

COMMUNITY BOARD 11 QUEENS

RESOLUTION ON HIGH SCHOOL OVERCROWDING November 2, 2009

WHEREAS: Community Board 11 has a responsibility pursuant to Section 2800 d. (2) of the City Charter to “advise...with respect to any matter relating to the welfare of the District and its residents.”, and

WHEREAS: nothing is more vital to the welfare of this District and community than the functioning of its public schools, and

WHEREAS: recent press coverage has brought citywide attention to the severe overcrowding in Francis Lewis High School, which is located within the boundaries of Community Board 11, and

WHEREAS: the current estimate of the student population at Francis Lewis High School is 4416 students, which represents approximately 200% of the school’s designed capacity, and

WHEREAS: two other high schools within the Community Board 11 area, Benjamin Cardozo High School and Bayside High School, with estimated student populations of 3841 and 3590, respectively, are also operating at approximately 200% capacity, and

WHEREAS: this situation creates numerous health and safety issues for students, and

WHEREAS: other high schools in Queens are not subject to similar levels of overcrowding,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Mayor and the Department of Education investigate the causes of these anomalies and why they have been permitted to occur, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that immediate steps should be taken to ease the overcrowding in Francis Lewis, Benjamin Cardozo and Bayside High Schools, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that measures should be put in place to strengthen the curricula at other Queens high schools to make them more viable and attractive choices to students and parents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that there is a need for another high school in Queens as an additional measure to ease the overcrowding and offer safe and viable education alternatives, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this resolution shall be circulated to all of our elected officials and to the leadership of the Department of Education at the City, Regional, and District levels.