



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
OFFICE OF OPERATIONS  
100 Church Street - 20th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

NATHAN LEVENTHAL  
Deputy Mayor for Operations

BRENDAN SEXTON  
Director

MONTE KURS  
Assistant Director

January 4, 1984

Father Walter C. Murphy  
Church of the Sacred Heart  
41 Adelphi Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11205

Dear Father Murphy:

Mayor Koch has asked me to thank you for your support and indicate to you the City's intention to minimize, to the extent possible, the effects on the community of the city jail on Flushing Avenue.

As you undoubtedly know, after you wrote the Mayor the Federal Government signaled its approval of the City's plan and the Board of Estimate has approved it as well. We are thankful for their support and the support of community leaders like yourself because we recognize the concern that communities feel about detention facilities. We must however, respond to the realities of our time, which unfortunately include a jail population that has grown by nearly 50% over the last five years. Our best projections indicate that it will continue to grow through 1988. The plan the Mayor announced on December 9th, and approved by the Board of Estimate on December 30th, is designed to insure that the City will have adequate space to safely house all prisoners remanded to our custody.

The City has substantial experience operating detention facilities, with four borough houses of detention in addition to five separate facilities on Rikers Island. As a result, we recognize the concerns you expressed about visiting, recreation and security. Although my comments must be constrained by the fact that we have only just begun design of the facility renovations, I can assure you that all of your concerns will be considered in the design and operation of the jail. For example, there will be adequate space, as there is in all of our jails, for visitor waiting facilities inside the jail. All loading and unloading of prisoners will be within the secure perimeter of the jail. And, all necessary security measures will be taken, including sophisticated security hardware, cameras and sufficient staffing to ensure the safety of the community, as well as the guards and inmates.

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As renovation and the subsequent operation begin, your very real and legitimate concerns will be addressed. I have asked the agencies involved to make sure that the community knows what is being done and how the jail will operate; I am sure that will happen through your elected representatives. In the meantime, if you have any specific questions about the facility, feel free to contact Sharon Keilen, Deputy Commissioner for Administration at the Department of Correction.

On behalf of the Mayor, thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

  
Monte Kurs