

Alida Camp  
Chair

Will Brightbill  
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620  
New York, N.Y. 10022  
(212) 758-4340  
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)  
www.cb8m.com Website  
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

April 27, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor, City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Corey Johnson  
Speaker, New York City Council  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

**RE: Proposed Cuts to the Summer Youth Employment Program**

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Johnson,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on April 22, 2020, the board **APPROVED** the following letter by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 not voting for cause.

Now more than ever, New York's young people need the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of thousands of families face devastating losses of their loved ones, jobs, and sense of normalcy. SYEP offers meaningful work experience – in addition to much-needed compensation - to 75,000 young people each year. On behalf of Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8), I urge you to reinstate SYEP for Fiscal Year 2021.

For over fifty years, SYEP has provided millions of young people their first opportunities for paid employment, allowing them to gain valuable professional experiences and develop career pathways, many of which are in the public-service sector and directly benefit New York City communities. While the social benefits of SYEP are well-documented and diverse, ranging from increased school attendance and self-esteem and reductions in incarceration, the financial benefits to these youth and their families cannot be understated. SYEP is the nation's largest youth employment program. To suspend this program would also deny thousands of families' access to critical funds in a time of tremendous job losses due to COVID-19.

The loss of SYEP would also disproportionately hurt communities of color, as 81% of its participants identify as Black, Latino or Asian. SYEP also employs NYCHA residents and justice-involved youth. Rather than removing a critical employment opportunity for these young people, we urge the City to expand this program and other opportunities for economic growth and professional development.

Given that several of our public spaces and summer initiatives are closed due to COVID-19, opportunities like SYEP are more critical than ever, as they offer our young people a safe and healthy outlet for their time and energy. While we understand the precautions needed to ensure public health, we firmly believe that with a bit of creativity and a commitment to the mission of this program, the City can still provide a robust and valuable summer experience to thousands of our youth. CB8 stands ready to help with the reimagining of this program however possible.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. At a time of incredible fear and uncertainty, SYEP is exactly the type of program we must continue to support, for the sake of our collective future.

Sincerely,

*Alida Camp*  
Alida Camp  
Chair

*Craig Lader and Charles Warren*  
Craig Lader and Charles Warren  
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York

Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4<sup>th</sup> Council District