

Thank you Chair Hanks for the opportunity to testify. My name is Eva Chan. I am representing the [Harlem East Block Association](#) that spans 8 blocks in East Harlem, [Greater Harlem Coalition](#) that represents 150 local businesses and organizations and the [Upper Manhattan Asian American Alliance](#).

These 3 organizations are here to urge the City Council to increase police presence in Harlem, including precinct 23/25/28 and PSA5 and assign more narcotic police to Harlem as their work is increasingly dangerous and complex. We also urge more funding to build up incarceration alternatives and to adequately pay for the implementation of discovery reform.

Regardless of whether you would like to reduce funding for the police in general, Harlem uniquely needs more enforcement support. To improve racial equity, we urge the city to allocate more resources to areas suffering from higher crime rates such as Harlem. We need more resources for the police force and many other areas such as sanitation, housing, education and employment. The approach of taking money from the police to other social services is not the right approach for Harlem.

Due to a confluence of factors, both serious and petty crime rates in East Harlem continue to be one of the highest in NYC. If you cut NYPD's budget, you put our lives in danger. We need more and not less police presence here.

Residents live in fear here. Many of our seniors feel like a prison in their own homes. Loiterers and drug users are using many NYCHA and section 8 housing corridors as their own home terrorizing the residents.

East Harlem is a victim of structural racism. It suffers from systemic under-investments. It has the highest density of NYCHA housing that suffers from severe lack of maintenance. Our schools are underfunded relative to UES and UWS next to us. It has been used as a containment zone for NYC for decades to place an excessive number of drug treatment programs, harm reduction programs, adult only shelters, and SRO supportive housing residents with serious mental health and addiction issues. For example, East Harlem has 1.4% of NYC population but 14% of drug treatment capacities, 10% of adult only shelters, 7% of SRO supportive housing from DOMH. The latest initiative that further worsen crime rate is the placement of the safe consumption site in the district.

Reduction of funding of Harlem's police force, without first putting in place necessary infrastructure is putting the cart before the horse and put our lives in danger. The government must first (1) vastly increase maintenance of public housing, education and economic development in Harlem (2) stop using Harlem as a containment zone by spreading drug treatment, harm reduction, shelter services more widely as excessive density of these services are drawing in drug users and drug dealer (3) close loopholes as a result of criminal justice reform, fully implement changes driven by the discovery law and build up restorative justice infrastructure.

Thank you for listening. We welcome an opportunity to speak to you further. Our email addresses are harlemeastblock@gmail.com, greaterharlemcoalition@gmail.com and uppermanhattanaaaa@gmail.com.

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