

Dear Sir:

As part of the Chinese Community of the New York Metropolitan area, we write to you to call your attention to our great concerns over the proposed acquisition of White Street site for additional detention facilities in Lower Manhattan. Chinatown is the center of all Chinese in the Metropolitan area. Even though we do not live there, we frequently go there for social gathering, shopping and some other activities. It has become an very important part of our lives. In the past decades, unfortunately, the existing Tombs has become the "eyesore" of Chinatown. Everytime when we visit Chinatown, the view of that building always ruin our trips. It has also been difficult and shameful for us to explain to our friends from out-of-town why the core of Chinatown is located in the shadow of a prison. Thus, we are enraged to know that the City is planning to expand this "eyesore" of our beloved Chinatown. This is not fair.

For the following additional reasons, we appeal to you to vote against the current application by the Department of Correction and ask them to consider alternative sites, especially the ones outside of the Lower Manhattan:

1. Based on Community Board 1's written comments, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this proposed facility is deficient and its Civil Center Committee has shown the opposition to the site acquisition for the intended use.
2. Lower Manhattan already has more than its fair share of the prison facilities. The so called traditional land use in the area must be changed.
3. There has been a chronic failure to adequately consult with the local community in this matter.
4. The White Street site is adjacent to an area of high residential density Chinatown (Community Board 3) and Little Italy (Community Board 2).

5. For its location, the only and already overcrowded park in Chinatown--Columbus Park--will be loitered by detainee visitors if the new facility will be constructed here.
6. The success of the economy of Chinatown continues in spite of recent economic difficulty. Without receiving much assistance from the public sectors, Chinatown has experienced a healthy and successful expansion. The City should reward their success with revitalization plan and not with more "prison" which will thwart their goals and aspirations.
7. An acre and a half of very valuable land be condemned for more facilities in the area contradicts every previous and existing City plans developed for the area, e.g., the Chinatown Street Revitalization Plan recommended a desperately needed municipal parking garage with private development at the White Street site.
8. Parking is already a critical problem in the area, and the proposed facility will make it worst. The most serious traffic problems will be caused by the uniformed correction officers parking. Since only 12 to 15 on-site parking spaces will be provided for senior officers and staff, the rest of the officers who drive to work will most likely enjoy their I.D.-on-the-windshield privilege and park their cars on the streets, which in turn would further complicate local traffic difficulties.

Your just action in this matter will be appreciated by all Chinese in the New York Metropolitan area.

Respectfully,

(name)

*WJ*  
Christina Lau

(address)

Elizabeth  
#14, W. 10