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June 24, 2020

Resolution #88

To Terminate NYPD Contract and Return the Division of School Safety to the DOE

1. WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) is responsible for all interactions students have with adults in our school buildings in order to promote a positive school climate;
2. WHEREAS, many school safety officers in District 5 schools are beloved and trusted members of a school community and provide security and safety of students, faculty, and visitors.
3. WHEREAS, recent actions of officers in the New York Police Department (NYPD) and its history of disparate policing based on zip code and racial demographic run directly counter to the DOE's vision of Equity and Excellence for All;
4. WHEREAS, there are over three times as many police officers as social workers in New York City public school buildings, and almost twice as many police officers as guidance counselors;
5. WHEREAS, the presence of police officers in schools has been shown to result in more arrests for minor offenses, such as disorderly conduct, and along with metal detectors contributes to the criminalization of young people in New York City, especially students of color, immigrant students, Muslim students, queer students, and students with disabilities;
6. WHEREAS, the presence of police officers in schools imposes a climate of fear and intimidation in school communities, especially among Black students, that inhibits schools from providing a nurturing, inspiring, and rigorous learning experience;
7. WHEREAS, Minneapolis Board of Education voted to terminate its contract with the police department for school resource officers;
8. WHEREAS, Mayor Bill de Blasio previously rejected a proposal by the School Diversity Advisory Group to study moving the Division of School Safety back to the Department of Education;
9. WHEREAS, since Mayor Bill de Blasio took office in 2014, the school safety division budget has grown over 23%, according to figures from the Independent Budget Office;
10. WHEREAS, funding for School Safety is \$427.3 million in the Fiscal 2021 Preliminary Budget, an increase of \$19.7 million from the Fiscal 2020 Adopted Budget. Though this increase is entirely to support the increased cost of existing staff due to collective bargaining agreements and there is no budgeted increase in headcount, a total of \$303.8 million is budgeted to go directly to the NYPD;
11. WHEREAS, the Mayor has outlined more than \$800 million in cuts to the New York City DOE budget for Fiscal Year 2021; and
12. WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2021 Preliminary Budget defunds \$1.3 million for Restorative Justice and \$1.8 million for social emotional supports;



https://www.cdfny.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/10/CDF-NY-Report-History-of-Policing-in-NYC-Public-Schools.pdf?_ga=2.11686960.52937898.1591358203-591212330.1539623565

Theriot, M. T. (2009) School Resource Officers and the Criminalization of Student Behavior. Journal of Criminal Justice. 37. 280-287. <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/de-blasio-deaf-students-raise-concerns-school-safety-article-1.3864047>

<https://www.startribune.com/mps-school-board-ends-contract-with-police-for-school-resource-officers/570967942/>

1. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council District 5 (CECD5) urges the New York City Department of Education to immediately terminate its contract with the New York City Police Department; and
2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CECD5 request that the Division of School Safety be transferred to the NYC Department of Education;
3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CECD5 urges the Mayor divest from policing in schools by reducing the NYPD budget and investing the cost savings in education;
4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CECD5 urges the Chancellor to immediately provide professional development in restorative justice and social emotional learning to School Safety Agents; and
5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CECD5 believes that members of the NYPD, or any other police force, should enter New York City school buildings only to address acts of violence and/or threats to physical safety

<https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/education-indicators-budgets-2020.pdf>

<https://council.nyc.gov/budget/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2020/04/040-DOE.pdf>