



## THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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# COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN STANDS WITH RESIDENTS TO REJECT MORE BIG-BOX RETAIL IN SOHO

*Proposal would establish a massive floor-to-cellar retail space that would worsen quality-of-life for SoHo residents*



CITY HALL – At a City Council hearing today, Council Member Margaret S. Chin expressed her objections to an application seeking to establish a retail space that would take up a colossal 45,000 square feet, stretching from the cellar to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of a building at 462 Broadway in SoHo.

In her opposition, Council Member Chin joined Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Community Board 2, which voted unanimously to deny the

application. In her statement, Council Member Chin argued that development in SoHo should reflect the mixed-use nature of the community, where families, artists, small business owners, and retail establishments must peacefully co-exist.

“I do not support the 462 Broadway proposal, and urge my Council colleagues to deny this application,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “SoHo residents shouldn’t have to watch their community continue to be transformed into an uninhabitable mall designed solely for tourists. This neighborhood has long been recognized as a haven for our City’s most talented artists, and I am disappointed that developers have not yet taken the demands for more diverse and smaller creative spaces into consideration. This community is fed up with enduring extreme pedestrian traffic, rowdy “pop-up” events, noise pollution, and piles of commercial garbage on a daily

basis. I ask my colleagues to join me, Borough President Brewer, and Community Board 2 to help turn the tide to create a more livable community in SoHo.”

In 1998, the owner of 462 Broadway rented out another portion of the building for illegal use, and illegal large-scale retail operations continue to be a major issue along Broadway. Council Member Chin looks forward to working with the community to push the Department of Buildings to enforce the law and rein in big-box retail in this historic district.

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