



June 2, 2022

Eric Adams  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

**Subject: Relocation of Women at Rikers to the Manhattan Detention Complex**

Dear Mayor Adams,

We write concerning the relocation of roughly 300 women currently incarcerated on Rikers Island. We strongly support the call from State Senators Julia Salazar and Cordell Cleare and State Assemblymembers David Weprin and Michaelle Solages to reconsider the relocating of these women to the Queens jail facility currently under construction in Kew Gardens. We also urge the City to instead relocate these women to the Manhattan Detention Complex at 124-125 White Street in Chinatown as the most suitable and feasible alternative.

These women, the majority of whom are domestic violence survivors, are currently held in the Rose M. Singer Center on Rikers Island, an all-female facility. As Rikers Island closes, the City plans to integrate these women into the planned facility for men and women in Queens. This has raised serious concerns among elected officials and activists, calling for a strategy to move the women to another all-female facility. While the Lincoln Correctional Facility on 110th Street in Manhattan was proposed as an alternative, the State-owned site would have to be onerously transferred to City ownership and significantly upgraded to meet current quality standards.

Then Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer raised the issue of the women's facility relocation in her ULURP recommendation dated July 5, 2019. She noted that advocacy groups have called for the facility to be sited in Manhattan due to reports that many of these women are sole heads of their households and that proximity to family and needed resources is essential in combating recidivism. She notes land constraints as the primary barrier to siting the women's facility at 124-125 White Street, yet we believe that this is not enough to bar consideration of such a centrally-located and opportune location.

We propose that these women be granted the safest and highest quality conditions possible, and believe that this can be achieved at the Manhattan Detention Complex, a currently empty jail

facility with a capacity of nearly 1,000 beds. With minor renovations, the South Tower could easily be converted to an all-female facility for the women currently held on Rikers Island. This move would be logistically and financially efficient, and would ensure safe and accessible living conditions in Lower Manhattan.

We request a meeting to discuss the potential for this relocation request. Please reach out to Conor Allerton in the office of Council Member Christopher Marte at [callerton@council.nyc.gov](mailto:callerton@council.nyc.gov) to coordinate this meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Marte". The signature is stylized with a large initial "C" and "M".

Christopher Marte  
New York City Council Member, District 1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Schulman". The signature is stylized with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lynn Schulman  
New York City Council Member, District 29