

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. 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. A 490 feet tall jail, 1.2 million square feet, this one size fits all is NOT the solution. It is a giant big step backwards on the little precious progress we have managed over the yrs.

Yes, we already have 3 jails, with over 1600 beds, now you have in your hands a decision to add another 700 beds, totaling 2500 beds in a 2 mile radius. This is more than what any other community in the city bears.

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

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.

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.

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.

What happened at the last CB 1 meeting needs to be addressed. What happened was painful to hear and watch. What happened does not represent the best of us, not any one of us.

To Just Leadership, Katal Center, Exodus, No New Jails – we sincerely tried to listen, learn and understand your concerns and needs. We ask the same of you. Understand why we are here, concerned, frightened, threatened, frustrated and similarly at-risk. We are not your enemies. Unless we find understanding, common ground and a solution that works for everyone, we will all lose.

To Global Strategies, the Public Relations firm, working for the Lippman Commission. What a surprise you were to me. You made calls to the Chinese press the afternoon of the CB meeting. Did you get what you wanted? Racial discord? One minority group pitted against another? Was that your media strategy? If it was, it backfired. You cannot trample into this community and think you can win without knowing us. Meet us. Hear us and understand us. Refine your strategy b/c it is narrow, discriminatory and lacks any basic understanding of who we are and what you are up against. You need to do better. Advise your clients better.

To our electeds who refused to acknowledge and make a statement, be courageous. Show some leadership, any leadership..... You know this is not the right solution and there is more than one solution, more than a 1 size fits all. Do not leave a legacy of mass incarceration in this community, do not leave a legacy of missteps, mishaps, and mistakes in your quest for your next position. It takes courage, real courage, to admit a mistake, fix that mistake instead of riding that high horse of moral imperative and charge ahead blindly, stubbornly, illogically.

To my community – thank you for showing me what courage and bravery looks like.

To the Community Board – I urge you. Vote No. Your vote affects us all, in Chinatown, in Mott Haven, in Boerum Hill, in Kew Gardens. We are not alone. Help us. Hear us.