

## WHO IS LIVING IN THE WYNDHAM HOTEL?

In early June I began receiving calls and emails asking "who is residing in the Wyndham?" On June 14th a member of our civic association gave me information that confirmed that the City had placed 108 former Rikers Island inmates into the Hotel. I used this information to follow-up with our Elected Officials. I spoke with Assm. Nily Rozic, and Councilman Rory Lancman and Community Board 8Q. I notified them about the released Rikers prisoners residing in the Wyndham. None had been notified and promised to look into it. Rory, our City Councilman called me back and confirmed that there have been 108 early release prisoners living in the hotel for more than 2 months. Exodus Traditional Community, Inc. is the supervising agency in charge. Rory spoke with Councilman Barry Grodenchik (the hotel is in Barry's district) and they requested a walk through and a meeting at the hotel.

On June 24th a meeting was held with Elected Officials, CB8, Civic leaders, the Queens Civic Congress and members of the Exodus program and the Mayor's office. Our Councilmembers and State Senators were livid about not being notified and having to find out on their own about the situation. The Mayor's office stated that there are other hotels in Queens (probably 2) being used but refused to share their location. No walk thru was offered and we did not see any recidivism activity (social workers, classes for re-retraining, etc) going on. The agency would not share information on the Riker's residents but did state they would set up a community advisory group. Jennifer Kaake is the Program Director, Community Unity liaison. She shared her cell number 862 203-8263 and her email address [jkaake@etcny.org](mailto:jkaake@etcny.org). We are waiting to hear from her with information about setting up this group. We will keep you posted via email (share your info with us) and through our website.

PLEASE NOTE: A petition is being circulated opposing using the Wyndham for housing former inmates. You are encouraged to sign it and to share it with your neighbors.

<https://www.change.org/p/say-no-to-using-the-wyndham-garden-hotel-fresh-meadows-to-house-100-former-inmates-and-sex-offenders>

We are in contact with our NCO's (Neighborhood Coordination Officers) at the 107th precinct. They are aware of the situation and have promised to monitor it for us.

Are you aware that crime is going up in the 107th! The 107th precinct crime stats for the past 28 days (for the week of 6/22 -6/28/20) shows that burglary in the precinct this month is up 156% and grand larceny auto is up 325% in the 107th precinct alone! You can view it anytime on the 107th Precinct website <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/patrol/precincts/107th-precinct.page> or you can go to the Civic webpage <https://utopiaestatescivic.org> to link to our

important sites. Share this information with your neighbors. In the meantime I encourage you to report to the police any illegal activities or incidents between residents and those living in the hotel. We ask that you also contact CB8 at 718 264-7895 so they can have these incidents on record in their office.

Thank you to those who have reached out to our Civic as well as those who reached out to other Civic leaders. Situations such as these focus us and shows us why participating in our Civic Association is important. In the future we will be sending out our newsletter electronically. To do that we need your updated contact information. Please share it with us by going to our website <https://utopiaestatescivic.org> and clicking on Contact Us on the left side menu. If you are interested in getting involved in the Civic or organizations we participate in add that in the comment section.

In these times of upheaval we all need to work closer than ever to ensure our beautiful community remains a safe harbor and a beacon to those who wish to escape the rush and lack of social distancing in the City. I look forward to working with you and for you and on this situation and others as they occur. Our motto remains “We are our neighbor’s keepers.” Please pay this forward!

Maria DeInnocentiis, Chairwoman