

I want to acknowledge and thank CB1's past work affecting our neighborhood. You came to our defense and prevented the terror trials from being held at the courthouse. The proposed ring of steel would have been devastating.

I am a daughter of Chinatown. I have lived my whole life within a few blocks from the new proposed jail facility. My life is the classic immigrant's tale, with its daily financial worries, struggles and hard-fought victories. There are untold thousands like me... I am here today representing them and giving a voice to those that the Mayor and Lippman Commission overlooked.

Our community was originally built on land no one else wanted. We have not had the same fortunes bestowed on us that other parts of Community Board 1 have. After incalculable sacrifices and odds, this little corner of CB1 has become something, **our home**. It is humble, and it is imperfect, but it is our imperfect home. Every day, my neighbors and I go to school and work and together, are determined to improve it just a little more, making it inch by inch more livable.

Now it is under attack. This is not melodrama or an exaggeration. A 490 feet tall jail is not a present that anyone in CB1 could honestly accept as a gift. It is a giant big step backwards on the little precious progress we have managed over the yrs.

Yes, we already have a jail, numerous court houses and all the traffic, buses and disruption they bring with them, what is the difference, some people might cynically ask?

These previous government facilities were already out of scale for the community, choking it, building a wall, interfering with what my neighbors and I have struggled so hard to build- a safe place to raise our children and to provide the highest quality of life for our senior citizens. They would not be built like that today, or in the density that they are. We know better now how a viable living

community is built. We codify this in zoning. We should respect that. Most of what surrounds us now should not have been built, but we are left with their legacy.

I urge you, do not burden us this **new** legacy, whose devastatingly negative impact on our community would be felt for generations to come.

The Hippocratic oath says “First Do No Harm” (to keep from harm and injustice).

We understand that criminal justice reform needs to happen. Let it come, let it be done thoughtfully, carefully and considerately.....but in the quest to right moral wrongs, it is also morally wrong to hurt one poor community in the aid of another. These limited solutions harm us, while seeking to help others. How can that be moral in the progressive spirit?

Surely there are other ways to accomplish reform that do not involve spending in excess of \$11 billion and building 4 mammoth jail towers in the hearts of our communities, including Mott Haven, Kew Gardens and Boerum Hill. It might be expedient, but it cannot be the only way.... that betrays reason. It is not something that would be tolerated or considered in other more fortunate corners of CB1. How could it be right to allow them here?

As a daughter of Chinatown, I stand before you a supplicant. We are in your power. You can hurt us or help us.

Please do not approve this jail proposal. Vote NO.

Please do not abandon the sons and daughters of Chinatown or those in Mott Haven, Kew Gardens and Boerum Hill. Your vote affects all of us.