



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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CEDRIC L. LOFTIN
DISTRICT MANAGER

FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 23, 2019

THE MAYORS OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

The District Manager stated that there was to be a Public Hearing on the Borough Based Jail Proposal and a presentation on the item by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the New York City Department of Corrections.

Ms. Arline Parks Chairperson of the Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee said that we will start the Agenda tonight by having representatives from the Mayor's Office present their plan for Mott Haven followed by the open session where speaker can come up and present their views on what is being presented tonight and we're asking everyone to be mindful that we have a number of speakers tonight and we've got to allow everyone to make their point and let's make sure that we're respectful tonight in allowing everyone to make their position no matter what it is. We thank everybody for coming out tonight. That said can we have everyone from the Mayor's Office state their names and who they are.

The District Manager requested for the Chairperson Ms. Betty Bryant-Brown to open the meeting with a prayer.

The District Manager stated that if anyone wanted to speak that the Speakers List would be in the back of the auditorium.

Mr. Jordan Stockdale Deputy Director of close Riker's of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice said that when we talk about close Riker's we first like to give the context in terms of the dropping jail population. In 1991 the jail population was around 22 thousand today it's about 75 hundred. This massive decline of jail population was from hard working communities, changes in policies and investment in alternative programs to incarceration. As you see the jail population dropped 30 percent

since the Mayor took office. We believe that the population will reach 4 thousand which is different from when we announced it first we thought the population would go down to 5 thousand but due to recent changes at the State level bail reform, speedy trials we discovered we believe the population will go down to 4 thousand due to a lot of hardworking people in this room.

When we talk about closing Riker's Island we talk about the moral imperative and I think everyone understands about the moral imperative of closing Riker's. Riker's was designed in a different era when the point of jail was to punish with punishment with retribution it was not to rehabilitate or reengage individuals it was not with the understanding that the vast majority of people in jail are pre-trial thus innocent under the law. Visiting loved ones at Riker's Island is very difficult it takes all day to get there and it reduces the amount of people who visit their loved ones. We know a strong bond between community members is right, two it reduces the recidivism and so from a justice and safety standpoint it's the right thing to have smaller facilities in a borough as opposed to on an island. Riker's Island is located far away from the courthouses and the distance from the courthouse from the jail sometimes leads to case delays where people don't arrive to court on time because of New York City congestion and then they have to wait in Riker's until their next court date which could be days away. This could be solved through having a borough based plan where the jails are closer to facilities. Again, Riker's was designed in a different era new facilities can be designed to be safer to have targeted programming and to ultimately treat people better and reduce recidivism.

When we talk about the goals for the new smaller borough based jail system it's fair, safer and more efficient. Fair meaning it's designed to encourage social outcomes, educational outcome, health outcomes and people would be closer to their families and communities and provide better access to social services there would be continual support upon release and ultimately fewer families would be impacted by the Justice System. This plan would reduce the bed capacity by over two-thirds this is a massive de-carceration plan we believe it's one of the largest in the history of US Cities. We would close outdated facilities that had poor lines of sights and have newer ones that are safer and we'd provide programming. The system would be more efficient we'd streamline transfers between the courthouse and the facility that would improve access to Attorneys and social services.

When we talk about how this plan was developed to close Riker's the call to close Riker's came from the people. The people came out and demanded Riker's be closed. The plan was also developed in consultation Justice Taskforce which is comprised of 75 members, advocates, former incarcerated, academics and a combination of all that. We were advised by the Neighborhood Advisory Council, we discussed investments in the neighborhood, how to best integrate the facility into the community and how to use the community space in each of the facilities and we met with local Councilmembers with the Board of Corrections with all other actors in the Criminal Justice system.

We plan to build housing for 4 thousand people when we originally announced this plan it was for 5 thousand people. We believe that it would take about 46 hundred beds for 15 percent inefficiency rate. Again, right now we have capacity for about 14 thousand beds in operating and non-operating facilities this is more than a two-third reduction in the bed capacity. We currently have 11 operating jails in New York City at the end of this plan there would be 4 jails. Each of the 4 boroughs would have 1 facility as part of this plan the City would close the barge which is the boat in the Bronx.

So again this plan is a massive de-carceration effort it's to insure that the fewer people that are in facilities are in better facilities more humane facilities that are designed to improve outcomes and that is kind of the basis of the plan.

The site selection criteria is one close to the courthouse closer than Riker's, that it's city owned property, that it's transit accessible that there is sufficient site area for our programming goals that we have very small housing units and that we have tailored programming within those housing units. The site locations include 125 Worth Street in Manhattan, 275 Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn, in Kew Gardens in Queens Second Avenue, in the Bronx at the current NYPD Tow Pound which is 745 East 141st Street.

This is the program summary when we imagined the facilities would have 1 thousand people total, we now imagine that it would be 4 thousand people total with 46 hundred beds so the proposed number now is 1, 150 beds. So we are proposing to replace the current NYPD Tow Pound with a new facility that would have support services, potentially retail and community facility space. The facility would have 1.437 beds and a maximum height of 245 ft. 575 below grade accessory parking spaces. This is a vignette of the potentially facility on the ground floor where community space could be located. To facilitate this proposed project we're seeking both system wide actions and site specific actions, system wide we are seeking a site selection for the boroughs comprised of the 4 proposed sites we're also seeking a text amendment to create a borough based jail special permit that would allow modifications to zoning regulations and facilitate the development of the 4 facilities. Specific to the Bronx we are applying for the borough based jail special permit we are also seeking a zoning map change a zoning text amendment and disposition of the facility for future mixed use development for affordable housing on the western portion near Concord Avenue. What is important to note there is that on the proposed mixed development the affordable housing would actually face the community the one-third size of the land plot on the left hand side the facility would face Bruckner Boulevard.

In summary this special permit would allow for the modification of FAR's, height and setback accessory parking and loading as well as ground floor uses. As you can see here the plan is to separate the building from the mixed use development by lowering the permitted height of the jail on the western end of the facility. The special permit allows for the following ground floor uses, public entrances, retail, community space, parking and loading and staff entrances. We will be rezoning from an M1-3 to an M1-4, R7X to facilitate about 235 affordable housing units which would be on one-third of the land plot and there would also be 31 thousand sq. ft. of community space within the facility.

Here we have the timeline we'd close Riker's and the new units would be built by 2026. We are still in the Master Plan approval stage. If this project is to be approved we would then issue a Request for Proposals and the team approved would then demolish the existing facility and begin the design building phase which will go to 2026. We originally said it would be 2027 but we believe it would be faster now because of the reduction in the population and a reduction in the overall size of the actual facilities.

The District Manager said that we are now going to move over to the next phase of the public hearing and requested if there were any Elected Officials that would like to provide commentary on the proposed Bronx borough based jail before we move on to the speaker sheet list.

Assemblyman Michael Blake and individuals that had requested to speak made comments and voiced concerns related to the proposed Borough Based Jail.

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The Board voted not to approve the proposed siting of the jail at Concord Avenue East 141st Street.

The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED.