



The City of New York

# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

April 1, 2014

Dean Fuleihan  
Budget Director  
New York City Office of Management and Budget  
255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Fuleihan:

I am writing to assess the responsiveness of the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 to the Prioritized Budget Requests for FY 2015 submitted by Community Board 1 (CB1).

CB1's number one capital budget priority for FY 2015 was the following:

- Construct 1,000 school seats in CB #1 in the next 5 -year Capital Plan as committed by the DOE

CB1 was greatly disappointed by the DOE's response to our number one capital budget request. DOE responded in the following way in the Register of Community Board Budget Requests for the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2015:

- Location for school will be based on site and funding availability.

There is an urgent and immediate need for the additional school seats that we requested, which has been created by the extraordinary growth in our district's residential population in recent years. This has been our number one capital budget priority for the past four years.

According to the U.S. Census, the population in Community District 1 increased 77% between 2000 and 2010, making it the fastest growing residential neighborhood in New York City. During this period, our district's child population has increased exponentially. The fastest growth occurred in the Financial District, where the population of children aged 0-19 increased 246%, and where there is currently no zoned school. Furthermore, our research indicates that nearly 24,000 residential units were added to our district between 2000 and 2015, and that another 2,500 are in the pipeline to come online shortly after<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Switaj, Diana. *Manhattan Community Board 1 Child Demographics Update*. Rep. N.p., 27 Feb. 2014. Web.

The recent population growth has raced far ahead of the number of school seats that have been added. It is imperative for the DOE to make a commitment to identify and develop as soon as possible 1,000 school seats to meet the critical need in our district.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the response by DOE to our number one capital budget request. We urge the city to reconsider its response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine McVay Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Catherine McVay Hughes  
Chair

cc: NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer  
NYC Council Member Margaret Chin

CMH/NP