

**Police Academy – College Point, Queens**  
**CHAPTER 22: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**<sup>1</sup>

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) summarizes and responds to all substantive oral and written comments received during the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Public Safety Answering Center II (PSAC II). Public review began on August 18, 2008, with the issuance of the Notice of Completion for the DEIS. The public hearing on the DEIS was held concurrently with the hearing on the project's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) applications by the New York City Planning Commission (CPC) on December 17, 2008. The period for public review remained open until December 31, 2008.

Section II below lists the individuals who commented on the DEIS, and summarizes and responds to comments made at the public hearing and received in writing. The comments are organized by subject area. Where multiple similar comments were made on the same subject matter, a single comment combines and summarizes the individual comments. After each comment is a list of the people who made the comment. Where no further elaboration is required to address a comment, or where comments do not relate to the analysis of the Proposed Action in the DEIS, the response provided is "comment noted." Written comments received on the DEIS are attached to this chapter.

## **II. DEIS COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Police Academy project during a period commencing with the City Planning Commission public hearing held at the New York City Department of City Planning (NYCDCP) in Spector Hall on August 19, 2009, and extending through August 31, 2009. Written comments received on the DEIS are included in Appendix B.

This section lists and addresses comments made on the DEIS. The comments are organized by subject area, following the organization of the DEIS document. The organization and/or individual who made the comment is identified next to each comment, using a numerical reference keyed to the list of commenters below. Comments on the DEIS were received from the following individuals and organizations:

1. Eugene Kelty, Chairman of Queens Community Board 7 (Community Board 7 Recommendation on ULURP application, dated June 30, 2009)
2. Honorable Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President (Borough President Recommendation on ULURP application, dated August 4, 2009)
3. Amanda M. Burden, FAICP, Chair of the New York City Planning Commission (oral statement at public hearing)
4. Irwin G. Cantor, P.E., Commissioner (oral statement at public hearing)

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<sup>1</sup> This chapter is new to the EIS

**A. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Comment A1:** Including the 17 items detailed in the letter (attached) to the community board from Deputy Mayor Edward Skyler and to request the following: 1) letter from Deputy Mayor Skyler and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly assuring that no parking, including authorized parking, be allowed on the street. All parking must be contained on site, and 2) a contingency fund be established for unforeseen capital improvements or repairs that might arise due to the development of this site. (1)

**Response:** As detailed in the letter from Deputy Mayor Skyler to Queens Community Board #7, the City is committed to the 17 point plan to mitigate perceived impacts of the Police Academy on the businesses and residents of College Point and surrounding communities. Due to the comprehensive nature of the attached letter, each item will not be restated here. However, a few EIS-related items are described briefly below. It should be noted that the proposed Police Academy project will incorporate each of the items listed in the letter from Deputy Mayor Skyler.

A Construction Taskforce Subcommittee within the Community Board will be formed. NYPD and DDC will update the Taskforce on the Academy's construction status on an as-requested basis.

Any potential future changes to the master plan must be within the scope of the EIS. Should the NYPD intend to diverge from the master plan presented to the Community Board and outlined in the EIS, yet fall short of the worst case scenario analysis, DDC and NYPD will solicit input from the Community Board on an advisory basis. DDC and NYPD will present the design to the Community Board Construction Taskforce Subcommittee and attempt to address any concerns that may arise.

The FIES reaffirms the City's commitment to continue to study the design of the garage span abutting College Point Boulevard as this corridor is seen as both gateway into the College Point neighborhood and the public face of the Police Academy to many passersby.

The requested community air monitoring program (CAMP) will be developed in conjunction with NYSDOH to monitor air quality during the investigative and remedial work.

As described throughout the FEIS, the parking capacity for the proposed Academy has been expanded to 2,000 parking spaces for full build-out from 1,800 parking spaces. No off-site parking will be permitted. The Police Academy and its visitors will be required to abide by all posted parking regulations.

The mitigation measures described in the traffic and parking section will be implemented and will be consistent with the description provided within the letter to Queens Community Board #7. See Chapter 17, "Mitigation."

As described in Deputy Mayor Skyler's letter to Community Board #7, funding will be allocated to construct a free-flowing u-turn for cars (not trucks) from the southbound Whitestone Expressway Service Road to the northbound Whitestone Expressway Service Road on the north side of Linden Place utilizing space within the existing underpasses that are blocked by curtain walls. Assuming NYSDOT's

approval, design will commence in FY '10 and construction will commence in FY '12. As described in Chapter 17, although this is not a mitigation measure required to alleviate a CEQR impact, the City feels as though this physical improvement would help to improve traffic flow along Linden Place, one of the critical access points to the College Point neighborhood.

As of the publication of this FEIS, the items addressed in items 1 and 2, above, have not been resolved. However, the FEIS includes a lengthy discussion of the Academy's parking policy and describes how the proposed HOV requirements for recruits would allow for 100 percent of the parking demand to be met onsite.

**Comment A2:** The Office of the Borough President should be a member of the Police Academy Construction Task Force and should be notified of all task force meetings. (2)

**Response:** The NYPD and DDC have agreed to include a representative from the Queens Borough President's office on the Police Academy's Construction Task Force and will provide notice for all meetings.

**Comment A3:** What is the treatment going to be along that entire edge – especially the College Point Boulevard edge? What is the fence going to look like? Will there be plantings at the edge? This is a major entry into College Point. (3)

**Response:** Comment noted. The project architect had not finalized the renderings of the landscaping and streetscape elements in time for FEIS publication. However, additional material has been forwarded to the City Planning Commission for review, including elevations of the fence that is currently being considered.

**Comment A4:** How is the parking accommodated on-site during the construction phase? Explain how you can accommodate a peak number of 5,500 individuals within 2,000 parking spaces (3, 4)

**Response:** A detailed technical memorandum was sent to the City Planning Commission to address the parking questions that were raised during the public hearing. Additionally, the EIS includes an extensive description of HOV requirements that will be imposed on the recruit population to ensure that 100 percent of the parking demand is accommodated on-site at all times.