

Re: **Summary of the Borough-Based Jails Queens Advisory
Committee – Third Meeting**

Date: January 30, 2019 6:30 pm

Location: Queens Community House- Kew Gardens Community
Center, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Prepared by: Daniel Dickson, Mathew Snethen, and Arnold Bloch

Attendees:

QAC Members

Steve Bell	Kew Gardens Civic Association
Murray Berger	Kew Gardens Civic Association
J. Carter	Kew Gardens Civic Association
Claudia Chan	LaGuardia Community College
Kendra Clark	Exodus Transitional Community
Andrea Crawford	Community Board #9
Mara Einstein	Kew Gardens Civic Association
Laraine Fletcher	Kew Gardens Improvement Association
Malka Jackson	Kew Gardens Improvement Association
Sylvia Hack	Community Board #9
Kevin Livingston	Community Member
Alain Massena	Community Member
Dominick Pistone	Kew Gardens Civic Association
Aida Vernon	Briarwood Speaks Up
Seth Willens	Community Board #9

Members of the Public

Brett Brown	Silver Towers Owners
Christine Chung	Not available
Crystal Courts	Briarwood Speaks Up
Joseph De May	Beverly House
Maddy Farooqui	Community Preservation Coalition
Lawrence Fraenkel	
Gary Hamlin	Community Member
Eric Han	
Joel Landy	Community Member
Frank Pepe	Briarwood Speaks Up

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Louisa Petsitis Hampton House
Robert Weston Silver Towers

City/Consultant Team

Alex Anderson Council Member Karen Koslowitz's Office
Arnie Bloch FHI
Daniel Dickson PE
Jessica Douglas CAU
Julia Kerson Deputy Mayor of Operations' Office
Matt Snethen PE
Jordan Stockdale MOCJ
Joseph Thomas CAU
Nicole Torres MOCJ

Key Action Items:

1. QAC requested information on how many detainees are projected to be residents of Queens, awaiting trial, and sentenced once the City's jail population reaches 5,000 people.
2. QAC requested information on where the City plans to house the sentenced population within the proposed building concept.
3. QAC requested additional information on how the proposed facility would be evacuated in case of an emergency that required a full-scale evacuation.

Presentation (see Queens QAC Meeting #3 presentation):

- PE presented all the various uses that would go on in the proposed facility from the basement to the top. This included the top 3/4th of the proposed building, which is planned for detainee housing units, and the bottom podium and basement, which would house many uses such as:
 - Parking
 - Maintenance and building operations equipment
 - Lobby (including community space)
 - Visiting area
 - Staff area
- The City presented possible scenarios that could decrease the height and density of the proposed Queens facility. The City

indicated that each possible change could have small to moderate impacts on building height and FAR.

- The City explained the DEIS considers the maximum allowable envelopes for all four proposed facilities, but the City is working on developing a plan that both meets the City’s criminal justice goals and can bring down building height.
- The City explained that it must wait for the ULURP process to conclude before being able to procure a Design-Build team for this project. This is why what is presented and analyzed in the DEIS is a concept, not an actual design.
- City explained that the potential for transportation impacts – including traffic and parking during construction and operation, respectively– will be analyzed in the DEIS.
- City discussed how public input will continue to be considered throughout the ULURP process.

Major Themes from the QAC Members and Members from the Public:

Discussion of NAC Process

- NAC members concerned that community engagement process did not start early enough. NAC members indicated the community feels like their input was requested after the site selection decision was made by the City.
- Several NAC members concerned that timeline for ULURP certification is too soon and indicated they believe the process is being rushed.
- Several NAC members suggested the City start over.

Discussion of Proposed Facility and Site Selection

- Several NAC members recommended the City analyze alternative locations in Queens for the proposed facility. NAC member indicated that Jamaica, Queens cannot absorb a jail this size because it is already overwhelmed with homeless shelters.
- Several NAC members questioned why the City’s plan includes locating the Specialized Medical Annex at the Queens facility,
- NAC member remarked the proposed recreational space per housing unit did not appear to be a sufficient size.

- NAC member discussed the importance of having a basketball court in the proposed facility to allow detainees to “burn off energy.”
- Several NAC members discussed the importance of having job training programming at the proposed facility.

Discussion of Criminal Justice Reform

- Several NAC members expressed their belief that the City should first be seeking and achieving State criminal justice reform before seeking to create new jails.
- Several NAC members indicated they did not believe that creating new jails will create reform due to the state of the jails at Rikers Island.
- Several NAC members recommended the City invest in City services and public education rather than fund a plan to close the jails on Rikers Island.

Discussion of Neighborhood Concerns

- Several NAC members stated the tallest building in the neighborhood should not be a jail.
- Several NAC members were concerned about the parking supply during construction, particularly when the existing municipal parking lot will be replaced.
- NAC member discussed what he described as a moral imperative to maintain strong communities, such as the surrounding neighborhood.