

Re: **Summary of Borough-Based Jails Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) Brooklyn – Sixth Meeting**

Date: March 22, 2019, 3:30 pm

Location: Brooklyn Law School, 5th Floor Brooklyn, NY

Prepared by: Joshua Eisenstat

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
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
Brian Crow	New York City Council Legislative Division
Mark Gelbs	84 th Precinct Council
William Harris	393 Pacific Street
Brandon Holmes	JustLeadership USE
Scott Jacobs	Fair Jails Brooklyn
Zachary Katznelson	Lippman Commission
Sharad Kohli	265 State Street
Howard Kollins	Boerum Hill Association
Steven Levin	Councilman
Claudia Massa	Downtown Brooklyn Concerned Neighbors
Tyler Nims	Lippman Commission
Sara Nordman	Atlantic Avenue BID
Caroline Peri	Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
Robert Perris	Community Board #2
Justin Pollock	87 Smith Street
Marci Rosa	State Street Houses
Alexis Sfikas	Assemblywoman Simon's Office
Joanne Simon	Assemblywoman
Jocelyn Simonson	Brooklyn Law School
Hizam Wahib	Arab-American Family Support Center
Sue Wolfe	Atlantic Avenue BID
Danielle Zuckerman	State Senator Kavanagh's Office

Daniel Abramson	CAU
Chelsea Davis	MOCJ
Joshua Eisenstat	PE
Dana Kaplan	MOCJ
Julia Kerson	DMOps
Noah Levine	PE
Nicole Torres	MOCJ
Ryan Walsh	FHI

ACTION ITEMS:

- City to incorporate Professor Simonson’s edits in the updated Draft Guidelines and Principles document before distributing to all NAC members for review, per the NAC’s request.
- Brooklyn NAC tour of Rikers Island is scheduled for April 5th.

DISCUSSION OF BUILDING HEIGHT & DENSITY AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS):

- The City explained that in response to community feedback and the City’s commitment to demonstrating progress in reducing the height/density and impact on neighborhoods, we have modified our plan to reduce the heights of the proposed buildings.
 - The proposed Brooklyn facility now has a reduced height of 395 feet, which is a reduction of 35 feet, and a FAR 17.8.
 - We reduced the number of beds in the proposed plan by 250, by reducing the inefficiency rate to 15%.
 - The City has decided to have a centralized women's facility proposed to be in Queens that allows dedicated women only space for programming, visitation, healthcare services, and intake.
 - We removed the proposed arraignment court from the Bronx facility, and moving forward, we will engage stakeholders on the appropriate location for the parole court currently housed on Rikers Island.
 - Additional strategies to further reduce the height and density are under continued review by the City, and as decisions are made we will continue to share the impact on the proposed plan.
- The City confirmed it will absolutely adjust its jail population projections based on passage of State legislation in order to right size the proposed facilities.

- The City is actively exploring and considering whether there is a more appropriate environment to house and serve a sub-population of therapeutic units (complex and acute mentally ill and substance abuse). This includes exploring using space in or adjacent to hospitals to house this particular sub-population (not hospitalizing people or putting them in hospitals).
 - NAC member asked if the City is talking to advocates on how to better serve populations with specific needs. The City confirmed that we are constantly in touch with providers and advocates as we think through diversion and therapeutic populations. Correctional Health Services (CHS) is also only focused on care within the jails so CHS is an invaluable resource to the City.
- NAC member asked what would prevent a future mayoral administration from changing the priorities of the project, such as removing program space in favor of adding more beds. Another NAC member responded indicating that advocacy got us to this moment and advocacy will continue to lead. The City will explore what land use tools it has at its disposal to ensure a humane design.
- NAC members noted that they would like to make sure that alternatives to incarceration (ATI) are supported and adequately resourced.

NAC DISCUSSION OF UPDATED DRAFT GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES:

- The NAC discussed the draft Executive Summary of the document.
- Further discussion was given to “Close Rikers Initiative, State Criminal Justice Reform” and “Building Height and Density.”
- The draft document will be made available to the NAC members for their further input.
- The Guidelines and Principles will be finalized in time to be submitted for consideration during the ULURP process.
- NAC members would like certain recommendations to be phrased differently.
- NAC requested Professor Simonson edit the Draft Guidelines and Principles document before distributing to wider NAC for review.