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THE COUNCIL OF  
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September 24, 2018

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

I am writing today regarding concerns that were raised by residents at a Sept. 12 Town Hall and in smaller meetings over the past few weeks about the proposed relocation of the Manhattan Detention Complex (MDC) to 80 Centre Street. While I share your commitment to criminal justice reform and the closure of Rikers Island jail, I am distressed by the lack of community engagement as part of the site selection and scoping process for the MDC. For any plan to move forward, full transparency and inclusion is crucial. To date, the Administration has yet to address the following concerns from our community:

Site-specific concerns:

- 1) What was the process of selecting 80 Centre Street as the location to scope for this project?
- 2) What were the results of the analysis of alternative sites/locations considered for Manhattan's Borough-based jail, and why did the Administration deem those sites not feasible?
- 3) How did the Administration determine that 125 parking spots would be included at the 80 Centre Street site without information about number of detainees, or necessary Corrections staff?

Criminal justice reform concerns:

- 1) Given that State action will be required for criminal justice reform, specifically regarding bail reform, how can the City commit to a decrease of detainees to the targeted number of 5,000? If not, what is your plan to work with the Governor and State Legislature to enact these needed changes?
- 2) What is the back-up plan if the City cannot reduce the number of detainees to targeted levels by the time needed?

Community concerns:

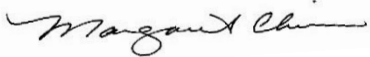
- 1) Why was there no mention of impacts that a relocated MDC would have on the community, or any mention of a plan to mitigate those impacts, in the Administration's presentation at the Sept. 12 Town Hall?

- 2) For example, nearby Worth Street is currently under a massive, multi-year reconstruction that is already three years behind schedule. How is redevelopment on 80 Centre Street going to be coordinated with this ongoing project?
- 3) Given that placards for official vehicles already take up numerous parking spaces in Chinatown and elsewhere in Lower Manhattan, what is the Administration's plan to accommodate the increased parking needs for staff and visitors of an expanded MDC?

Because of these concerns, I request that you delay the scoping meeting scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 27th to give our community more time to get answers to these important questions about proposed changes to the existing MDC.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me directly at (212) 788-7259 or [mchin@council.nyc.gov](mailto:mchin@council.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,



Margaret S. Chin  
Council Member, District 1  
New York City Council

Cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Marco Carrion, Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit