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Chancellor

### Public Comment Analysis

Date: June 25, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Co-location of Grades Kindergarten through Fourth of Icahn Charter School 7 (84XTBD) with Existing School P.S. 93 Albert G. Oliver in Buildings X093 and X893 Beginning in the 2013-2014 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: June 26, 2012

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#### Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to co-locate grades kindergarten through fourth of a new public charter school, Icahn Charter School 7 (84XTBD, “Icahn 7”), in building X093 and minischool building X893 (“X893”) located at 1535 Story Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473, in Community School District 8 (“District 8”) beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. If this co-location proposal is approved by the Panel For Educational Policy (“PEP”), Icahn 7 will be co-located with P.S. 93 Albert G. Oliver (08X093, “P.S. 93”), an existing zoned elementary school which currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades and offers four sections of full-day pre-kindergarten. A co-location means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

In the current 2011-2012 school year, building X093 also houses the kindergarten through third grades of Metropolitan Lighthouse Charter School (84X461, “Met LCS”), an existing elementary charter school. Met LCS began phasing into X093 during the 2010-2011 school year, adding one grade level each year. In the 2012-2013 school year, Met LCS will serve kindergarten through fourth grades in building X093. As described in the revised Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) approved by the PEP on May 18, 2011, at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year, Met LCS will move into a private facility, where it will continue expanding.

Under Icahn 7’s charter, which was authorized by the State University of New York (“SUNY”) Charter Schools Institute in June 2011, the school is approved to serve kindergarten through sixth grades. However, this proposal deals only with the kindergarten through fourth grades of Icahn 7. If this proposal is approved, Icahn 7 will be co-located with P.S. 93 in buildings X093 and X893 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year after Met LCS moves into its private facility.

Pursuant to this proposal, Icahn 7 will begin serving a total of 90-120 kindergarten, first, and second grade students in 2013-2014. In the 2014-2015 school year, Icahn 7 will expand to serve third grade and will serve a total of approximately 120-160 students. In the 2015-2016 school year, Icahn 7 will add fourth grade and serve a total of approximately 150-200 students.

In its first year, Icahn 7 will enroll kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students through a lottery, giving preference to students who reside in District 8; students who are not admitted will be placed on a waitlist through the same lottery process. In the event that a vacancy occurs during the school year, students will be admitted in the order in which they were placed on the waitlist. Beginning in the school's second year of operation, Icahn 7 will only have a lottery for kindergarten admission.

Building X093 has the capacity to serve 551 students and X893 has the capacity to serve 153 students. In the current 2011-2012 school year, buildings X093 and X893 are collectively serving a total of 585 students in both P.S. 93 and Met LCS, resulting in a projected utilization rate across both buildings of 83%. In 2012-2013, Met LCS will expand to include fourth grade, and buildings X093 and X893 will serve a total of 567-677 students, resulting in a projected utilization rate across both buildings of 81-96%. In 2013-2014, when Met LCS has moved and Icahn 7 begins its phase-in, X093 and X893 will serve 457-547 students, yielding a total utilization rate of 65-78%. When Icahn 7 is fully phased in and serving kindergarten through fourth grades in the 2015-2016 school year, the building utilization rate across both buildings will be 74-90%.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS, which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/June2012Proposals.htm>

### **Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings**

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at school building X093 on June 12, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 15 members of the public attended the hearing, and 3 people spoke. Present at the meeting were Chancellor's Designee Richard Larios from the Office of Charter Schools; SUNY representative, Thomas Franta; P.S. 93 School Leadership Team Representative, Principal Donald Mattson; District Family Advocate, Jean DePesa; Children First Network 401 Leader, Roxan Marks; Jessica Fredston-Hermann from the Office of Charter Schools; and Stephanie Crane from the Division of Portfolio Planning. Although Community Education Council ("CEC") 8 was invited to the hearing and confirmed that at least one CEC member would attend, no CEC 8 members appeared at the hearing.

#### **The following questions, comments, and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:**

1. Donald Mattson, principal of P.S. 93, expressed support for the co-location of an Icahn Charter School in the 2013-2014 school year. He noted that P.S. 93 was previously co-located with an Icahn Charter School and had a positive relationship. He also stated that he did not have major concerns about the Icahn Charter Schools and the lack of parent attendance demonstrates that the community does not have a problem with the co-location.
2. Jeff Litt, founder of Icahn Charter school expressed support for the Icahn Charter Schools. He noted that an Icahn school had previously been co-located with P.S. 93 and the leadership of both schools formed a positive relationship. He noted that Icahn Charter schools demonstrate positive student achievement, have extended school days, provide supportive academic and social programming, and are generally well received by communities.

After the joint public hearing adjourned, the following concern was raised:

3. A parent voiced several concerns about how charter school information is distributed to the communities and expressed frustration that she had very little information about the charter school currently in the building as well as the Icahn school that was previously co-located with P.S. 93.

### **Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE**

The DOE received no written comments and no oral comments through the dedicated Web site and phone line for this proposal.

### **Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal**

Comments 1 and 2 voice support for the proposal and require no response.

Comment 3 expressed concern about how information about charter schools and the application process is distributed to communities in which the charter schools are located.

Charter schools in New York city recruit prospective students using a variety of methods. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Posting fliers and other printed materials throughout the CSD(s) the school intends to serve (primarily in English but may also include other dominant languages spoken in the CSD)
- Reaching out to local community organizations, centers, and/or faith-based organizations
- Holding open houses or information sessions
- Mail campaigns
- Advertising in local media (newspapers, radio)
- Contacting local elected officials and community boards
- Setting up a school website with school and application information
- Visiting “feeder schools,” daycare centers, or schools that serve grades that feed into the intake grade(s) of the charter school

Instructions on how to apply at Met LCS are available on its website at the following link:

<http://www.lighthouse-academies.org/schools/bronx>

Instructions on how to apply to Icahn Charter Schools, and information regarding all the schools in the Icahn charter network, are available on its website at the following link:

<http://www.ica hncharterschools.org/home>

### **Changes Made to the Proposal**

No changes have been made to this proposal.