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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DANIEL J. HALLORAN, II
COUNCIL MEMBER, 19TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

May 10, 2012

Dear Constituent,

Earlier this spring Mayor Michael Bloomberg released the first draft of his Fiscal Year 2013 Executive Budget which includes \$437 million in spending reductions. Among those cost saving measures is a \$2.1 million cut in funding to the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) which operates 81 Beacon programs across the City. This reduction in funding means DYCD plans to close 7 of these Beacon centers including the MS 158 Beacon.

Beacon programs provide kids in Bayside with after school, evening, weekend, holiday, and summer programs that include literacy development, sports, extracurricular activities, community service, and college preparation. Parents rely on the Beacon programs to provide a safe and nurturing environment after school. These are invaluable services that every family in New York City deserves access to.

The closure of the MS 158 Beacon is just another example of services being cut in Northeast Queens that hurt our children and families. Amid the current economic downturn, these services are more important now than ever. Many families cannot afford to pay for additional child care, tutoring, or recreational activities. Our children deserve the same opportunities and services as those kids growing up in less affluent communities.

If the decision makers walked the halls and school yard of MS 158 after school they would see countless children playing, learning and making friends. If they came out to see what is happening in our schools in Northeast Queens, they would realize that we need Beacon programs. Through research studies it has been proven that programs such as the MS 158 Beacon saves the city money by keeping our children out of trouble and helping them achieve the academic excellence that District 26 students are known for. We must preserve these services for all New Yorkers.

Through the budget process I will work with Council Speaker Christine Quinn and my colleagues to stress the importance of Beacon programs, especially at MS 158. Each Beacon program costs approximately \$334,000 to operate and I will fight to have the necessary funds restored through negotiations between the Council and the Mayor.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my District Office at (718) 631-6703.

In Liberty

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Halloran".

Dan Halloran
Council Member, District 19

DJH:jm/eg