

AMENDED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CEQR Number: 20DOC001X

Date Issued: October 16, 2020

NAME:

Rikers Island Public Place

LOCATION:

10-01 Hazen Street Bronx Queens Community District 1 Block 2605, Lot 40

SEQR CLASSIFICATION: Type I

DESCRIPTION:

This amended negative declaration supersedes the original negative declaration issued on November 27, 2019. Since the issuance of the original negative declaration, the proposed City Map change designating Rikers Island as a Public Place has been modified such that the date after which Rikers Island can no longer be used for the incarceration of individuals has changed from December 31, 2026 to August 31, 2027.

The New York City Department of Correction, the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and Corey Johnson, Speaker of the New York City Council, are seeking a change to the City Map involving the establishment of a Public Place encompassing all of Rikers Island (the proposed action), which lies within the borough of The Bronx though it is under the jurisdiction of Queens Community District 1. With this Public Place designation, Rikers Island could no longer be used for incarceration of individuals after August 31, 2027, when the City's system of four new borough-based jails is expected to be completed and in operation, pursuant to a series of land use actions approved by the City Council. As such, this application is being made to reflect the City's continued commitment to create a modern, humane, and safe justice system and guarantee the closure of the jails on Rikers Island and construction of a new smaller borough-based jail system.

Statement of No Significant Effect

Pursuant to Executive Order 91 of 1977, as amended, and the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review, found at Title 62, Chapter 5 of the Rules of the City of New York and 6NYCRR, Part 617, State Environmental Quality Review, the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) assumed the role of lead agency for the environmental review of the proposed project. Based on a review of information about the project contained in an environmental assessment statement dated November 26, 2019, DOC has determined that the proposed action would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Reasons Supporting this Determination

The above determination is based on an EAS dated November 26, 2019, and incorporated by reference herein. The EAS finds, because the proposed project, a proposed City Map change designating Rikers Island as a Public Place, that:

- 1. The change in the date after which Rikers Island could no longer be used for the incarceration of individuals does not alter the underlying analyses contained in the EAS and thus does not alter the previous determination for the proposed action.
- 2. The proposed action would not result in the potential for significant adverse impacts in any of the impact categories.
- 3. No other significant effects upon the environment that would require the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement are foreseeable.

This Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (SEQRA).

Howard Fiedler, A.I.A. Administrative Architect Director of Design Unit NYC Department of Correction

10/16/20 Date