Mapping the Disproportionate Impact of the SoHo/NoHo Rezoning Plan on Asian Americans

The proposed rezoning area has a high concentration of Asian-American residents, especially in the southeastern corner of the district and along Canal Street. While it’s referred to by the City as the “SoHo/NoHo Rezoning,” the proposal really also includes highly vulnerable parts of Chinatown already under a great deal of displacement pressure.

It’s these areas of Chinatown, as well as other parts of the rezoning area with higher percentages of Asian American residents, where City’s rezoning plan also targets its largest upzonings, creating the greatest pressure for harassment and displacement.

Using 2010 Census figures, we have mapped the census blocks within the rezoning area which have concentrations of Asian American residents at levels above the New York City average (12.6%). Some of those blocks are as much as 67.6% Asian American according to that census.
As shown, areas with the largest concentrations of Asian American residents closely follow areas where the City proposes very large upzonings, allowing development of approximately 2 to 2.5 times the density current rules allow, with a vastly expanded menu of highly lucrative allowable uses currently prohibited (this includes residential, oversized retail and “community facility” uses such as private universities like NYU).

This greatly increases the likelihood of demolition of these residents’ homes and their displacement. Most of these blocks contain a disproportionately large share of renters for the rezoning area, and are located within census tracts which have higher percentages of lower income residents.

Buildings located within the rezoning area with rent regulated tenants (from top l.): 119 Baxter St.; 218 Centre St.; 210 Centre; 128 Baxter St.; 218 Centre St.; 208 Centre St. Under the rezoning proposal, all would be upzoned to 12 FAR, the highest density legally allowable in New York State.