



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

SENATOR  
JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.  
15TH SENATE DISTRICT

**RANKING MINORITY MEMBER**  
RACING, GAMING & WAGERING  
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY  
& MILITARY AFFAIRS

**COMMITTEES:**

AGING  
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS  
EDUCATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
LABOR

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
613 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2322  
FAX (518) 426-6875

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
159-53 102ND STREET  
HOWARD BEACH, NY 11414  
(718) 738-1111  
FAX (718) 322-5760

**SATELLITE OFFICES**  
66-85 73RD PLACE  
MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379  
(718) 497-1630  
FAX (718) 497-1761

88-08 ROCKAWAY BEACH BOULEVARD  
ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11693  
(718) 318-0702  
FAX (718) 318-0194

E-MAIL: ADDABBO@NYSenate.GOV

September 15, 2016

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Maspeth Homeless Shelter Proposal

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

I would like to take this opportunity to once again express my opposition for the proposed homeless shelter at the Holiday Inn Express, located at 59-40 55<sup>th</sup> Road in Maspeth. There have been a number of issues of concern and matters that can be possibly resolved with some level of accurate communication.

I am respectfully urging you and your administration to respond to the following inquiries and concerns in order for me to relay the correct information to my constituents:

1. After meeting with Commissioner Steven Banks on September 8, 2016 and being informed that the proposal was progressing, the Holiday Inn Express owner, Harshad Patel, made statements to the media that he was no longer interested in converting his hotel into a shelter. Please inform me as to the current status of the proposal.
2. I also have grave concerns with the city negotiating a homeless shelter deal that involves Mr. Patel, an individual who admitted to bribing an elected official. I strongly urge your administration to refrain from doing business in any manner with Mr. Patel.
3. Since I believe it is the intent of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to keep families near their communities while seeking shelter, the large population of individuals being proposed for the inadequate Maspeth site who are not from the surrounding communities, contradicts the goal of DHS truly seeking to assist families.
4. The Holiday Inn Express proves to be an inadequate site for its lack of simple amenities, such as kitchens in the rooms and insufficient public transportation for both train and bus service.

5. The same Holiday Inn Express is an existing, viable active business, contributing tax and other revenues to the city. I believe the city administration should seek to protect these businesses and allow them to thrive, while utilizing other more appropriate sites and programs to assist the homeless.

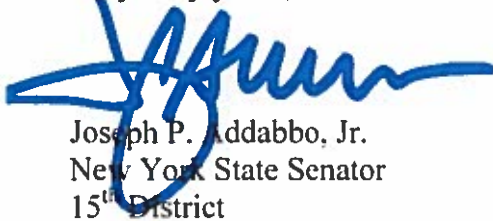
6. A number of credible groups, community civics and individuals have submitted alternative proposals for addressing the homeless crisis, such as the unused Queens Savoy Hotel with kitchens, city-owned vacant properties available for development of modular living spaces or unoccupied apartments, all without a response from DHS or your administration. I urge the administration to reply in writing to these suggestions, which I can re-submit to you, and the reasons detailing why such proposals are either acceptable or unacceptable.

I truly believe that by improving the cooperative effort with elected officials and community residents, we can better address and serve the needs of those desperately seeking shelter. I look forward to working towards calming the tension caused throughout my district when dealing with the sensitive issue of homeless individuals.

I ask that your administration respond to my correspondence by September 21, 2016 as a number of important community meetings are occurring soon thereafter and I would like to communicate accurate information to my deserving constituents.

Thank you for your time and immediate attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Addabbo".

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.  
New York State Senator  
15<sup>th</sup> District

- Thank you