their strong opposition in not wanting high rise jails in residential neighborhoods.

If you have read all the reports, studies, opinions and such, it can only be said that the plan is insane, it makes no sense. I don't know what's going on but can guess that there maybe some sort of real estate issue behind this underhanded plan of De Blasio's, It stinks like rotten fish and any of you who vote in favor of the plan will have to live with the consequences.

A lot of people are so sick with the plan and probably a lot of people will leave the neighborhoods (I'm in Kew Gardens) and in so doing will take their honestly earned living somewhere else, and when that happens it will be the fault of those of you who voted yes.

We who live in Kew Gardens have been burdened with the KGIP for years and now what? Years more of insufferable construction noise, air pollution, traffic quagmires... etc. God help people trying to get from the city to the airport and emergency vehicles going to hospitals.

Besides all that... the mayor's plans are worryingly unfinished and vague so it mystifies me how you can even vote yes in good conscience.

The communities have all voted unanimously NO, it is your responsibility to do the same.

Term limited or not, run for anything and we will remember, raise money, petition for primaries and make your life like you choose cavalierly to make ours under a false narrative of criminal justice reform.

Sincerely,

Yma Sherren

Vote NO to Jailhouse!

Dear Council Members,

As a former resident and long time school employee in Chinatown, I ask you to please vote NO to the large jail house planned for construction at White Street.

My first and most important reason - elementary schools are only five floors tall so children can safely be evacuated in a fire,
and BEFORE the smoke overcomes them...

Why would you agree to a jailhouse that is almost
40 floors high?

The same smoke in a fire, whether in a school or tall building, will overcome the persons within, so they cannot leave on their own. What is the plan for ALL the prisoners to be safely evacuated and/or rescued in a disastrous fire?

Secondly, I have shopped, walked, eaten in restaurants, along with hundreds of residents, tourists, vendors, hawkers, in and around the Canal Street area and taken the subway. This will be the same station where visitors to the jailhouse will be traveling to visit their loved family members!

Imagine the increased congestion and chaos to the Canal Street train stations, streets and sidewalks!

Canal Street is already jammed with exiting and entering Holland Tunnel traffic, along the route to and from the Manhattan Bridge. Everyone walking there knows the air is totally polluted. This is same streets where additional jail staff, lawyers and visitors will be driving and looking for parking or idling while visiting their clients, friends, families in the largest jailhouse in the world.

Please take these thoughts into consideration when casting your vote today.

VOTE NO to the planned jailhouse!!

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Elizabeth Lee

<ec11300@gmail.com>

Vote NO for NO NEW JAILS

Dear Councilpersons,

Please vote NO for NO NEW JAILS. The plan that you have agreed to back is basically a land grab for developers and doesn't address the problem of Criminal Justice REFORM. Renovating Rikers Island is a much more affordable plan and option but if you vote yes, we know for sure you are in the developers pockets. It is an unpopular plan that is being pushed through by the city.

Thank You for your time.

-Andrea Ju
Andrea S Ju
jumak98@hotmail.com

Vote NO for new jails

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I urge you to vote NO on the matter of new jails, the implementation of which would be disastrous for my Lower East Side community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carol Freeman

tsipra@gmail.com

Kew Gardens & Borough Jails - The People Have Spoken - Vote NO

Dear Council Members:

As a Kew Gardens resident, I can go on and on about how appalled I am to have a jail built in my backyard. But the arguments against it are much more compelling and far less self-serving. Let's start with the borough-based jail idea itself. It is a truly absurd notion that closing Rikers Island and replacing it with mega jails inside quiet residential communities will solve any systemic problems in the criminal justice system.

There is a reason why prisons are built on islands in the first place - because in a large city you need ample space for a large amount of prisoners, and room to expand that space as that city grows. The mayors' pie in the sky idea assumes that crime will continue to go down, even in a city where the population continues to rise.

Kew Gardens cannot sustain a mega jail, nor should it be expected to. It is a quaint, quiet, and safe suburban landscape within a big city. There are very few high rises of ANY kind, let alone jails. The community does not need its streets crowded with the type of traffic that comes and goes to a prison. It will pollute the air, increase crime, lower property values, and completely damage the charm and character of this historic neighborhood. In the last month ALONE there were at least two dangerous suspects who escaped police custody while being transported to or from the courthouse in Kew Gardens. I can only imagine what would happen when hundreds or thousands of inmates are being moved to or from the proposed jail.

We did nothing to deserve this, and neither did any of the other communities that will be damaged by the construction of these mega prisons. We deserve a say, and New York deserves much better ideas than this. It is no secret to us that the mayor continues to block the press from any of his (very rare) meetings with Kew Gardens officials and residents. Even he must know what a bad idea this is. And we will certainly hold our elected officials accountable at the polls if this idea goes forward. Fix Rikers - don't send its many problems into our communities.

Sincerely,

Matthew Nadelson
drivenspirit@outlook.com

NO NEW JAILS!

Hi Speaker Johnson,

I am born and raised in Lower Manhattan and continue to live here and hope that you vote NO to the new jail proposed in Lower Manhattan. The 10 years of street closures will cause more small immigrant businesses to close up shop. I appreciate all the good you're doing for the city but please review the facts before you vote.

Thank you,
Cindy

--

Cindy Chen
cindy.chen150@gmail.com

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers is to vote NO on the Borough-Based Jails Proposal

Dear Councilwoman Koslowitz,

My name is Risë Shifra Shamansky and I have been a resident of Kew Gardens for more than 20 years. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

I was greatly distressed to learn that you actually support construction of a high-rise Kew Gardens jail ***within walking distance of three schools***.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded, especially considering the system requires all detainees to be *tried in the borough where they are arrested*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25% of 4,600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15% of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail—no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences, financial and otherwise, of doing so?

As a Kew Gardens resident and native New Yorker—a registered Democrat who votes in every election—I urge you to vote **NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Risë Shifra Shamansky
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
rsshamansky@outlook.com

Name: Jena Lanzetta

Email: nbcacivic@gmail.com

Telephone:

Description: You absolutely must keep Rikers island OPEN. It is a disgrace that you will put citizens' lives in danger with community jails. What trick does the NYC Council have up their sleeves? Big land use deal when Rikers closes? Big real estate deal? Put the people first. Repair Rikers and keep it open.

Address:

PO Box 604975

Bayside, NY 11360

Dear speaker Corey Johnson vote No. No New Jails in the 4 borough community

Daer:

Mayor Bill de Blasio, speaker Corey Johnson, Council Member Adrenaline Adams,
Council Member Vincent Gebtile, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member Robert Holden,
Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member Justin Brannan, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez,
Council Member Diana Ayala, Council Member Peter Koo, Council Member Antonio Reynoso,
Council Member Farah Louis, Council Member Mark Treyger, Council Member Helen Rosenthal,
Council Member Rafael L Espinal Jr. Council Member Costa Constantini,
Council Member Paul Vallone, Council Member Joseph C Borelli, Council Member Mark Gjonaj.

**Please Vote No And NO. NO New Jails in the
4 Borough Community and Please Listen Our Voices.**

no point to waste 170 Billions dollars, Build more Schools and build more
affordable housing, get funding for all Schools, that is our community voices

I'm from the New York Chong Zheng Chinese Community Federation
Association

Chairman Shou Min Li

New York Chong Zheng Chinese Community Federation Association
Chairman Shou Min Li. Monday September 17. 2019

Shou Li
jackylee962000@icloud.com

No New Jails

I am writing to you at this time to voice my opposition to the proposal to build 4 new jails.

I am especially opposed to the building of a new jail in lower Manhattan at 125 White Street.

The proposed 40 story building in the historic area of NYC Chinatown & Little Italy would disrupt the lives of local residents, and be a major tourist distraction, as it towers over the other buildings in the area.

The benefits to the criminal system (convenience of prisoners, families of prisoners, lawyers, court officers) are not equally applied to the other proposed sites (e.g. Bronx).

The overall consensus that the Department of Corrections needs to make reforms are not met by building new buildings.

The over \$8 billion for the proposed new jails could be better spent to educate, provide job skills, and developing other programs to reduce recidivism now; the proposed new jails would take an estimate of 7 years to complete.

Edward V. Chin
evcrpac@aol.com

Vote NO To Outrageous Jail Plan

I live in midtown Manhattan but with a "yes" vote for this poorly devised plan, you give me a solid reason to abandon New York City after a lifetime of living here. The four large buildings are ill-suited to improving life for prisoners and their families, will destroy neighborhoods, do not correspond to the Lippman Commission's recommendations, have not been responsibly planned for the longterm. Go back to the drawing board to properly replace Riker's current jail and do not railroad this irresponsible plan through. It makes no sense to affect so many New Yorkers in this manner for so few. I -- and many others -- will remember your vote when it is time to vote for you.

M. E. Berger
mebergerny@aol.com

October 17: Four Borough Jails

Dear Council Member,

You will be voting Thursday on the ULURP enacting the Mayor's proposal to replace Rikers with four high-rise borough jails. By now you have heard countless reasons -- often conflicting -- for voting either way, reasons presented in good faith by New Yorkers who disagree.

I urge you to vote **NO** at this time because the Mayor, we, **and you** do not know how many detainees the City will have to accommodate when the dust settles on the recently enacted criminal justice laws and the soon-to-be-implemented policies of the City and our district attorneys. Let us give the new regulations a chance to work before we spend so many billions of dollars on jails that will house so few New Yorkers for a relatively short period of time.

I urge you to vote **NO** because the City is assuming too great a risk in subjecting detainees in such high-rise buildings to death in case of a fire or other terrible, but not impossible disaster. (The absence of any outdoor athletic fields, such as exist on Rikers, is an incidental but important deficiency.)

To accept the Mayor's unsubstantiated cost estimates without a study of the costs for rebuilding Rikers properly (as requested by Bob Holden) -- and without spelling out convincingly how "the culture" of Rikers will be changed in the borough jails -- is rash and irresponsible, akin to accepting Trump's symbolic border wall as a cure-all.

If built, let us hope that your legacy of the four de Blasio mega-jails will not become the graphic symbol of New York City, replacing the Statue of Liberty and other cherished sites.

*Make the courageous and rational decision Thursday by voting **NO**.*

Sincerely,

Murray H. Berger

1** 82nd Road, Kew Gardens, NY 11415

mhberger@aol.com

RICKERS ISLAND

MY FAMILY AND I ARE 100% AGAINST REMOVING CRIMINALS FROM RICKERS AND PUTTING THEM IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

VOTE NO ON CLOSING RICKERS!!!

KEEP THEM SECURE ON THE ISLAND!!

VINNY MILO

V C Milo

vcmlilo@aol.com

Jails

As a resident, I urge you to vote no on the huge new jail proposed for overstressed Chinatown.

Herman Phillips

writetoherman@gmail.com

Who ever wrote this is telling the cold hard truth!

It is unbelievable what liberal policies are doing to this city and this country. I am an immigrant who respects this country's laws, yet nyc politicians are putting criminals above citizens and legal residents.

All these hired "close Rikers now" groups have nothing else to do, many with criminal past, they get paid to rally, while the rest of us are at work trying to support our families. NO ONE is talking about the victims harmed by the ones doing time on Rikers!!! This is an OUTRAGE! What about the Victims?! They do not get any free therapy, are left to suffer with emotional and physical injuries, financial loss, in silence, while this multiple arrestees complain that they need therapy because "oh sorry I killed raped robbed brutally assaulted but it's not my fault give me free rehabilitation programs and jobs for free". All I can say is do your research and vote in your local elections. Show up in droves and vote them out! November 5th is the Queens District's Attorney elections, current borough president Melinda Katz is running, even though she wrote a letter to restart the Rikers process review she is not against borough jails. She is as liberal and left as they come, she defends the ones who broke the law, she wants the new jail built. All this politicians are afraid that they'll be voted out, that's why they are currently looking into blocking any new administration to rebuild jails on Rikers. What is the most amazing is that many in the city administration including city council have their roots and ancestors who ran from countries with left regimes and policies and now they want to make USA into one of them.

yma sherren
ymasherren@me.com

**45 Kew Gardens Owners Inc.
45 Kew Gardens Road
Kew Gardens, NY 11415**

**Century Management Company
440 Ninth Avenue, Suite 1500
New York, NY 10001**

October 16, 2019

The Honorable Karen Koslowitz
New York City Council Member, District 29
118-35 Queens Blvd.
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Dear Councilwoman Koslowitz:

We are the board of directors and management company representing the interests of a 96-unit Co-op in Kew Gardens, Queens County, New York, up the block from where the Mayor has designated to build a mega 27-story jail complex to be built in Kew Gardens, with a capacity of 1,150 detainees, after the closing of Rikers Island in approximately 2027.^{1/}

Closing Rikers Island and building four (4) new jail facilities in the boroughs of Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan and Queens Counties will cost New York City taxpayers over \$11 billion. In addition, the Queens jail, located in Kew Gardens, will house far more detainees that live in or near OUR community. The proposed facility in Kew Gardens will see a 25% increase of the proposed 4,600 jail beds despite the neighborhood having less than 15% of ALL Queens detainees. Thus, the claim of the Mayor that detainees will be tried in the Borough where they live and/or where the crime was committed is False.

Though Community Board 9 has voted *unanimously against the proposal AND Borough President Melinda Katz opposes it*, YOU Councilwoman Koslowitz - our esteemed Representative – unfortunately supports the bid despite protests from the Community and beyond. We note that Mayor DeBlasio has offered many, many “perks” so that you will vote to approve this Plan. They are all ridiculous and will NOT help the Community.

Please consider the following reasons to NOT close Rikers Island and expand jails to four (4) New York City boroughs as it is not a well-thought out and evidenced-based plan:

- Why is the Mayor and NYC undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult and/or even impossible to evacuate safely in case of a fire and/or other emergency?
- This high-rise jail facility will cause additional traffic congestion to an already congested travel community in Kew Gardens.

^{1/} It should be noted that Queens County is one of four New York City Boroughs designated to have a jail in their borough (also Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan Counties).

- After criminal law reform and new government policies are implemented the total number of detainees in NYC is expected to range from 3,000 to 5,000.

We note the following:

As of January 1st, 2020, the following list of crimes that will NO LONGER hold a suspect on bail in New York State:^{2/}

Assault in the third degree

Aggravated vehicular assault

Aggravated assault upon a person less than eleven years old

Criminally negligent homicide

Aggravated vehicular homicide

Manslaughter in the second degree

Unlawful imprisonment in the first degree

Coercion in the first degree

Arson in the third and fourth degree

Grand larceny in the first degree

Criminal possession of a weapon on school grounds or criminal possession of a firearm

Criminal possession of a controlled substance in the first and second degree

Criminal sale of a controlled substance in the first and second degree

Criminal sale of a controlled substance in or near school grounds

Specified felony drug offenses involving the use of children, including the use of a child to commit a controlled substance offense and criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child

Criminal solicitation in the first degree and criminal facilitation in the first degree

Money laundering in support of terrorism in the third and fourth degree

Making a terroristic threat

Patronizing a person for prostitution in a school zone

Promoting an obscene sexual performance by a child

Possessing an obscene sexual performance by a child

Promoting a sexual performance by a child

Failure to register as a sex offender

Obstructing governmental administration in the first and second degree

Obstructing governmental administration by means of a self-defense spray device

Bribery in the first degree

Bribe giving for public office

Bribe receiving in the first degree

Promoting prison contraband in the first and second degree

Resisting arrest

Hindering prosecution

Tampering with a juror and tampering with physical evidence

Aggravated harassment in the first degree

Directing a laser at an aircraft in the first degree

Criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree

Criminal sale of a firearm to a minor

Enterprise corruption and money laundering in the first degree

Aggravated cruelty to animals, overdriving, torturing and injuring animals

^{2/} Source: the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York

Failure to provide proper sustenance
Animal fighting

Therefore, the worst criminal offenders will be housed here in Kew Gardens!

- Overcrowding occurred at Rikers **and will** continue to be an issue in all of the other community based jail. It is just a fact that this will occur!

Significant changes can be accomplished ***without closing Rikers Island***. Reform, re-training inmates into society, and most importantly – **fix the buildings of Rikers Island. All of the plans for the jails in the (4) Boroughs can be put into one (1) well thought out and evidence-based plan – for less money – at the existing jail complex.** Rikers Island should also be re-named to indicate a newer **and better** jail system within New York City. It should be noted that a recent Blog (from Queenscrap.blogspot.com) states that perhaps *Ferry Boats* can be put into place to alleviate congestion problems to/from Rikers to NYC Courthouses. With that said, there may be other, more productive and less expensive, ways to solve the “problem of Rikers Island”. Mayor DeBlasio’s Plan is **NOT** the solution.

Councilwoman Koslowitz please hear the cry of the majority of your constituents. You were there for us to remove homeless from the former Comfort Inn (on the corner of 82nd Avenue and Queens Blvd.), but you have let us down and sacrificed **US** to help the Mayor move forward with this ridiculous, expensive, non-evidence based plan which has failed to comply with the New York City Charter³, AND which will subject the residents of New York City billions of dollars in taxes, but will not help the prison population NOR the residents of the four communities where the jails are to be placed. Your vote on October 17th on the City Council will be a decisive vote on the Mayor’s proposal to close Rikers and build a Mega-Jail in Kew Gardens.

Your term of Office as a City Council person ends in 2021. ***Please do not let this atrocity be your legacy!!! You have served – AND – worked with our Community honorably for two terms, but will let us down if you vote to approve this Plan from moving forward. Please remember that – will you feel good sleeping at night when you end your term??? I think not!***

Sincerely,

The Resident Board of Directors:

/s/
Edward Jamrozy, President

/s/
Sabina Rezza, Treasurer

³/ The Community Board 9 Chairman advises that the advisory body stated that the application “violates” New York City Charter’s “Chapter 9, sections 2110 and 222, Chapter 8, sections 197 and 204.”

/s/
Andrea Reichenbach, Secretary

The Sponsor Board of Directors:

/s/
Daniel Benedict, Board Director
Benedict Realty Group

/s/
Barry Sendrovic, Board Director
Benedict Realty Group

Century Management Services, Inc.:

/s/
Cynthia Allan, Property Manager

cc: The Honorable Bill DeBlasio
State Senator Leroy Comrie
The Hon. Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President
Cory Johnson, City Council Speaker
Councilwoman Diana Ayala (D-Bronx)
Councilman Stephen Levin (D-Brooklyn)
Councilwoman Margaret Chin (D-Manhattan)
Queens Community Board 9
The Kew Gardens Civic Association
The Community Preservation Association
(All via email)

October 11, 2019.

To: New York City Council Member Corey Johnson

From: Carbs Salpner

RE: No New Jails!

NYC COUNCIL
PERSONNEL SERVICES
RECEIVED
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:54

Dear Councilmember Johnson:

You must vote 'NO' on rezoning for this jail expansion plan. Mayor Bill de Blasio can and must commit NYC to closing Rikers while building no new jails.

After years of mounting pressure – including investigations by New York State, the U.S. Department of Justice, several class action settlements, and the experiences of incarcerated individuals and their loved ones all revealing a deeply entrenched “culture of violence” on Rikers – Mayor Bill de Blasio announced, in spring 2017, a 10-year plan to close the jails on Rikers Island by building another system of jails. The expected cost for the new jails plan exceeds \$11 billion and is not projected to be completed until 2026. The plan would result in just under 6,000 new cages for humans in four massive new jails. The plan does not require New York City to close Rikers after the new jails are built, effectively expanding NYC’s jail system far into the future. And we know: If they build it, they will fill it.

To avoid public opposition, Mayor de Blasio has manipulated the political process to bypass any real community input on building new jails. Instead, the only political decision that remains is whether to rezone the four selected NYC locations to build jails nearly 50-stories tall – the tallest jails in the world. This summer and early fall, the New York City Planning Commission and City Council will vote on the land-use proposal for the jails plan. If they vote yes, construction on the jails could begin in 2020. The Mayor’s Office has already set aside money for new jail construction in the city’s budget.

Sincerely,



New York City Anti-Jail Coalition Joint Press Release

October 16th, 2019

Contact: info@ranyc.org

COMMUNITY JAIL PLAN IS FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG!

New York City Residents Alliance, Coalition of Asian-Americans for Civil Rights, Hotel Chinese Association of USA, New York State 47th AD District Leader Nancy Tong, among 70 organizations and individuals, call all NYC and NYS residents, officials, organizations to say NO to Mayor De Blasio's community jail plan.

We do not want nor need to build new high-rise tower jails in Manhattan's Lower East Side/ Chinatown, which would be the highest jail of the world! We do not want nor need to build new jails in Kew Gardens of Queens, in Boerum Hill of Brooklyn, or Mott Haven in the Bronx. **Rikers Island jail must stay on Rikers Island and fix the entire system there!**

The community jail plan is fundamentally wrong because:

1. None of the Rikers issues, the violence, the misuse of power, and trial delays have anything to do with the location. As was shown in a recent CityLab article, New York City jails have always been problematic, and Rikers Jails was created to solve them!

"In the 19th century, violence and filth festered at the detention facilities on what is now Roosevelt Island (known as Blackwell's Island until 1921 and Welfare Island until 1971)." **The city then built Rikers which was supposed to be "an enormous model penitentiary, ample in size to serve for many years to come and which in all its plans and parts should be the most perfect prison in the world."** It turned out to be an example of failed prison reform. "This followed the pattern set by the Blackwell jails, which were intended to improve on the penitentiary at Bellevue, which in turn replaced the city's original 18th century jail at what is presently known as the Tweed Courthouse."

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2019/09/rikers-island-nyc-history-new-jail-design-bill-de-blasio/597802/>

In fact, the surging violence at Rikers can be correlated to the current deBlasio administration which ties the guard's hands and gives incentives to violent incarcerated inmates (i.e. allowing them play games after they've improved their behavior a bit, while the always non-violent inmates never get such treatments).

2. **The community jails would put innocent residents and children in great danger by placing the criminals in residential neighborhoods;** some of whom are violent criminals and career criminals. The proposed Kew Gardens jail site is only a few hundred yards from the nearest schools.

- Years ago, two inmates (charged with homicide felonies) escaped the Kew Gardens detention facility and caused a huge panic in the community.
- 10/2/2019, an armed suspect escaped custody at the Queens County Courthouse, where was steps away from the proposed Queens new jail site.
- 10/5/2019, 4 homeless men were brutally assaulted to death by a 24-yr suspect with 14 arrest records.
- 10/10/2019, a 6-yr-old boy sitting on the front steps of his home was seriously attacked and injured by a homeless stranger in Kew Gardens.
- 10/15/2019, a handcuffed parolee in police custody escaped in Kew Gardens.

Would not these incidents be enough to tell how severe the NYC safety situation is and how dangerous the near-residential-neighborhood jails can be??? Wake up, all the City Council members, say NO to De Blasio! **In all of the world the jails are built in the isolated area to keep the town and city safe, only in our New York City, the mentally disordered Mayor wants to move the jail from the isolated island to the centers of our city!!!**

3. **No one wants to live under the shadow of a tower high jail** and all the traffic and transportation issues that come with housing so many inmates. These jails would cause the nearby residents to not leave under the shadow and drive residents to flee New York City, and this will sink the surrounding neighborhood's real estate value. The College Point shelter plan has already almost frozen the local housing market. The impact from a two-Yankee Stadium-sized jail, as is proposed for Kew Gardens jail, would be unimaginably deadly bigger.
4. **New York City is already heavily burdened financially and cannot afford** to spend \$9 to \$11 billion for 5,500 inmates and, possibly, **an astronomical \$33 billion** overall, as estimated by the Daily News, **while our public schools do not even have air conditioning** and basic school supplies. <https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-the-close-rikers-mistake-20190108-story.html>. There are also thousands of other urgent issues for our city, for example, adequate lead testing and lead in our public schools which need to be addressed but cannot because of funding shortage.
5. New York City is a tourism city. **We cannot imagine when tourists plan their trips, they would want to see skyscraper jails as part of the NYC's skyline and amidst landmarks** and tourist sites like the new World Trade Center, the Empire State Building and Grand Central Station.

6. The excuse used by some who support this plan, to facilitate the transportation of prisoners (from court to prison) does not stand. Experts have analyzed that **it would take 290 years of saved transportation cost to offset the current building budget.** Furthermore, Rikers Island is centrally located at the center of the five boroughs. The proposed Kew Gardens jail site is the largest and the farthest away from most NYC locations, and it has been reported that it will host all the sick and female inmates, even though the mayor's administration has been trying to hide it.
7. **Concrete made vertical prison towers** in the center of cities are much more fragile for **natural catastrophes like fire or earthquake** compared to the currently more sparsely populated building on the island, and thus **posing greater dangers to the prisoners.** While on the other hand, an escaped prisoner would be much more difficult to capture in the population dense neighborhoods than on the island.

Furthermore, the average square footage for each inmate in those proposed high-rise tower jails is very limited, like a cage; compare to the island jail houses, while the inmates would have much bigger spaces and more access to the nature.

8. Reports have shown that the water layer beneath the proposed Chinatown jail earth might be not adequately deep enough to sustain the 50 stories jail. Numerous experts have warned against the (if approved) years of demolition/construction process, which would create heavy noises, dusts, radiation, hazardous material for very long time.

To even think of building the world's tallest jail next to a senior center, near a park for young and old, is to think it's OK to take years off their lives. In the near term, **the elderly, facing ten years of construction, debris, pollution, will die prematurely in what should be peaceful years of their lives.**

Our Mayor De Blasio, however, have chosen to be continuing to ignore all the opposition voices. **Community board 8 and community board 9 both unanimously voted NO to the Kew Gardens jail plan,** as well as the other affected community boards in Brooklyn, Bronx, and Manhattan; however the ridiculous NYC Law says **the local community board cannot decide their local affairs, and their decisions were not binding!!! ???** Even worse, many previous jail related hearings, for Kew Gardens site at least, had banned the reporters! Our Mayor was intentionally not only ignoring the people's voice himself but also blocking the people's voices to be heard by others!

We do not trust an administration incapable of running one large jail in Rikers to effectively manage four borough jails. We feel it is ridiculous and unjustified for the mayor to plan building luxury jails for the criminals, which is actually encouraging crimes.

We hope democracy is not dead in New York City. We cannot tolerate Mayor De Blasio continuing to ignore the voice and interests of 8 million of innocent NYC citizens and 1 million of children, ruining our city, and putting our safety in great danger using we taxpayer's money, to only realize his dirty political gain to pretend himself as a progressive pioneer. We call every resident to voice out to oppose the plan, to keep our school and street safe and clean, and to maintain our great city peaceful and beautiful.

Dear City Council members, please vote NO for the sake of 8 million residents and 1 million children, please cast your votes from your conscience!

NO NEW JAIL in Boerum Hill!

NO NEW JAIL in Chinatown!

NO NEW JAIL in Kew Gardens!

NO NEW JAIL in Mott Haven!

New York City Residents Alliance
Coalition of Asian-Americans for Civil Rights
Hotel Chinese Association of USA
State 47th AD District Leader Nancy Tong
NY Laundromat Business Association
Queens Residents and Voters Coalition
College Point Residents Coalition
Malaysian Association of America
Zhanjiang Association of American Corp
NVW Consulting Inc
Better Chinatown of USA
Asian America Restaurant Association
Chinatown Athletic Council
Taishan Friendship Association
Guangzhou Association
The Enping Commerce Association of New York
Cen's Family Association of America
Lam's Group
American association of Cantonese
American Chinese Commerce Association
American Chinese Commerce Association HK
American Fujian Jinsha Association
Bai Sha Group
Asian-American Women Empowerment
U.S. Bei Shuang Association

Youth American Chinese Commerce Association
New York Hai Nan Townsmen
N.Y Fushan Association Inc
American Langqi Student Association
Urban United Association
American Fujian Minhou Association
Brooklyn On Fun Association U.S.A
Chinese-American Nail Salon Association
American WZ Education Foundation
Chinese Sports Association BK
U.S. Min Hou General Association
HaiNan Association of America
United Chinese Association of BK
American Chinese Art Collector Asso
America Chinese Culinary Foundation (NY)
Asian American Mutual Club
Ti Ling of America Associates Inc.
Guangdong Association of America
Metro Community Alliance
NYCADC-NYC American Democratic Club
American Asian Associates Group
New York Tong Ji Association
Asian Community United Society
Health Essential Association
New York Arts International
American Ving Tsun of China
Tao Association of America
Taishan Overseas Middle School Alumni Assoc
Haiyan Township Association
Hand By Hand Chinese Association
American Canton Student Association
American Hainan Association
America LanQi QinGeng Association
American LanQi NongQi Association
NewYork Delivery Association
Shanghu Sodality
Xiang Qi Society in America
American HaiYu of FuJian Associates Inc
US TN Fujian Chamber of Commerce
Shenzhen Association of Eastern America
ShuiBu Oversea Chinese Association
Hotel Chinese Association
Chinese Association
NewYork Senior Association
East American QiongHai Business Association
United HongTang Association Inc

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Bill Zois

<billzois9@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Members,

We (my family and I) urge each of you to vote NO for the proposed new Prison in Kew Gardens, Queens. We agree with the following reported research:

"THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
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"In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

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- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs"

Thank you.

Roy Bromberg (Forest Hills, Queens)

RGB

<clemmars@earthlink.net>

Vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Rachel Eynan-Shargal and I am a resident of Kew Gardens Neighborhood. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

Queens is the only borough with 2 airports that serve all Metropolitan area. Building a Mega-Jail on Kew Gardens Interchange Intersection of Grand Central parkway, Van Wyck Expressway, The Jackie Robinson Parkway and Union Turnpike, 0.7 miles (!!!) from PS 99, The Annex, and Pre-K, 4.8 miles from JFK, and 6 miles from LaGuardia Airports, is an urban horror.

This proposal is ill-conceived and undemocratic. These borough-based jails are a detriment to my community of Kew Gardens, and also adversely affects all of New York City for the following reasons:

1. The Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.
2. The Lippman Commission proposed borough-based jails so as to bring detainees close to their families and provide a benefit to the communities themselves; neither is true for Kew Gardens:
 1. Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community. The proposed facility in KG will see 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood having less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees. (Staten Island will not build a jail, and their residents will be detained in the other 4 boroughs!)
 2. Costs of busing detainees to court won't be eliminated, as claimed, as the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence.
3. Rikers Island currently has outdoor that can be used for recreation, however the high-rise jails proposed by the Mayor cannot accommodate these outside spaces.
4. After criminal law reform and new government policies are implemented, the total number of detainees is expected to range from 3,000 to 5,000. This figure is much smaller than the current population of 7,000 at Rikers.
5. Many billions of dollars (the initial estimate is \$11 billion, which may rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion after financing costs) being committed for so few people, when the City already needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA,

transportation, and other venues that benefit communities.

6. The City is undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult, or even impossible, to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency.
7. A tall high-rise jail will overwhelm the community of Kew Gardens, not only by its height and mass, but also as a large penal institution operating 24/7 in an already congested community.
8. Rikers Island CAN be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal would require. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds? Not to mention these four new jails may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, which at its opening in 1975 was hailed in the NY Times as an "advance in jail design!"
9. If Rikers' most serious problem is allegedly its culture and treatment of detainees, can't these issues be addressed internally on Rikers Island instead?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote ***NO*** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

This is a surreal proposal, which will affect tragically the safety of children and the elderly in the neighborhood, a disastrous urban planning, an irreversible damage to the quality of life in NYC.

THIS CITY COUNCIL WILL REGRET ITS LEGACY IF *OR WHEN* - NEW YORK BECOMES KNOWN WORLDWIDE AS THE CITY WITH THE FOUR SKYSCRAPER JAILS.

Sincerely,
Rachel Eynan-Shargal
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
<rshar20@yahoo.com>

Concerned parent and a community member

My name is Katarina Jokic, I am a wife, a mother of 3, and an active community member. My family and I live in Forest Hills, just 2 blocks away from where the proposed community jail is planned on being built. My oldest son passes next to it every day to go to school. I am extremely concerned with this idea going forward, and extremely disappointed at so many decision makers who believe that this is a good idea. Please, please, I beg you to fight against this plan!

The jail in our community is going to first of all compromise the safety of our children, our businesses and people. Could you only imagine hundreds of people coming to visit their friends and loved ones in these borough based jails every day? And we know that a lot of criminals do have friends who are criminals as well. And we know that eventually the criminal friends who are not locked up will want to visit their locked up friends. And they decide to antagonize us and our kids in the streets and the neighborhood that's surrounding the jail. This is a scenario that will happen on daily basis, these are things that cannot be controlled. We are already having an increased problem with a growing number of homeless people with mental issues. They have been attacking our children on our streets. Now our leadership wants to add even more mayhem by bringing in jails, congestion, and potentially dangerous people who would be visiting these jails.

I don't believe that we deserve this kind of treatment. We belong to hard working communities, we pay our taxes, we vote, we volunteer, we clean up our parks and streets, we fundraise for our schools, hospitals and people in need. We are honorable citizens. Why are we being punished with these jails? We don't want them in our neighborhoods. We should have the right to decide what should be a part of our community. Having a jail where we live is like being in a Nazi Germany or communist Russia. This is not what we signed up for, and please don't let this happen.

An island is a perfect spot to keep inmates on. And Rikers Island has a great potential to be that perfect spot. I am for a jail reform, but at Rikers, not our neighborhoods. Rikers Island can be rebuilt, ferries could cut the transportation time in half and everyone could be happy. It's a perfect solution.

Please, don't let neighborhood jails happen! Please don't punish us for caring about our communities and thinking about our safety and safety of our children.

I don't want my teenage son to be right when he says that my generation has ruined everything, and he can't wait for his generation to be in charge of things. Let's prove to our youth that we are not such a bad generation and that we are capable of doing things the right way.

Thank you for your time, and we appreciate your hard work. Please don't let us down and please don't let borough based jails happen.

Sincerely,
Katarina Jokic
<katajokic@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Forest Hills NY

Emma Zhang
<zhangliemma@gmail.com>

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS!!

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- **JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**
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In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- **A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet**
- **Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools**
- **Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center**
- **A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs**
- **A 24-hour Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs**

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a highway construction project KGIP going on for 10 years with no end in sight in exactly the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four (4) boroughs is subject to one vote. There are no specifics or concrete plans in this proposal. You are being asked to vote on a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass. We urge you to vote **NO** as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself

to buck the rising tide in the council with a **NO** vote, then you must **abstain!!** Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement. If even one of you votes FOR this project (and I know at least one you has aspirations for Mayor of NYC after Bill de Blasio ends his useless second term), I will vote for your opponent, regardless of his/her stand on other issues.

Sincerely,

Henri G. Simonetti
Owner-Resident Forest Hills South Co-op
1**-** 78th Ave.
Forest Hills, NY 11375
<henrijfk@aol.com>

My name is Elizabeth Jarmel, and my family and I have been active, voting residents of Kew Gardens for the past 18 years.

On the eve of the vote regarding the Mayor's plan to construct a jail in Kew Gardens, I am writing to BEG you to vote AGAINST this proposal.

Our community simply cannot withstand the addition of this colossal jail. Kew Gardens is already an extremely congested location, and the courthouse is the most overcrowded, chaotic location within the neighborhood. The increased influx of people to and from the jail AND courthouse would be paralyzing. It would be a serious detriment to our quality of life.

On a personal note... my 9 year old son has had to endure TWO separate lockdowns at his elementary school, P.S. 99, within the last two weeks. Both lockdowns were related to persons who escaped custody at the courthouse across the street. The first criminal was called "dangerous" and "possibly armed" in a tweet from the NYPD. He fled straight up 83rd Ave and right past my son's school. The second criminal fled into the surrounding neighborhood, triggering a manhunt that lasted over an hour.

I am told these events are rare. But the frequency with which they have been occurring as of late is beyond alarming. The time spent while authorities searched for these convicts was agony for me. I should not have to send my son to school and be in mortal fear for his safety. 1200 prisoners should not be housed a stone's throw from where my son spends his days trying to learn. Prisons do not belong in residential neighborhoods, and ESPECIALLY not across the street from schools. In light of recent events, I can't trust that they would be protected.

PLEASE, PLEASE. For the sake of our community and the many children and families who live here, please vote NO to the Kew Gardens jail.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jarmel
<lizjarmel@gmail.com>

PLEASE VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

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This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

I have lived in this neighborhood for 48 years; my parents were here for 30 years before me and owned a neighborhood business (Dartmouth Pharmacy, from 1968 through 1993). We own 3 apartments and have two children who live here and go to school nearby. These facilities do not belong in this neighborhood.

Thank you

Brad

<brad@reisner.net>

Please Vote NO to New Jails!

Dear Council Members

Please vote NO to New Jails!

We should keep Rikers Island open!

NO NEW JAIL in Boerum Hill!

NO NEW JAIL in Chinatown!

NO NEW JAIL in Kew Gardens!

NO NEW JAIL in Mott Haven!

Sincerely

Bk resident

Vivian Kong

<vivikong328@yahoo.com>

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,

Susan Asatur

Forest Hills, NY resident

<susan_asatur@yahoo.com>

I strongly oppose the Queens Jail

Dear New York City Council members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Queens Jail. I don't think it would be good for the local community and I don't think it would be a good use of taxpayer money.

I don't want my daughter going to an elementary school next to a jail. I have safety concerns about a jail being in a residential area. The jail could bring undesirable people to visit those in the jail. There would be even more traffic in the area.

The new jail would be very expensive; the money would be better spent rehabilitating Rikers Island. An island is the best place for a jail since it's away from other people and it's harder to escape from. A new jail is not the solution to the problems on Rikers Island.

Thanks,

Jim Covell, PE
Kew Gardens, Queens, NY
<jimhc3@gmail.com>

Please vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council member,

My name is Jonathan Sinaw and I am a resident of Richmond Hill, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

My main reasons for my opposition to the Mayor's plan are as follows:

1. The proposed jail in queens is too big for our community. Our trains are jam packed and have constant train traffic and delays. A large jail would put more strain on this system. Further there is too much car traffic in our area as is.
2. For the proposed jail in queens, this is huge jail coming to a residential community. I would accept a small jail but the proposed one is much larger than we had in the past. With this large a jail I fear for everyone's safety if something were to go wrong.
3. I don't see how a new building in a new location will help fix the problems that Rikers had. This was a systemic problem and not one caused by a building or land. The building and land didn't cause "a history of inmate violence and mistreatment." It was the people involved! For the huge cost of new facilities vast improvements could be made to Rikers and the transportation to and from. It just doesn't make sense at all to me.
4. Everything the mayor and the city has said about the jail completely ignored the concerns of the community. He and his department instead pick other less relevant topics to address. I believe they ignore our concerns because they have no rational solution for them.

I live on the boarder of Kew Gardens and this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens/Richmond Hill will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Richmond Hill resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sinaw
Zip Code 11418
<jps280@gmail.com>

A Borough Based Jail System

Councilmember,

My name is Evan F. Boccardi, a 4th Generation New Yorker, and I am writing you, amongst many who are writing you, I imagine, to urge you to vote against the proposed borough-based jail system this upcoming Thursday.

These are the reasons why:

1. The current Borough-based jail system proposed will cost over \$10 Billion, leaving vulnerable families in NYCHA housing and students in poorly-funded schools (like the one my wife teaches at) behind in the dust.
2. At an incarceration rate of 5,000 jailed individuals, this amounts to \$2 Million per individual jailed.
3. Despite the promise that this will help reduce bussing, those jailed will still have to be bussed to court, since some proposed locations are still far from the courthouses serving the jailed.
4. This borough based jail system does NOTHING to address the human rights abuses committed by those currently working at Riker's. The culture at Riker's Island leads to the tragic treatment of those jailed, not the buildings!
5. This vote also does nothing to expand alternative programs, like youth intervention, and the expansion of mental health facilities, which make up large pluralities at Riker's Island.
6. No serious consideration is being made to the alternative of simply rebuilding a modern facility on Riker's Island. The towering buildings that are proposed in each neighborhood, I submit, should be for affordable housing to prevent more people from living on the streets. Real homes, not jail-cells, will reduce homelessness, and crime; It will help prevent the tragedy that we saw this past week in the Lower East Side from happening again.

While we have a profound duty to ensure that those jailed do not have their constitutional rights violated, we must also have the above considerations to take into account to ensure that we are fulfilling that sacred obligation in the most efficient, effective, and economical way possible.

Thank you for your time, and please bear the above in mind when you make your vote Thursday;

Evan F. Boccardi
<efb1991@gmail.com>

VOTE NO ON BOROUGH JAIL PROJECT

WOULD YOU WANT TO LITERALLY LIVE NEXT TO ONE OF THESE JAILS?

WOULD YOU WANT YOUR CHILD OR AGED PARENT TO LIVE NEXT TO THESE JAILS?

WOULD YOU WELCOME THE BURDEN AND LIABILITY OF HAVING THESE FACILITIES IN YOUR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD?

Voting "yes" ON this project demands you question your morality, decency and concern for the neighborhoods you represent. The shame will stay and stain you - not just professionally but personally as well as your family and associates. PLEASE - IN ALL CONSCIENCE - VOTE NO!

Patricia Homison

Queens Resident

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass.

Patricia Homison

<pgh1029@hotmail.com>

PLEASE READ - REGARDING THE BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

WOULD YOU WANT TO LITERALLY LIVE NEXT TO ONE OF THESE JAILS?

WOULD YOU WANT YOUR CHILD OR AGED PARENT TO LIVE NEXT TO THESE JAILS?

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Patricia Homison

<meandhetravel@gmail.com>

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement. *Be well*

Sincerely

Michael WASSERMAN

FOREST HILLS

NEW YORK

<mikew965@gmail.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Scott Gordon-Somers

Neighborhood of residence (Forest Hills, NY).

<sgordonsomers@gmail.com>

Subject: RE Jails: City Council members may be exposed to liability

Dear Council members,

It cannot be said that the Lippman Commission Recommendations For Jails can be ignored with impunity without risk to the individual Council members. Literally exposing citizens to harm by ignoring specific safety precautions can cause public officials to be held personally liable. (See *Wilson-Trattner v. Campbell*, 863 F.3d 589 [7th Cir. 2017]).

Each Council member has received specific notice of the numerous elements of potential specific harm. Therefore, each Council member has been placed on notice which cannot be denied in the future.

However, insistence upon adherence to the Commission's recommendations lifts any potential cloud as well as ensuring the safety of the local citizenry.

With hope for a rational approach to this issue, I remain

Respectfully,

Louis Venezia, Esq.
Law Offices of Louis Venezia, P.C.
110-20 71st Road, Suite 611
Forest Hills, New York 11375
718-268-5345
<LV@VeneziaLaw.com>

Mega Jail in Kew Gardens

Mr Speaker,

This location for this facility is unsuitable and will tax the existing public transportation system beyond its limits. There are only 2 subway lines serving this area the E and the F and they are overcrowded as is. There's no other MTA recourse for local residents in this crowded, developed community. The local buse service is no better.

There are undoubtedly other less dense areas in Queens which would be more suitable and which could benefit from such a facility.

Eleanor Flannelly
7735 113 Street
Forest Hills, NY 11375
eflannelly@verizon.net

Please dont close Rikers island

We are very concerned

ckeane426

ckeane426@gmail.com

please help us opposed to the jails proposals....

Dear city council members,

In our ultimate attempt to sway the NY City Council vote on the 17th, we urge you - and everyone opposed to the Kew Gardens mega jail - as well as the other proposed jails - to deluge the 51 NY City Council members with emails so they realize how many of us are strongly opposed to this proposal.

Thank you and appreciate your understanding!

Truly,

Rose Lee

Ye Li

fnusa1688@gmail.com

No New Jails--Against Generic Technology Fixes

Dear Councilmember,

I am writing to urge you to vote against the jail plan tomorrow, and to work toward meaningful decarceration in New York City... that means putting resources in the hands of communities, not building new cages. I know that you have received the No New Jails plan, and I trust that you have educated yourself on the city's plan, so I won't rehash those details here. But I will draw your attention to a problem I know a lot about: technology.

As a historian of technology, I can promise you that the city's plan is doomed to fail for many reasons, not least of which is its uninformed reliance on "technological solutions." In Science and Technology Studies (STS) we have spent decades grappling with the social impacts and implications of various technologies. One problem that everyone knows about and that grows every year proportionate to the complexity of our machines, is that we are more and more reliant on technology we don't really understand. We interface with iPhones, but most of us don't know the first thing about how its operating system functions. We talk about algorithms, but how exactly they learn and process information is beyond 99% of users.

This creates a disconnect between users and machines, which leads us to think they are somehow radically separate from social structures we perceive as human: racism and misogyny for example. How can a machine be racist? But we know--and in Science and Technology Studies we are in consensus on this point--that algorithms and technologies not only can be racist, but are most often so. They emerge from contexts determined by the same social field that molds our own beliefs and experiences. Algorithms draw on data, often human-gathered or human-generated, to "learn." Any one can see this by going over to Google and typing in a phrase like "Why are black people..." and witness the horrific auto-completion suggestions that populate in the search bar.

What does this have to do with jails? The Mayor's plan offers *no specific solutions* to managing and shrinking jail populations, or even to directing bail reform. All it does, and it does this often, is defer to a vague category: technology. But we know, having studied and experienced the criminal punishment system, that even a seemingly sympathetic judge, cop, or guard will often enact the structural racism of their position regardless of feelings. That's because racism, like misogyny and xenophobia, are structures. And as structures, they are reproduced in any algorithm or technology that emerges out of societies built on those structures.

Specifically, the "risk evaluation" tools being celebrated as innovative reforms are catastrophic, and are absolutely certain to reproduce racial bias. Supervised release will do the same.

In the history of the prison system, almost every single reform has been driven by a belief that technology, design, or innovation would fundamentally change the system for the better. And every time, it has gotten worse. The exact same reform spirit that many councilmembers claim to have when approaching this plan, I have seen expressed by wardens in the 1920s in Georgia

in my research. The same belief in technological solutions I have seen from the 18th century through the present--it never goes away and it literally always fails.

The solution is in people, in communities. And we know what they need, without asking algorithms: food security, housing security, job security, family members at home instead of in jail, quality education. And luckily these are cheaper than what rich foundations want to sell us, and definitely cheaper than locking people in cages (\$270,000 a year in NYC).

If you vote against this plan, you'll have taken a brave step toward helping the people of our city who need it most, and you'll be remembered for it. If you vote for it, you'll be remembered for that too, and every step of this plan's fall into abject failure will bring up your name again.

Regards,
Ian Alexander

--

Ian J. Alexander
PhD Candidate
Media, Culture, and Communication
New York University
ianjamesalexander@nyu.edu

VOTE NO on the Jails

Hello,

My name is Dragana Zoric, I am an architect and landscape architect, architecture Professor (at Pratt Institute and Columbia University). I am a long time resident (since 2003) of Chatham Towers at 180 Park Row in Chinatown. I am now a mom of two boys ages 2 and 4.

I strongly oppose the new jail proposed for 124-125 White Street. I oppose it for the following reasons:

1. The City has not acted in good faith. The process has not been fair, transparent, nor responsive to community concerns. It has been fast-tracked by city officials with goal of building these new mega-institutions with the singular agenda of the Mayor; the community has not been involved in the process in a fair and just way. There have not been enough opportunities for the community to speak, the ulurp did not have adequate public input and there was never a discussion or any options as to site. It all came to the community as a done deal and non-negotiable. This is not how city government should work.
2. Our neighborhood already has 3 jails. Our community is not affluent and we bear the brunt of the borough's and the city's prison system. It is not fair.
3. Our Mayor, who promotes ideas and processes of social and racial justice, implements those by hurting other disenfranchised poor immigrant communities. The jail reform is being pushed through at the expense of people of Asian origin, Asian-Americans and recent immigrants. Asians are the poorest ethnic group in the city – it is well documented. It is not right nor is it fair. The ethical thing would be to put the jail in a more affluent community where it would have less of an impact.
4. The Mayor and City keep changing their story as to how many beds, what the plan is, etc. It is clear that the City doesn't have a plan and has not taken a deep nor a long term view of our community into consideration relative to the implementation of this jail.
5. The Lippman Report included developers (Related Companies) on its advisory group but no experts in corrections. Subsequent reports from corrections experts have put into question the viability and veracity of the jail plan noting the extreme complexities in housing a jail population in a high rise in a densely populated area. The jail layout must be highly regulated due to health issues, mental but also infectious diseases. In order for inmates to be housed according to health code, relative to known infectious diseases that must be planned for, it was noted that the hvac system in a high rise would be huge and complicated (in Rikers, infectious diseases are separated into different buildings). The Lippman makes no mention of important things like this and therefore has little competence and credibility.
6. The City has not planned for a lengthy construction which would disrupt our already disrupted traffic clogged streets, not to mention the demolition of a building that has lead and asbestos. The City has provided no plan nor any assurance of anything related to the physical safety and environmental conditions of our neighborhood's residents.

7. The building is a giant monstrosity which is not in character with our neighborhood. It will cast a shadow over Columbus Park making it unusable and uncomfortable to spend time in. Columbus Park is the living room of our community, a community of low income people who cannot afford gyms, clubs etc. Additionally, the incentive=s that the city is claiming that the community is getting are a giant falsehood. The community space on the ground floor is 8' wide! This comes through from a friend and colleague involved on the city side of things. An 8 foot wide space and a statue are the contributions to our community. What a travesty.
8. I support criminal justice reform, including the new legislative changes underway. I recognize the urgency and need to address the inhumane conditions within Rikers Island, and the Manhattan Detention Center. The corrections officers union (and Norman Seabrook as it has been widely reported) operate like the mafia with their patterns of systematic abuse and cover-ups. The Mayors administration has not been able to fix this (their plan to break up Rikers abuses is the construction of new jails). These problems will migrate to the borough jails. This will be a disaster.
9. The City again chose the WRONG site. It is too small of a footprint. Collect Pond was 60 feet deep and the soil conditions are not appropriate for a 45 story tower. There is a building in downtown currently under construction on Maiden Lane which is sinking.
10. This will be built with taxpayer money and our community needs the funds for our children's education, our elderly, the homeless, infrastructure and transit.

PLEASE VOTE NO.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Dragana Zoric

dzoric1020@gmail.com

Pls vote NO on DeBlasio's proposal on prisons

Dear Councilman and Councilwoman

Deblasio would like to destroy anything doesn't work for him instead of fixing it.

Pls vote NO to his proposal on prisons. We and our families deserve a better plan!

Thanks

Melanie
NYC resident

Qing Liu
azaleeinternational@gmail.com

Vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal

Dear Council Member,

My name is Tara Reis and I have been a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

Kew Gardens is a safe, stable, unique, and tight-knit community. A high-rise jail has no place in Kew Gardens. There are so many problems that this facility would create, from negatively impacting our local infrastructure (traffic, subway, etc.), security, and quality of life. Not to mention, a 19-story building would be an eyesore in an area generally populated with lower-rise buildings.

The notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities where they are built and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded--especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost should be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail--no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote **no** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,
Tara Reis

Tara T
tarrita@gmail.com

No New Jails - Vote No on New Borough Jails

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to implore you to vote no on the New York City Borough-Based Jail System proposal.

Firstly, I oppose this project in any shape or form, as no new jails should be built. The goal of NYC should be reducing its prison population - period. Closing down Rikers - period. We should not be building more jails to accommodate a racist, classist justice system. The multi-billion dollar budget for this proposal should be re-appropriated to projects that will actually improve our communities, not divide them.

I am a lifelong resident of Kew Gardens and a professional urban planner with a masters in planning. Whoever created this plan should be ashamed of the lack of transparency surrounding this project and the lack of community engagement in creating the initial scope of the project. Putting aside the ethical issue of opening new jails, this is just a terrible planning proposal, with no regard for community character, infrastructure, nearby schools (two blocks away), and density/capacity. On top of the outrageously large scope of the project (triple the current size of the existing detention center), which will surely lead to undesirable zoning changes and a strain on existing infrastructure, the plan also calls for the construction of the property on an existing parking lot that was JUST opened last year in March 2018. What a waste of taxpayer money, and a total sham of a project to alleviate parking concerns in a very congested neighborhood.

I do not oppose this project out of NIMBYism. I would feel the same way if it was being built in Flushing or another Queens neighborhood. I oppose this project out of an ethical commitment to racial justice and an end to mass incarceration. Rikers is an abomination and must be closed, but the solution to ending mass incarceration is not building shiny new community jails. Our communities need more efficient public transportation, improved infrastructure, thriving parks and open spaces, job opportunities, safe streets, and good public schools. We do not need a mega-jail that will dominate the streetscape and continue a legacy of mass incarceration.

This is an awful project on every level. It does not belong in Kew Gardens or anywhere in the five boroughs. I know enough about planning to know that these public comments will be pushed to the side and ignored. This proposal will go through any way, despite tremendous community opposition, and the administration will pretend it is a moral victory and a community benefit. But this isn't a new bike line - this is a new jail that will cage humans.

Please, listen to the valid concerns of the community. End cash bail and reduce the prison population that way. No new jails, period.

Thank you,
Lucia Cappuccio
lcappucc@gmail.com

VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Members,

AS A LIFE-LONG QUEENS RESIDENT CURRENTLY RESIDING IN FOREST HILLS, I URGE YOU NOT TO ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS!

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED! HIS REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens, the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee Stadium-size high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from P.S. 99 and in close proximity to seven other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all five boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all five boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities; cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways; and add thousands of people to already-packed buses, trains and subway platforms.

Additionally, the demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us.

And finally, Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years, with no end in sight, in the same location as the proposed jail.

I have been told that this the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote, and that there are no concrete plans in the jail proposal; it is only a concept!

In sum, this proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass!

I urge you to vote NO, as did all five Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to vote NO, please abstain!

Very truly yours,

RUTH GURSKY

1-** 71 Road, Forest Hills 11375**

mrlawyer@aol.com

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
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This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you,
Erica Lazarow
7*** 113th street

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS SUBJECT: WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

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This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you,

Luis Mercado

<luis.a.mercado1@gmail.com>

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Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Respectfully,
Dana Porcello, Forest Hills, NY
<dana.catok@yahoo.com>

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear NYC Council member,

My name is Harold Finkel and I am a resident of Holliswood, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight. Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place. Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of nyc-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We in Holliswood were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget. How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Holliswood resident, urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17.

Sincerely,

Harold Finkel

<dado2teens@aol.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

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This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Colic

Forest Hills Resident and concerned father

<petermcolic@gmail.com>

Vote NO on 4 high-rise jails in community areas!

Dear Council Members:

My name is Chien Kwok and I am a resident of Manhattan and voter. I am writing to urge you to vote NO to the City Council's proposal to open 4 high-rise jails in community areas. We should keep Rikers Island open, use some of the \$11+ billion to rebuild it and the rest to build new homes for every NYCHA resident and the homeless, invest in mental healthcare, improve education, create jobs for youth, and invest in communities.

The Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

The Lippman Commission proposed borough-based jails so as to bring detainees close to their families and provide a benefit to the communities themselves; neither is true for Kew Gardens: Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community. The proposed facility in KG will see 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood having less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees. Staten Island will not build a jail, and their residents will be detained in the other 4 boroughs!

Costs of busing detainees to court won't be eliminated, as claimed, as the system requires all detainees to be tried in the borough they are arrested in, rather than their borough of residence.

Rikers Island currently has outdoor space that can be used for recreation, however the high-rise jails proposed by the Mayor cannot accommodate these outside spaces.

After criminal law reform and new government policies are implemented, the total number of detainees is expected to range from 3,000 to 5,000. This figure is much smaller than the current population of 7,000 at Rikers. Why are so many billions of dollars (the initial estimate is \$11 billion, which may rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion after financing costs) being committed for so few people, when the City already needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, and other venues that benefit communities?

Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult, or even impossible, to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency?

High-rise jails will overwhelm their surrounding communities, not only by its height and footprint, but also as a large penal institution operating 24/7 in an already congested community.

Rikers Island CAN be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal would require. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds? Not to mention these four new jails may deteriorate into high-rise slums if not maintained, as happened to the jails at Rikers and to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, which at its opening in 1975 was hailed in the NY Times as an "advance in jail design!"

If Rikers' most serious problem is allegedly its culture and treatment of detainees, why can't these issues be addressed internally on Rikers Island instead? And won't the same problem get exported to any new jail? Solve the root cause problem.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO Thursday on building community jails in the 4 boroughs.

Thank you,
Chien Kwok
<chien_kwok@yahoo.com>

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you.

Fang Li

1**-** 71ST Road

Forest Hills, NY 11375

Fang
wangfangyue@gmail.com

Vote NO against a new jail in a community of color

Council Member Johnson,

On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. So far, you have done nothing to stop it. But you can still prove you care about the people of the South Bronx.

ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.

There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Miguel Troche

mick410@icloud.com

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Ms. Rodriguez
krodriguez1991@gmail.com

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Liz Paredes

liz.paredes@bronxriver.org

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Marna Rann

mer311@msn.com

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Tara Garcia

taritag421@gmail.com

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Joshua Amaro

jamaro1986@gmail.com

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Quressa Robinson
quressa@gmail.com

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Tyreke Israel

tyrekeisrael3@icloud.com

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Nita L Daisy Vaughn
vaughnanita50@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

hijadejah2003@yahoo.com

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is Lindsay Seeger and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my **strong opposition** to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight. Not to mention the recent "court-house" escapes, with the sounds of helicopters encircling our neighborhood on a daily basis it now seems, our level of public safety as a community is already at risk.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded - especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Garden resident, urge you to vote **NO** to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Seeger
11415

l.seeger24@gmail.com

Vote NO against a new jail in a community of color

Council Member Johnson,

On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. So far, you have done nothing to stop it. But you can still prove you care about the people of the South Bronx.

ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.

There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Angela Oppenheimer
angie23opp@icloud.com

Please vote NO on Borough-Based Jail Plan

Dear City Council Member:

I urge you to vote NO on this proposal.

This proposal ignores the Lippmann Commission recommendations which stated that:

- 1) Jails must not be sited in residential communities
- 2) Jails should not be near schools
- 3) Jails should not house more than 500 detainees.

The reference to "should" does not underscore the clear and strong recommendations.

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This is the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote.

There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Please send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Anahid Ugurlayan
Forest Hills, NY

anahide@aol.com

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A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Inna Sobel

innasobel@hotmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Raymond keevins
rayk1883@gmail.com

My name is Frances Wright and I'm a resident of Forest Hills, NY. I am writing to urge each of you to vote "no" to the borough based jail project.

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

The plan is ill conceived and does not address all of the issues that currently plague Rikers Island. Specifically, it does nothing to change the treatment of the inmates. There needs to be a plan that makes sure that inmates are treated humanely by all, especially the guards. This plan simply spreads the same guards across 4 boroughs, without doing anything to affect real change. This plan is a slap in the face to the very people it is intending to help, as well as the communities that will have these jails.

The community involvement in developing this plan has been minimal. The public events were barely advertised, and the "community committee" involved was composed of appointees from the Mayor's Office. At one public event that I did find out about, the representatives from the mayors office did not stay to hear the comments from the community. This speaks volumes about how much they care to hear our voices, and I for one do not appreciate this plan being shoved down our throats.

This plan completely ignores the recommendations from the Lippman Commission regarding a new jail. The plan states the following:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

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These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms.

The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us.

Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote.

There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far

too many communities
and people to allow it to pass.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you,
Frances Wright
franwright75@gmail.com

Vote NO against a new jail in a community of color

Council Member Johnson,

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Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" -Hellen Keller

Karen

karenallisonkennedy@gmail.com

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE “NO” TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

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This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote.

There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities

and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you

cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Please do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full

community involvement.

Sincerely,

A Forest Hills resident who works in Kew Gardens

~~~

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while you might miss it.

-Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Shireen K.

skhan0402@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

zoraida marquez  
luvmycny217@yahoo.com

Please vote NO on Bourugh Based jails for the good of the entire City of New York

As a resident of Queens, and a taxpayer and voter of the City of New York, I urge you to vote NO tomorrow on the current Borough Based Jails proposal. Our criminal justice system must be fixed, but this plan is an expansive concept which provides no assurance that it will solve the problem, while subjecting communities in four boroughs to hardships, all at great cost to the City. Some significant points are:

- 1) The Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a *concept* of their jail, no design, no plans, no substantiated budget. At the Council hearing on September 5, Department of Correction officials could not describe proposed programs, or even how many corrections officers would be employed in the new jails.
- 2) The Lippman Commission had suggested *community-based* jails which would be close to detainees' families and benefit the community. Borough jails are not neighborhood jails.
- 3) Costs of busing detainees to court will not be eliminated, as claimed, since the system requires that all detainees be tried in the borough in which they are arrested.
- 4) On Rikers Island there are **outdoor areas** for recreation, but not in these high-rise jails.
- 5) After the criminal law reform laws and new government policies are implemented, expected total number of detainees should range from 3,000 to 5,000, much lower than the current 7,000 population. Why are so many billions of dollars (\$11 billion, initial estimate, that might rise to \$25 billion or \$30 billion, including financing costs) being committed to benefit so few people who will be detained -- *and generally for less than one year* -- when the City needs so much money for the homeless, education, housing, NYCHA, transportation, etc.?
- 6) Why is the City undertaking the risk of confining so many detained people in high-rise jails that may be difficult or even impossible to evacuate safely in case of a fire or other emergency?
- 7) A tall high-rise jails will overwhelm their communities both by height and mass and by the nature of the activity attributable to such large penal institutions operating round the clock, seven days a week
- 8) Rikers Island can certainly be rebuilt, renovated and made habitable, safe and accessible for far less money than the Mayor's proposal. Why won't the Council do the proper cost study before deciding on such a lavish, wasteful expenditure of funds on four new jails which may deteriorate into high-rise slums?
- 9) If Rikers' most serious problem is alleged to be its culture and treatment of detainees, that can be fixed on Rikers Island, as well as in any new buildings misplaced around the City.
- 10) This City Council will regret its legacy if -- or when -- New York becomes known worldwide as the City with the four skyscraper jails.

PLEASE VOTE NO AND FORCE RECONSIDERATION OF THE CONCEPT TO BETTER SERVE ALL CITY RESIDENTS!

Alfred H Brand  
Kew Gardens, Queens

alfredhbrand@aol.com

Vote NO against a new jail in a community of color

Council Member Johnson,

On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. So far, you have done nothing to stop it. But you can still prove you care about the people of the South Bronx.

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Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Josephine Byrne  
midwife522@gmail.com

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Shakiya Snipes

shakiyaes@hotmail.com

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\_\_ BEING

shawna345@gmail.com

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angie almeyda  
almeydaangie@yahoo.com

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Nancy Molina  
nancymolina64@gmail.com

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Anthony Williams  
smartbrother21@yahoo.com

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Zaris Mota

zaris.mota@gmail.com

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marlenecintron  
marlenecintron@aol.com

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Shirlene

Knykki86@aol.com

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Franchie Muniz  
franchiemuniz@gmail.com

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A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

RONALD GARNER  
samson1961@verizon.net

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Darlene

D\_Collet@msn.com

## WE URGE YOU TO VOTE “NO” TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

### **YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.**

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

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This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

I truly appreciate your time!

Haley

Haley Frankenberg  
haleyfrankenberg@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Liz Rodriguez  
rodriguez.lisy@gmail.com

Vote NO against a new jail in a community of color

Council Member Johnson,

On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. So far, you have done nothing to stop it. But you can still prove you care about the people of the South Bronx.

**ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.**

There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Marilyn Irizarry  
onixpeg@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Nilsa-Amalia Saniel  
<saninil@yahoo.com>

During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."

~George Orwell~

Your ethical obligation to New Yorkers, to vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

My name is John Carter and I am a resident of Kew Gardens, Queens. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Mayor's proposal to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails.

For Kew Gardens, this means the destruction of a stable community that we as residents have spent decades building and caring for. A round-the-clock high-rise facility will increase traffic in our already heavily-congested streets, as well as put strains on our public transportation, parking, water, sewage and sanitation, with no solution in sight.

Furthermore, the notion that borough-based jails will provide benefit to the communities they are built in and allow detainees' families to be closer to their incarcerated loved ones is unfounded -especially considering the system requires all detainees to be tried in the *borough they are arrested in*, rather than their borough of residence. In particular, Kew Gardens will house far more detainees than live in or near our community, with the facility proposed here seeing 25 percent of 4600 jail beds despite the neighborhood providing less than 15 percent of all Queens detainees.

This proposal is not only a detriment to my community, but it is one that adversely affects all of New York City. The billions of dollars that this venture will cost can be redirected toward reforming Rikers and rebuilding it to be habitable, as well as toward rehabilitative programs for at-risk communities to prevent crime in the first place.

Most concerning is the fact that elected officials are not holding themselves accountable for the interests of NYC-taxpayers and the voters who entrusted them to take office. The bid to close Rikers is unclear and undemocratic. We (the immediately affected communities) were not consulted for input on the proposal before finding out about it in a low-key press release on August 15. Not to mention, the Department of Correction and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have only provided a concept of their jail- no design, no plans, no substantiated budget.

How can the Council vote to approve the construction of four costly jails, which will harm our communities, without a concrete understanding of the results or consequences (financial and otherwise) of doing so?

In closing, I, as a New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, urge you to vote *no* to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.

Sincerely,

John Carter  
11415  
carterjp24@gmail.com

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Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

kit600a

kit600a@aol.com

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE “NO” TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

**YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.**

**THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:**

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men’s Jail PLUS a Women’s Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

Do not allow this proposal to pass. Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Sincerely,

Stefanie L. Aguirre

Forest Hills, NY 11375 Resident

saguirre28@gmail.com

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

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**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank you

An extremely concerned long time Queens resident who has lived in Forest Hills for 30 years

Tom Spinoso

<thomspin58@gmail.com>

I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

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Peter Taub

Forest Hills, Queens

<ptaub44@gmail.com>

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Regards,

Jia Chen from Forest Hills

<jiajiachen11@gmail.com>

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**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

J. Rambaran  
FH, NY  
<jrgotham@verizon.net>

Dear Council Member,

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**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement. OR better yet, keep the jail on Rikers Island with renovations and necessary improvements.

**SINCERELY,**  
**KELLEY ARCHER**

<kssd5@yahoo.com>

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

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--

Sebastian Gordon-Somers-Archer  
<sjgsa1997@gmail.com>

## I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" for Kew Gardens JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,  
I currently live in a home in Forest Hills for the past 20 + years. I convinced my daughter and her family to move here recently, and I am not happy about my grandchildren living near a jail. The homeless situation has become very bad. I can only imagine having a jail within walking distance will make matters worse. I worked very hard to own my own home. I do not want to see the value plummet. This is a residential neighborhood with hard working people. There are many areas in the city with commercial zoning where you can turn a warehouse into a jail.

### **YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.**

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Thank You  
Marilyn Hertz  
Homeowner  
Forest Hills, NY  
<imh730@aol.com>

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**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Ann Macklin  
<amacklin@nyc.rr.com>

Vote NO to Borough Based Jail project

Dear Council Member,

I have lived in **Forest Hills** for the past 60 years, and this is perhaps the worst proposal I have seen which will adversely affect all the residents of Queens and the other boroughs!

**YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.**

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Leonard M. Fogelman, Esq.

<lmf@fogelmanlawfirm.com>

*With offices in New York and Massachusetts*

Vote NO to Jail Project

Dear Council Member,

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**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Abel Hassan

7\*-\*\* 113 th Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375

<[abelbilou@yahoo.com](mailto:abelbilou@yahoo.com)>

Oppose and vote NO on the Borough Based Jails Proposal.

Dear Council member,

Politicians get a bad name for throwing tax dollars at perceived problems instead of rolling up their sleeves and doing the hard work to actually solve the problem. We throw money at failing schools, create new jobs to placate political activists and now we are spending \$8 Billion to build jails for some unspecified future number of inmates – which amounts to over \$1,000 per NYC citizen when you considered all costs and about \$1,600,000 per inmate bed. Moreover we are doing this at the same time that we are changing bail laws, eliminating jail time for low level offenses and claiming to put too many people in jail.

Can you imagine telling shareholders of any major corporation that you are spending \$8 Billion dollars to build capacity for a business operation yet you have no idea how many customers will be served – and to make matters worse the target market is shrinking – and you have an existing site (Rikers) that will have tremendous excess capacity once the market shrinks. You would be fired the next day for incompetence.

This decision to relocate the problems of Rikers to other jails is the same old tired approach to solving government problems – create a public works project or throw money at it so that officials can say they are “doing something” about it. The responsible way to solve Rikers is to change the bail, sentencing, etc... and roll up your sleeves to modernize Rikers, use teleconferencing and create a new transport strategy when inmates must be transported. Building new jails simple wastes vital taxpayer money that could be spent on schools, homelessness and the terrible shape of our public parks, transportation system and roads.

In addition to the lack of a business case, the scale and nature of the proposed site show total disregard for communities who oppose it and instead shows a myopic focus on his one goal of closing Rikers. For example, adding the Kew Gardens monstrous structure will cast a long dark shadow and ominous symbol across the Briarwood Shelter, local schools within blocks of the site and charming residential views of the rare open space skyline. Riker’s Island can be renovated and modernized, but the Mayor wants his option to rule – the way to stop this is through your office and other council members. If citizens knew the real numbers such as all the delivery trucks, protests, visitors, construction disasters and the assault on the existing services and infrastructure of the community they will most certainly vote against the structure.

Our communities are in need of so many other services and facilities to help families and provide a place for teenagers to meet and have alternatives to spend their time and energy – and yet, for example, we leave Flushing Meadow park a disaster covered with debris, broken benches, tarnished fixtures, poor drainage and poorly maintained facilities. Flushing Meadows

could be a gem and catalyst for bringing our communities together for the arts, sports events, family gathering, etc. yet instead it's an insult to the citizens paying taxes. Flushing Meadows is only one example of many that beg for NYC investment and now the Mayor wants to use taxpayer dollars to create better conditions for a small number of criminals instead of thousands of citizens of Queens - \$1.6 Million per bed – ridiculous.

The priorities are all wrong and not forward-looking – we need to solve more important problems before creating new problems for our communities.

**As a lifelong New Yorker and Kew Gardens resident, I urge you to vote no to the Mayor's proposal on October 17th.**

Respectfully,  
John F. Doyle  
doylej001@gmail.com

I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

**YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.**

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We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Risa Matzner  
<rfmnrn12@gmail.com>

## WE URGE YOU TO VOTE “NO” TO BOROUGH-BASED JAIL PROJECT

Dear Council Member,

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS

JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet

Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools

Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center

A Men’s Jail PLUS a Women’s Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs

A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

**Do not allow this proposal to pass.** Send it back to the Planning Commission to be reworked, this time with full community involvement.

Rosa A Mota

<RosaAMota@msn.com>

Vote NO against a new jail in a community of color

Council Member Johnson,

Today, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven.

**WE URGE YOU TO VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.** There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard.

More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely, A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

--

**Jessica Clemente, MUP**

President/Chief Executive Officer

We Stay/Nos Quedamos

754 Melrose Avenue Bronx, New York 10451

Office: 718-585-2323 Fax: 718-585-8628

E-mail: [jclemente@nosquedamos.org](mailto:jclemente@nosquedamos.org)

Web Site: [www.nosquedamos.org](http://www.nosquedamos.org)

***To engage, empower and transform our community!***



*A Coalition of Homeowners, Tenants, Property Owners, Institutions, and Business Persons Who are Resolved to Remain a Part of the Melrose Community and Become Equal Partners With the City of New York in Our Community's Redevelopment.*

Please, please please, dont vote yes on clising of Rikers. Fix it n make it more humane as well as accesible.

Elise M

[elise.mora.em@gmail.com](mailto:elise.mora.em@gmail.com)

Vote No to Borough Based Jails

Dear Council Member

Please vote no, you can stand on your own, you don't have to vote as a block (herd mentality) you will stand out much more for your independent thinking.

Thank you

Paul Winter

<pwinter@steinmetzinternational.com>

AGAINST the new Chinatown Jail

Hello,

I'm writing to urge you to push against the new Chinatown jail proposed for 125 White Street. Even the shorter jail is unacceptable:

- The new construction will harm the health of the most vulnerable in the community.
- It will damage the character of one of New York's most historic immigrant neighborhoods and one of the few remaining affordable, community centers in Manhattan.
- Putting it in Chinatown is taking advantage of an underrepresented and poorer group of Manhattanites and is deeply disrespectful of race and class issues in the city.
- The proposed jail is across from another proposed city project: the Chinatown Gateway project. What will it look like to the tens of thousands of tourists who come to New York's Chinatown each year to see a jail under construction right next to the welcoming center?

The existing detention center is bad enough, building on top of it will be bad for Chinatown and bad for New York.

About me: I live in the neighborhood at 138 Eldridge St, 4A and have been there for four years (and in NYC for 15). I'm a software professional and currently work as a VP of Engineering for an online media company.

While I fully support reforming Rikers, the city needs to consider better plans to do so.

Thank you for your help finding a better solution and pushing against this jail,

Alec Turnbull  
alec.turnbull@gmail.com

## Closing Rikers Island

I oppose the plan to close Rikers Island and spend \$billions to build new jails. The money would be better spent building low income housing, which would benefit thousands of income New Yorkers who need affordable apartments. This would also create thousands of construction jobs, which could be given to first time nonviolent offenders through a partnership with the trade unions. Public funds should be prioritized to first help people who have NOT broken the law.

Joel Levenson

joelnyny@yahoo.com

## Rikers Island

Do not close Rikers Island prison. Your first responsibility is for the safety of the general public. Smaller local prisons and reduction of bail will make the streets less safe. Keep the prisoners isolated on an island and go back to the old rules for bail. Intimidation of witnesses is becoming a threat to public safety.

Pamela Lehrer

pamelalehrer@gmail.com

No borough jails - build therapeutic jail campus on Rikers

Dear Speaker Johnson,

The NYC criminal justice system absolutely needs reform and there is no question that the current Rikers is inhumane.

But building new borough jails is not the solution!

1. Borough jails will be incredibly costly, will lack space for good facilities, therapeutic services, medical, recreation etc.
2. The Manhattan high-rise, will add to overcrowding in the area; high-rise buildings destroy communities and civic involvement.
3. People will be housed where they are arrested, so no guarantee they will be closer to family.
4. Women will be in Queens, not closer to family in other boroughs.
5. Borough jails complicates staffing logistics/coverage and stress for corrections staff.
6. Borough jails do not address the essential issue about staff dysfunction and brutality.
7. Local hospitals already overcrowded will not be able to handle detainees who need hospitalization whereas Elmhurst already has facilities.
8. NYC should be using available space for affordable housing - not jails.
9. There has been no information about what Rikers would be used for instead, leading to speculation this is about deals for the real estate industry.

What is needed:

Reduce the number of people jailed.

Build a new and decent facility on Rikers - a campus with good facilities, greenery (expand gardening program), space for recreation, excellent medical, therapeutic services, vocational services. It will be less costly and better.

Offer free transportation to families visiting Rikers.

Develop major initiative to improve behavior of guards, including therapeutic training.

Sincerely,

Jerry Saltzman  
10023  
jsaltzman140@aol.com

## Say NO to Mayor's jail plan

Dear Councilmember,

I am a Manhattan resident, resident of your district and a lifelong New Yorker. I have been active in civic and community affairs as a nonprofit executive, president of my tenant association, member of Chinatown's Gee How Oak Tin Assn and active in many other organizations. I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the proposed jail for 124-125 White Street in Manhattan and those in Queens, Bromx, and Brooklyn. This plan will destroy Chinatown and stable neighborhoods in the other boroughs.

There are many flaws to this plan that will be disastrous for the local neighborhoods and New York City as a whole. At a cost of billions of tax dollars, this is an expensive and poorly conceived plan that, in the end, will not achieve the goals of true criminal justice reform, and instead will be destructive to many different communities.

Here are just some of my objections to the Manhattan jail site :

1. The proposed jail will be among the tallest jail in the country. A vertical structure for a jail is dangerous and difficult to operate. This puts everyone from staff, detainees and the community at risk. Corrections professionals have warned the public about this untested jail structure. If elevators malfunction or there is a fire or other disaster, what are the guarantees and safeguards in place to prevent a catastrophe?
2. Buildings do not, in and of themselves, create change. I can point to countless 'bricks and mortar' solutions to social problems that have failed and failed miserably. The abuse and violent culture in Rikers Island will not be reversed simply by transferring everyone to a beautiful new facility. There has been insufficient details about the building and even less information in the plans about how the system will be changed within a new building.
3. The 10 year plan of demolition and construction will destroy the already vulnerable Chinatown neighborhood of small shopkeepers, senior housing, and families living in small tenement apartments. The demolition/construction noise, diminished/toxi air quality, traffic congestion, etc. will further repel commerce and foot traffic to the area.
4. The height of the proposed structure will effectively block air, light, circulation and visibility and blockade Chinatown from the west. Chinatown will be essentially walled off. Moreover, shadows cast by the tower would send Chinatown's already narrow streets into even greater darkness year round.
5. The near closure of White Street by turning it into a pedestrian 'tunnel' takes away already limited public space from the community. When the current jail was built, the entire plaza was promised as a pedestrian plaza and it has, almost since the beginning, been commandeered by the DOC (without authority or approval) and used as a parking lot. In light of this, we do not trust that any promises of public amenities will be kept.
6. The amount of staffing and support services to run a facility of this size will result in more traffic and strain on transit to the area. Already the narrow streets are congested with cars and the subway stations are crumbling and perilously crowded at peak times.

The ULURP process is also deeply flawed. The original scoping for the project was for a different physical site. After the site was changed from 80 Centre Street to 124-125 White Street, there should have been a new scoping and DEIS prepared, but that didn't happen. Instead, the planners simply crossed out the 80 Centre St. address and inserted 124-125 White Street! This is simply irresponsible and a complete dereliction of duty. Also, the idea of one ULURP process for 4 sites in 4 separate boroughs is simply illogical. Land use issues are completely different for each site.

There has been very little community engagement and input in the development of this plan. It has been foisted on the community as a near 'fait accompli' and this is particularly disturbing. It is a massive structure, monstrously expensive and there is little to no accountability. In ten years (estimated construction time), few of the elected officials and administrators pushing this plan will likely be around. When it fails, it will fail miserably and the ones left to face the consequences are the most vulnerable citizens of the City – local residents, business owners, corrections staff, the incarcerated detainees and their families.

For a project as large, costly and important as this, it is important to do it right. I am perplexed by the forces trying to ramrod this flawed plan through. I can only imagine that the good of the people in and out of Rikers is being sacrificed for some kind of quick political gain. In the end, all New Yorkers lose.

I urge you to do what is right for the citizens you represent and vote a resounding "NO" to this plan.

These billions of dollars are better spent on other critical City needs like affordable housing, improved transit and infrastructure .

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Chin

2\*\* W 29 St

NY NY 10001

chinowitz@aol.com

## VOTE NO ON BOROUGH JAIL PROJECT

WOULD YOU WANT TO LITERALLY LIVE NEXT TO ONE OF THESE JAILS?

WOULD YOU WANT YOUR CHILD OR AGED PARENT TO LIVE NEXT TO THESE JAILS?

WOULD YOU WELCOME THE BURDEN AND LIABILITY OF HAVING THESE FACILITIES IN YOUR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD?

Voting "yes" ON this project demands you question your morality, decency and concern for the neighborhoods you represent. The shame will stay and stain you - not just professionally but personally as well as your family and associates. PLEASE - IN ALL CONSCIENCE - VOTE NO!

Patricia Homison

Queens Resident

### **YOU MUST NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO PASS.**

THE LIPPMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAILS ARE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED:

- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE SITED IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
- JAILS SHOULD NOT BE NEAR SCHOOLS
- JAILS SHOULD NOT HOUSE MORE THAN 500 DETAINEES

In Kew Gardens the proposed jail will be:

- A Yankee- Stadium- sized high-rise of 1.3 million square feet
- Across the street from PS 99 and in close proximity to 7 other schools
- Provide beds for two times the number of detainees of the former 500-bed Queens Detention Center
- A Men's Jail PLUS a Women's Jail for detainees from all 5 boroughs
- A Dialysis Center for detainees from all 5 boroughs

These massive jails will overshadow residential communities, cause adverse environmental impacts of congested traffic to already overburdened streets and highways, and add thousands of people to already packed buses, trains and subway platforms. The demolition and years of construction will affect the health of seniors, children, and the more fragile among us. Kew Gardens already has a major highway construction project which has gone on for 10 years with no end in sight in the same location as the proposed jail.

This the first time in New York City history that a design/build ULURP for four boroughs is subject to one Council vote. There are no concrete plans in the jail proposal. It is only a concept. This proposal impacts far too many communities and people to allow it to pass.

We urge you to vote NO as did all 5 Community Boards in the impacted areas and two Borough Presidents. If you cannot bring yourself to buck the rising tide in the Council with a NO vote, then you must abstain.

**Do not allow this proposal to pass.**

Patricia Homison

<pgh1029@hotmail.com>

October 16, 2011

Dear Council member,

I am an associate professor at the City University of New York, a member of the Gee How Oak Tin Association on Bayard Street, and a member of the American Legion Benjamin Kimlau Post Auxillary on Canal Street in Chinatown. I am writing to request that you vote "No!" against building a giant skyscraper jail in Chinatown. My family has lived in Chinatown for generations and we protested the building of the jails back in the 1960s. No politicians listened.

I am concerned about the following:

- The impact of ten years of demolition + construction on ~~the~~ nearly 200 Chinese seniors living in senior housing
- Such a <sup>tall</sup> prison is counter to true prison reform. Prisoners need aid, support and access to outdoor space. What kind of space will ~~be~~ have squeezed into the tallest skyscraper jail in North America?

As a council member, you are our elected representative who is entrusted to do the right thing for our community.

The billions of dollars slotted for this project are better spent on other critical needs such as education, affordable housing, and support for the homeless.

Just vote "No" to this ill-conceived plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ava Chin  
108 East 91st Street  
NY NY 10128

Vote no on the City Jails issue

Dear Speaker Johnson:

Below is the email I sent to my Council Member, Karen Koslowitz, about the upcoming City jails vote tomorrow.

Please vote NO and slow down the process so we can work together across communities to come up with more thoughtful, more transparent, and better conceived solutions on how to mitigate resident's concerns while also meeting the goal of closing down Riker's Island. We are counting on you to exert your leadership on this issue.

Thank you,

Kathleen Wah Lee  
Kathywahlee@aol.com

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: kathywahlee <kathywahlee@aol.com>

Date: 10/16/2019 9:59 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Koslowitz@council.nyc.gov

Subject: Vote no on the City Jails issue

Dear Council Member Koslowitz:

I am a Forest Hills resident and one of your constituents. While I agree that the situation on Riker's Island is inhumane and dangerous, I don't believe that the Mayor's plan to build new jails in the four boroughs with the exception of Staten Island is well-conceived and I believe that the ULURP process has been less than transparent.

We deserve the opportunity and time to review other alternatives and to more effectively mitigate against health and safety factors raised by the communities that would be impacted.

Do the right thing and vote no, so that we can go back to the drawing board and do right by the communities that you serve as well as the inmates at Riker's and their loved ones.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wah Lee  
Kathywahlee@aol.com

**VOTE NO TO BOROUGH BASED JAILS!!**

Dear Council Members,

We already have three jails in Chinatown! When these detainees are released into our neighborhood, many who are mentally ill and homeless they will be in Chinatown and the Lower East. Our community already has more homeless shelters than any other. This is an unfair burden on one neighborhood. How would YOU like to have the jail across the street from your home!

Common sense would tell you vertical jails are not a good idea! In an emergency, how will these prisoners be evacuated safely from a 40 story building when elevators cannot be used and detainees will be racing against smoke conditions?

We ask you to VOTE NO!

Jeanie Chin

j chin

jvc1188@gmail.com

Plea to vote NO on Kew Gardens Jail

My name is Elizabeth Jarmel, and my family and I have been active, voting residents of Kew Gardens for the past 18 years.

On the eve of the vote regarding the Mayor's plan to construct a jail in Kew Gardens, I am writing to BEG you to vote AGAINST this proposal.

Our community simply cannot withstand the addition of this colossal jail. Kew Gardens is already an extremely congested location, and the courthouse is the most overcrowded, chaotic location within the neighborhood. The increased influx of people to and from the jail AND courthouse would be paralyzing. It would be a serious detriment to our quality of life.

On a personal note... my 9 year old son has had to endure TWO separate lockdowns at his elementary school, P.S. 99, within the last two weeks. Both lockdowns were related to persons who escaped custody at the courthouse across the street. The first criminal was called "dangerous" and "possibly armed" in a tweet from the NYPD. He fled straight up 83rd Ave and right past my son's school. The second criminal fled into the surrounding neighborhood, triggering a manhunt that lasted over an hour.

I am told these events are rare. But the frequency with which they have been occurring as of late is beyond alarming. The time spent while authorities searched for these convicts was agony for me. I should not have to send my son to school and be in mortal fear for his safety. 1200 prisoners should not be housed a stone's throw from where my son spends his days trying to learn. Prisons do not belong in residential neighborhoods, and ESPECIALLY not across the street from schools. In light of recent events, I can't trust that they would be protected.

PLEASE, PLEASE. For the sake of our community and the many children and families who live here, please vote NO to the Kew Gardens jail.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jarmel  
lizjarmel@gmail.com

Vote NO to the Mega-Jail Planned For Chinatown

To Our City Council Members:

I am a resident of Manhattan's Chinatown and director of local non-profit, Think!Chinatown, against the proposed new mega-jail at 124-125 White Street.

In this testimony I would like to raise:

1. the problematic nature of the process the city is using to implement this plan
2. the negative impacts the project will have on my neighborhood
3. the last-minute height reduction has not allowed time for community discussion and does not change my opposition to this plan
4. building on the area designated for pedestrian use between 124 & 125 White street is in direct violation of a community give-back of the current standing complexes. (DoC has since stolen that space from the community to use as their private parking lot).
5. the community "give-backs" are not what the community needs and do not compensate for what will be lost because of the plan.

Please see my attached letter I have thoughtfully written after attending many meetings regarding this plan,

Sincerely,

Yin Kong

*Resident of Chinatown*

*Director of Think!Chinatown*

*B.A. Urban Studies, Columbia University*

*M. Arch Urban Design, Bartlett School of Architecture*

yin@thinkchinatown.org



Yin Kong  
2\* Henry St Apt  
NYC, NY 10002

Oct 16, 2019

To the City Council:

I am a resident of Chinatown against the proposed new mega-jail at 124-125 White Street.

In this testimony I would like to raise:

- 1) the problematic nature of the process the city is using to implement this plan
- 2) the impacts the project will have on my neighborhood
- 3) the last-minute height reduction did not allow time for community discussion and does not change my opposition to this plan
- 4) building on the area designated for pedestrian use between 124 & 125 White street is in direct violation of a community give-back of the current standing complexes. (DoC has since stolen that space from the community to use as their private parking lot)
- 5) the community "give-backs" are not what we want, and do not compensate for what will be lost because of the plan.

**Compounding the scope of 4 ULURPs across 4 boroughs on 4 very different sites is the very example of malicious use of bureaucracy.** Because of the expansive scope, each site is not scrutinized to the full extent to study what this plan's impact will be on each community. The debacle of last week's testimony at City Hall is illustrative of how ineffective the current process is used to push this plan into action. After standing in line for 3.5 hours starting from 10 am, I still did not make it into the chambers to give my testimony. People who were able to testify did so after 5-6 hours of waiting. This is not making this process available to the elderly or to people who work full time jobs who cannot afford to take time off. Because of the span of the 4 ULURPs, and diversity of topics that needed to be discussed for each site, testimony that was able to reach the chamber's floors was not even in dialog with each other. The terrible conditions currently suffered by inmates at Riker's Island should not be in the same conversation as the safety and health of Chinatown seniors. Those two topics should not be related to each other, and putting them in the same conversation is pitting communities of color against each other. The discussions should be distinct and clear. **The need for justice reform is one conversation, how we implement each of the 4 boroughs should be 4 separate conversations.** Any other process is irresponsible at best but most likely it maliciously strategic.

I have many serious concerns over the economic and social impact on this vulnerable small business ecology and immigrant community. A ten-year plan of constant demolition and

construction will have tremendous negative impact on connectivity, circulation, and quality of life for all Chinatown resident. Because of the site's proximity to the well-used Columbus Park and its position between most of Chinatown and the N,Q subway stop entrance, this site will affect Chinatown resident's daily lives. I have not seen a plan put forth by the City to propose any mitigations for impacts to connectivity during this ten-year period. An entire decade of demolition and construction is an unforgivable burden for the City to put on our community which has already endured hardships from racial exclusionary practices to 9/11 fallout.

As someone with 2 degrees in Urban Studies/Design, I take issue with how this project has been represented by the city. This block-wide building going up 450 feet has not been rendered from the Bayard Street side of the neighborhood. From our side of the neighborhood, a rendering or diagram would show how this mammoth building would dwarf our historic neighborhood and change its character significantly. **A simple east-west section drawing would quickly reveal the disproportional scale of the proposed building.** Instead, the drawings released by the City do not convey the full scale of the project and its impact to the neighborhood. In my opinion, this is an intentional strategy and it is deceptive to the community.

**The plan to de-map White St is alarming, especially when the White Street plaza was intended to be a community give back when the City built the existing jails in the 1980's.** Correctional Officers have since taken over the public space once promised to the community to become their own parking lot. Building over this plaza is another example of the City's disregard to our community. Impact on pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and the plans for this building "cut through" needs to be investigated and communicated. At NAC meetings and the recent meeting at your office, the decommissioning of White St has been presented with a problematic narrative: the new plan will "create a car free zone" (meaning the tunnel). In fact White Street between Centre and Baxter has already been designated as a pedestrian car-free zone as a community concession with the building of the Tombs. It's part of the 1% For Art project. The scope of the art commission includes the paving, the mesh wire columns, and even tree designations by Chinese American artist Kit-Yin Snyder. By painting lines over the pavement to create parking lot spaces, DoC had defaced the artwork. Architectural Historian Kerri Culhane looked into the history of the site and could not find any paperwork for land use change from pedestrian space to parking lot. It should be the responsibility of DoC to produce paperwork for land-use change before moving forward with the ULURP.

The narrative needs to be corrected: this segment of White St was already designated to be car free. **DoC has been taking space from the community for decades.** We have to remember that the plans to building over White Street are not building over a DoC parking lot, that are building over a pedestrian plaza meant for the community. I have attached here renderings and blueprint drawings of the original pedestrian plaza on White St.

This history of DoC as a bad neighbor needs to be addressed. I think the City (not sure which office/Dept it would fall under) needs to create a report about the history of this site, how did a community space meant as a give back become a DoC parking lot and how do they propose to prevent a repeat?! I spoke with a representative from DDC and they are aware of the 1% for art and are making plans to relocate the art, but operators from your office and the Mayor's office were not aware of this history.

As a director of a non-profit based in Manhattan's Chinatown, I must also take issue with how poorly the city has taken on their duty of community engagement. Outreach in Chinese is the responsibility of the City if they are to build a project in our neighborhood. **Hiring a translator to show up at a hearing is only the smallest possible piece of an impactful engagement strategy. Relying on the selected NAC community members to represent and communicate the ideas to the rest of the community is unacceptable.** As someone who sat in on those meetings, I have to raise concerns over the efficacy of how the City used the time of the NAC and how they have not fully conveyed our concerns. This negligence in community outreach and engagement signifies either incompetence or malintent.

Justice reform is very much needed, but the burden of the City's guilt cannot be unfairly placed on our immigrant community. **A decade of large-scale demolition and construction will cause irrevocable damage to our amazing neighborhood.** Chinatown makes New York the unique city that it is, vote to protect us.

Sincerely,

Yin Kong

*Resident of Chinatown*

*Director of Think!Chinatown*

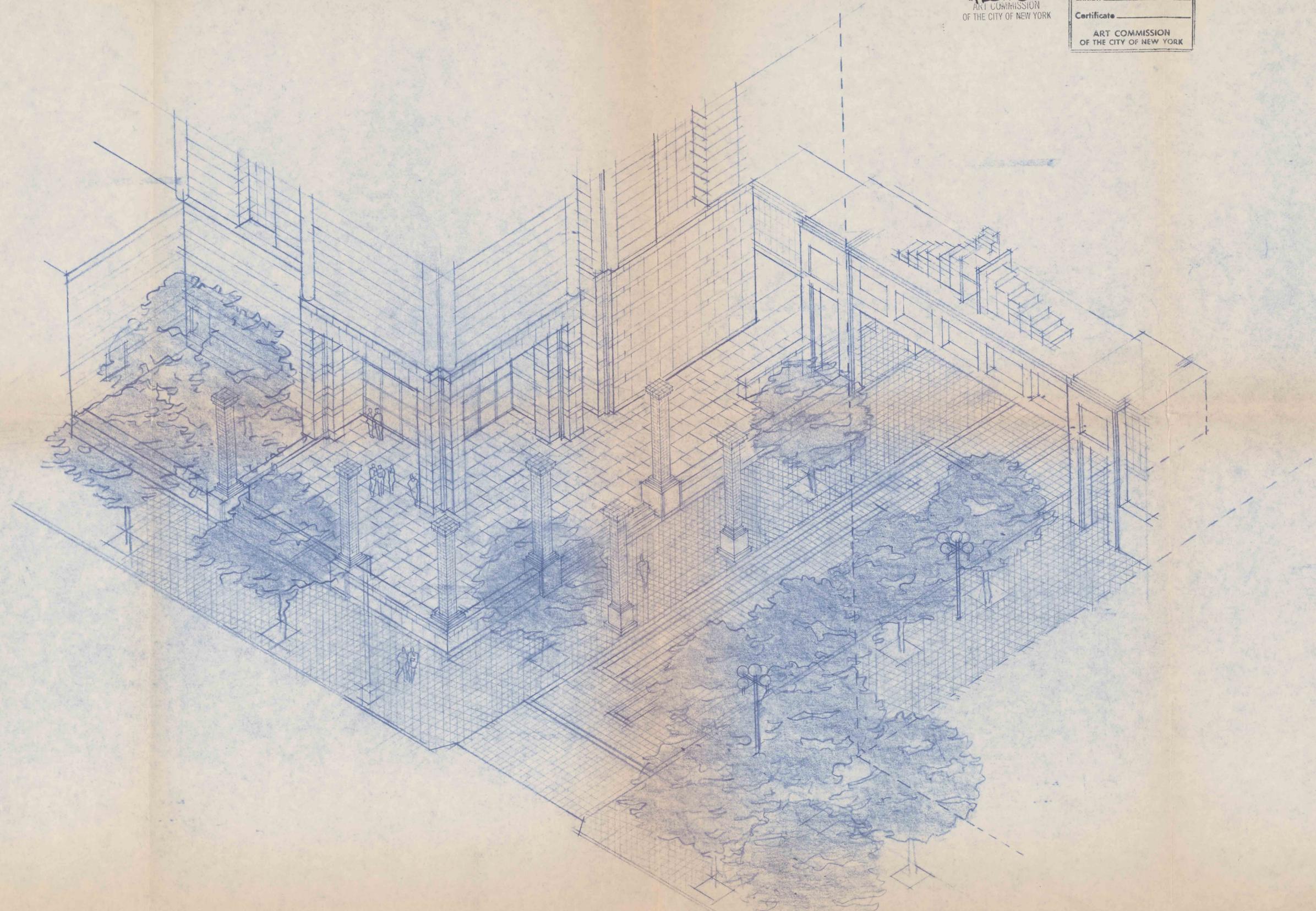
*B.A. Urban Studies, Columbia University*

*M. Arch Urban Design, Bartlett School of Architecture*

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTION**

**White Street Plaza**  
REV. 8/2/88  
REV. 8/22/88

## Vote against mega-jail plan for 124-125 White Street

Dear Councilmembers,

I wanted to bring to your attention the mega-jail plan for Chinatown. This 10 year demolition and construction plan will only have detrimental effects to our community. I've attached a letter with more detail - please vote NO to the mega-jail plan for 124-125 White Street.

Thank you,  
Allin Resposo

[alliner64@hotmail.com](mailto:alliner64@hotmail.com)

Dear Councilmember,

I am writing you today to express my disapproval of the new jail planned for 124-125 White Street in Chinatown. Living in Manhattan, Chinatown has become an integral part of my family's lives as well as my own. This proposed mega-jail will only hurt our neighborhood as demolition and construction takes place over 10+ years. There already exists 4 other jail and detention centers in Chinatown alone, all similarly constructed without community input. Despite deep concerns voiced by the people, the plan is pushing forward and ignoring the community. This plan guarantees the decline of local business, not to mention the livelihood of the residents in the nearby senior center.

As a proud New Yorker, I am disappointed that billions of our tax dollars are being poured into a band-aid solution for a systemic failure of our prison system. I am further horrified that we are discarding the voices of our fellow New Yorkers. Let's be better than this.

**Please vote against the ineffective mega-jail plan for 124-125 White Street.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allin Resposo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allin Resposo

1\*\* E 87th St Apt R20J

New York, NY 10128

## Vote NO to this 4 Borough Jails Plan

Vote **NO** to this plan to build four new borough-based jails!  
It is a bait and switch con.

The original reason given for closing Rikers was for much-needed reform of conditions for the detainees.

Yet this plan is for the physical erection of new **huge jails** in the boroughs.

It does little to address reform during the eight to ten years while the construction of new jails takes place.

This is an ill-conceived plan.

Vote **NO** to this plan.

This plan has too many flaws and hurts the affected communities.

**The community boards all voted against this plan.**

We need a plan that has reform as its focus, not one that spends \$9 to \$11 billion on replacing

current borough jails with new larger jails.

Insist on a better plan.

Vote **NO !!!**

Sincerely,

Anna Goldstein

a170pkr@aol.com

## Rikers Island

Please vote no on the issue of closing Rikers Island. It is an enormous waste of resources that could be better spent in revamping the facility, saving already crowded neighborhoods in the boroughs from large-scale new jails, and focusing resources on training correction officers which is where the problem actually occurs. Don't fall for this de Blasio publicity stunt. It will do nothing to stop crime. New buildings do not change the culture of a jail. The money the City will spend could be used to benefit so many more projects and people.

nbslj@aol.com

Rikers

I simply do not understand why you think closing Rikers is a good idea. Fix the problems. Don't spend millions of our tax dollars to build prisons in our neighborhoods.

VOTE NO.

Pam Chock  
NY NY 10023

[pechock@gmail.com](mailto:pechock@gmail.com)

Vote NO against a new jail in a community of color

Council Member Johnson,

On Thursday, the City Council will vote on an unjust plan to drop a massive new jail on top of a low-income community of color in Mott Haven. So far, you have done nothing to stop it. But you can still prove you care about the people of the South Bronx.

**ON THURSDAY, YOU MUST VOTE NO AGAINST THE JAIL IN MOTT HAVEN.**

There is a perfectly good site for a jail near the Bronx Hall of Justice, right next door to the courthouse where jail prisoners will have their cases heard. More importantly, siting the jail there would not derail the years of progress our community has made to reverse the drug and crime problems that have ravaged our neighborhood. And it would not take up space currently reserved for badly needed affordable housing.

Do the right thing. Vote against a jail in Mott Haven so we can put it where it belongs: next to the courthouse.

Sincerely,

A member of the Stop the Mott Haven Jail coalition

Princessbrat

princessbrat\_2002@yahoo.com

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betchadontno

betchadontno@aol.com

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Omayra

omayra666@aol.com

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Tanya Fenner  
foreverbale@yahoo.com

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Cheryse Rushin  
rushincheryse@gmail.com

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betiboop72

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bettybecerril  
bettybecerril@aol.com