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Passing on a message from Odeon

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## A message from Odeon

Dear Friends and Friends of The Odeon,

Most of you do not live or work in Tribeca but maybe you know someone who does.

We need your help. Please read the enclosed information sheet regarding a proposed move of The Criminal Summons Court to 71 Thomas (opposite The Odeon restaurant.) It is crucial we have massive support to defeat this plan. I'm emailing you in the hopes you will in turn email anyone you know who lives or works in Tribeca...also to friends who love The Odeon and other restaurants and small businesses in the area. We need everyone, city wide, to help us. If at all possible we would be

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extremely grateful if you have time to show your support at The Community Board One Meeting on Thursday, October 22nd at 6pm, WTC aka/150 Greenwich Street. If not, just mailing this on to your friends would be an enormous help.

Thank you in advance!

With warm regards,

Lynn Wagenknecht, The Odeon

We need everyone's participation. Please help spread the word: email or print and distribute this info sheet to neighbors and co-workers. PLEASE attend

**Community Board One Meeting: Oct 22, 6pm,150 Greenwich St.**

The Community needs representation in numbers.

**PLEASE STOP CRIMINAL SUMMONS COURT on THOMAS St. in**

**TRIBECA.**

A couple of weeks ago, the neighborhood began hearing persistent rumors that the Criminal Summons Court, presently located at 346 Broadway (entrance on Leonard near Lafayette) was considering 71 Thomas as a possible new location. We were informed 71 Thomas was one of several locations being reviewed. Last Friday, we heard it was a 'done deal' and 71 Thomas in the 40 Worth Building had been chosen as the new location. (directly opposite The Odeon restaurant at Thomas Street and West Broadway.)

To help explain our alarm at this prospect, here are a few facts from the 2012 Criminal Court of New York Annual Report. The Criminal Summons Court deals with all summonses issued in the boroughs of both Manhattan and Brooklyn.

**In 2012, over 510,000 summonses were issued citywide.** Of those, Manhattan and Brooklyn contributed more than 280,000. Manhattan and Brooklyn are responsible for more than 86% of the total revenue derived from citywide summonses. Only about 9,000 individuals responded to their summonses by mail. That leaves well over a quarter of a million individuals appearing at the Summons Court in Manhattan every year. **Over 40 certified agencies serve summonses** including the NYPD, the MTA, the NYCFD, the ASPCA, the Taxi&LC, Off Track Betting Corp, Tax Enforcement, Roosevelt Island Authority, Unified Court System and many more. The majority of summonses are for intoxication and/or disorderly conduct. But there are also summonses for fighting & violent behavior among other

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summons. (See report below.)

According to information obtained from a knowledgeable source, many of the summonses are repeat offenders. In addition, there is a "holding pen" on the court premises for those individuals arriving to plea a summons but who are felons with much more serious infractions on the books.

**Every**

**concerned member of this community** should take the time to pass by the Summons Court entrance on Leonard Street between Broadway and Lafayette. It's located directly opposite Family Court. On two recent mornings, between 8 and 9am; One day there were around 60 individuals waiting in line for the court to open. On another day there were well over 150. The predominantly male crowd was smoking and the area was littered. The guard on duty said altercations between individuals in line were not uncommon. We are being asked to accept this atmosphere in a residential neighbor with a pre-school not only on the same street but also in the same building. There are three more pre-schools within a couple of blocks.

**The sheer number of transient visitors to this area of Tribeca is unacceptable.**

That alone would change the nature of our sidewalks. There are no public areas other than the sidewalks. The summons court, at 346 Broadway, is part of a Civic area. To the south is Foley Square and City Hall Park. Immediately to the north is Collect Pond Park (which is adjacent to NYC Civil Court.) To the east is Columbus Park. The J, N,R, Q and 6 trains are all available close by. The area **is a Civic and court focused one** and the Summons Court should be accommodated in just such an area.

Placing the Criminal Summons Court at 71 Thomas places an unfair burden on an area finally finding its equilibrium after many challenging starts and stops. **This decision will diminish the progress we have made. This is our home, our schools, our place of work. It is not a suitable location for a court of this nature, dealing with thousands of transient individuals every week.**

**Read the FACTS for yourself: 2012 Annual Report "Criminal Court of the City of New York"** <http://www.streetsblog.org/wp-content/pdf/AnnualReport2012.pdf>  
(pages 33-37)

It is imperative we show our objections. Please email your neighbors, fellow business people and employees to attend the CB1 meeting. Put it in your calendar now! Bring friends, children we need a critical mass! WE NEED YOUR ATTENDANCE. Please make it a priority. Thank you in advance!

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~~Community Board One meeting on Oct. 22 , 8pm, 150 Greenwich St.~~

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