Amended Notice
June 13, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Temporary Expansion of the Co-location of Promise Academy II (84M341) with Existing School Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469), and an Alternative Learning Center (88M993) in Building M501

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

In an Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") posted on February 5, 2011, the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") proposed to temporarily expand the grades served by Harlem Children's Zone/Promise Academy II (84M341, "Promise Academy II") in Building M501 ("M501"), located at 2005 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035 in Community School District 5. Promise Academy II is an existing public charter school that currently serves 499 students in kindergarten through sixth grades in M501. The proposal was to allow Promise Academy II to temporarily expand to serve seventh and eighth grades in M501. Promise Academy II is co-located in M501 with Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469, "Choir Academy"), an existing DOE secondary school serving grades six through twelve, and an Alternative Learning Center (88M993, "ALC"), where students who are suspended from school attend in order to receive academic, social and emotional supports to prepare themselves for a return to the schools from which they were suspended. A "co-location" means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. The proposal was approved by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP") on March 23, 2011.

On May 26, 2011, the DOE published a revised EIS, a revised Building Utilization Plan ("BUP"), and a revised notice in response to public comments on this and other proposals. The revisions to the EIS and BUP are described in detail in Section II below. The revised notice provided information about a joint public hearing that will take place regarding this proposal.

This amended notice is to advise you that the location where the Panel for Educational Policy meeting will be held and where the vote for this proposal will take place has changed as indicated in Section VIII below.

Choir Academy is a District 5 choice secondary school that serves 331 students in sixth through twelfth grades. Promise Academy II is an existing public charter school that currently serves 499 students in kindergarten through sixth grades at M501. The school's charter anticipates that the school will expand by one grade each year, until it serves students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The DOE previously granted permission for Promise Academy II to co-locate

grades kindergarten through 6 in M501. This is a proposal to temporarily expand the grades served by Promise Academy II in M501. If this proposal were approved, in 2011-12 Promise Academy II would serve grades K through 7 in this building and in 2012-13 would serve grades K through 8 in this building. In 2013-14 and all subsequent years, Promise Academy II would return to serving only students in grades K through 6 in M501.

Promise Academy I (84M284, "Promise Academy I") is an existing public charter school that currently serves 899 students in kindergarten through seventh grades and tenth and eleventh grades. In a separate Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") also posted on February 5, 2011, the DOE proposed to allow Promise Academy I to temporarily co-locate its 4th grade in M501 for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. That proposal was also approved by the PEP on March 23, 2011 and a revised version of that proposal is also being published today; a revised EIS for that proposal is available at:
http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/June2011Proposals

Harlem Children's Zone is in the process of building a new facility that will house Promise Academy I grades K-12; the facility is expected to be ready for occupancy for the 2013-2014 school year. Therefore, the co-location of Promise Academy I's fourth grade in M501 will be only for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

After Promise Academy I moves to the new facility, Promise Academy II would re-site its seventh and eighth grades to an existing private space that currently houses six grades of Promise Academy I ; the private space is located at 35 E. 125th Street, New York, NY 10035 in Community School District 5 ("125th Street Building"). Thus, in the 2013-2014 school year and continuing forward, Promise Academy II will serve its kindergarten through sixth grade students in the M501 building, and would grow to serve seventh through twelfth grades in the 125th Street Building.

II. Identification of all revisions, including substantial revisions to the item.

The DOE is now revising the proposal in response to public comments on this and other proposals. The DOE has published a revised Building Utilization Plan ("BUP"), which is annexed to this revised EIS. The revised BUP makes the following changes:

- the proposed shared space schedule on pages 16-17 has been adjusted and the DOE has clarified the rationale for the amount of time that each co-located school is allocated in the shared spaces under this proposal;
- footnotes have been added to indicate that projected enrollment for Choir Academy in 2011-2012 is consistent with budget register projections for 2011-2012;
- a note has been added to explain that Choir Academy will continue to be allocated the designed music rooms that it currently uses; and
- the formatting of the room allocation charts has been altered to make them easier to understand.

The EIS has been revised to reflect the changes in the BUP and to note that enrollment projections for Choir Academy are consistent with budget register projections for 2011-2012, the most recent available enrollment projection data. The EIS also corrects the list of shared spaces in M501, and includes additional information about admissions at Choir Academy.

III. Summary of all public comments received to date.

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at Choir Academy of Harlem / HCZ Promise Academy II on March 21, 2011. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 160 members of the public attended the hearing, and 27 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: Manhattan High School Superintendent Elaine Gorman; Community Educational Council ("CEC") 5 representative James Hunt; Choir Academy Principal Ellen Paris and School Leadership Team representative ("SLT") Ernest Bryant; Promise Academy I Principal Tonya L. White; Promise Academy II Principal Kathleen Fernald and SLT representative O'Donna-Hue Osbourne; and Safiyah Raheem, the Community Liaison for New York City Councilmember Inez E. Dickens.

<u>The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:</u>

1. A Choir Academy SLT representative noted that his SLT is not speaking against charter school families but against certain practices of the DOE. He stated that he is strongly against any proposal to take more rooms from Choir Academy.
2. A Promise Academy II SLT representative stated we should be concerned with bringing our community together by bringing in another quality school. The commenter noted that these are the same children from same community, and asserted that our schools should be working together to educate our children, sharing space for our community. The commenter also noted that the proposal deals with space that exists and is underutilized.
3. A commenter objected to the recording of the hearing because underage students would be speaking without parental permission.
4. A commenter noted that HCZ was first only sited as a pre-kindergarten through kindergarten school, and it was only supposed to be a temporary siting. The commenter asserted that since then, the school has only expanded. The commenter also expressed the opinion that Choir Academy is constantly being threatened and pushed out in a way that amounts to separate and unequal usage, and that limits Choir Academy's potential for future enrollment growth.
5. A commenter asserted that space is being taken away from children, and that there is not enough space for breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria for all students. The commenter added that the DOE should bring Choir Academy back to what it should be.
6. A commenter said she is a student at Choir Academy, and she feels that it is her home. She wants to be treated equally and expressed the opinion that she and the school are not being treated equally because of the space that the commenter believed is being taken away.

7. A commenter expressed the opinion that even after the HCZ schools are gone, another school will be placed in this space. The commenter noted their opposition is not toHCZ but to the placement of any other schools within Choir Academy. The commenter also expressed the opinion that the HCZ proposals demonstrate that the DOE is trying to break up the Harlem community, and demonstrate an underlying racism.
8. A commenter expressed the opinion that the people of the Choir Academy community are not being treated equally. The commenter asserted that the building isn't big enough for two schools but for one school only. The commenter also notes that she attends Choir Academy, but is not allowed to go in certain areas of her own school. The commenter also asserted that Choir Academy cannot accommodate all the kids that want to go there. Finally, the commenter asserted that there have been problems between Choir Academy students and existing Promise Academy students in the building.
9. A commenter noted that HCZ already has the second floor, and Choir kids are stopped from using the staircase during fire drills. The commenter asserted that the building should be for Choir Academy only.
10. A commenter said the DOE should look at it from the Choir Academy point of view. The commenter asked where Choir Academy students are supposed to go, and asserted that the DOE is not helping Choir Academy students.
11. A commenter said the HCZ schools and Choir Academy should separately keep what they have and keep it equitable, but expressed the opinion that the proposals would make it so things are not equal.
12. Safiyah Raheem, representing Councilmember Inez Dickens, said the Councilmember supports Choir Academy and urges HCZ and the DOE to reconsider and place the HCZ schools in another building. Choir Academy should maintain its resources and space, and the school and its students should not be reduced to numbers or a footprint. She calls on DOE to listen to all families and present a proposal that is equitable to all.
13. A commenter expressed the opinion that charter schools are always placed above other public schools, and cited a New York Post article about an independent auditor who said charter schools are receiving much more money than DOE schools in the face of the DOE budget cuts.
14. A commenter asked two questions about the proposal:
    a. Has another site been considered, like the Harlem Renaissance site at 128th street, which the commenter believed to be empty? Has that space been considered?
    b. Will middle school and high school students be placed together in same classrooms?
15. A commenter asserted that it is not fair that Choir Academy students are being pushed out, because they are good students and they need their space. The commenter expressed the opinion that sharing common spaces space with other students is not fair.
16. A commenter asserted there is no space to move around, and expressed the opinion that HCZ schools do not need any more space, because they have more than enough.

17. A commenter noted that the students of Choir Academy currently share common spaces with Promise Academy II. The commenter expressed the opinion that there is not enough space for both schools within this building. The commenter asserted that the proposal would take more space from Choir Academy, which is similar to the phase out from last year, and asserted that the DOE is trying to close down Choir Academy with these proposals.
18. A commenter asserted that Promise Academy II is not sharing spaces like the playground equally. The commenter stated that HCZ schools are getting brand new technical equipment while teachers at Choir Academy buy their own technology. The commenter asserted that there are many schools with plenty of space, so why does it have to come from Choir Academy?
19. A commenter said that the HCZ schools want to stay within the community. As a business owner in the community, she noted that both the schools are part of the community. HCZ provides a lot to the school and community.
20. A commenter asked whether HCZ would take the Harlem Renaissance building if it is available. The commenter also asserted that the proposal is a way of phasing out Choir Academy. The commenter also expressed the opinion that the current situation is not equitable: Promise Academy II gets Smartboards while Choir Academy just gets TVs. The commenter stated that he is not against charters or "Waiting for Superman," but noted that the Choir Academy community wants to keep its space. The commenter also asserted that Promise Academy II moved art exhibit set up by Choir Academy out of the way in the gymnasium because Geoffrey Canada wanted to watch a basketball game. That's not fair because he has his own building and own gym. There needs to be open communication between all parents, and the community will sue if these proposals move forward.
21. A commenter said Choir Academy students need their space, and one floor is not enough. The commenter said he has been able to travel around the world because of the quality education he received from Choir. He was there when the school had four floors, but now it only has one. The students have passion and talent. They should be allowed to grow to be something.
22. A commenter asserted that all the extra subjects, like art and music, are being taken away from Choir Academy students because they have to share space. The commenter asserted that the situation is not fair, equitable, or moral, and that there is not enough room for kids to move and stretch. The commenter asserted that Choir Academy is bringing out greatness of all students.
23. A commenter said she is close to her 10 year reunion, The commenter noted that Choir Academy is improving and moving off SURR list. She said she wants to understand how these proposals can happen when the school is improving? The commenter also asked about potential overcrowding, and the potential phase-out of Choir Academy, and

asserted that the DOE needs to bring this to a happy medium and work it out with the community.

24. A commenter asked what kind of message the DOE is trying to send the Choir Academy community. He said the DOE cannot tell the Choir Academy community that one child's education is more important than another, but asserted that is what the DOE is saying. The commenter expressed concern that the DOE is kicking Choir Academy out of its home. The commenter noted that Choir Academy is ready to grow and learn. The DOE wants to give space to other kids that have dreams, but Choir Academy students have the same dreams, and asked that the DOE help Choir Academy keep the building.
25. A commenter said he has spent 57 years within the community, and fought for equality, and is still fighting for it now. He said it is hard to hear comments from the students saying that they feel neglected and slighted by an unqualified schools chancellor. He asked where are 300 students being put into the building are going to go, and asserted that they cannot all fit on one floor. The commenter expressed the opinion that the die has already been cast, but students should work hard, not give up, and fight.
26. A commenter said he has been at Choir Academy since the fourth grade, and his family members went to the school. He stated that is not going to let his fellow students suffer, or see things taken away from them.
27. A commenter said he very proud to be a teacher at Choir Academy. He stated that he saw "Waiting for Superman," but it was frustrating to see parents of this community in tears over the lottery. He stated that those parents and their children did not lose because Choir Academy is a good school, and they can come to his class. He noted that in the time he has taught Choir Academy, he had to move classrooms twice because of the expansions of Promise Academy II, and vehemently objected to leaving his current classroom.
28. A commenter said the DOE should not take education and space from others, because no student is better than any other. She said she is afraid she will have to leave school next year because of the proposal, which is unfair.
29. A commenter said the proposals are not just a black/white race issue, and called for the community to come together.
30. A commenter said that, as a student of Choir Academy, HCZ students treat him differently. The commenter objected to his art project having been dismantled for a basketball game. The commenter asserted that Choir Academy does not have enough room or use of common space, and expressed concern that the proposals would take away additional space. The commenter also asserted that Promise Academy II has numerous teachers coming in, but Choir Academy has numerous teachers going out. He asked where all the new students will be placed in the building. The commenter also noted that teachers have to have masters degrees to work in public schools, but in charters, teachers only need a BA. A commenter said that Choir Academy principal Dr. Parris started bringing school back together as a family. She got the school together academically. The student asserted that the third floor is crowded, cramped, hot, and smelly, and it is hard to

work in that atmosphere. The commenter asserted that it is unfair to take space away from Choir Academy or close the school down, because there are so many opportunities and talented students in the school.

31. A commenter noted the proposals raise emotional issues. The commenter noted that HCZ families are not trying not take anything from Choir families, and urged political action, including petitions to the Mayor and President in order to aid the community.
32. A commenter asserted that the HCZ Saturday Academy causes problems for Choir Academy because space and things aren't respected, but Choir Academy possessions are destroyed, and common spaces are dirtied. The commenter also expressed concerns about class sizes at Choir Academy, and strongly objected to any proposal which would take any resources from Choir Academy.
33. A commenter said Choir Academy puts out high school graduates, and he is keeping daughter in the school when she wanted to pull out last year because Choir Academy works.
34. Multiple commenters said they will fight against the proposals, and the community should come together in opposition.
35. A commenter suggested that Promise Academy does not serve Special Education students.
36. A commenter suggests that the capital plan for the DOE was cut, but not for the charter schools.
37. A commenter referenced a comment made on a building walk-through that the "Slop sink room could be renovated for a bathroom."

The DOE received comments at the Joint Public Hearing that did not directly relate to the proposal.

38. Multiple commenters said Choir Academy is like a family.
39. Multiple commenters said Choir Academy is a great school, is constantly growing and working to improve, and has contributed greatly to the community.

<u>Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE</u>

No written or oral comments were submitted to the DOE.

IV. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The revised EIS and BUP can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:
http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/June2011Proposals

Copies of the revised EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of Promise Academy I, Choir Academy of Harlem, and Promise Academy II.

V. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.
Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

VI. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name:	Yoo Jin Cheong
Office:	Division of Portfolio Planning
Address:	52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email:	D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone:	212-374-3466

VII. Date, time and place of joint public hearing for this proposal.

A joint public hearing on this proposal was held on March 21, 2011 at Choir Academy of Harlem / HCZ Promise Academy II. The transcript of this hearing is available at the following link: http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/manhattan/HCZ

An additional Joint Public Hearing will be held on the revised proposal on the following date:

Monday, June 13, 2011, 6:00 pm
Choir Academy of Harlem / HCZ Promise Academy II
2005 Madison Avenue,
New York, NY 10035

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section VI above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start. To request interpretation services, please contact Ms. Cheong at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

VIII. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

June 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Prospect Heights Campus
883 Classon Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11225