



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**  
District Manager

May 21, 2012

Derek Walcott  
Chancellor  
NYC Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Charter School Co-Location in Chelsea**

Dear Chancellor Walcott,

Manhattan Community Board 4 is concerned about the two recently submitted Success Charter Network, Inc. applications requesting placement of K – 5 Success Charter Academy Schools in Community School District 2. The Notice of Applications indicates the intent of the Success Charter Network, Inc. to seek district space for these schools.

According to the Notice of Applications, the schools – Success Charter Academy Manhattan 1 and Manhattan 2 – will each serve between 600 to 675 students when all grades are enrolled. Community Education Council District 2 is already grappling with severe overcrowding of elementary and middle schools and simply does not have space to accommodate an additional 1200+ students within its already strained infrastructure. The current overcrowding challenges have resulted in the systematic loss of cluster rooms, intervention rooms, resource rooms, and other spaces critical for providing a sound education to our students. 88% of District 2 students are in classes that exceed Contract for Excellence targets and 78% are in classes that exceed the Department of Education's class size targets.

Furthermore, co-location of schools pits parents against parents, exacerbates overcrowding, and negatively impacts student life in the co-located school buildings.

The Success Charter Network has substantial available resources and means to locate their own facilities and they should not be allowed to impose upon some of the already neediest populations within our district.

For all of these reasons, Manhattan Community Board 4 strongly opposes the authorization of Success Academy Charter Schools to co-locate within current community education council district 2 public schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CJ'.

Corey Johnson  
Chair

