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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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May 28, 2020

The Honorable Bill De Blasio
NYC Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Corey Johnson
Council Speaker
224 West 30th St, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

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

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

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

Dear Mayor De Blasio, Council Speaker Johnson, Commissioner Chong, Chancellor Carranza, and Council member Treyger:

At its Full Board meeting May 21, 2020, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution #1 In Support of Funding for Middle School After School Programs, A Critical Equity Issue

Whereas:

1. New York City's free after school programs for middle school students are a model for the entire country, providing every middle school student the opportunity to attend free after school programs comprised of sports, arts cultural activities that include theatre productions and S.T.E.M. programs;
2. Funding free and robust after school programs for middle school students is a critical **equity issue**, particularly for working families and our most vulnerable students who rely on these programs;
3. From 2017 to 2019, Community Board 2 unanimously passed four resolutions in support on funding after school programs at [75 Morton | MS 297](#), so that all students, would have equitable access to high quality after school programs and we are grateful for the subsequent funding of these programs;
4. We congratulate the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) for continuing to engage thousands of middle school children in *School's Out New York City* (SONYC) programs since schools closed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

5. DYCD has announced that it will not reimburse any expenses incurred in July and August of 2020 for its SONYC middle school program providers, which *could require laying off site directors and administrators who have planned and operated these programs for many years;*
6. It is not possible to begin an after school program in early September absent critical planning, hiring and scheduling that must take place in July and August, including:
 - a. The process of hiring part-time instructors requires advertising, interviewing, fingerprinting and securing background checks, securing health checks by physicians, securing clearances from NY State, NYC Department of Education and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, will be time-consuming and must begin during these summer months for hundreds of new employees;
 - b. Setting schedules for the school year for teachers and instructors; and,
 - c. Executing agreements and setting schedules for subcontractors with specialized teaching skills and expertise;
7. SONYC middle school program providers do not have the financial depth to absorb all of the necessary personnel and ancillary expenses required in July and August in preparation for programs that begin in September, nor do they have the ability to prepare programs without employing staff to conduct planning and hiring;
8. Middle school programs typically employ many part time workers at a low-cost reimbursement rate, and most do not qualify for the Federal Payroll Protection Program because they have more than 500 workers; and,
9. While we understand the necessity of budget cuts at this time of reduced revenues and uncertain assistance from State and Federal sources, ***percentage-based budget cuts over the entire 12 months of the current SONYC contracts would enable providers to plan, execute and sustain programs for the duration of the school year.***

Therefore, be it Resolved that Community Board 2 urges the Department of Youth and Community Development to reimburse SONYC expenses for July and August 2020 to ensure that middle school after school providers are able to deliver robust, engaging and safe programs for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, particularly for working families and our most vulnerable students, who rely on free high quality after school programs.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 47 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

- c: Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Nydia Velázquez, Congresswoman
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, District 2 Superintendent, NYC DOE
Tricia Joyce, Chair, Youth & Education Committee, CB 1