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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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March 22, 2010

Mr. Joel Klein, Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

At its Full Board meeting on March 18, 2010, CB#2-Man., adopted the following resolutions:

CB2 Resolution on Department of Education Ban on Bake Sales

Whereas The Department of Education, in June 2009, enacted a policy to ban all bake sales in City Schools,

And Whereas bake sales are an important fundraising component of many schools, providing significant assistance to many extra curricula programs, that would otherwise not exist,

And Whereas bake sales provide a vital social component, offering individuals an opportunity to share cultural heritage, sample family recipes, and show off individual skills,

And Whereas bake sales offer a variety of educational experiences for students,

And Whereas in the Fall of 2009 D.O.E. modified its policy to allow bake sales, on the condition that they only sell the pre-packaged products that are manufactured by D.O.E.'s contracted vendors, and which are currently available in school vending machines, such as Hydrox, Pop Tarts, Frito-Lay, Doritos, and Snapple, among others, all of which contain high fructose corn syrup and/or other unhealthy industrial food additives,

And Whereas home bakers use healthier ingredients, having little or no access to industrial food additives.

And Whereas under these new rules, there is little or no incentive for customers to buy products that are readily available elsewhere in the school building, every day, and which have no unique, personal appeal,

And Whereas the key to making children and teenagers healthier is to educate them to make healthier choices, not to impose bans,

And Whereas common sense dictates that there is no correlation between occasional bake sales, which have been a regular feature of school support since the early part of the 20th Century, and the threefold increase in childhood obesity in the United States that has occurred since the 1960s when schools began offering less healthy food options in lunch rooms and vending machines,

And Whereas the main reasons cited for the increase in childhood obesity are:

- Less physical activity among youth
- More fast food, commercial foods and additives (such as corn syrup)
- Fewer home-cooked meals and less family time.

And Whereas decreasing and preventing childhood obesity will also lead to a decrease in heart disease, diabetes, strokes, and many other serious health problems.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan urges the Department of Education to repeal its ban on selling home baked foods at bake sales, and calls upon our elected officials to review this nonsensical D.O.E. policy and seek its repeal,

And Therefore Be It Further Resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan supports efforts to increase school- based opportunities for physical activity among youth, and decrease their consumption of industrially prepared foods and beverages.

Vote: Unanimous, with 38 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Keen Berger, Chair
Social Services & Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/gh

cc: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Speaker
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Sandy Myers, CB2 liaison, Man. Borough President's office
Lolita Jackson, Manhattan Director, CAU