



Community Education Council For District One

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RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE PROVISIONS IN THE NEW YORK STATE BUDGET FOR 2014 – 2015 REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS AT THE PUBLIC’S EXPENSE

WHEREAS, charter schools in New York City frequently displace public schools’ students from existing schools’ facilities and create overcrowded conditions; and

WHEREAS, District One and community stakeholders have showed on numerous occasions dissatisfaction with charter schools taking over public schools’ space and preventing public schools’ students from getting the required and needed services and/or programs due to space limitations; and

WHEREAS, charter schools in New York City have been shown by the City’s Independent Budget Office to receive more public funding per pupil than public schools; and

WHEREAS, charter schools in New York City have spent over five (5) million dollars in fees to public relations and advertising firms in their campaign to demand public space; and

WHEREAS, charter schools in New York City receive backing from wealthy investors who benefit from federal tax credits valued at millions of dollars under the Federal New Markets program; and

WHEREAS, charter schools have resources and means to find their own facilities outside of the Department of Education’s building inventory; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Budget for 2014-2015 requires that the New York City’s Department of Education provide space at no cost to charter schools; and

WHEREAS, if the charter school rejects the public space proposed for any reason the New York City’s Department of Education must pay an extra funding allowance of \$2,775 per student to come directly out of the New York City’s Department of Education budget , thereby depriving New York City public schools’ students of significance resources; and

WHEREAS, private space for 13 charter schools approved to open in 2015 could cost as much as five (5) million dollars in 2015-16 and 16 million at estimated capacity, and

WHEREAS, the New York City’s Department of Education has planned to spend 5.4 million dollars next year on rent for space in Catholic Schools buildings for three Success Academy Charter Schools with fewer than 500 students, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council District One opposes to these provisions and calls upon the New York State Legislature to introduce a new legislation rescinding the

provisions requiring the Department of Education to provide free space to charter schools, thereby restoring local control of city schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District One hereby calls upon Governor Cuomo to allow the Mayor to oversee the usage of the New York City public schools' space in accordance with the State Education Law on mayoral control.

Approved ____6/11/14_____