



美東聯成公所

LIN SING ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Diana Switaj
Director of Planning and Land Use
Community Board 1
1 Center Street, Room 2202-North
New York, NY 10007

09/06/2018

Dear Ms. Switaj,

My name is James Wong and I am the President of the Lin Sing Association, a 118 year old Association located on historic Mott Street in the heart of Chinatown. The association has thousands of members and comprised of 18 separate organizations, each of which has at least 70 years of history. Most of our members are local residents, business people, and seniors. Lin Sing counsels, supports, translates, and advocates for our community.

We are opposed to the mayor's plan to transfer detainees from Rikers to New York City on practical, fiscal, and equity grounds.

On a practical level, we are gravely concerned about New York City's ability to manage the so-called "modern" community prisons because the city has not been a good steward of city shelters and public housing, nor the existing jail on 125 White Street.

The homeless problem in NYC is far from fixed.

NYCHA housing is in a dilapidated state.

Both are populations in dire need of care, and the city has not served them well. How can we be expected to take a **leap of faith** to believe that the outcome will be any different when detainees, another vulnerable group, are transferred into the city from Rikers?

What's more, the mayor's community jail project is based on the **assumption** that the future will resemble the past and crime rate will continue to decline. But a change of administration may cause the jail population to increase, what then? Will there be prison overcrowding, again?

Will correction officers be understaffed?

Will there be renewed prison uprisings and beatings of officers?

Will excess numbers of detainees join the ranks of the homeless to roam our streets?

Four new concrete structures will not solve systemic and long-standing problems that exist throughout the penal system, and **we at Lin Sing have advised our community not to support *this experiment* foisted upon us by the Mayor.**

Fiscally, we support Queens City Council Member Holden's proposed bill to establish a commission to evaluate the costs of revamping Rikers before demolishing it entirely in favor of building brand new jails in the boroughs. Developers and contractors will make a profit when Rikers is demolished. Their pockets will be fattened up once again when the land on Rikers is cleared for the highest bidder. They will be further enriched once all hurdles to the construction of the new four borough jails are removed. But ultimately, it will be we the taxpayers of New York City, who will be footing the bill and we deserve to know if our hard-earned dollars (potentially billions) are spent wisely or squandered away quickly. We oppose the sudden rush to rid Rikers of prisoners in a process that can only be called, "a fait accompli".

In terms of equity considerations, we understand that the concept of city-centered community-based jails is premised on the noble concern for the humanity and wellbeing of detainees as well as family members who will be visiting them.

But any such concern should be weighed against the humanity and wellbeing of **local residents at the jail sites selected**. We resent the callousness with which our community was given the opportunity to indicate our preference for one of two City-selected sites in a period **of only 13 days from Aug 2nd to Aug 15th**. Chinatown has already born the burden of living with two prisons for four decades. Our local economy has already been crippled by traffic congestion, shortage of parking spaces and the closing of Park Row after 9/11. Any prison expansion will only make a bad situation worse. In fact, it will totally annihilate our community".

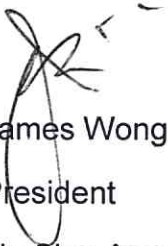
To a mayor who campaigned on ending the tale of two cities and being a mayor to all, we ask, where is the concern for our wellbeing and **our** humanity?

We have begun a protest petition (see attached) a month ago. To date, we have

collected over a thousand signatures in opposition to Mayor DeBlasio's proposal. More will be forthcoming and we are prepared to fight for our self-preservation. **We will not be a part of this experiment.**

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Wong', with a large, stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

James Wong

President

Lin Sing Association

Petition to Oppose the Mayor's Proposal to Transfer Rikers Island Detainees to Chinatown

Mayor de Blasio completely ignored our voices regarding the City's plans to close Riker's Island.

We vehemently oppose Mayor de Blasio's proposal to transfer Rikers Island detainees to Chinatown and the expansion or construction of a detention center in the midst of our community.

- We disagree with the mayor's premise that reforming Rikers Island prison complex requires shutting down Rikers Island and moving elsewhere. **Real** reform involves reforming the people who manage prisons, not the concrete walls or the land that house prisoners.

- We reject the city's argument that transportation concerns require that detention centers be moved to city locations. Building a criminal court house on Rikers Island will be less costly than the construction of four massive buildings in four boroughs, and will spare residents of these communities from having their lives turned upside down for years.

- We are outraged that our community was given the opportunity to indicate our preference for one of two city-selected sites in a period of 13 days. Chinatown has already borne the burden of living with two prisons for four decades. Our local economy has already been crippled by traffic congestion, shortage of parking spaces and the closing of Park Row after 9/11. Any expansion will only make a bad situation worse. In fact, it will totally destroy our community. We don't want any more prisons in Chinatown, period.

We support prison reform. But we believe that real reform involves the retraining of the corrections staff and redesign of correctional facilities right where they are, and not moving the problem elsewhere.

Name _____

Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

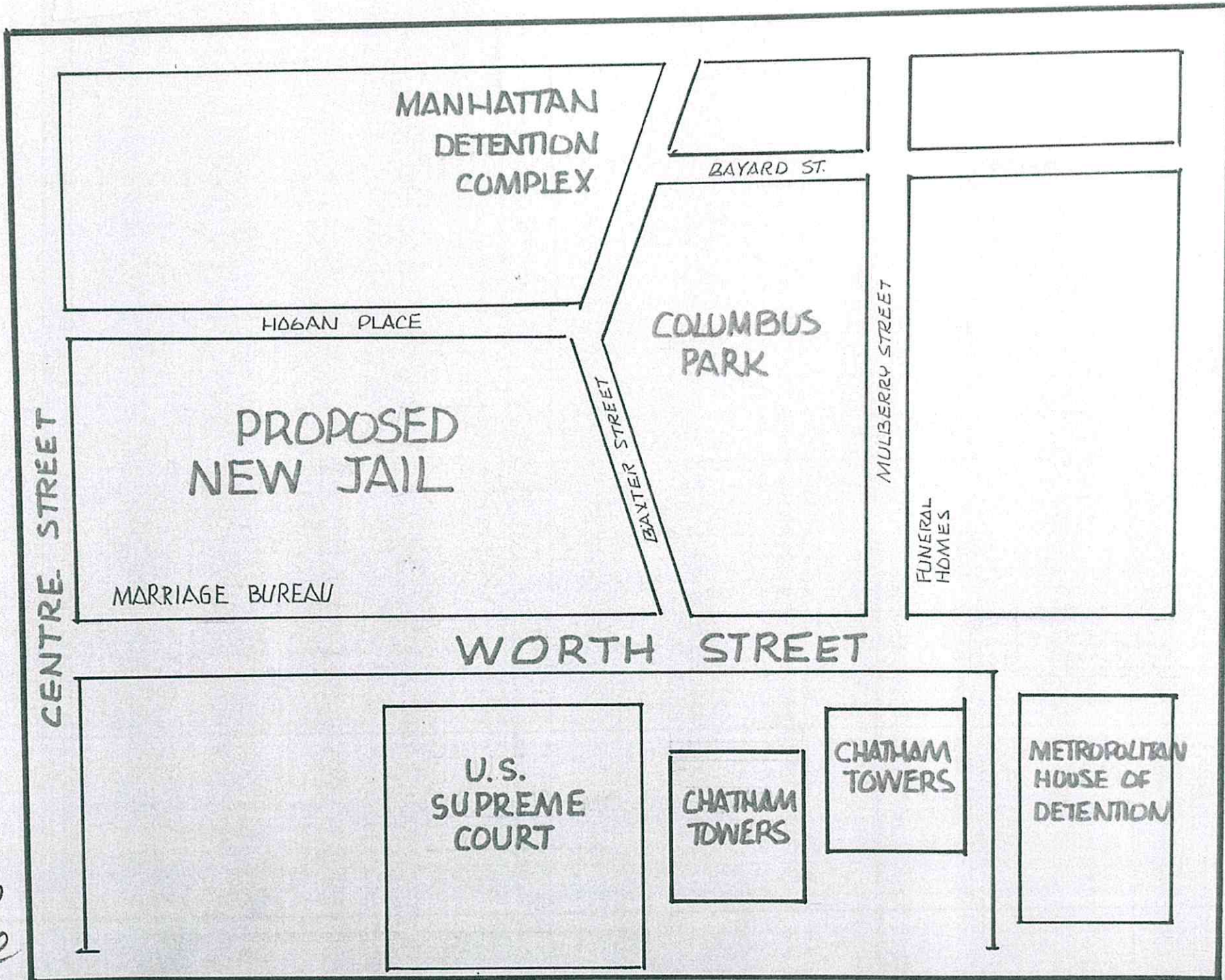
Re: Community Board #1 and #3 re: 80 Centre Street Jail Expansion -
Thursday, 9/6/18, 6:30PM, Municipal Building,

**PUTTING A MAMMOTH JAIL AT THE CORNER OF 80 CENTRE STREET --
CIVIC CENTER/CHINATOWN'S BUSIEST TRAFFIC CORRIDOR?
CHINATOWN WILL BE CRAZYTOWN!**

- 80 Centre Street is where motor vehicles, bicyclists and tourists exit the Brooklyn Bridge and head uptown.
- It is located at the intersection of Worth Street.
- Worth Street -- is where Park Row traffic was rerouted after Park Row was locked down because of high security concerns at the Federal Detention Center. Worth is currently the east side's crosstown route to the Holland Tunnel and downtown.
- During rush hours, this traffic corridor already requires traffic agents.
- Worth Street, a normally two way street is shut one way because of the Water Tunnel project that is detouring traffic up Centre Street. It will not be completed for years.
- Worth Street is the the southern boundary of the proposed jail. Half a block away on Worth Street is the largest federal courthouse in the U.S. Almost every high profile Supreme Court case in Manhattan is tried here. Hordes of reporters, satellite trucks, and other media vehicles are camped on Worth Street for weeks during trials.
- On this block of Worth Street is the historic staging area for the three funeral parlors in Chinatown.
- Worth Street is also the southern border for Columbus Park, one of the most over-utilized parks in Manhattan.

Those proposing 80 Centre Street for a third jail on this congested corner do not live in the neighborhood and do not know or care about the traffic congestion during rush hours. Residents who live on Worth Street are not crazy. We will fight like hell against this jail expansion because of its severe impact on our quality of life and emergency service access.

Jeanie Chin
Chatham Towers
180 Park Row, 3B
New York, NY 10038
917 495-4115



↑
Brooklyn
Bridge

Geoff Lee
19 Mott Street
NYC 10013
noved@verizon.net
917 969-5226

9/6/2019

RE: Mayor's proposed new massive detention center on Worth Street

TO: CB1 and CB3

Dear CB1 and CB3,

I am a voter, and a resident/property owner in Manhattan's Chinatown.

I had only heard about the proposed huge detention center in recent weeks. Because of this short notice, I can only concur that plans for this project were made behind closed doors and without regard to impacts on the local Chinatown community.

The Mayor has consistently disregarded the needs of the Chinese community in NYC, which is the ethnic group that is lowest on the economic scale compared to other minorities. Chinatown suffered losses from 9/11, including the loss of 400 municipal parking spots and the blockage of Park Row, both of which remain to this day. Illegal parking placard abuse lasted over 17 years and has only recently been dealt with effectively.

Most recently, The Mayor tried to eliminate the specialty high school test (SHSAT) which would hugely effect ONE minority in New York City, Chinese Americans. Thankfully, both he the Chancellor were thwarted by community outrage.

Now, with this proposal made, behind our backs, he has again disregarded the welfare of our community by proposing years of construction, endless traffic congestion and the demise of quality of life in New York's Chinatown with the resulting increased crowding. This proposed site is across the street from Columbus Park which is heavily used by the community with all ages of life enjoying some respite and recreation. The new detention center would certainly compromise residents' use of the park which is so dear and valuable to the neighborhood.

The real estate developers are already looking at Riker's Island to develop. This is wrong. The Mayor, instead of improving conditions at the current facility, is choosing to make Chinatown and other neighborhoods pay by forfeiting their quality of life.

Please, I urge CB1 and CB3, roundly reject the proposal for a new detention center on Worth Street. (I voted for the Mayor, and, it was a mistake, will always regret!)

Sincerely,



Geoff Lee

Speech

CB 1 / CB3 joint hearing on the Manhattan detention center expansion

9/6/2018

Jan Lee

"Gullible is not in the dictionary"

"The Brooklyn Bridge is for sale"

"NYC will reduce its prison population from 8500 to 5000 in ten years."

You KNOW these things are not true, you know this because you have the ability to use experience and research and logic to determine :

The Bridge is **not** for sale,

gullible most certainly **is** in the dictionary,

and based on hundreds of articles and reports about the Mayor, you know he can't accomplish this task of reducing the prison population as he said he HAS to do before closing Rikers.

Why not believe him? In as late as April of 2017 the Mayor himself said "Some out there have said words like "Borough-based" jails 'I'm not buying into that'"

When Melisa Mark Viverito recommended closing Rikers the Mayor said "It's a noble idea, but we don't have the funding to do that".

We've read it's \$3 billion, then \$7 billion, then \$10 billion, now \$11 billion... what will the price be tomorrow?.

Again, we apply logic and we conclude this plan is not believable.

We are reminded that The city is very bad at housing human beings –

Just think about NYC homeless shelters, the city has resorted to renting hotel rooms to house the homeless.

The system known as NYCHA , NYC Owned housing couldn't protect its residents from **bitter cold**, from **rodents**, from **mold**, from **lead** and **crime**. apply logic here and you will come to the same conclusions I did.

We simply can trust this administration:

The same administration that gave away Rivington House to a luxury developer

The same administration that lied to federal investigators about lead inspections in City owned buildings.

The same administration that couldn't get the trolley project to run from Brooklyn to Queens on budget, nor on time.

The same administration that made asked leaders of this community to decide between 125 White St. or 80 Center as our new jail site on Aug. 2nd and made that decision for us on Aug 15th. 13 days later

I agree we need to close or rehabilitate Rikers island . The conditions there are confirmed by my friend **attorney Norman Seigel** whom I spoke to earlier on phone, "it's so horrendous" that he has to "take a few hours to wind down from the experience of just visiting there, it's that bad."

BUT we are NOT willing to take this **leap of blind faith that :**

The prison population reduction scheme will survive into the next admiration, with a new police commissioner, in fact new commissioners of EVERYTHING are on the way.....

And

That the new jails will finish on time and on budget

And

That somehow new concrete will solve the complex problems rife within the penal system Chinatown is already suffocating under.

Be reminded , We're not looking at a **single** jail coming into this neighborhood, we're looking at a HUGE increase in the footprint of the penal system that surrounds Chinatown – And for this reason I ask

- 1) We demand an Environmental Impact Statement that examines the impacts of not only light, and air, and shadows, but the impact on business, safety , travel, and quality of life.
And
- 2) To STOP this process now, it is untested, it's an experiment, and at this time we have not faith in the process being foisted upon this community.

Thank you

Jan Lee

646-751-8621

917-710-7503

The Chinatown Core Block Association

Civic Center Residents Coalition

On August 2nd after a power point presentation of the new jail proposed for 80 Center Street, Lincoln Restler, Senior Policy Director for the Mayor's office said

"The Mayor's office is committed to working with the Chinatown community like a hand in glove, that's how close we're going to be working with you" to that I say this " Right now , it feels like we're just getting the finger." – Jan Lee

Statement for Community Board 1 and 3 Joint Hearing 09/06

My name is Patricia Tsai and I am here to represent the Lin Sing Association, a 118 year old Association located on historic Mott Street in the heart of Chinatown. The association has thousands of members and comprised of 18 separate organizations, each of which has at least 70 years of history. Most of our members are local residents, business people, and seniors. Lin Sing counsels, supports, translates, and advocates for our community.

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