



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



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DISTRICT MANAGER

April 2nd, 2024

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.
250 Broadway, Suite 1747
New York NY 10007

Dear Honorable Salamanca Jr.:

We are writing to you today to ask that you oppose the Mayor's proposed budget cut of \$19.6 million in Fiscal Year 2025 to the Department of Youth and Community Development for the Summer Rising program. Additionally, this summer, we ask that you secure funding to expand the hours of operation and staffing for Mitchell Center and Classic Center to service the community.

Summer Rising is a partnership between New York City Public Schools (DOE) and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The program provides free academic and enrichment programming throughout the day, including field trips, arts activities, and outdoor recreation. The children are served breakfast, lunch, and snacks. The environment is safe and supportive, with staff prepared to respond to children's social and emotional needs. The program services children in kindergarten through eighth grade, elementary and middle schoolers. In previous years, the hours of operation were Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm. The budget cuts have and will continue to impact the hours and day of operation.

The DOE funds the academic portion of the program, and DYCD funds the afternoon enrichment programming. Due to last year's budget cuts, Summer Rising has already shortened its operations for middle schoolers. The program will end at 4 p.m. and no longer operate on Fridays for the middle school population. This is very concerning since the universal understanding is that children should be engaged during the summer. Shortening the Summer Rising week and hours of operation for middle schoolers will impact youth summer engagement and, maybe worse, crime.

This is even more troubling for the youth in Bronx Community Board 1 district, where our only recreational center, St. Mary's Recreational Center, remains under renovation. The youth have few places to engage in safe and constructive extracurricular activities. Additionally, our districts have some of the highest concentrations of public housing.

We acknowledge that this program was initially funded with federal dollars, which are no longer available. Additionally, we commend Mayor Eric Adams for funding the program so that it continues to operate to some extent. However, no portion of this program can be cut, especially in an underserved community like our district, where parents and caretakers do not have the funds to find an adequate substitute for their youth. They heavily rely on programs from the City. Therefore, we ask that you oppose and restore the \$19.6 million proposed budget cut in Fiscal Year 2025 for the Summer Rising program to DYCD. Lastly, we reiterate that this summer, funding be secured to expand the hours of operation and staffing for Mitchell Center and Classic Center to service the community.

Sincerely,



Clarisa Alayeto
Chairperson



Anthony R. Jordan
District Manager

CC Honorable Diana Ayala
 NYC Deputy Speaker/Councilmember
 New York City Council District 8