

My name is Grover Dale. Five years ago, I discovered COLUMBUS PARK. Every day, Chinatown residents showed up with musical instruments. They played and sang songs from their homeland. They practiced Tai Chi and performed traditional dances. I found myself in a community that brought its culture into the neighborhood. How often do you find that in New York City? You don't. I wanted to live near it.

My family and I relocated to Chatham Towers, overlooking a park we love. Today's visit included cups of coffee from the Tai Pei Bakery, relaxing under a magnificent tree, and witnessing the music and traditions unfolding in front of us. The park experience is exceptional.

If a 40-story prison is built, the perception of the neighborhood will be permanently altered. Tourists don't come here to experience skyscrapers or prisons. They come to experience something that's rare in America...an authentic neighborhood where residents bring their culture to a park and share it. Columbus Park is a national treasure. Why impose a towering jail on it? Please stop the tower.