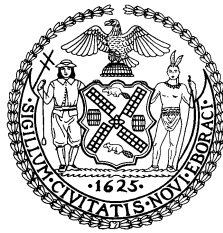


Jacqueline Ludorf  
Chair

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## The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

February 19, 2010

Honorable Eric Holder  
United States Attorney General  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

### **Re: Manhattan Community Board 1 proposal to relocate Terror Trial to an Alternative Location**

Dear Attorney General Holder:

At the February 17, 2010 Land Use/Full Board meeting, the board adopted the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstentions:

- WHEREAS: The New York Police Department (NYPD) recently announced that they estimate the trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed to cost over \$200 million a year in security for what is likely to be a multi-year trial, and
- WHEREAS: The Federal Courthouse is situated in the middle of what is the fourth largest commercial business district in the country and a dense residential neighborhood, and
- WHEREAS: The lower Manhattan community has already endured the arduous and painful task of rebuilding its neighborhood in the aftermath of September 11th as well as environmental hazards, street closures, the shuttering of businesses and security checkpoints, and
- WHEREAS: Holding the trial downtown would force the community to endure additional psychological and financial hardship, and
- WHEREAS: The trials are likely to require extremely burdensome security measures for months and even years, to expose Lower Manhattan to greater than usual terror threats, and to have a severe adverse effect on the ability of Lower Manhattan residents, workers, and local business people to live and conduct business in a secure community with adequate quality of life, and
- WHEREAS: The magnitude of the estimated costs of security to protect the surrounding neighborhood around the federal courthouse suggests that the site in and of itself may not safe, and
- WHEREAS: It is preposterous to propose spending close to hundreds of millions of dollars on a trial in the midst of an economic recession, particularly given that the September 11th

attacks already wreaked over \$83 billion a year in damage on New York City according to estimates by the New York City Partnership, and

WHEREAS: In an article published January 20th, 2010, the New York Daily News cited a speech by NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly, which indicated that security will include “a double-layer of security...[with] a ‘soft’ perimeter...established from Bowery to Broadway, and from Franklin St. to Canal St...manned by cops on foot, horseback, and patrol cars [and a] harder perimeter, which will include bomb squad cops and police snipers...set up in the blocks adjacent to the 500 Pearl St. courthouse” as well as “2,000 barriers and checkpoints that will restrict pedestrians and traffic...[and] unannounced vehicle stops”, and

WHEREAS: There exist numerous possible alternatives for a federal criminal trial within the Southern District of New York, which should be studied to determine if they are feasible, including but not limited to Governors Island, Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the Bureau of Prisons jail complex at FCI Otisville, and

WHEREAS: A feasibility study of the sites should be conducted to examine safety, security, cost, and impact on the community of these and any other sites proposed, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 8 urges the Office of Attorney General Eric Holder, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, the U.S. Federal Marshals, and NYPD to conduct an immediate assessment of appropriate alternatives within the Southern judicial district including but not limited to Governors Island, Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the Federal jail complex at FCI Otisville.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Ludorf  
Chair

cc: Hon. Barack Obama, President of the United States  
Hon. Preet Bharara, US Attorney, Southern District of New York  
Hon. Joseph G. Guccione, US Federal Marshall  
Hon. Charles Schumer, United States Senator  
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator  
Hon. David Paterson, Governor of the City of New York  
Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member  
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator  
Hon. Jonathan Bing, New York State Assembly Member  
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member  
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member  
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member  
Hon. Raymond Kelly, New York City Police Commissioner  
NYC Community Boards