

CHRISTINE C. QUINN
SPEAKER

DISTRICT OFFICE:
224 WEST 30TH STREET, SUITE 1206
NEW YORK, NY 10001
TEL: (212) 564-7757
FAX: (212) 564-7347



**THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE:
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
CITY HALL, NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: (212) 788-7210
FAX: (212) 788-7207
quinn@council.nyc.ny.us



May 17, 2011

Linda I. Gibbs
Deputy Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Mayor Gibbs:

I am writing regarding the proposed Bowery Residents' Committee's (BRC) homeless shelter at 127 West 25th Street. As you are aware from our discussions on this project, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and BRC are proposing to make this a 328-bed shelter. The shelter would house homeless men and women suffering from mental illness and alcohol and/or substance abuse at this location.

Last Friday, members of my staff met with DHS Commissioner Diamond and Deputy Commissioner Nashak to once again discuss this proposal. My staff was informed that because the construction has progressed so far and that a contract was awarded it would be highly unlikely that any changes could be made to the facility. Furthermore, it was made clear that any changes made to the facility could negatively impact BRC's ability to financially sustain this project.

Since announced, many members of the local community have opposed this project. The Community Board has said that the size of this facility is unacceptable. This proposal has been condemned by nearly every stakeholder—including but not limited to my office, the Community Board, local residents, and business organizations. This proposal simply does not work. I cannot and will not support it.

It is disturbing that the City has now chosen to claim that the facility, at 328 beds, is nevertheless legal under local law because it is replacing the now-closed, 1,700-bed Camp LaGuardia armory. Commissioner Diamond represented to my staff that the City would not invoke this exception and instead would build a 200-bed facility that complies with local law. The reversal of his representation to my staff, which is evident in the City's unwillingness to negotiate with the community, only further the doubts in the surrounding neighborhood about the transparency of this process.

I have said clearly that this proposed facility is too large. Additionally, as you know, I have asked that DHS and BRC wait until the court rules on the legality of this shelter before moving ahead with occupying the space. These requests have yet to be satisfied.

I urge you to immediately withdraw this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine C. Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker