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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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March 27, 2019

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Bill Chong
Commissioner
NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Corey Johnson
Speaker of the NYC Council
224 West 30th St., Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Richard Carranza, Chancellor
Department of Education
Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Mark Treyger
Council Member, Chair, Committee on Education
250 Broadway, Suite 1785
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Blasio, Commissioner Chong, Speaker Johnson, Councilman Treyger and Chancellor Carranza:

At its Full Board meeting March 21, 2019, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Additional Funding For On-Site After School Programs at MS 297 75 Morton -- A New School with a Four-Year Enrollment Phase-In

Whereas:

1. ***MS 297 75 Morton (75 Morton) needs an additional 125 after school seats for the 2019-2020 school year to accommodate its growing enrollment:***
 - a. For the 2019-2020 school year, 75 Morton is expected to enroll approximately 900 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, requiring additional DYCD funding for 125 after school seats to bring the total to 325, a ratio of 1 seat for every 2.8 students;
 - b. For the current school year, 2018-2019, 75 Morton received funding for 200 SONYC seats for 565 students in 6th and 7th grade, a ratio of 1 seat for every 2.8 students; and while enrollment throughout District 2 is typically 1 in 3 students, this school year, 1 in 2 students at 75 Morton expressed interest in after school and youth sports programs, and as a result, some students did

not receive their first choice, classes are overfilled and some students remain on a waitlist;

2. As a new middle school, 75 Morton has a four-year enrollment phase-in and will require additional DYCD funding for after school seats for the 2020-201 school year if enrollment exceeds more than 900 students.
3. In Fall 2014, New York City greatly expanded free after school programs for middle school students:
 - a. The Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) funds *School's Out New York City* (SONYC) that offers programs for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades at public school sites from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., five days per week for 36 weeks during the school year; and,
 - b. SONYC programs are structured like clubs offering young people a choice in how they spend their time; provide rigorous instruction in sports and arts, and require youth leadership through service;
4. SONYC programs have received strong reviews, help working families and provide the support that middle school students need:
 - a. In an April 2016 [evaluation of SONYC programs](#), “ninety-eight percent of parents surveyed reported their sons and daughters like coming to the program, and nearly all of the families said they would recommend SONYC to other families;”
 - b. SONYC programs provide middle school students with the support of caring adults and offer engaging, fun activities designed to encourage participants to pursue their passions and help them through the challenging years of early adolescence, a period of extraordinary change and a demanding time for both students and their families;
 - c. As students transition from elementary school to high school, after school programs targeted to middle school students help students develop new skills and interests, prepare for high school, encourage greater experimentation in academics, arts and athletics and provide students with safe environments and absorbing activities to occupy them after school, particularly important for working parents; and,
 - d. High quality after school programs bring a wide range of benefits for middle school students including improved academic performance, improved classroom behavior, reduced drug use, and positive health outcomes, particularly when programs encourage physical activity and good dietary habits, and reduces the achievement gap among diverse communities;
5. Manhattan Youth provides after school programming at 75 Morton and at 16 other District middle schools, making it the largest provider of SONYC programs in District 2; while other District 2 providers include Educational Alliance, Immigrant Social Services and University Settlement;
6. In District 2, students and their families can choose from 22 middle schools, including 75 Morton, all of which offer their students free, on-site after school programs; and,
7. To be on equitable footing with the other District 2 middle schools, particularly for working families that rely on free after school programs, 75 Morton needs additional DYCD funding to provide free, on-site after school programs for all of its students.

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB 2) urges the Mayor and our City Council to allocate funding in the FY 2020 budget for an additional 125 SONYC seats at 75 Morton;

Be it further resolved that CB 2 urges the Mayor, our City Council and the Department of Youth and Community Development to plan for the future funding of additional SONYC seats for 75 Morton in FY 2021, as enrollment expands beyond 900 students; and,

Be it further resolved that CB 2 urges the Mayor, our City Council and the Department of Education to recognize and fund the needs of new schools during their entire enrollment phase-in.

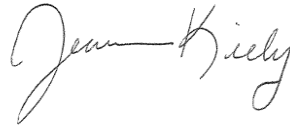
VOTE: Unanimous, with 36 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

- c: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
- Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
- Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
- Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
- Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NYS Assembly Member
- Hon. Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller
- Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
- Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
- Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
- Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member
- Donalda Chumney, Superintendent, District 2, NYC DOE
- Jennifer Greenblatt, District 2 Family Advocate
- Robin Broshi, President, Community Education Council District 2
- Jackui Getz, Principal, MS 297