

# MELINDA★KATZ

FOR QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 1, 2019

Dear Neighbor,


I have been so proud to represent Kew Gardens as a legislator in the City Council and Assembly, and value you as my neighbors—friends, family, and constituents whose voice I carried in the halls of power. On an important issue before City Hall, I want to make something abundantly clear—I hear you, **and we need to make the Mayor hear us together, united: As District Attorney, I will not support building a massive jail in Kew Gardens or anywhere else in Queens.**

Here are the facts:

- It's clear that the **city has already failed in an important way** by choosing 126-02 82nd Avenue as the site for the Queens-based jail in their plan. This location for a "community-based jail" was chosen *for* the community, not *by* the community. I have long been a vocal opponent of any process that fails to listen to the needs of local residents.
- The current plan to close Rikers involves lowering its population so that the remaining inmates can transition to smaller jails in four different Boroughs. **This does not necessitate building new, 1,500 cell massive jails in ANY residential communities—period.** A similar scenario is playing out in the Bronx, and I have partnered with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. on efforts to speak out against the city's process.
- There is still time to conduct this process the right way that doesn't result in a **proposed Kew Gardens jail (or a massive jail in any Queens community)**, and satisfies both the goals of closing Rikers and the residents of Queens.

A project this ambitious requires community input and cooperation every step of the way. The lack of such cooperation so far has been deeply frustrating, and I am committed as District Attorney to get this right.

Thank you,



Melinda Katz

