

April 16, 2014

Carmen Farina, Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Farina,

As elected officials who represent Greenwich Village, we are thrilled that after 7 years of lobbying, the community will have a new public middle school at 75 Morton Street.

Although this process has been extremely long, we still have much further to go. The School Construction Authority (SCA) must begin an extensive renovation of the facility; and the community and the Department of Education must work together to help figure out the best use of the existing space. However, before these next steps commence, we want to let you know in the strongest possible terms that we are unalterably opposed to having a charter school located at 75 Morton Street. This is a building that belongs to the community, and was fought for by the community. All of the badly-needed middle school seats created in the building should be traditional public school seats. Community Education Council 2 (CEC2) has issued multiple strongly worded resolutions against the placement of charters anywhere in the District, and Community Board 2 has taken a similar position against locating a charter school at the 75 Morton Street site. We stand with CEC2, Community Board 2 and community members in supporting our strong local public schools, which have done a terrific job of educating students, and opposing the location of a charter school at 75 Morton Street.

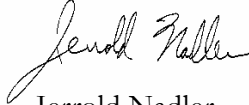
In addition, we hope that you will advocate strongly for a September 2016 opening date. As you know, middle school seats are desperately needed in District 2 and the SCA has long claimed that 2016 would be a realistic opening date for 75 Morton Street. However, after a delay of 2.5 months in closing on the building, we were suddenly told that 2017 was the earliest date that a school could open. We were taken aback when informed of this decision as it came without any prior notice. The SCA never informed any of our offices or the stakeholders involved with this process that the City and State needed to close on the building by a certain date, or risk losing out on an entire school year. We have also written to the SCA urging them to reconsider this new timeline and adhere to the original 2016 opening date to alleviate the urgent need of new middle school seats.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Sanchala at Assemblymember Glick's office, 212-674-5153. We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,



Deborah J. Glick
Assemblymember



Jerrold Nadler
Congressman



Brad Hoylman
NYS Senator



Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Cory Johnson
NYC Councilmember

CC: David Gruber, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 2
Shino Tanikawa, President, Community Education Council 2