



# Community Education Council For District One

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## 1 25 2017 20162017 RESO2

### Resolution to Support Commission on School Siting and Planning

**More than 556,000 students are sitting in overcrowded schools. The city's failure to plan, site and build sufficient school space is a long term problem that is worsening because of the rapid pace of housing development.**

**Whereas**, citywide schools have become more overcrowded over the last six years;

**Whereas**, more than 556,000 students were crammed into overcrowded school buildings during the 2014-2015 school year, according to DOE data;

**Whereas**, elementary schools averaged 103.5% utilization citywide and 117.5% in District 15 in 2014-2015;

**Whereas**, there are 10 schools in District 1 buildings with utilization rates of over 100%, according to a Division of Space Management presentation in December 2016;

**Whereas**, the seats in the capital plan overall will only meet at best 59% of the identified need citywide, according to the DOE;

**Whereas**, advocacy groups including Class Size Matters and Make the Road NY estimate the need for seats as more than 100,000 , substantially greater than the DOE projections;

**Whereas**, the new rezoning proposals proposed by the Mayor will accelerate the construction of affordable and market-rate housing, and school overcrowding already at critical levels citywide will likely grow even more severe, unless there are there are significant reforms to the planning process and the capacity of the city to build schools along with housing; and

**Whereas**, there clearly needs to be more funding in the capital plan but without a more efficient planning and siting process these funds could go unspent for years;

**Whereas**, after two years the DOE still has not determined in which district or borough most of the 4900 seats in the "class size reduction" category will be built; despite the fact that over 330, 000 students are sitting in classes of 30 or more this year;

**Whereas**, changes to the zoning and ULURP process should be adopted to ensure that sufficient school space is created along with residential development;

**Whereas** the SCA has only three people on staff citywide looking for sites, and only one real estate firm on retainer per borough.; and

**Whereas**, SCA never “cold calls,” which is standard procedure for developers looking for sites; and never considers acquiring commercial sites via eminent domain unless that property has recently been on the market. They also never consider acquiring residential properties via eminent domain for schools in any instance; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council of District 1 strongly urges a Commission or Task Force on School Siting and Planning be created, with members including parents, advocates and planning experts appointed by the NYC Council and the Mayor to improve the efficiency of school siting and planning;

**RESOLVED**, that this Commission or Task Force should consider whether the CEQR formula used to project the impact on enrollment from housing stats should be updated;

**RESOLVED**, that this Commission or Taskforce should analyze whether the process of enrollment projections should be revamped to be made more accurate, regular and transparent;

**RESOLVED**, that this Commission or Taskforce should consider if the threshold for building a new school in the planning process made lower when residential development is proposed in already overcrowded school districts;

**RESOLVED**, that this a Commission or Taskforce should analyze whether impact fees should be adopted that are now required in most districts across the country, requiring developers to pay into a fund for schools and other infrastructure improvements; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council in District 1 will join in coalition with Class Size Matters, Community Board 3, Make the Road NY, and parents and community activists throughout the city to make our voices heard and move our city’s schools forward to address the crisis in school overcrowding.

Resolution adopted by a roll call vote of Community Education Council for District 1 on 1/25/2017