



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

JULIE MENIN
SPEAKER

TELEPHONE
(212) 788-7210

June 10th, 2026

Commissioner Escamilla-Davies
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
2 Lafayette Street, 19th floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: Follow-Up Regarding Manhattan Youth's After-School Programming

Dear Commissioner Escamilla-Davies,

Thank you for meeting with us on May 26th to discuss the concerns we raised regarding the loss of numerous after-school programming contracts previously held by Manhattan Youth. We appreciated the opportunity to speak directly about the impact this transition is having on school communities, and we look forward to continuing this dialogue. That said, a number of important questions remain unanswered, and we write today to follow up with several specific requests.

First, in order to better understand how these decisions were reached, we ask that DYCD provide a full list of the scores received by the winning after-school provider and by Manhattan Youth, for each school where Manhattan Youth lost its contract. For schools where Manhattan Youth retained its contract, we similarly request Manhattan Youth's scores, as well as the scores of any other applicants who went on to take over programming at any of the schools where Manhattan Youth lost its contract, provided those applicants also applied at the retaining schools.

Second, we ask that DYCD share the principal ratings given to Manhattan Youth at each of the schools where its contract was not renewed. Given that DYCD has indicated principal feedback plays a role in these determinations, school communities deserve to understand how that feedback factored into the final outcome at each site.

Third, we ask that DYCD provide the attendance rates for Manhattan Youth's after-school programming, as well as the attendance rates for any after-school programs run by the providers selected to take over in Manhattan Youth's place. This information would help school communities and our offices better evaluate whether the new providers are able to engage students at a comparable level.

Fourth, we request a copy of the rubric and scoring methodology used to evaluate and score after-school provider applications. Without a clear understanding of the criteria being applied, school communities cannot meaningfully assess whether this process was conducted fairly and consistently.

We also want to underscore what we continue to hear directly from families and students: sports and theater programming are consistently among the offerings they value most and rely upon.

Given that these contracts span six years, we believe decisions of this consequence warrant a more robust process of engagement with the people they affect most directly. We urge DYCD to build in meaningful opportunities for dialogue between students, parents, and school administrators before future provider decisions are finalized, so that the voices of those who rely on these programs every day are genuinely heard and considered.

Finally, we ask that DYCD undertake robust outreach to the families currently affected by this proposed transition. Many parents remain confused and frustrated about what these changes mean for their children, and direct, proactive communication from DYCD would go a long way toward addressing their concerns and rebuilding trust in this process.

We appreciate your continued attention to this matter and look forward to your response to these requests.

Very truly yours,



New York City Council Speaker Julie Menin



Council Member Virginia Maloney



Council Member Harvey Epstein



Council Member Gale Brewer



Council Member Carl Wilson



Council Member Christopher Marte



Manhattan Borough President Brad
Hoylman-Sigal



Assembly Member Keith Powers



Senator Erik Bottcher



Senator Kristen Gonzalez