



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

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## Committee on Youth Services

### Overview of the Out-of-School Time Request for Proposals

January 19, 2012

Community Board 3 encompasses the Lower East Side from 14<sup>th</sup> street to the Brooklyn Bridge, east to Bowery and includes historic Chinatown. It has traditionally been the first home for immigrants and continues to be the home to many low and moderate income people. The Furman Report states that 35 % of our residents live in public or subsidized housing. City Planning shows that 50% of our residents are on income assistance, mostly Medicaid. The Furman Report also shows that Community Board 3 has the second highest Income Diversity Ratio (a broad spread of incomes) in the City. While we have experienced gentrification that has raised the average of incomes, we still have 29% of our residents making under \$18,000 and another 17% between \$18,000 and \$39,000.

Much of the new CB 3 gentrification is located in zip code 10009—between Houston and 14<sup>th</sup> streets. This has always been a target zip code for DYCD as one of the neediest and a top priority for after-school funding. This is an area with two very large NYCHA housing developments, three-medium sized NYCHA developments, and several smaller ones as well as project 8 developments. This area now also has newer higher income residents. The high income diversity has resulted in this “East Village” section losing its high need category. A reduction of Out of School Time programs in this area would therefore disproportionately impact these lower income residents. They would lose most, if not all, of their programs, including those run by University Settlement, Henry Street Settlement and Educational Alliance. In addition, the 10002 zip code below Houston is at risk of losing at least half its slots even though it is still in the high need category. The excellent providers in CB 3 who now run these programs would be placed in the unfortunate position of competing for the fewer slots instead of working together to try to serve those in need.

The zip code model is inappropriate in CB 3 for several reasons. It assumes segregation of residents in zip codes. School District 1, which covers most of the District, has a district-wide choice policy; students do not go to the school closest to their homes. This was instituted specifically so that children would not be attending schools by income segregation. We see OST programs in 10009 that may serve mostly students from 10002. One program at PS 63 in the 10009 zip codes serves the children a free dinner because many of them need it. 83% of the children live below the poverty rate and some are homeless. Another school in 10009, PS 64, has a 90% poverty rate. These programs could be eliminated.

Because these programs serve children from 5-13 years, eliminating or reducing these programs would greatly impact working poor families who depend on their children being in these programs while the parents work. These are not children who can stay home alone and should not be hanging out with their friends on the streets

unsupervised. This is particularly important as we have seen an increase of youth violence in our community. This situation has become so dire that the District Attorney's office has recently initiated juvenile justice programs in CB 3 co-sponsored with the New York City Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration and Henry Street Settlement to combat youth violence. This is funded by money reclaimed from drug enforcement—and currently exists in Harlem and the Lower East Side. Currently these programs are where the greatest need is, in the 10009 zip code, but are planned to expand into the 10002 zip code.

We should also consider that OST programs strengthen and reinforce work learned in school, and fits into the current educational initiatives. Losing these programs would be a step backward in educational gains.

The children and working poor families in Community Board 3 would be devastated by the basic cuts in OST programs. In addition, the 10009 families in need would be disproportionately impacted by cuts designated by zip codes because we have lost the target status because of our income diversity.