



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 7

February 10, 2014

Chancellor Carmen Fariña
New York City Department of Education
Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Fariña:

We are writing in regard to the GreenFlea market that is operated in the schoolyard and cafeteria of the William O'Shea School Complex on West 77th Street on the Upper West Side under a contract with the Department of Education (DOE). GreenFlea is owned and operated by a board consisting of parents from PS 87, PS 452, the Computer School and the Anderson School, for the exclusive benefit of these four school parent associations. As ardent supporters of GreenFlea, **we are writing to express our support of the market and to request a meeting and your assistance in securing an extension of the Greenflea contract**, and ask that you consider the success and strong performance of GreenFlea in making future contract decisions.

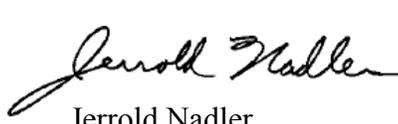
Since its founding nearly 30 years ago by parents of students at PS 87 and IS 44, the GreenFlea market has operated as both an important fundraiser and a beloved neighborhood institution on the Upper West Side. While the schools involved have changed somewhat, the market continues to thrive as an important source of revenue for the Parent Associations who run it. GreenFlea is currently facing an urgent situation, as the search for a replacement of its longstanding Executive Director, due to retire this June, coincides with the expiration of its contract with the DOE.

As mentioned, GreenFlea is owned and operated by a board consisting of parents from PS 87, PS 452, the Computer School and the Anderson School; the board employs an Executive Director for the day-to-day management of the business. Beyond operating costs, all revenues generated by the market are shared by the Parent Associations of these schools – a total of approximately \$300,000 each year. This crucial funding goes directly to benefit the students at those schools, for arts and enrichment programs, field trips, teacher professional development, and other educational expenses that public school funding cannot cover. Moreover, the market itself is an institution for the Upper West Side neighborhood in which it has always existed. GreenFlea operates in the schoolyard and cafeteria of the William O'Shea Complex under a contract with the Department of Education. This contract has come to reside within the Purchasing Department, although neither the DOE nor the involved Parent Associations expend

any money toward the market. The pending expiration of this contract in June of this year, combined with your new leadership at the DOE, makes the timing right to re-examine and discuss this arrangement.

We urge you to work with the GreenFlea board and us and take into consideration their strong performance and relationship to the community in reevaluating the future GreenFlea contract. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
US Congressman

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Linda B. Rosenthal
New York State Assembly



Brad Hoylman
New York State Senate



Helen Rosenthal
New York City Council



Elizabeth Caputo
Chair, Manhattan
Community Board 7

cc:

Jahmeliah E. Nathan; DOE Office of Public Affairs
Jesse Mojica; DOE Division of Family & Community Engagement
Henry Zymeck; Principal, The Computer School
Jodi Hyde; Principal, The Anderson School
David Scott Parker, Principal PS 452
Monica Berry, Principal PS 87
Parents Associations, Computer School, Anderson School, PS 452, PS 87