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CHINATOWN RESIDENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR HOUSING, NOT HOTELS AND JUSTICE FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES

Says CAAAV's Chinatown Tenants Union: The dramatic increase in hotel construction is continuing to further gentrify Chinatown. We need a new zoning plan that would limit new hotels in our neighborhood, build affordable housing, and support our local economy!

New York, NY – Today, Friday, August 24, members and supporters of CAAAV's Chinatown Tenants Union, along with Asian Americans for Equality and other neighborhood groups, held a press conference and rally in front of the new Wyndham Gardens hotel in Chinatown. They called not only for justice for the 128 Hester Street tenants, whose apartment building was demolished when construction of the new hotel began and destabilized their building - but also for a limit on new hotel construction in Chinatown.

“Over the past five years, new hotels have been popping up in Chinatown like mushrooms after a rainstorm,” said CAAAV-CTU tenant organizer and Chinatown resident Zhi Qin Zheng. “New hotels add little to the local economy, and don't serve the needs of residents. We need balanced development that meets the needs not only of tourists, but of those who live and work in Chinatown. We need new affordable housing, not more hotels! That's why we are calling for a new zoning plan that would limit the number of new hotels while allowing for more affordable housing to be built.”

While no in-depth analysis has been done, a street canvassing of Chinatown and the surrounding area has found a spate of new hotels in the area, some of which include:

- **5 Allen Street**, currently under construction. It is becoming a Howard Johnson Hotel and is being marketed as a “Soho” hotel despite being in the middle of Chinatown;
- **54 Canal Street**, the Jarmulowsky Bank Building. It was sold earlier this year for \$36 million and will become a new luxury hotel.
- **109 East Broadway**, the former site of the Hong Kong Supermarket that was destroyed by a fire in 2009. It will become a Marriott hotel, and is currently under construction.
- **150 Delancey Street**, a Holiday Inn hotel that is replacing the low-rise buildings which used to be on the site.

"We're fully in support of balanced economic development that supports New York City residents and small businesses who live, work, and shop in the neighborhood. For Chinatown, that means economic development should also support the many working-class immigrant residents, workers, vendors, and businesses that call Chinatown their home," said **CAAHV-CTU Project Director Esther Wang**. "But that's not what's happening here or in other New York City neighborhoods. We have new hotels, but no new affordable housing being built. We have expensive condos, but residents are continuing to be evicted from their homes. We need a new development model and a new rezoning plan."

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