



April 16, 2014

Lorraine Grillo, President
School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY, 11101

Dear Ms. Grillo,

We would first like to thank you for hosting last week's tour of 75 Morton Street. We appreciate that you were able to get a small group of community members in to see the building before it becomes a fully active construction zone. It is such a wonderful milestone to have the School Construction Authority (SCA) in possession of the building as we are one step closer to having a much needed middle school in the community.

As you know, Community Board 2, Community Education Council 2, community coalitions and local parents have been pushing for 75 Morton Street to become a community middle school for almost a decade. Many of the original advocates started this effort while their children were in elementary school, hoping a new middle school would open in time for their children to use it. Now these children are in high school, but the parents are no less engaged with the process. We understand that the SCA recently took possession of the building, but we want to reiterate the history of 75 Morton and re-emphasize the dedication the community has had to this space.

In February 2014, the SCA announced that the space at 75 Morton will no longer be ready for a Fall 2016 opening and has claimed the 2 ½ month delay in the final closing now necessitates a Fall 2017 opening. We all know that the State was inexplicably delayed in the final removal of belongings, causing the closing to be held in March rather than December. What is unclear is how these weeks have caused an entire year of delay in opening of the school. At no point were any of our offices or stakeholders told that there was a deadline for closing in order to ensure a 2016 opening. If there was a firm deadline for closing which impacted the school's eventual opening, our offices should have been told, which might have been helpful in conversations with the State agencies in order to expedite the closing. Quite frankly, this news came as a complete shock to everyone who has been fighting for this space for so long.

As you can imagine, this delay is not something the community, or we, are willing to accept. We would like to have a conversation with you about the timeline and perhaps to establish a schedule of routine meetings to ensure that the building will still achieve a Fall 2016 opening.

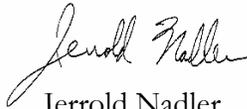
To schedule a meeting, please contact Robert Atterbury at Senator Hoylman's office, 212-633-8052.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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