

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

Date: November 30, 2018 3:30 pm

Location: St. Francis College. 180 Ramsen Street Brooklyn, NY

Attendees: See Attached.

Prepared by: Noah Levine, Joshua Eisenstat, and Arnie Bloch

Attendees:

Perkins Eastman  
Architects DPC

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>Affiliation</u>                      |
|--------------------|---|
| Elizabeth Adams    | Councilman 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                 |
| Belinda Cape       | Downtown Brooklyn Partnership           |
| Zachary Katznelson | Lippman Commission                      |
| Brian Kavanagh     | State Senator                           |
| Sharad Kohli       | 265 State Street                        |
| Howard Kollins     | Boerum Hill Association                 |
| Steven Levin       | Councilman                              |
| Claudia Massa      | Downtown Brooklyn Concerned Neighbors   |
| Shana Mosher       | State Senator Kavanagh's Office         |
| Tyler Nims         | Lippman Commission                      |
| Sara Nordman       | Atlantic Avenue BID                     |
| Brian Paul         | NYC Council Land Use                    |
| Robert Perris      | Community Board #2                      |
| Justin Pollock     | 87 Smith Street                         |
| Jason Salmon       | Senator Montgomery's Office             |
| JoAnne Simon       | Assemblywoman                           |
| Jocelyn Simonson   | Brooklyn Law School                     |
| Steven Smith       | Downtown Brooklyn Neighborhood Alliance |
| Alexis Spikas      | Assemblywoman Simon's Office            |
| Hizam Wahib        | Arab-American Family Support Center     |
| Dan Wiley          | Congresswoman Nydia Valezquez's Office  |

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|------------------|--|
| Daniel Abramson  | CAU                                    |
| Arnie Bloch      | FHI                                    |
| Joshua Eisenstat | PE                                     |
| Frank Greene     | RGA                                    |
| Dana Kaplan      | MOCJ                                   |
| Noah Levine      | PE                                     |
| Jane Marshall    | HR&A                                   |
| Tahirah Moore    | Mayor's Intergovernmental Affairs Unit |
| Lindsey Shields  | DMOPS                                  |
| Joseph Thomas    | CAU                                    |
| Nicole Torres    | MOCJ                                   |

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Next NAC meeting to be scheduled for December 2018.
- NAC would like to have summaries of both NAC meetings held so far and the presentation from today's meeting.
- NAC would like to have meeting presentations posted electronically.
- NAC would like to be presented all the components that would need to be enacted to achieve a total population of 5,000.
- In a related issue, a session will be scheduled at a future meeting to discuss the City's strategy for working with the State Legislature re: criminal justice reform.
- NAC would like to know the anticipated square footage for housing units and per bed for:
  - General population
  - Female detainees
  - Special populations

**INTRODUCTION:**

- Introductions from Dan Abramson (CAU) and Councilman Levin.
- Dana Kaplan explains extended NAC engagement process
  - DEIS Certification targeted for March 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Allows more time for engagement with communities/NACs.

**CEQR/ULURP PROCESS:**

- New DEIS Certification date is mainly as a consequence of new Manhattan jail site. Manhattan site relocated as a result of difficult relocation and phasing for moves of existing tenants from 80 Centre Street.
  - NAC member asked if new scope would be issued to reflect this change. City responded that a new scope is not going to be issued at this time, though changes to scope

- as a result of change in Manhattan site will be made and shared with Manhattan communities.
- NAC member asked that the revised Manhattan scope be put in writing for all to see.
- NAC member voiced suspicion that mobilization of protests and community opposition was partially, if not largely, the reason for retreating from 80 Centre Street.
- Concern was raised by NAC members that decision to switch sites in Manhattan was a closed process. Also, concerned about process and legality of changing scope without changing scoping document. In other words:
  - Is draft scope of work still relevant?
  - At what point do changes make the scope of work no longer valid?
- DEIS will be one full report for all 4 sites.
- DEIS will be published upon certification (March 25th).
- NAC member asked if the same amount of analysis would be done in Brooklyn compared to Manhattan? The City responded that the same level of analysis is being done for all sites, with one exception: There will be additional analysis performed for affordable housing component of Bronx jail site.
- City emphasized that during the ULURP process, the DEIS will be supplemented by additional information concerning such issues as possibly lowering height/density of buildings, community needs, etc. This supplemental information will be seen by all relevant parties (i.e., Community Boards, Borough Presidents, City Planning Commission members, and the City Council) as they review and vote on the project.

#### **NEW SITE IN BROOKLYN?**

- City reported that the potential site in Brooklyn Navy Yard is not an appropriate site, due to conflict with intended industrial use of the site.
- City is not looking any new or additional sites (other than the shift from 80 Center Street to the current Manhattan Detention Center site). Master Plan and DEIS focusing on only 4 sites.

#### **DEMAPPING OF STATE STREET?**

- City was looking at potential to bring loading/unloading under State Street to take those activities off of street level.
- City explored if anything other than a tunnel could go under State Street.
  - It was determined to be infeasible due to utilities and other complications.

- If another use was put under State Street, the road would have to be completely demapped and would create issues with utility maintenance.
- The idea of an NYPD tunnel came out of community engagement with Brooklyn.
- The portion of State Street that isn't in front of City-owned property could be removed from demapping, City will look into this.
- City is not considering an above-ground connection; it would be difficult to marry the two buildings due to programming of both buildings. However, it is not precluded in the demapping exercise.

**PARKING IN THE FACILITY:**

- NAC member voiced concern that parking in the facility would encourage staff to drive to work and add to congestion.
- City explained that the parking will be provided to address the current concern that DOC staff uses street parking, constraining available street parking in neighborhoods
- City is hoping that over time there might be a culture change among staff, resulting in a greater reliance on mass transit.
- NAC member voiced concern about congestion and parking availability during shift changes. City will address this concern in the planning of the parking facility.

**USES OF SPACE IN THE JAIL FACILITY:**

- Frank Greene presented all the various uses that will go on in the jail building, from the basement to the top. This included the top 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the building, which is planned for detainee housing units, and the bottom podium and basement, which houses many uses, such as:
  - Parking
  - Maintenance and building operations equipment
  - Lobby (including community space)
  - Visiting area
  - Staff area
- As currently planned, housing units in each jail facility would include these components:
  - Admissions
  - Female detainee housing
  - Therapeutic (Mental Health) detainee housing
  - Special population housing
  - General population housing

**POTENTIAL FOR LOWERING HEIGHT/DENSITY OF BROOLYN JAIL SITE**

- Dana Kaplan presented possible scenarios that could decrease the height and density of the Brooklyn jail site. These include the following:
  - Remove technical parole violators from the jail site;
  - Remove severely mentally ill population from the site;
  - Remove female population from the site;
  - Provide lower efficiency (i.e., providing enough beds to meet 110% of typical population vs. 120% in current plan);
  - Increase beds per housing unit from 32 to 36 (or more);
  - Increase number of housing units per floor;
  - Remove community space; and
  - Rely on indirect (vs. direct) light for housing units.
- Dana showed that each possible change could have small to moderate impacts on building height and/or FAR.
- Dana asked the NAC if they had reactions to these possible changes or suggestions for other changes. Responses included the following:
  - Remove population serving short-term sentences;
  - Remove all mental health population, not just severely mentally ill;
  - Consider using dorms on some floors vs. individual rooms; and
  - Relocate some services for detainees outside the jail.
- Dana said that we will explore all these possibilities in more detail in future NAC meetings.
- Dana also said that the City would like to work with the NAC on defining other community needs, including potential uses of community space in the jail.