



COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
1 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007-2341
(212) 669-3500

WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.
COMPTROLLER

November 18, 2008

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I have written to you on several occasions regarding the administration's poorly conceived plan to re-open and expand the use of the Brooklyn House of Detention. I am therefore particularly troubled to learn of the City's latest plan to vastly increase capital funding for resurrecting this facility.

In these challenging fiscal times, the City would be better served to redirect this nearly half a billion dollars to school construction, an already proven under-funded need. Why threaten the successful economic revitalization of Downtown Brooklyn when the money could be better spent building nearly ten new schools?

As we know, our City is experiencing economic weakness and this project would impede community renewal in Downtown Brooklyn at a time when it can least afford it. This project also ignores overwhelming community opposition while threatening Brooklyn's thriving downtown commercial corridor.

The plan further sends an inappropriate message to City residents by committing \$440 million for the restoration of a correction facility rather than addressing our urgent need for schools. As you may know, my office recently released a report that identified flawed capital planning as a key reason New York City fails to build necessary new schools. Your administration's most recent funding decision once again demonstrates a process that has been characterized by poor long-term planning and the absence of meaningful community involvement. The administration's disjointed and non-inclusive approach has resulted in what I consider a serious misalignment of City priorities.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

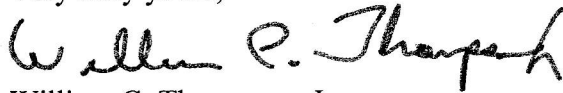
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Today's challenging financial conditions require us to carefully identify our most compelling needs. Accordingly, I strongly urge you to reverse the decision to re-open the Brooklyn House of Detention and to instead redirect the nearly half a billion dollars to the construction of desperately-needed school facilities.

Thank you for your careful attention to this important issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William C. Thompson, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

William C. Thompson, Jr.

c: Joel I. Klein, Chancellor
Martin F. Horn, Commissioner