This research analyzes and compares demographic information and environmental justice indexes of selected areas known as buffer zones representing different neighborhoods of Lower Manhattan. By utilizing an environmental justice mapping tool, information on deteriorating buildings, asthma hospitalization rates, demographic information such as linguistic isolation, percent minority, and percent low-income, and environmental indicators such as a lead paint indicator and a respiratory hazard index, I draw conclusions about the environmental and social quality of Lower Manhattan. This research assists in building a case of possible social and environmental injustices that manifest from city planning preferences, such as inadequate regulatory policy decisions, and institutionalized civic disenfranchisement, furthering issues of poor living conditions and air quality concerns in low socioeconomic status minority communities. By defining items such as white privilege and collective efficacy in terms of urban development, and explaining the concepts of urban renewal, I make a case for issues affecting the urban environmental health of Chinatown, New York City. In addition, this research argues for the importance of policy addressing civic disenfranchisement of minority groups, as well as increased research in minority communities, to help address social and environmental injustices that manifest from urban development.