

Dear Mr. Notaro and Members of CB #1,

I am on the Board of Chatham Towers and a member of the Park Row Alliance. I have also been a lifelong resident in the Chinatown area.

I am vehemently opposed to the new jail construction. The City plans build new jails in The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. All these new jails will be about 1.3 million square ft and up to 450 feet high, basically high rise or skyscraper size buildings depending on the size of their base area.

Chinatown community is not against criminal reform, as it currently has three jail buildings at 124 and 125 White and the Federal Detention center. We have borne more than our fair share of the jails in New York.

For Manhattan, a 1.3 million square foot building will be by far the largest buildingⁱ in the neighborhood and will nearly triple in size the existing jails at 124 and 125 White Street. The existing buildings on White attempt to blend into the surrounding buildings and be discreet, this new building will tower over all surrounding buildings and instead will become a **Monument to Incarceration** to our neighborhoods. We don't want this monument for our neighborhood!

To get an idea of how immense this building will be at 1.3 million square feet, the Gehry building is listed at 1.0 million square feet. 56 Leonard, AKA Jenga Towers is 500,000 square feet. Confucius Plaza is only 150,000 square feet. This monument will dwarf all these buildings and will be bigger than two Jenga Towers combined or 8 Confucius Plazas.

If you have to build a jail 450 feet tall, which for the Manhattan site will be around 40-50 stories high, which is now skyscraper level, and you try to squeeze it in a residential, small business neighborhood, then maybe you have picked the wrong site. It doesn't fit in our neighborhood or any neighborhood with the same mix.

While there are economic benefits to building an architecturally award winning building, that will not be the case here. As a design build project, quality and aesthetics will be sacrificed for cost efficiency.

I ask the Committee to review carefully this vertical jail system. Are there any skyscraper size vertical jail systems and what have been the issues with jails of this size? It is a known fact that as a building gets taller; complexity and cost go up in running these structures safely. The problems at the Brooklyn Detention Center will be magnified many times over.

When people ask to go to Southbridge or the Seaport, people point to the Gehry Building and say go toward that building. If people want to the west side or Hudson Street, they point to Jenga Towers and say go toward that. These are iconic buildings for their communities.

When people ask where Chinatown is, they will point to that **Monument to Incarceration** and say Chinatown is adjacent to that building. Please do not allow this building to be the iconic structure of our neighborhood. This building will be bad Feng Shui for not only Chinatown but for all our neighborhoods. Chinatown has not asked much of CB 1 but we implore the committee not to support the proposed jail at 125 White Street building as it not only affects Chinatown but also all the surrounding neighborhoods.

Howard Huie

BOD Chatham Towers