



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner

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February 13, 2024

Gotham Center
42-09 28th St.
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Chair Garodnick,

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) has reviewed the zoning changes proposed for laboratories. We do not have any public health concerns with the current City of Yes for Economic Opportunity proposal. The NYC Health Code requires that certain types of high-containment research laboratories register with the NYC Health Department. This requirement allows the NYC Health Department to maintain awareness of specific laboratories that may handle certain types of pathogens as part of their research activities, as an added precaution in the event of an emergency. The Health Code provision does not pertain to commercial or other laboratories that do not perform this type of research. Laboratories are required to follow state and national guidelines to ensure the safety of individuals working in laboratories and the public. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashwin Vasan".

Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner
New York City Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene