



March 1, 2022

To Mayor Adams:

Since the borough-based jail plan was first proposed in 2019, Think!Chinatown has advocated for the City to listen to our community members and neighbors. When there was a lack of outreach from the City, we created bi-lingual flyers to communicate former Mayor de Blasio's proposed plan, letting our neighbors know when and how to voice their opinions. We hosted a workshop so that we could learn as a community how the ULURP process works. For years, we attended countless meetings, both public and as a part of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee, spending many hours trying to engage with the City. We have done everything the City has asked of us and more, and yet the de Blasio administration just did not listen.

When you ran for Mayor, we were heartened to hear you say, just last year, "No New Jails. No New Buildings" in Chinatown, and that you "know it is possible to solve the problems we are facing in incarceration without the destruction of communities." Think!Chinatown supports Neighbors United Below Canal (NUBC) in opposing the \$8.3 billion borough-based jails to replace Rikers Island. We ask that you:

- Prevent the closure of our sidewalk and streets. Do not put up a construction wall while your administration is still setting out clear next steps;
- Stop the imminent demolition of the Manhattan Detention Center;
- Halt the proposed construction of the world's tallest jail in Chinatown;
- Consider the dangers of an unprecedented 30-story skyscraper jail when there is a fire, power outage, or need for emergency evacuation;
- Re-evaluate the use of \$8.3 billion to build new jails, when the City is now anticipating a time in the foreseeable future when we will be experiencing leaner times;
- Immediately stop the dangerous overcrowding on Rikers by accelerating housing options for detainees to reduce the Rikers population;
- Consider renovating existing detention centers like the Manhattan Detention Center to create immediate facilities for those now awaiting trial;
- Rebuild New Yorkers' confidence in the City's ability to ensure the safety of those incarcerated and those employed to oversee the incarcerated;
- Investigate and fix the root problems impacting inmates and those who work on Rikers as outlined in Rikers Chief Medical Officer Ross MacDonald's letter; and
- Support the eight NY Congressional leaders who asked for federal intervention to run Rikers.

In short, we ask that you honor your campaign promises, and invest in communities and in people, not in jails.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yin Kong & the Think!Chinatown Team  
*Director, Think!Chinatown*