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August 21, 2019

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY, 10007

Chancellor Richard Carranza
NYC Department of Education
65 Court St.
Brooklyn, NY, 11201

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza,

We write urging you to consider the site of Bishop Kearney High School, 2202 60th Street in Brooklyn, which is closing on August 31, for a new specialized high school. It is our understanding that this site is under review by SCA and we believe this would be an ideal location for a new specialized high school.

In 2019, only 4,798 students received offers of admission for one of the city's nine specialized high schools out of 27,521 applicants. This demonstrates that many qualified applicants are being turned away from specialized high schools due to lack of seats. We believe that the best path forward to ensuring all students have access to schools of academic excellence is to increase the number of specialized high school seats across the board. This approach is similar to the approach taken by CUNY after it added five new schools to its system in the late 1960s/early 1970s and in effect, doubled its student enrollment and increased student body diversity within a ten year period. Likewise, adding additional specialized schools will ease the admissions pressure on the existing schools and expand opportunities for academic excellence to a wider range of students.

Southern Brooklyn is an ideal location for a new specialized high school because approximately 25% of the current student body enrolled in one of the nine specialized high schools comes from districts 20, 21, and 22. Building a new specialized high school in this area would also help alleviate overcrowding in other southern Brooklyn high schools. This proposal also has great support across the communities we represent.

We stand ready to work with you to make this goal a reality. Please reach out to our offices directly so we can work to expand educational opportunities for all.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Gounardes
Member of Senate

Justin Brannan,
New York City Council Member