

Re: **Borough-Based Jails Neighborhood Action Committee (NAC)
Brooklyn – First Meeting**

Date: October 26, 2018 3:00 pm

Location: Brooklyn Law School 11th Floor Library

Attendees: See Attached.

Prepared by: Joshua Eisenstat

Major Themes

- Site selection process
- Potential for additional sites to be considered.
- Determination of programming for each site
- Density/height of proposed facility
- Mental health / community assets outside of jail
- CEQR/ULURP process
- Inclusion of additional representation from impacted communities in NAC

Action Items and Requested Information

- NAC Meeting #2 tentatively scheduled for Friday Nov. 16th at 3:30 PM. City to secure location (ideally the same room at Brooklyn Law School).
- NAC asked City to circulate NAC contact list amongst NAC
- NAC asks City to consider inviting service providers & formerly incarcerated to NAC
- City agreed to circulate DOC's 14pt plan and other relevant criminal justice culture reform plans/documents.
- City agreed to explain site selection process at next meeting.
- NAC asked to show how programming/services will be split amongst the four facilities. How was the programming of each facility determined?
- NAC asked City to look into whether a fifth site could be considered, which would lessen the density of each of the facilities.
- NAC asks City to better explain the ULURP Process. Specifically, they are interested to know if any reduction in height is possible. What would the implications on the be if a fifth site was added to the Master Plan.
- Is a height reduction possible during ULURP/NAC overlap?
- What are the population breakdowns within the jails themselves?
- NAC asks whether Brooklyn can have a Town Hall meeting with the Mayor

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NAC Comments/Meeting Notes

Procedural

- Formerly Incarcerated and Service Providers should have a seat at the table within the NAC
- Requested group list for communication between members.
- Need definition of role. Can NAC comment on full master plan or is it Brooklyn specific. (City response is nothing is off the table but idea is to focus on Brooklyn)
- Process is moving too fast
- Frustration and distrust with process. It is moving too fast. Concern that this is first community outreach, prior complaints remain unanswered, and ULURP scoping period is almost over.
- Concern with regard to timeline of ULURP process. What changes can be made once project is certified? There has been no time for the concerns to be addressed given the schedule
- Concern that project has “cherry picked” recommendations from Lippman commission
- Council Member Levin and NAC want a Town Hall with the Mayor.

Population

- How do we cut density of building without cutting program or beds?
- NAC is opposed to the scale of the project, not the use (Jail facility).
- NAC does not want to compromise the well being of the detained to cut height/density.
- Council Member Levin: Can we see population reduction and policy change in next legislative cycle? Can we get from 6,000 beds to 5,000 beds?
- Request that study area be increased to include entry/exit of BQE (~1/2 mile radius from site).
- Request for explanation of how each of the facilities will be programmed. Why equally distributed beds? What is the population breakdown? How does detained population get reduced to 5,000? Are there other options for division of beds among sites?
- Concern that rationale for four sites with evenly distributed population is politically motivated and is not best solution for the criminal justice system

Site Selection

- Without including another site/facility how can we reconcile/modify the size of the proposed facility?
- Does every facility need to be adjacent to a courthouse? There may be detainees that do not need this adjacency.

- What other sites in Brooklyn have been explored? Why hasn't city responded to call to investigate additional sites?
- CM Levin states he would support an additional site in his own district.
- Has the city considered additional sites? RFP would suggest the city is still open to the idea.
- Atlantic Yards proposed as option for potential additional site.
- Case study of Sunset Park expansion of Federal Prison. Liberty View.
- Additional Sites is a priority issue
- Future site can be added after the 29th. A corrective action to CEQR application is possible.

Height/Density

- Building is not in context. Too large
- Concern about optics that while system is smaller, Jails sizes are larger
- Committee upset that City has not shown the envelope/massing
- Is a height reduction possible to include in ULURP during NAC process?
- There is development fatigue in the neighboring community. Neighborhood has been asked to pick up a lot with the rapid increasing density over the years. Overcrowded schools, street congestion and subways.

Cultural Change

- Request for city to share culture change initiatives such as 14 point DOC plan and DOC programs. How is police culture going to change?
- How can jail reform be accelerated before shovels are in the ground?
- CM Levin: There is the possibility that there could be criminal justice reform measures enacted democrats gain control of State Senate.
- Opinion that an individual needing mental health and drug treatment cannot be treated while incarcerated. Is the city looking for treatment providers in at risk communities/city wide?
- Concern that the back-end of criminal justice (jail facility) is being dealt with and made to shoulder the burden without overhauling the front end.
- Suggestion that community courts in areas that have high rates of incarceration be utilized more to divert people from jail. The Red Hook Justice Center was discussed. There are other possibilities that should be considered.

Other

- Correct map which mislabels Cobble Hill as Carol Gardens
- New greenspace supported in neighborhood

- Cautionary tale of circumstances change with large development. Example of SI Ferris Wheel stalling.
- Concern about construction impacts.
- Doubling up the Jail with the BQE rehabilitation is very bad timing. The schedules for both projects align.

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Eric Fang	PE
Joshua Eisenstat	PE
Noah Levine	PE
Arnie Bloch	FHI
Ryan Walsh	FHI
Jane Marshall	HR&A
Carl Weisbrod	HR&A
Nicole Torres	MoCJ
Dana Kaplan	MoCJ
Tahirah Moore	Mayor's Intergovernmental Affairs Unit
Daniel Abramson	CAU
Elizabeth Adams	Councilmember Levin's Office
Sandy Balboza	Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association
Richard Bearak	Brooklyn Borough President's Office
Nan Blackshear	Brooklyn Borough President's Office
Peter Bray	Brooklyn Heights Association
Amy Breedlove	Cobble Hill Association
Mark Gelbs	84th Precinct Council
Brandon Holmes	Just Leadership
Harriet Hughes	Warren Street Houses
Howard Kollis	Boerum Hill Association
Steven Levin	NYC Councilmember
Tyler Nims	Lippman Commission
Sara Nordman	Atlantic Avenue BID
Caroline Peri	Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
Robert Perris	Brooklyn Community Board #2
Justin Pollack	87 Smith Street
JoAnne Simon	NYS Assemblywoman
Jocelyn Simonson	Brooklyn Law School
John Skaller	District Leader
Evan Wagowski	265 State Street
Dan Wiley	Congresswoman Nydia Valazquez's Office
Danielle Zuckerman	State Senator Kavanagh's Office
Evan Wagowski	265 State Street