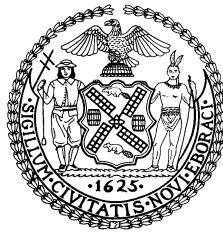


Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

February 20, 2009

Scott Stringer
Manhattan Borough President
One Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: Planned Parenthood presentation on efforts to increase access to sex education in NYC Public Schools

Dear Borough President Stringer:

At the Full Board meeting Wednesday, March 17, 2010, Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted the following resolution by a vote of 35 in favor, 2 opposed and 0 abstentions:

WHEREAS New York City's teen pregnancy rates are higher than the national average.¹ U.S. teens have higher rates of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections than teens in most developed nations; and

WHEREAS 15-to-24 year-olds represent only one-quarter of the sexually active population, yet they account for nearly half of all new sexually transmitted infection's each year², and

WHEREAS half of all new HIV infections in the United States occur among people under the age of 25³; and

WHEREAS according to the New York City Department of Health, about half of high school students say they've had sex, about one in three high school students are currently sexually active; and

WHEREAS only two-thirds of New York City's sexually active youth report using condoms, and one in five girls did not use any birth control the last time they had sex; and

WHEREAS research shows comprehensive sex education programs delay the initiation of sex and increase the use of contraception. It has also shown to reduce the number of sexual partners, and increase condom and contraceptive use⁴, and

WHEREAS an overwhelming majority of parents support sex education and believe it's already being taught. A large majority of registered voters in New York State mistakenly think sex education is currently a part of the required school curriculum, while an even larger majority want comprehensive sex education to be taught in school, according to a poll recently conducted by Hart Research Associates⁵; and

WHEREAS the New York City Department of Education has a recommended sex education curriculum and offers the curriculum and training to schools free of charge⁶; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 recommends that principals within Community District 8 implement already existing Curriculum on sex education in their individual schools.

¹ The Alan Guttmacher Institute, *U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics: Overall trends, trends by race and ethnicity and state-by-state information*, 2004, accessed 20 February 2004, http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/teen_preg_stats.html.

² Weinstock, H et al., Sexually transmitted diseases among American youth: incidence and prevalence estimates, 2000, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2004, 36(1): 6–10.

³ Starkman, N. & Rajani, N., The Case for comprehensive sex education. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, 2002, 16, 313-318.

⁴ Kirby, D., *Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy*, 2001 (Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy).

⁵ Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., *Family Planning Advocates of New York State Survey*, January 2009.

⁶ <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/fitnessandHealth/StandardsCurriculum/ComprehensiveHealthEd.htm>

Please advise this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

James Clynes and Judith Schneider
Co-Chair, Youth and Education Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Jonathan Bing, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member
Caroline Mello, Planned Parenthood of New York City