



November 27, 2013

Dennis Walcott
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Lorraine Grillo
President
New York City School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Chancellor Walcott and President Grillo,

We write regarding the Department of Education's (DOE) proposed Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019 and the need for a public school at the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area (SPURA) site.

After sitting vacant for more than four decades, SPURA is now moving forward because of unprecedented collaboration with community stakeholders. Unfortunately, though the School Construction Authority included reference to the site in the DOE Capital Plan, it did not include a commitment to build a public school at the SPURA site. This is particularly disappointing given that the City included plans for a school in the project.

The SPURA project will attract hundreds of new families to the Community Board 3 area. It is imperative that adequate infrastructure, including school seats, be developed ahead of this population influx. The City recognized this need – raised throughout the community consultation process – and a parcel of land is reserved for the construction of a public school at the SPURA site.

It is important that the City take the opportunity to develop new school seats now, rather than facing the consequences of school overcrowding once it is already too late – as has happened

in other parts of Lower Manhattan. We urge the DOE to amend its Capital Plan to include construction of a school at the SPURA site. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our offices, or contact Senator Squadron's office directly at 212-298-5565.

Sincerely,



Daniel Squadron
State Senator



Sheldon Silver
Assembly Member



Scott Stringer
Manhattan Borough President



Margaret Chin
Council Member



Rosie Mendez
Council Member