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*****Press Advisory*****

**Statement by Councilmember Robert Jackson
Regarding the Mayor's FY13 Executive Budget**



New York, NY – May 3, 2012 - Today, the Mayor released his Executive Budget and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the City Council to engage in a negotiating process that will deliver an appropriate adopted budget for New York City.

During the Preliminary Budget hearing, as Chair of the Education committee, I asked the administration to keep money in the budget for our schools. I am pleased that the Mayor committed to this and avoided the reduction to school funding. The Speaker's Office followed up with this request and as a result, together, we saved nearly 2,600 classroom teachers from being cut. Now it's up to the school principals to determine how to best use this funding, and it's my hope that they will re-hire the school aides that were laid off in the fall.

Unfortunately, youth services have been greatly targeted in the Mayor's budget. Speaking as Co-Chair of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus, the number one priority is to restore cuts to the youth services, including childcare and Out-of-School (OST) programs. The Mayor has proposed to cut collectively over 34,000 slots from our youth and early childhood services. Cutting these services will cripple the safety-net that our families have come to rely on. Northern Manhattan is set to be one of the many communities devastated by these cuts. Our children are receiving a pink slip! But, I have faith that my colleagues and I will work together to pass a budget that will prevent families from falling through the cracks, our youth from being left out in the cold, and New Yorkers from being stripped from the vital services that are needed to survive in our City.

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Rest assured that as a member of the Budget and Negotiation team, I will be fighting for a budget that will take care of our youth, our seniors, protect jobs and the City's infrastructure. I hope to see advocates at the Executive Budget hearings to help us all focus on what we must do to serve the people of this great City.

This time of the year is often referred to as "*the budget dance.*" In a dance, someone has to take a few steps backwards, while the other takes a few steps forward. In the end, our responsibility is to end this dance with a budget that will move New York City in the right direction!
