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ALEXANDER RIAS
Director of BLAC Affairs

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

CONTACT: *Alex Rias, Director of the BLA Caucus*
ARias@council.nyc.gov

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BLACK, LATINO AND ASIAN CAUCUS: “MAYOR BLOOMBERG MUST SAVE CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL FOR 47,000 CHILDREN!”

New York, NY -- The Bloomberg Administration, yet again, is singing the same old song during this time of year. In his preliminary budget, the Administration proposes to cut child-care and after-school services to the tune of 47,000 slots. Keeping in mind the 43,000 slots lost since 2009, the screech of a total loss of service to 90,000 children hits a deafening pitch. The Black, Latino and Asian Caucus (BLAC) of City Council cannot stand idly by to allow this to happen!

Despite repeated declarations of a commitment to closing the achievement gap and prioritizing education for our city’s children, Mayor Bloomberg has repeatedly cut funding for child-care and after-school programs. These cuts will be devastating to the Black, Latino and Asian communities of this city, who rely on these services to contribute to the workforce, and to ensure their children are academically prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. These working parents will potentially lose the peace of mind of knowing their children are safe, under the supervision of licensed providers, while they work hard and play by the rules to earn a living. The City is dealing an impossible hand.

In addition to contradicting the Administration’s efforts to close the achievement gap and improve the quality of educational services offered to the City’s minority youth, these cuts contradict the Mayor’s efforts to address disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system and the Mayor’s Young Men’s Initiative. These cuts can potentially contribute to an increase in youth violence and petty crimes, thus extending a police presence in neighborhoods already targeted by a Stop, Question and Frisk policy that perpetuates widespread distrust and community discordance. These children will have their paths to success stymied by cutting the normative services that prepare them to thrive in school and provide them with safe, supportive and academic activities to keep them positively engaged.

The BLAC believes that by enacting these cuts, the Bloomberg Administration’s actions will, yet again, run counter to its own claim to a legacy of strengthening the system, ensuring college and career readiness for Black, Latino and Asian youth, and stabilizing the City’s economy. The Mayor’s Executive Budget must include at least \$104 million to the Administration for Children’s Services for child-care and \$66 million to the Department of Youth and Community Development for after-school programs to prevent these losses, and to protect our working families. **SAVE CHILDCARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL FOR OUR CHILDREN!**

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