

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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***CM CHIN'S STATEMENT IN RESPONSE
TO CHINATOWN 3 ALARM FIRE***

CHINATOWN – Council Member Chin issued the following statement on the latest developments around the 3-alarm fire impacting 70 Mulberry Street at the corner of Mulberry Street and Bayard Street, starting late Thursday evening:

"70 Mulberry is the building where I went to school, P.S. 23, after my family immigrated to New York from Hong Kong in 1963. It has been an anchor in the Chinatown community for generations, serving as home to community groups like Chinatown Manpower Project (CMP), Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA), United East Athletics Association (UEAA), Chen and Dancers, and Chinese American Planning Council (CPC) senior center to provide cultural and youth programming, workforce development, and critical senior services.

We are now working closely with these nonprofits, City Hall, NYPD 5th Precinct, and FDNY to determine how and when these groups can access their spaces safely and soundly. We are also beginning a dialogue to identify alternative spaces they can use in the interim. We must make sure vital services are not lost, and that these groups' needs are met.

One older man with mobility challenges is hospitalized in critical condition, and two firefighters have also suffered injuries. Please keep all these patients in your thoughts for a speedy recovery.

I am grateful to all the first responders from Ladder 20 FDNY and the 5th Precinct for your swift action and bravery. I look forward to working with you and the Chinatown community to restore what was lost."

After a passerby noticed fire from the building's 4th floor window at around 8:45 PM on Thursday, first responders sped to action. The fire, however, spread rapidly to the upper floors due to the fact that the building was not fireproof.

One occupant of the building was rescued from the top floor through a tower ladder. He was immediately transported to the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center to treat injuries from smoke inhalation.

As of this time, a cause has not yet been determined.

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