June 29, 2018

Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Locating Success Academy at Public School 25 Eubie Blake School in Brooklyn

Dear Chancellor Carranza:

I am writing to urge you to find a solution that allows Success Academy to locate a middle school at Public School 25 Eubie Blake School (PS 25) this coming fall and for the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to fulfill its commitment to provide space for these students. Locating Success Academy in the same space they have been located in, and with the same school they have shared the space with, is the simplest and most efficient method of solving the location issues while the lawsuit regarding the closure of PS 25 continues.

There are many families needlessly facing uncertainty regarding their children’s school location in the 2018-2019 school year. While I understand the need for the court to keep PS 25 open while the lawsuit progresses, it does not follow that the students and families of Success Academy have to be in limbo this summer. I also understand that there are other possible solutions to this issue. However, PS 25 and Success Academy were co-located in the building last year. They are not strangers trying to share an overcrowded building. They have shared this exact space before. There are 900 seats available at the site — more than enough to accommodate both schools.

I understand the need for proper process when co-locating schools. However, forcing the school, at this late date, to wait until an Educational Impact Statement (EIS) or a Building Utilization Plan (BUP) is approved by the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) is only making an unexpected situation worse. The lawsuit has created a unique circumstance that calls for a unique approach to allow this school to open at PS 25 in the fastest and fairest way possible. This will bring certainty to these families and to live up to the DOE’s commitment to provide Success Academy with space at PS 25 this fall.
June 29, 2018
New York City Department of Education Chancellor Richard A. Carranza
Re: Locating Success Academy at PS 25 Eubie Blake School in Brooklyn
Page 2

I urge you to find an inventive alternative solution to this situation and look forward to discussing this issue with you soon.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Adams
Brooklyn Borough President

ELA/jpl
June 21, 2018

Dear Chancellor Carranza,

As the New York City Council Member of the 36th District, I write in support of the students, families and staff of Success Academy Lafayette Middle School at 787 Lafayette Avenue in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn.

I am aware of the legal appeal to the closure of P.S. 25, a school of 100 students that is co-located in Building K025 with Success Academy, and that a judge entered a preliminary injunction to keep P.S. 25 open while the case is investigated. I also understand that Success in good faith and necessity closed an elementary school (SA Bed-Stuy 3) in this building for the sole purpose of using the space to accommodate the first fifth graders of SA Lafayette MS. The timing of these events — the PEP vote to close P.S. 25, the legal challenge to the closure, Success Academy’s decision to repurpose existing space for a middle school, and the judge’s ruling — has worked against kids and families and teaching staff. Just days before the end of school and only weeks until the beginning of the new year, this school community has had their world turned upside down.

Success Academies Bed-Stuy 1, Bed-Stuy 2, repurposed Bed-Stuy 3 and Prospect Heights are located in my district, I have met with a host of families from these schools and grasp how important this particular school is to them. The current decision punishes families whose children are not only incredibly high-performing (99% passed the state math exam and 96% passed the state English exam), but who also would have constituted a rare diverse school in the area.

Brooklyn families chose this school, and were assigned a location based on geographic proximity. Students, including special needs students, have been assigned classrooms and teachers. Teachers have moved from Harlem to Bed-Stuy to serve families. Families are planning transportation logistics. But now their lives are thrown into disarray. This is an emergency that can be averted.

Had there been no legal challenge, or temporary ruling, Success Academy Lafayette would be opening without any complication, and these families would be enjoying their summer rather than dealing with the fear of being educationally homeless. No one at the DOE or at Success Academy could have predicted this turn of events and the havoc it would create.

The only responsible action is for you to exercise your emergency powers authority and give these scholars their promised middle school. Next fall two schools should open in K025: P.S.25 and SA Lafayette MS. Each school has fewer than 100 students, in a building that has 1,000 seats. It is the
obvious, practical course of action. I urge you to recognize the emergency, meet with affected families and find a long term solution for this school community.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
New York City Council Member
36th District-Brooklyn