

## Opposition to Borough-Based Jail in Chinatown/Manhattan

Chinatown's location between three jails was the perfect storm after 9/11. We were put under extreme security "lock down" unlike anywhere else in the city.

And over-run with every type of barricade, clanging street steel plates, security booths/gates/cameras everywhere.

Our streets/sidewalks even a park were turned into gigantic parking lots for private government vehicles. Cars with government permits were double parked on narrow Mulberry Street sidewalks while families were forced to walk single file on our own streets. Cars were parked in front of bus stops as MTA and tour buses were rerouted out of the neighborhood. Streets and sidewalks were impassable with zero traffic enforcement. The Municipal Garage already a giveback and mitigation to the community for the building of One Police Plaza was taken away permanently. And the other city mitigation for building the last White Street jail, a pedestrian walkway between Baxter and Centre Streets, is cluttered with government vehicles that pedestrians must dodge daily.

Within months of these extreme 9/11 security measures, dozens of Chinatown businesses closed. Small businesses with already low profit margins were hammered.

We heard emergency vehicles wait at Chatham Square in traffic congestion. Downtown Express clocked buses and emergency services vehicles traveling half an hour instead of ten minutes to the hospital or the front of City Hall. We were told this was because of "security." But security for who?

We later learned the "lock downs" were because of one of the jails, and not because of One Police Plaza. And we were told Chinatown was collateral damage meaning, too bad.

We had to fight block by block to reclaim our streets for over 14 years and even today many streets and sidewalks are permanently closed.

How fair is it to put the tallest jail in the world here when we already have three -- more than any other neighborhood in the city? What will this mean when all the jails in Manhattan are concentrated in Chinatown?

Where are the pedestrian and traffic studies when nearby Centre and Canal Streets are already a bumper to bumper corridor either uptown or to the Holland Tunnel?

Instead of more investment in prisons, New York City should spend the proposed over \$10B on people, programs and social services in communities with high crime and incarceration rates. People need: youth, mental health, addiction, and job training programs. This should be the focus of our efforts, NOT THE TALLEST JAIL IN THE WORLD. VOTE NO!

Jeanie Chin