



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166<sup>th</sup> St. 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: [www.nyc.gov/mcb12](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb12)

Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

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October 25, 2017

Hon. Kristina M. Johnson  
State University of New York  
State University Plaza  
353 Broadway  
Albany, New York, 12246

### **RE: Resolution Opposing a Charter School Application by Zeta Charter Schools**

Dear Ms. Johnson:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, October, 24, 2017 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 opposing Zeta Charter Schools' application for a Charter School to co-locate in a District 6 public school building; and calling upon the SUNY Board of Trustees to rescind the approval, and should the charter be granted, to locate the school in some other facility.

**WHEREAS:** Zeta Charter Schools has applied to the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (SUNY) to open a K-5 Charter School which it wishes to co-locate within a District 6 public school building; and

**WHEREAS:** this school is planned to open with approximately 190 kindergarten and first grade students and grow to approximately 675 students within five years, which would result in substantial loss of programmatic space to the school sharing space into which Zeta co-locates; and

**WHEREAS:** Community Board 12, Manhattan ("CB12M") previously passed a resolution opposing any further co-locations in District 6 school buildings because the consequent loss of resources and facilities violates the spirit of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity which began in our District, and which CB12M has previously resolved to support; and

**WHEREAS:** CB12M recently passed a resolution urging SUNY to grant additional time to review Zeta's application given the inadequacy of community engagement in and community notification of the application process, which request, though echoed by every local elected official representing the District, nevertheless was denied; and


**WHEREAS:** Zeta Charter Schools asserts in its proposal that it will provide instruction for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students solely through an English-only immersion model, even though a substantial body of research indicates that dual-language and bi-lingual instructional models are often more effective; and

**WHEREAS:** Such English-only instruction violates the spirit of the 1974 Aspira consent decision, into which New York City entered with Latino advocacy organizations to ensure that New York City public school students with Limited English Proficiency have a right to receive bi-lingual education; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** Community Board 12, Manhattan opposes Zeta Charter Schools' application for a Charter School to co-locate in a District 6 public school building; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** Community Board 12, Manhattan calls upon the SUNY Board of Trustees to reject this application, and should the charter be granted, to locate the school in some other facility so as not to overcrowd further a public school in Community School District 6.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

cc: Carmen Farina, Chancellor NYC DOE  
Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator  
71<sup>st</sup> District, Jr., Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member