

Points to Consider

regarding the proposed homeless shelter when writing letters or emails to public officials or press.

A list of elected officials is provided on this site.

We are opposed to the proposed Homeless Shelter at 243-02 Northern Blvd in Douglaston. The 72 bed shelter will be located at on the Pride of Judea site. The 72 resident's senior women over 50 will be relocating from a hotel rooms which have only two occupants sharing the room and one bathroom. In this proposal by DHS, they would be moving from a hotel to dormitory rooms of 8-12 women sleeping on cots and sharing one bathroom with 10 other women. This property doesn't have an outdoor area to get fresh air, gather, smoke or to visit with family and friends. They have no place to stay in the shelter, but are required to leave during the day. Transportation is scarce.

Clearly this inhumane! It's really a Homeless Warehouse. This doesn't by any stretch of the imagination help these women who are at a low point in life, perhaps depressed, desperately want get their life back together and assimilate into society. Actually, this is the antipathy of helping them. By any stretch of the imagination, if they were in need, it's not a place you would want your mom, a relative or a friend live in.

Prisoners at Riker's Island have more space and share a bathroom with one inmate! Ever wonder why many homeless persons refuse to go to a shelter. In some cases they just don't want to be in an overcrowded "**Homeless Warehouse,**" and are concerned for their own safety, health and wellbeing.

Of course, City officials may decide to change the population of the shelter without consultation with the community. The need is greater for males than females as such a change could happen.

We are a compassionate community and know the homeless need help a place to eat and sleep. We pray that they will soon be on their way to a better life. This shelter won't be helpful for them. Let's get permanent housing for them.

We feel the location of this shelter is concerning located just 200 feet from Divine Wisdom Academy's Nursey, Kindergarten and Elementary school's playground. Additionally, the Homeless Shelter is on route that many children use to get to and from school including waiting for a bus.

NYC trying to save money at the behest and detriment of the least fortunate in our society, makes no sense at, all and is counterproductive to helping the homeless. In reality it is travesty that could happen in the largest city in America.

The lack of transparency by the Department of Homeless Services and our elected politicians of announcing the shelter plans before engaging with neighborhood residents and stakeholders is unfair to our Community. In fact, our community only became aware of the new homeless shelter plan when it was announced in the Queens Chronicle. Our community supports

meeting the needs of our community, but we need to be included in the planning process. In our Community there are other locations that better fit the need of the homeless and our Community.

Our taxpayer's money and NYC budget will be better served by using existing properties instead of building new facilities. The Creedmoor campus for one has several vacate buildings that can provide better accommodations. Also have existing kitchens, cafeterias, parking, outdoor areas and superior transportation. Most important of all it can make a big difference getting the homeless back on track to a productive and happy life that they deserve.

City code requires in resident facilities one bathroom for every six people. That is not the case here. The law says that residents in such facilities cannot stay more than thirty days.

This building is in an R1-2 Zone and the Pride of Judea received a variance from the Board of Standards and Appeals to have a community facility. There are specific restrictions on its use and none of which are being complied with by DHS. Therefore, the city may not use this site for a homeless shelter.

Why did our city councilman, state senator, and state assemblyman not inform us, or the Community Board, or DCA about DHS's plans? Why are they allowing this inhumane treatment of women?

Why can't we have a smaller shelter or on another site which has more room than this three story building of 11,400 sq. feet.

There is no transparency is how DHS, Samaritan Village or other vendors, and real estate owners collaborate in contracting these sites. How is that Bayrock, who may be involved in this site have so many contracts with the city. This needs to be investigated to ensure all laws and regulations are being followed. Who approve thee leases?