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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

MATHIEU EUGENE

COUNCIL MEMBER, 40TH DISTRICT • BROOKLYN

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YOUTH SERVICES

COMMITTEES
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HEALTH
IMMIGRATION
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May 27, 2015

Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Subject: Request to Maintain Summer Slots at SONYC, Beacon & Cornerstone Programs

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We, the undersigned members of the New York City Council, thank you for your unwavering support of our youth and commend your administration's commitment to the expansion of such critically important initiatives as COMPASS NYC, the Beacon Programs, and services for Run-away and Homeless Youth. We are writing to draw your attention to a critical issue created by a reduction in funding for SONYC, Beacon, and Cornerstone programs proposed in the FY16 Executive Budget. Although negotiations are underway and hearings on the budget have started, this issue is time-sensitive and must be addressed in the next ten days.

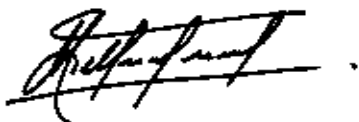
In March, providers around the City were notified by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) that funding for summer after-school programs would be included in the budget. Those programs started hiring staff, enrolling youth, and starting to get programs ready to go by July 6th.

However, two weeks ago, those same providers were notified that the budget documents they had submitted weeks prior would not be honored because funds for the programs were not included in your Executive Budget. Although DYCD has provided a list of affected sites that includes nearly 17,000 slots, dozens of additional sites – not included on the list – have been notified that their summer slots have been cut.

Providers are now left scrambling for what to do with the summer staff they've hired, the children they've already enrolled, and the parents with nowhere else to leave their kids this summer. These providers have informed us that if funding for these programs is not re-committed by May 29th they will be unable to provide a safe, engaging, high-quality summer program for the thousands of youth and families affected by this cut – providers are calling for an immediate commitment to a solution, as 11th hour fixes will not work in this case.

We urge you to please act on behalf of the thousands of middle school students who depend on these summer programs.

Sincerely yours,



Mathieu Eugene
40th District, Brooklyn
Chair, Youth Services Committee



Maria del Carmen Arroyo
17th District, Bronx



Margaret S. Chin
1st District, Manhattan



Andrew Cohen
11th District, Bronx



Costa Constantinides
22nd District, Queens



Robert Cornegy
36th District, Brooklyn



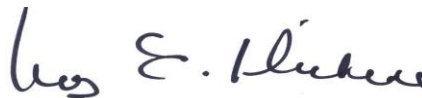
Elizabeth Crowley
30th District, Queens



Laurie Cumbo
35th District, Brooklyn



Chaim M. Deutsch
48th District, Brooklyn



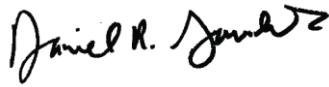
Inez E. Dickens
9th District, Manhattan



Daniel Dromm
25th District, Queens



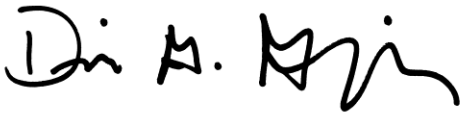
Rafael Espinal
37th District, Brooklyn



Daniel R. Garodnick
44th District, Manhattan



Vincent Gentile
43rd District, Brooklyn



David G. Greenfield
44th District, Brooklyn



Corey Johnson
3rd District, Manhattan



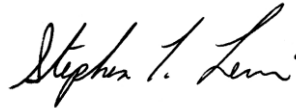
Ben Kallos
5th District, Manhattan




Peter Koo
20th District, Queens



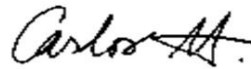
Karen Koslowitz
29th District, Queens



Stephen T. Levin
33rd District, Brooklyn



Alan Maisel
46th District, Brooklyn



Carlos Menchaca
38th District, Brooklyn



I. Daneek Miller
27th District, Brooklyn



Annabel Palma
18th District, Bronx



Antonio Reynoso
34th District, Brooklyn



Ydanis Rodriguez
10th District, Manhattan



Debi Rose
49th District, Staten Island



Helen Rosenthal
6th District, Manhattan



Mark Treyger
47th District, Brooklyn



Ruben Wills
28th District, Queens



Jumaane D. Williams
45th District, Brooklyn

cc: Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker, New York City Council