



NATHALIA FERNANDEZ  
Assemblywoman 80<sup>th</sup> District

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
2018 Williamsbridge Road  
Bronx, New York 10461  
718-409-0109  
FAX: 718-409-0431

[district80@nyassembly.gov](mailto:district80@nyassembly.gov)

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June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

We understand we are in trying times. The COVID 19 pandemic has single handedly put this City and State in a financial crisis from which it will take time to recover. However, we cannot deny people basic services that they rely on in the name of saving money. Not at a time with food insecurities and personal financial instability.

The decision to defund Beacons, COMPASS, Cornerstones, SONYC, and SYEP programs is a hurtful and dangerous one. Many members of this community, which extends beyond the residents of the NYCHA homes in our districts, depend on their services. They service the youth of our community and provide a safe, enriching learning environment at a time when schools are closed. SYEP is a valuable tool to gain workplace experience as well as provide a temporary income to young adults who may not otherwise have any. Financial instability is high and cutting these programs will have a very devastating impact on their families, in addition to what COVID has caused.

Especially now during the summer months ahead, these programs and access to the facilities are vitally important. Many families are still waiting for unemployment benefits and there are not many other organizations within the area that provides the services our Cornerstones provide. With the risk that summer months will be very hot, and the very possible notion that not every person needing an air conditioner will get one, facilities such as cooling centers become more valuable than ever. Our communities cannot afford the loss of our Cornerstones.

We strongly urge you to re-consider these cuts and to direct funding to SYEP and keeping our Cornerstones open. It is unfair to cut resources from our vulnerable communities during exasperating times. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathalia Fernandez  
NYS Assemblywoman  
80<sup>th</sup> AD

Alessandra Biaggi  
NYS Senator  
34<sup>th</sup> SD

Jamaal T. Bailey  
NYS Senator  
36<sup>th</sup> SD