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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, 8<sup>th</sup> Council District