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THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**CARMEN DE LA ROSA**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

April 10, 2023

Mayor Adams,

We are writing to express our full support of the Carbon Free and Healthy Schools (CFHS) initiative, and readiness to advance the goals of the initiative this year. It is essential that the City accelerates solar installation to a rate of 150 schools per year, partnered with the ultimate completion of deep energy-efficiency retrofits on all school buildings by 2030, performed under collective bargaining agreements. Additionally, we are committed to ensuring the City prioritizes those schools located in Environmental Justice Areas in the first phases of implementation.

The importance and urgency of New York City's response to climate change and the economic crisis is an issue that we as City Councilmembers and your Administration can agree upon: the time is now to invest in a green recovery plan that will reduce emissions, revitalize our infrastructure, and build a pipeline to good union careers in the neighborhoods that need them most. Investing in carbon-free and healthy schools for NYC can create tens of thousands of jobs in low-income communities, realize significant cost savings that can be reinvested into our school, and make serious advances for racial equity — all while cutting harmful carbon emissions and helping the City meet its emissions reduction targets. However, these benefits can only be realized for New York City if we commit to an investment that matches the scale of the crisis.

As Councilmembers, we hear daily about the effects of our schools' aging infrastructure. Our schools deserve our full support to ensure that where they learn and work is as safe and healthy a space as possible, and every young person in New York City deserves to be introduced to opportunities and a variety of options for good union careers. And this goes far beyond just our schools: when schools pump carbon emissions into the air or spend millions on utility bills, it's not just a crisis for our education system — it's a health and economic crisis for our neighborhoods as well.

It's more urgent than ever to make an immediate meaningful investment to address these issues, and the time is now for New York City to jumpstart support for the CFHS program, by leveraging federal dollars made available through last year's passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). With the IRA, NYC has been presented with an unprecedented opportunity, that we as elected officials have a responsibility to take

advantage of, to bring in significant funding through the Act's Direct Pay Provision to help fund the acceleration of solar installation and building retrofits.

By implementing this initiative at full scale in the Country's largest public school system, New York can lead the Nation in decarbonizing schools and creating green jobs. We are encouraged to hear of your expressed support for the CFHS initiative, and are eager to work with your Administration to implement it at the scale that science demands. Each of us is committed to supporting the acceleration of solar installation and completion of deep energy-efficiency retrofits on NYC public school buildings, with strong labor standards, in the FY24 Executive Budget, in the School Construction Authority's 5-Year Capital Plan, and through any necessary legislation to ensure the lasting legacy of this impactful initiative for our students, teachers, staff, administrators, and communities.

Sincerely,



Hon. Carmen De La Rosa  
New York City Council Member  
10th District



Hon. Shawn Abreu  
New York City Council Member  
7th District



Hon. Alexa Avilés  
New York City Council Member  
38th District



Hon. Diana Ayala  
New York City Council Member  
8th District



Hon. Gale A. Brewer  
New York City Council Member  
6th District



Hon. Tiffany Cabán  
New York City Council Member  
22nd District



Hon. Eric Dinowitz  
New York City Council Member  
11th District



Hon. Amanda Farías  
New York City Council Member  
18th District



Hon. James F. Genarro  
New York City Council Member  
24th District



Hon. Jennifer Gutiérrez  
New York City Council Member  
34th District



Hon. Shahana Hanif  
New York City Council Member  
39th District



Hon. Crystal Hudson  
New York City Council Member  
35th District



Hon. Rita Joseph  
New York City Council Member  
40th District



Hon. Shekar Krishnan  
New York City Council Member  
25th District



Hon. Linda Lee  
New York City Council Member  
23rd District



Hon. Farah N. Louis  
New York City Council Member  
45th District



Hon. Julie Menin  
New York City Council Member  
5th District



Hon. Mercedes Narcisse  
New York City Council Member  
46th District



Hon. Sandy Nurse  
New York City Council Member  
37th District



Hon. Chi Ossé  
New York City Council Member  
36th District



Hon. Lincoln Restler  
New York City Council Member  
33rd District



Hon. Kevin Riley  
New York City Council Member  
12th District



Hon. Carlina Rivera  
New York City Council Member  
2nd District



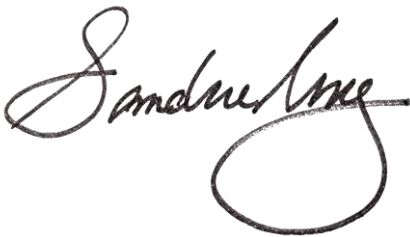
Hon. Pierina Ana Sanchez  
New York City Council Member  
14th District



Hon. Lynn Schulman  
New York City Council Member  
29th District



Hon. Althea Stevens  
New York City Council Member  
16th District



Hon. Sandra Ung  
New York City Council Member  
20th District



Hon. Marjorie Velázquez  
New York City Council Member  
13th District



Hon. Nantasha Williams  
New York City Council Member  
27th District



Hon. Julie Won  
New York City Council Member  
26th District