

Re: **Borough-Based Jails Neighborhood Advisory Committee
(NAC) Bronx - First Meeting**

Date: October 30, 2018 6:30 pm

Location: BronxConnect – 432 East 149th Street

Attendees: See Attached

Prepared by: Rose Florian and Stephanie Brooks

Perkins Eastman
Architects DPC

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Ralph Acevedo	Bronx Community Board #2
Clarisa Alayeto	Bronx Community Board #1
Tara Brown	BronxConnect
Ramona Ferreyra	Community Member
Princella Jamerson	Bronx Community Board #1
Diana Rodriguez	Eastside Settlement House
Hector Torres	Save Our Streets
Carmen Pineiro	The Bronx Defenders
Diana Ayala	New York City Council, Councilwoman 8 th District
Eric Fang	PE
Rose Florian	PE
Arnie Bloch	FHI
Stephanie Brooks	FHI
Cathy Li	HR&A
Dana Kaplan	MOCJ
Jordan Stockdale	MOCJ
Nicole Torres	MOCJ
Tahirah Moore	Mayor's Intergovernmental Affairs Unit
Joshua Cortes	CAU
Joseph Thomas	CAU

PERKINSEASTMAN.COM

Boston
Charlotte
Chicago
Dallas
Dubai
Guayaquil
Los Angeles
Mumbai
New York
Pittsburgh
San Francisco
Shanghai
Stamford
Toronto
Washington DC

Major Themes from NAC Members

- Process
- Education around criminal justice
- Jail facility
- Community space
- Future community development
- Transit
- Job opportunities
- Youth investments

Actions Items and Requested Information

- Second NAC meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday Nov. 28th from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Location will be BronxConnect 432 East 149th Street.
- NAC asked about the proposed route from the new site to the courthouses.
- NAC members want to see how the number of parking spaces was established.
- Visitor parking needs to be considered. NAC members suggested city investigate vacant lots in the vicinity as a possibility for visitor parking.
- NAC requested a handout with the list of investments discussed thus far.
- NAC asked about the process by which address community investments will be determined. Will this be done via the NAC's Guidelines and Principles document or via a Community Benefits Agreement?
- NAC members would like to have city agencies, such as DOC, attend future NAC meetings to provide substantive expertise that would inform the NAC members as they develop recommendations.
- NAC members would like to have more information explaining technical terms (particularly the ULURP and zoning processes).
- Councilwoman Ayala putting together a list of "asks" from her constituents that will be shared with NAC members.
- NAC would like to know how many DOC staff will be working at the new jail site, especially regarding parking space use.

Process

- Concerns about what will happen to this project under future mayoral administrations?
- How is the City ensuring that the Bronx has proper allocation of funds for improvements to services and facilities, compared to other boroughs?
- Concerns about the ULURP process being a “package deal” and not site-specific
- There needs to be a clarification between Community Benefits Agreement and Community Investment Principles and Guidelines Document.
- Concerns about the timeline for decommissioning the Barge (DOC facility in the Bronx)
- What actions, on the EIS and design, are being taken to reduce health impacts of new construction? Asthma is a huge issue in the community.

Education around criminal justice

- There needs to be a bigger effort to educate the community on criminal justice reforms with a focus on bail reform. There needs to be greater public education on what criminal justice reforms have been established by the City and how they have led to significant reductions in the City’s jail population.
- The public messaging needs to be clearer that the City is proposing a reduction in the number of city jails (from 11 to 4), not an expansion. Need to do a better job of getting this message to the media.
- It is the community’s job to start educating their own community about the project. Community engagement messaging needs to include the project is moving forward and the importance of community input on what neighborhood investments/benefits are needed.

Jail facility

- Having housing units with 32-36 beds has the potential to improve the mental health of people in detention.
- The height was briefly discussed as being a tall building.

- Bronx Defenders are vehemently against having an arraignment court in the new facility.
- Is the jail going to use green technology?
- Knock down the closed jail facility at Rikers to prevent them from ever reopening.
- Remove the Barge as soon as possible; use the space for a community need.

Community space

- Community-programmed space is preferred on 141st street. It is closer to the 138th hub and it is better connected to schools.
- The need for fresh food options was emphasized: indoor gardens, supermarkets.
- Supermarket needs to be well lit and open late.
- Councilmember Ayala's goal is to use this space to build community.

Future community development

- NAC members were very excited about the possibility of an affordable housing project in the west side of the site.
- They want to explore the most affordable housing model possible.
- Possibility of housing exceeding zoning limits.

Transit

- Subway stations (Cypress Ave. and 149th Street) need serious improvements.
- Possibility of adding bus stops around the proposed site (re: BX 33 and BX 17).
- Recommended that Mayoral support of the "Bus Fast Forward" plan will send a strong positive message to the community.

Job opportunities

- Who is getting the construction contracts to build the facility? Should be local hires from the surrounding neighborhood.

- Supermarket could become a job opportunity for the people in detention upon release and could be part of re-entry programming.
- Job readiness programs as well as work force development services in or near the jail are needed.
- Can local businesses have an opportunity to have a retail space on site?
- Possibility of any sort of industry in the community facility space that could also serve as potential job opportunities?

Youth investments

- Lack of programming for 14-24 year old population, including lack of late evening programming (6:00pm – 10:00pm). It's a real need.
- The community needs more special education support and programs.
- More after-school programs with late night programming. Create an after-school jobs training/support program as well as SAT prep.
- Schools are in need of program and capital investments.
- Need for an adolescent clinic in the neighborhood.
- Construction of a youth-focused facility.
- Old Family Dollar building can be converted into a Youth Hub.
- Possible Pre-K facilities.