

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. This monument will dwarf all these buildings and will be bigger than two Jenga Towers combined multiple Confucius Plazas.

In the presentation the city gave to the land use committee, they cited the Denver Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center as a model high rise correctional facility that the borough based plan will be modeled after. The Denver Van Cise facility does provide for 1500 bed as do the borough base plan but it is only 461,000 square feet and five stories high. This proposed monument will be nearly triple the size in area and 4 times higher.

Though the Van Cise is listed as a high rise detention center, it is basically a horizontal jail. This new facility will be a skyscraper size building and an untested and costly vertical jail. There are many questions regarding the efficacy and safety of vertical jails, starting with does a skyscraper size jail even exist that can be used as a guide.

I ask the land use committee to question this untested concept and recommend NO!

I ask that CB#1 to also vote NO to the Borough Based Jail.

Howard Huie

BOD Chatham Towers
