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Council member Margaret Chin speaks out on plan not to hold 9/11 Trial New York City

New York, NY – Today, the Obama administration announced it would not go forward with the plan to hold trials for the September 11th trials in Lower Manhattan.

Council member Chin commended the decision by the Obama administration, calling it “responsive to the needs and concerns of Lower Manhattan residents. These trials would have shut down a community that is just getting back on its feet. The security alone would have cost millions and closed off our community. What Lower Manhattan really needs is access to essential services and funding for public and human services to meet our growing need.”

While moving the trials out of Manhattan is the right thing to do – a military tribunal is not. Council member Chin supports civilians trials for 9/11 co-conspirators in US federal court. “Throughout this process we have spoken of justice. What kind of justice prevails at Guantánamo Bay? As a nation we should be committed to shutting down Guantánamo Bay, not increasing its role. This decision is shortsighted. It increases the risk that convictions will be seen as illegitimate around the world. It gives terrorists the platform to say they are warriors, not criminals. Overall, this will draw out the deliberations and make sentences easier to overturn. The American public, the survivors, and victims deserve more.”