

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you. I am a Senior Citizen and 47-year resident of the Chinatown Community. I have long appreciated and admired its nobility, character and people. Over the years Chinatown has suffer from Poverty, Neglect, Disdain, and Racism. We have always been noisy. We have always been over-crowded, and we have always been taken advantage of.

Present now is a growing restlessness which is a powerful combination of fear and hope. The fear that our trusted Politicians are sounding Chinatowns death knell. A combination of Congestion Pricing, never ending Placard Parking and Abuse of Privilege together with the impending construction of this Prison will seal our doom. The hope is that somehow logic and reason will emerge and stop the monolithical folly.

We are led to believe that the advent of Congestion Pricing will bring exemptions for NYC Employees. We are also led to believe that the new Prison will have Garage parking for 125 Cars. Congestion pricing will not bring Congestion relief to Chinatown but exasperate it. These 125 cars will be memorialized inside the building forever. Public Parking for Chinatown will be hijacked.

Can one imagine if this project was proposed by a private developer? This committee might never have allowed 125 additional cars plus the addition employees with Placards parking on the streets. Congestion Pricing is a hypocrisy. If the City endorses the permanently installed cars, addition placards and other exemptions plus the over taxation of our mass transit systems Chinatown will cease to enjoy its historic and cultural celebrity. Instead of a renaissance we will suffer in the prison buildings shadow of doom.

In all four jail sites there will be parking for employees - Why. Who gets to drive their car and park in their building for free? What rational person decided that this is best for a city trying to reduce Congestion. Who is irrational enough to vote for this unnecessary and obnoxious perk that will last forever?

My friend yours is a difficult task. Do you endorse wisdom and morality? Do you endorse environment issues or economic issues? Are you responsible for the well-being or the death of a community?

I trust this Committee will side with Community. Thank You.