

SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN
Assembly Member • 48th District

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP
CHAIR

Subcommittee on Outreach and
Oversight of Senior Citizen Programs

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March 17, 2025

Honorable Eric L. Adams
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Honorable Molly Wasow Park
Commissioner, Department of Social Services
33 Beaver Street
New York, NY 10004

Dear Mayor Adams and Commissioner Park:

As the NYS Assembly member representing the Boro Park community, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed establishment of a homeless shelter at 5001 10th Avenue and 1016 50th Street, in Brooklyn. While I fully acknowledge the importance of addressing homelessness, I have significant concerns regarding the proposed location and its potential impact on our neighborhood.

It is evident that this project was planned and considered without proper input from the community or its elected officials. The recent Community Board 12 meeting which was held to address this project largely dismissed the passionate objections of local residents. It seemed obvious that the developers, driven by profit, had already reached an agreement with city officials regarding this shelter. The meeting served more as a formality to inform the community and its elected officials, rather than an opportunity for genuine engagement.

Why weren't our community leaders or local elected officials informed and engaged in advance? How was this decision made without considering the input of those most familiar with the neighborhood's dynamics? A project of this magnitude should never be carried out without the involvement of those who will be most directly impacted.

Those of us who live and work here understand the unique dynamics of our neighborhood and believe that this proposal would be profoundly detrimental to the community as a whole. While it may appear that this shelter would address the needs of 80 families, I assure you it would create far greater challenges for the hundreds of families who have lived here for generations, built a vibrant neighborhood, and enjoy a strong sense of peace and harmony.

My primary concern is the suitability of the proposed site. This location is situated on one of the busiest streets in the neighborhood. An overwhelmed hospital, multiple medical offices, a large rehabilitation facility, and a 941-student public school, are all within a block or two of the site. Placing a homeless shelter in such a densely populated and high-traffic area would disrupt the daily lives of patients, visitors, students, residents, the elderly and infirm, and the neighborhood at large. It simply does not make sense.

Moreover, the introduction of a shelter in this area would undoubtedly lead to safety and security concerns. This is a unique community with many large families, where children often return home from school late in the evening, well after dark.

Additionally, it is clear that the local infrastructure is not equipped to handle the additional demands of a homeless shelter. The influx of families into this area would place an overwhelming burden on law enforcement, healthcare services, and other essential resources, ultimately affecting the entire community.

While I wholeheartedly support efforts to assist the homeless, this proposed solution is not the right approach. I consider it a privilege to represent a warm, diverse, and vibrant community, and I can confidently say that my constituents are united in their opposition to this facility. They are committed to opposing this project with all available resources.

This proposed shelter is misguided, and I strongly urge you to reconsider its location. I am confident that a more appropriate site can be found.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and to discussing potential alternatives that will best serve both the homeless and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Eichenstein", written in a cursive style.

Simcha Eichenstein
Member of Assembly
District 48