

Statement to CB1

My name is Irving Lee; Born and raised in New York City and long time resident since my teens in Chinatown.

I am not an advocate of Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation or George Soros' Open Society. They don't represent the interest of our community.

Lippman Report and Draft EIS fails to take into account the economic impact to Chinatown.

According to Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, the Manhattan Detention Center (MDC) has no business relations with the Chinatown Business Community, despite being neighbors for over 100 years.

Traffic/Parking

The size and the increase traffic will exacerbate the worsening traffic and parking conditions where those who work and shop would compete with limited parking in the area. The DEIS makes no mention of these issues.

We have contentious issues with law enforcement taking parking spaces Along with congestion pricing this will further reduce those who commute to Chinatown to visit, shop and eat. It was noted that there are 12 active parking lots in study area, yet law enforcement uses their placards to take many inexpensive slots in Chinatown. The expansion of 125 slots for jail personal and where it is located and along with an enlarge workforce will inevitably reduce further the available parking. We expect habits will be maintained.

Despite heavy documentation of the traffic movements around the proposal, it makes no mention of congestion pricing and its impact to the communities, families and workforce related to the jail. Exceptions will have to be worked out but it would inevitably be selective.

This is not mention conveniently in the report

The proposal is a long lists of acts the city has done to gradually erode our businesses. The lost of municipal parking which initially was given to the community at the time of the construction of Police Plaza, the closing of Park Row as a result of the 9/11 attacks, the health consequences of the fires at WTC, Congestion Pricing and the building of an enlarge jail.

Construction Process

5 year projected construction period besides undermining sleep would disrupt businesses that already are affected by the 9/11 events and gentrification. The noise, air pollution and construction barriers would have an adverse effect on the community and those who shop there. This would be unlike what happen with businesses on the upper East side when the 2nd Ave subway was being constructed.

Lowering of Property values

The Construction process and the existence of the enlarged jail would have the potential of lowering property values. This coincides with increasing property taxes

from the city creating a scissors crisis for the community. We expect to see much higher taxes to pay for the proposed expanded jails

Conclusion

The Draft EIS downplays the negative consequences of the construction and expansion of the jail on the Chinatown and surrounding communities.