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

July 2, 2024

Chancellor David C. Banks
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers St
New York, NY 10007

RE: Restoring borough priority for Manhattan residents in the high school admissions process in schools in District 2

Dear Chancellor Banks,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on June 26, 2024, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS multiple members of the public brought up concerns about the changes made during the De Blasio administration to the high school admissions process for applicants who are residents of District 2 and;

WHEREAS there are long commute times for students traveling to non-specialized public high schools in New York City and;

WHEREAS many 8th grade students in District 2 and Manhattan are not receiving matches for non-specialized public high schools in New York City from their selection list and;

WHEREAS students in certain districts (including District 2) have a lower likelihood of admission to a school on their selection list and;

WHEREAS the lack of timely information about lottery numbers makes it difficult for families to make informed decisions when crafting their selection list and;

WHEREAS all or almost all high schools in other boroughs give geographic priority to residents of that borough and;

WHEREAS while Community Board 8 Manhattan (CB8M) supports the public statement of the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to restore District 2 priority to schools that previously provided this preference, we recognize that this action does not address the needs of District 2 students who may be in lower academic priority groups or the needs of residents of other Manhattan districts and further that this action will result in less diversity at these schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED CB8M urges the Chancellor and the DOE to provide Manhattan borough residents priority admission to all non-specialized Manhattan high schools and to develop a long-term plan that provides admissions priority to one or more local schools to all students citywide -- which could include local district or borough priority for a portion of seats at all or almost all high schools citywide -- while also maintaining priorities to ensure socioeconomic diversity in selective public high schools.

Please advise our office of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

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Chair

Taina Borrero and Addeson Lehv

Taina Borrero, and Addeson Lehv
Co-Chairs, Youth, Education and Libraries Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerrold Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District