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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
**Opening and Co-Location of Charter
School @ Q400**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 FEMALE VOICE: We want to be respectful
3 about - - will arrive at different times
4 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak,
5 we'll do our best to accommodate them at the
6 first opportune moment. Those who are here - -
7 public comment, will be asked to speak first.
8 Tonight - - presentation of the proposal and
9 presentation by - - participants, followed by
10 public comment. Speakers should have already
11 signed up at the table outside the auditorium.
12 If you have not yet done so, please do so. - -
13 speaker sign up - - events. Each speaker will
14 be given two minutes each. The time will be
15 strictly followed. The speakers will be
16 informed when their designated time has ended.
17 I would like to now introduce the panel, which
18 has been assembled for this evening's joint
19 public hearing. Starting from my right,
20 Principal Jillian Smith, Principal - - Lazaro,
21 Superintendent Cindy Ganaferson [phonetic], - -
22 district 27 community education council, - -
23 Hewlie, CCHF, and we're excepting Paula - - the
24 president, um, she's the president of the
25 citywide council on high schools. We are

1 pleased to have - - with us this evening as
2 well. I would like to announce - - program over
3 to - - who will who will present the proposal.

4 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening everyone. I'd
5 like to welcome you to, uh, the joint public
6 hearing for August Martin High School. Um, - -
7 Principal Smith, Principal - - , faculty and
8 students. The New York City Department of
9 Education is proposing to open and co-locate
10 Success Academy Charter School, New York Five, -
11 - public elementary charter school that will
12 serve students in kindergarten through 4th grade
13 and Building Q400 - - in 2014 through the 2015
14 school year. If this proposal is approved,
15 Success Academy New York Five will be co-located
16 in Building Q400 with August Martin High School
17 an existing district high school that currently
18 serves students in nine, twelve - - prep, South
19 Queens Transfer School, a new transfer school
20 and an alternative learning center, which
21 provides an educational setting for students in
22 grades nine through 12 who are on a
23 superintendent's suspension - - . A co-location
24 means that two or more school organizations are
25 located at the same building and they share

1 common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and
2 cafeteria. Success Academy charter schools is a
3 charter management organization that currently
4 operates 18 public charter schools in New York
5 City including six new public elementary schools
6 serving students for the first time this year.
7 Success Academy has submitted a preliminary
8 application for charter authorization from - -
9 the State University of New York trustees to
10 serve students in kindergarten through fifth
11 grades. The proposal to open and co-locate
12 kindergarten or fourth grade of Success Academy
13 New York Five in Q400 is described - - proposal
14 educational impact statement is contingent upon
15 - - approval of Success Academy New York Five's
16 application for charter authorization and for
17 it's - - . If this proposal is approved Success
18 Academy New York Five will serve students in
19 kindergarten and first grade in 2014/2015 school
20 year and will add one grade level every year
21 until the school reaches its full grade span of
22 kindergarten through fourth grades in the
23 2017/2018 school year. In 2018/2019 when
24 enrolled - - Success Academy New York Five will
25 serve approximately 450 to 600 students in

1 kindergarten through fourth grade. The school
2 will admit students via the charter - -
3 application process with preference given to
4 district 27 residents and siblings of current or
5 accepted students. The four Success Academy
6 elementary schools that we see in the progress
7 report for the 2011/2012 school year all
8 received an overall grade of A. Furthermore on
9 the 2012/2013 New York State exams, Success
10 Academy charter schools demonstrated strong
11 results in the English language arts, math, and
12 science. Compared to all New York City schools,
13 several Success Academy schools with testing
14 grades performed in the top two percent on the
15 state math examination and in the top seven
16 percent on the state English language arts
17 examination. Additionally, all of the Success
18 Academy students who took the state science test
19 passed the exam. The DOE believes in Success
20 Academy's record of success and supports the
21 placement of this Success Academy charter school
22 in district 27 in order to continue providing
23 education opportunities for students and
24 families.

25 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. We have - - .

1 MALE VOICE: First--excuse me--first, I'd
2 like to ask that this proposal be tabled
3 because--a little basis - - administration.

4 [Applause]

5 MALE VOICE: Thank you. I'd also like to
6 take note is that there was appearing - -
7 December 25th regarding the charter school
8 application. They wanted public comment. There
9 was maybe two to three weeks' notice. I went to
10 this hearing. There was only three parents in
11 the audience. It was myself and two - - CDC
12 members and maybe some in administration - -
13 building - - Q124. So based on that alone, I
14 think this really needs to get just put on hold
15 until we can really get parental - - for one.
16 Two, based on articles that have come out on
17 Success Academy that they're - - stats really -
18 - I hear they're not, you know, taking - - into
19 consideration, um, children's special needs or -
20 - . There's a lot of questions here. Some - -
21 come up to--who come up to me personally and
22 said, you know what, I have a problem with this.
23 Now, not to mention the problem being we're
24 talking about elementary children coming to a
25 school with high school students. You can't--no

1 matter how much you can separate these two
2 schools or their going to have a separate
3 entrance, you're still going to share - - room.
4 They still got to share common areas. It's just
5 not a good mix I believe. Not to mention I've
6 also heard that in the past couple of years
7 there have been some incidences with - - . I
8 don't have the reports. I was trying to get
9 them before I came in here, but I didn't get
10 those yet. But I understand--it's just not a
11 good mix and I really think for one year it has
12 to be tabled until the new administration comes
13 in. So, one, we can let the parents know, get
14 the notice out there better. Because as you can
15 see - - parents here to begin with and not many
16 came to the hearing on the 29th. None came to
17 the hearing on the 25th. So thank you very
18 much.

19 [Applause]

20 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening and thank you
21 for allowing me to submit my testimony. I am
22 asking that the panel give the principal Jillian
23 Smith and her staff the opportunity to continue
24 to show her effectiveness with the programs that
25 she has put in place since taking over, taking

1 over August Martin last year. We hope you
2 decide not to co-locate Success Academy in the
3 building for doing so will not be a good
4 decision. It will take away many great programs
5 that August Martin provides for their students
6 such as the million dollar recording studio that
7 was donated by Tom White [phonetic] and a fully
8 functional culinary kitchen that was - - by
9 Billy Cooke [phonetic]. Taking away these
10 programs can hinder students. What happens when
11 the parent - - career - - readiness. Well how
12 is this to happen if the space is given to
13 Success Academy charter school? There you go
14 again taking away space just like when you co-
15 located - - taking away the business law program
16 from August Martin. If you take the cap off of
17 the student from 859 to 880--if you take that
18 stupid cap off, you'll let the communication,
19 the culinary, the business and law, aviation and
20 medical programs work instead of taking them
21 away from the students. We ask that you put
22 yourself in our shoes. The co-location of
23 Success Academy may look like a win-win for the
24 city, but not to me. It looks like a disaster
25 waiting to happen when you place these little

1 children in a building with - - young adults to
2 adult ages 14 to 21. I ask that the panel
3 consider everything that has been said here
4 today and thank you.

5 [Applause]

6 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. My name is - -
7 . I'm helping - - citywide council on high
8 schools and I am addressing the council. I - -
9 perspective, which is the citywide perspective.
10 I - - and I learned about things within the last
11 couple of years. Specifically this proposal is
12 a bad proposal for two reasons - - . One, we
13 all know it's a New York State - - charter
14 school chain [phonetic] that fears the next
15 administration will not be - - to its interests.
16 We now have many examples of charter school
17 located in the public schools and the record
18 shows - - schools are short-changed by - - .
19 It's also on another matter a co-location of a
20 high within an elementary school. The
21 arrangement is not good for high school
22 students. Let me be clear I am here for high
23 school students. They are not - - . They
24 deserve good schools with good spaces. Um, and
25 it's not--the additional schools always - - the

1 high school students always - - because
2 they're - - their way that - - high school - -
3 and when you buy expensive - - facilities and
4 it's efficient use of the - - and inefficient
5 use of space. This proposal is the quality of
6 the school that has not yet been approved by - -
7 trustees. In other words, - - can resist, but
8 you can see the construction on their way.
9 We've been here before. We went - - . We went
10 there with graphics [phonetic]. We went there
11 with - - . They know we will be moving in. We
12 have - - believe the application will be
13 approved and - - the application itself is for a
14 K through five school, but the co-location
15 proposal is only for K through four. Where is
16 the fifth grade going to be? We cannot even
17 begin to speculate about - - locations are, but
18 we - - that something is going to hit from the
19 community. Where - - Success Academy charter
20 school - - ? We can only think that there will
21 be more shopping around - - whether or not - -
22 to accommodate the charter school - - . Why is
23 this not on the current education impact
24 statement? What's being hit? As always, the -
25 - this proposal is - - we need more - - here in

1 - - I should say you because - - . But Queens
2 has - - private schools. - - but - - is to rob
3 Peter to pay Paul. To take away my - - students
4 to create - - in the same building. Queens has
5 to most overcrowded high schools in the city.
6 Just in district--here in district 27 according
7 to the - - are at 100 percent, 80 percent, and
8 122 percent capacity. In district 26, there are
9 two schools at 150 percent capacity and - -
10 schools at 176 percent capacity according to the
11 most recent - - figures. Given the situation -
12 - working to improve at least the quality of - -
13 at August Martin rather than giving it away to -
14 - school. In general, now - - address the
15 second issue--in general, the co-location of an
16 elementary school with a high school is not an
17 efficient use of space and it's wasteful of
18 public resources. Because of regulations as
19 well as safety concerns, facilities such lab
20 rooms and gym must be locked to accommodate
21 smaller - - . Safety concerns, which are a
22 regular issue - - did take - - elementary school
23 students to be physically separate from high
24 school students. They need to - - construction
25 - - space. What we have learned from similar

1 co-locations is that - - high school students
2 - - space reduction. In the - - students have
3 lost use of the - - music rooms, um, and - - and
4 ceramics room was taken - - was built at great
5 expense. It was 20 million dollars passed by
6 the city council of taxpayer - - much of which
7 had to be undone because of the co-location of
8 an elementary school. Of course, the education
9 impact statement and - - plans had an answer for
10 all of our concerns here. There will be - - no
11 education impact - - of the co-location - - or
12 any of the other schools programs that should be
13 dealt with. And - - issues will be resolved by
14 the schools years - - regulation. They share
15 space with - - which is supposed to be - - .
16 Let me tell you something. Get the proposal - -
17 but the reality is quite different. The reality
18 - - certain schools. - - evidence communicates
19 - - administration so generally I don't know if
20 it's worth - - public school administration
21 resolve complete with - - space. They just - -
22 and they don't follow different meetings. For
23 example, the - - high school Success Academy - -
24 has refused to attend the - - . It is telling
25 that when I asked as the council president for

1 preparation for one our meetings I asked - -
2 can get the minutes of all the shifts basically
3 making, uh, meetings for the previous two years
4 - - minutes - - . I was told--I was given to no
5 answer, but I was told unofficially that I would
6 have to file for the request. Well, naturally I
7 wonder - - . In summary, we are--I personally
8 oppose this proposal and I know my colleague
9 here has spoken against it. Students at August
10 Martin High School and - - transfer school
11 always - - and nothing in this proposal promises
12 to satisfy the - - good quality high school
13 seats in district 27. Thank you very much.

14 [Applause]

15 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. - - Councilman
16 Willis [phonetic] to give comment.

17 MALE VOICE: Everybody can hear me right?
18 Is that--who is this table? It's amazing to me
19 that they allowed a Success charter academy
20 school to come in and tape when we have programs
21 that we want to get to the news to show how good
22 our children are doing and the DOE shuts that
23 down. So already they're showing preferential
24 treatment to Success Academy. We have paperwork
25 that shows facts about the Success Academy.

1 Since you're taping, we will make sure it's
2 very clear. But the EIS statement that each
3 person here--and there's only about 45 people
4 here, not because our community doesn't care
5 about this issue or because our community
6 doesn't come out. It's because the DOE has
7 intentionally made sure that it was not
8 communicated to our parents in an effective way
9 to make sure they come out. Because I have
10 serious doubts that if you told 2,000 people in
11 our community that you were trying to stuff an
12 elementary school into a high school with a
13 transfer school, this place would not be packed
14 with people voicing objections. This is one of
15 the things the DOE is doing. Further things the
16 DOE is doing--the entire impact statement is a
17 lie. There's no need for me to be nice tonight
18 because this is something they're going ram
19 through--to us. If you want to go we can pick
20 it through lie by lie. If you go to--one page
21 it says if this proposal is approved yadda,
22 yadda, yadda, yadda, all these - - projected to
23 serve a total of 840 to 880 ninth through
24 twelfth grades. The ALC is projected to serve a
25 total of 60 to 80 ninth through twelfth grade

1 students and voice out [phonetic] is projected
2 to serve approximately 230 to 270 students in
3 grades nine through twelve. Combined there
4 would be approximately 15,080 to 18,300 students
5 served in Q400, which yields a projected
6 utilization rate of 84 to 97 percent. So if
7 you're putting all of these kids in our building
8 and your impact statements continue to go--the
9 proposed co-locations of the Success - - school,
10 New York Five and Q400 is not expected to impact
11 the admissions the enrollment or educational
12 aspects of students currently attending August
13 Martin. How is that possible? Two physical
14 forms cannot occupy the same space at the same
15 time. On the second floor, we have business and
16 law. We have a courtroom. What--who knows the
17 answer to who else is occupying the second floor
18 on the same side of that of that courtroom in
19 this building? The transfer school. So if the
20 transfer school is occupying that space and we
21 have a courtroom in our building, which the DOE
22 knows that we just sunk 14 million dollars in
23 capital to have a feeder [phonetic] school
24 program where we're putting the courtroom in
25 PS80 the Thurgood Marshall school. We're

1 putting a courtroom in 72 so our children can
2 finally study law and get to August Martin and
3 know what they want to do. How do our children
4 use the courtroom or how is the rest of this
5 program going to be effective if they have
6 another school in that same space? The third
7 floor is where the Success charter school is
8 supposed to go. So if the Success Academy is
9 supposed to go on the second and third floor--
10 the third floor is where our culinary arts
11 kitchen is at. Isn't that what you just spoke
12 of? Culinary arts kitchen. Again, how can you
13 occupy if the same space if you're not going
14 impact the options--the learning options--of our
15 students. The DOE is not going to answer that
16 for you tonight. They're going to give you a
17 bunch of runaround statements. They're going to
18 say that it's not supposed to impact, but on
19 plain paper they've already shown they're going
20 impact it. If you're not going to affect
21 enrollment, then why don't you build up the
22 programs that we have here. We just \$400,000
23 into giving the aviation program a state of the
24 art--what is it called? Simulator. State of
25 the arts simulator. We just had a hearing

1 downtown to rename - - Tuskegee Airmen Way.
2 And it's 20 million dollars secured by the Port
3 Authority to build the Tuskegee Airmen Museum
4 and Recreational Center on the York College
5 campus. Now how does it not affect our
6 enrollment if you keep taking the programs away
7 that our community needs. The DOE has not yet
8 telling anybody--please anybody in this room
9 that can tell me that I'm wrong. If the DOE
10 come to you and send out a survey and said, what
11 would you like to see in our community. Anybody
12 in this room? Nobody. So how dare the DOE have
13 the audacity less than 90 days before Bloomberg
14 is out of office to try to shove these
15 classrooms and stuff and these schools down our
16 throats. And this is not the co-location.
17 They're trying to put a high school in 226.
18 They're trying to co-locate PS40 and they're
19 trying to co-locate K72. Now why didn't the DOE
20 do this before we put 1.2 million dollar into
21 the school last year. Why didn't they tell us
22 they was going to do this? Why hasn't the DOE
23 communicated effectively to our parents and the
24 people in our community what's going on? Let me
25 make sure that something is very clear to

1 everybody here. This is not a UFT, slash, CSA
2 - - . This has nothing to do with the union
3 because that's how they've been pushing back and
4 fooling us for such a long time the last two or
5 three years. This is about our community. How
6 can you put high school kids in the same
7 physical - - and you put third, fourth, and
8 second graders in. You can't put elementary
9 school kids in a high school. It just does not
10 work. It will not work. You are hurting--you
11 are compromising the safety of our children. If
12 you wanted to do something for August Martin.
13 If you wanted to something for this particular
14 community in south Jamaica, then you would have
15 come. You would have asked us what we needed.
16 You would have put the money into the programs
17 we already have. Thomas Edison has 18 programs
18 in it from visual arts to auto body to printing.
19 We have five and they're trying to take those
20 away from us. You need to ask yourselves way.
21 They say in the educational impact study, they
22 go into--and as soon as you can tell me I'm
23 wrong DOE--because it's right here in your
24 stuff--please stop me. In the educational study
25 in the impact statement, they have a program

1 from the voyage [phonetic] school. You guys
2 really need to go into this and read this. On
3 page five, voyage - - also offers an LTW,
4 learning to work program. How do you teach our
5 kids to go to work if you take every program
6 that we have away? We're trying to put dance
7 studios. We're trying to put telecommunications
8 and broadcast journalism studios and our
9 elementary schools and into our junior high
10 schools. This has never been done anywhere in
11 the state. The fought us on the this is
12 learning program and they fight on everything
13 that we have that benefits our kids. This is
14 not about our kids. This is about Eva Moskowitz
15 and money. Right now Eva Moskowitz and the
16 Success Academy has 18 schools. Six were
17 located in the past year. Five are being co-
18 located this year. That's 11 schools. If you
19 have 18 and 11, that's 29. That's almost half
20 our growth is going to be done in a year and a
21 half, being pushed through and shoved down our
22 throats. You had better read this impact study.
23 You had better understand exactly what they're
24 trying to because this is not something that we
25 can sit still for. This building may belong to

1 the city, but the students don't. And if we
2 got to revert back to the sixties and take our
3 children out of these damn schools and put them
4 into the churches and education until Bloomberg
5 is out of school, then that's something we need
6 to do. I'm telling you.

7 [Applause]

8 MALE VOICE: The - - is not expected to
9 impact current of future enrollment or
10 instructional programming at any of the programs
11 currently offered by August Martin including the
12 aerospace and technology academy. We just
13 showed that that was a lie. The community arts
14 academy did not want to do that. The business
15 and law academy--we've already shown that
16 they've impacted that already. This is
17 something that they're trying to do and it is in
18 direct contradiction to the growth and the
19 continued success of our children in this
20 community. They are not here to help us. This
21 whole public hearing is a farce. The PEP
22 rubberstamps damn near every school that goes
23 before them. One school they can point to,
24 PS140--one that they haven't rubberstamped. This
25 is not about school utilization. This is about

1 the utilization of schools for kids in our
2 community. This is about our kids and our kids
3 need to have a leg up. I'll be so damned glad
4 when we get a new mayor and a new DOE. You guys
5 had better push and push and push. My office is
6 open every single day. If we have to sue them
7 with a federal law suit for civil rights, you
8 all better get on it and we need to do that
9 because we should not let this stand.

10 [Applause]

11 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. We have now
12 completed the formal presentation and we'll now
13 move into the public comment portion of this
14 evening's agenda. You're reminded that public
15 comment must be limited to two minutes. Time
16 will be counted and we will signal when we have
17 30 seconds remaining and your time is up. I now
18 invite speakers with numbers one through six to
19 join us at this microphone over here. Speakers
20 with numbers one through six starting with
21 Reverend Ernest. The next speak I have is Mr.
22 McDonald.

23 MALE VOICE: Wait, excuse me. Adrian Adams
24 was signed up for the formal presentations - -
25 chair of CUNY - - . You skipped her name.

1 FEMALE VOICE: I'm sorry. - - .

2 MALE VOICE: All right. So please let her
3 speak first.

4 FEMALE VOICE: So as I said, Reverend
5 Ernest, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Evans, and Ms. - - .
6 - - has - - .

7 [Crosstalk]

8 [Background conversation]

9 MS. ADRIAN ADAMS: Good evening. My name is
10 Adrian Adams. I am the chairperson of community
11 board 12 Queens. I have a brief statement but
12 before I give it I have one question for the
13 DOE. Whether we come out as 40 or 400, we can
14 guarantee that we are coming down 100 percent in
15 opposition to this co-location. What will you
16 do without our 100 percent opposition to this
17 co-location? The school districts of community
18 412 are a part of a detrimental co-location
19 classroom that the Bloomberg administration is
20 determined to carry out prior to his leaving
21 office at the end of the year. And we are faced
22 with the possibility of multiple co-locations
23 within our elementary - - and high schools under
24 the guise of under-utilization, educators have
25 been notified that their schools must make way

1 for DOE deemed high quality schools. This
2 term is not only unproven but highly offensive
3 to anyone associated with existing schools. Co-
4 locating schools and sharing common space within
5 - - , many - - are designed for only a specific
6 grade is a fundamentally disadvantageous
7 practice, which usually causes gross inequities
8 to the existing schools. Of most concern of the
9 plans for southeast Queens are the two proposed
10 co-locations of Success charter academy, the
11 charter school chain run by millionaire Eva
12 Moskowitz, which has recently come under fire
13 for its discriminatory practice of suspending
14 special education, i.e., students without proper
15 cause. Eva Moskowitz has gotten millions of
16 dollars to expand her empire, pays no rent to
17 the city, and now has her sights set on our
18 community. Instead of seeking solitary
19 locations for Eva Moskowitz's Success charter
20 academies, which they can well afford--the
21 Department of Education - - to allow them to co-
22 locate kindergarten through fourth grade
23 students with high school and adult aged
24 students at August Martin High School. This is
25 an obvious detrimental learning environment for

1 all students involved and community board 12
2 vehemently opposes, opposes all applications,
3 RFPs, and requests associated with any co-
4 location involving success charter academy or
5 any other school in our districts. Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. Now we will begin
8 - - the formal public comment. And just as a
9 reminder, we're asking that the public comment
10 be kept to two minutes. Our time keeper is
11 right there. She'll notify you when you have 30
12 seconds remaining and when your time is up.
13 Please proceed.

14 PAT: Thank you. My name is Pat - - . I
15 represent the documented, original Tuskegee
16 Airmen who live in this vicinity. We have two
17 members right across the street on this side and
18 one member - - on this side. I believe - - 1949
19 - - . Two of the members of the - - . They're
20 in their nineties now. One just passed. And -
21 - the principal's union at one time. They are
22 adamantly against this. Adamantly, - - into the
23 community until I brought it to their attention.
24 The reason for it - - mixing of young kid with
25 older children. The taking away of the

1 facilities needed for high school students. I
2 - - my granddaughter who is now 28. She
3 attended Long Island - - Academy out in north -
4 - and - - opened up in this school. It was bad
5 business to place young girls with teenage and
6 high school boys. Don't do this to our young
7 girls. At age 12, she could hold the attention
8 of an 18-year-old boy for an hour. That scared
9 the heck out of me. I'm going to take that down
10 - - . You know - - is going to happen to your
11 children. And it's not great - - to make sure
12 young people - - high school. They're working
13 to integrate them and they just don't have the
14 facility--the brainpower--to understand all the
15 little things that happen to them when - - .
16 They're just not ready. Don't do this. And
17 this is the - - who asked me to speak on their
18 behalf. I must leave because - - is in the
19 hospital, but I thank you for letting me speak
20 on their behalf.

21 [Applause]

22 MALE VOICE: - - church - - I remember the
23 time - - . I can't believe - - participate - -
24 so they can stop ruining the lives of our
25 children - - . To plan on - - elementary

1 children in a high school even though Eva
2 Moskowitz says it worked in three - - other
3 school - - . It doesn't mean that it's going to
4 be beneficial for the children who come into
5 this school and - - Eva Moskowitz - - whatever
6 she gets - - school. Why not take that money
7 and give it to the principal of this school?

8 FEMALE VOICE: That's right.

9 MALE VOICE: Who - - .

10 [Applause]

11 MALE VOICE: And get a better staff or
12 better faculty.

13 FEMALE VOICE: That's right.

14 MALE VOICE: So that they can help out
15 students learn what they really need to be
16 learned. At some point - - maybe - - .

17 FEMALE VOICE: Amen.

18 [Applause]

19 MALE VOICE: And if this - - I think it
20 usually is, we didn't get the proper information
21 - - . But at any rate, I would hold that when
22 you separate - - and - - said goodbye - -
23 goodbye - - to Mr. Bloomberg. I'm ashamed to -
24 - . But let me say this, I - - and I think that
25 decision has already been made because if they

1 didn't have - - from the committee and the
2 borough - - one each. By the time - - and the
3 vote - - , I think it's already been decided.
4 It's a shame that we have to waste our time and
5 come out here and say we are not in favor of co-
6 location of a charter school by Eva Moskowitz in
7 this building.

8 [Applause]

9 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. Mr. McDonald,
10 followed by Mr. Evans and Michele Hamilton
11 [phonetic] - - here. You're after Mr. Evans. -
12 - . Please proceed.

13 MR. RAY MCDONALD: Good evening. My name is
14 Ray McDonald. I'm the chair of the NAACP - -
15 education committee. All I can say is here we
16 go again. I've been - - school closings and co-
17 locations for six years now. Like the good
18 Reverend Morris [phonetic] I am glad that this
19 administration is coming to an end December
20 31st. My - - . I'm not going to tell you - - .
21 I'll - - you. I served on the citywide career
22 and technical education - - with - - .
23 Thousands in Queens doesn't have one - -
24 education. All this - - is the - - . Instead
25 of co-locating - - why don't they support some

1 of these programs - - of this school - - about
2 two years - - . I saw the, uh, what is it - - .

3 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

4 MR. MCDONALD: The - - . These are the
5 programs that can take our - - to the next
6 level. Our kids - - and not get - - support
7 they can pass an entrance exam. You know, we
8 got to do better than that. We got to - - .
9 One thing I have to tell you is that the state
10 legislators are - - on school governance. This
11 is very important. The hearing is Tuesday,
12 October 8 at 6:30. It's going to be at St.
13 Francis College. For you - - people, that's in
14 Brooklyn. One of the ways that we change what's
15 going on now is to keep attending hearings and
16 testifying. - - I'm going to be at this one. I
17 need you people to come to others. Thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 FEMALE VOICE: - - Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: First - - my name and my issue.
21 One my name is - - Evans. I'm - - . That's - -
22 . Two, I'm the president of - - association.
23 Three, I've lived in this neighborhood for 20
24 years. Next - - I've also been able to secure
25 bodyguard work for 27 years. And - - say that,

1 one, - - , one, do you want August Martin to
2 fail - - . That's the first and I doubt you can
3 answer that - - but still I have to ask - - .
4 But the second thing is that if you wanted this
5 program to succeed and to give it time to work,
6 two years ago pull the principal out of the
7 school because - - and didn't bring another - -
8 and have no problem - - . And I want to say why
9 don't you give - - to build this program.
10 Instead of taking this money and putting it into
11 other schools or whatever - - other schools - -
12 and change - - because like - - I want to tell -
13 - that any day I'm proud of the communications
14 department. And that's - - . I've walked in
15 there from 20 years - - when I walked in there -
16 - that's why I - - .

17 [Laughter]

18 MR. EVANS: - - . The first thing - - that
19 TV studio is made - - . At the end of the day,
20 we've got to - - of the school - - . That's - -
21 . That will put that money and the city spent
22 that much money - - these officials in this
23 neighborhood. People vote to have these things
24 put - - and we don't have the opportunity to use
25 those. One other thing - - 27 years. I want to

1 know if you raise your hand anybody that has
2 kids under ten years old. Anybody in here who
3 has kids under ten years old or you have a kid,
4 I want say this. There's no - - security wise
5 or as a parent or a daughter - - 21, 18, both in
6 college - - folks on me that make sure they got
7 it. But just to let you know, there's no way in
8 hell you should allow 8-year-old, 10-year-old to
9 be with 15-year-olds, and 18 - - .

10 [Applause]

11 MR. EVANS: - - you child to be in jail, to
12 be in a hospital room, to be in a classroom or
13 to be in the same building with somebody who is
14 18, 19, 20 years old - - . I really - - do you
15 have children and would you allow your child to
16 be in this school with 8 years old - - .

17 FEMALE VOICE: Mr. - - .

18 MR. EVANS: I want know - - .

19 FEMALE VOICE: - - she's four years old.

20 But right now - - .

21 [Crosstalk]

22 FEMALE VOICE: The time - - .

23 MR. EVANS: I'm being respectful.

24 FEMALE VOICE: I know your - - .

25 [Crosstalk]

1 MR. EVANS: I'll finish this real quick
2 when I say this one. It is very disrespectful
3 that DOE said that the so-called want this
4 program to work - - my own, but yet there's
5 still the last four or five years you have done
6 everything by taking the name and the school out
7 of - - but you can come to this school by
8 sitting and noticing home to the parents saying
9 the school is going to close and it's a failing
10 school. But you're going to give it the time
11 that new principals give to allow it to work.
12 So that's your fault and that's wrong that the
13 DOE would be so disrespectful - - .

14 [Applause]

15 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. - - public
16 comment is two minutes each. And the reason we
17 keep the public comments - - is to allow for
18 everyone to have an opportunity. We understand
19 that many of you here are parents and we want to
20 get - - as well as - - official comment - -
21 record. Also, I actually - - right now. So
22 please watch your - - . I'm sure that you would
23 want - - and that's why - - . One other thing
24 is, um, - - statements, our educational impact
25 statements that are available outside the

1 auditorium. You should feel free to flip
2 through them. I think that many of your
3 questions will be answered in - - . If there
4 are further questions that - - this evening, um,
5 we - - answer questions in our public comment
6 analysis that will - - proceeding the October
7 30th - - education policy meeting. There will -
8 - . Now Michelle - - . Miss--I think it's Miss
9 Edwards. I don't understand the first name, but
10 - - it's number - - and Washington Sanders,
11 which is number eight - - . Ms. Anderson?
12 Number six.

13 MALE VOICE: Number four - - .

14 FEMALE VOICE: Oh, number four.

15 MALE VOICE: The numbers are messed up so
16 it's okay.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Oh, okay. Mr. McDonald - - .

18 MALE VOICE: - - .

19 FEMALE VOICE: You have to speak into the
20 microphone. We're also recording this so - - .

21 MALE VOICE: Okay. So - - high school - - .
22 So - - respect that and I appreciate - - much
23 better - - and work - - .

24 [Applause]

25 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you - - . The next

1 speaker, number five. Thank you.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. My name is Lorinda
3 Williams. I had the chance to go through this
4 co-location before. From CNP [phonetic] my
5 brother's school was transferred - - . Those
6 little kids cried and - - because they were
7 scared of the big kids. They were junior high
8 school and elementary school. Putting, um,
9 elementary school - - and high school kids--the
10 kids are fearful. That's how - - education
11 learn in that - - . Why - - there? The school
12 is - - . They'll - - foundation. Just keep
13 building on it. Why would you bring in the - -
14 school? Why?

15 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you.

16 [Applause]

17 FEMALE VOICE: Number six. Number six. I
18 hope everyone can hear and hear me clearly
19 because - - tonight. But my name is - - . I
20 live - - and I'm going to tell you - - bought
21 and paid for - - . What I find and see what's
22 happening now is that - - they're still keeping
23 the name August Martin, but they are dismantling
24 the school inch by inch, school by school.

25 [Applause]

1 FEMALE VOICE: - - . We worked so hard
2 off and on--the school wasn't perfect. - -
3 would be perfect, but people up in here have
4 been trying to build it up. They have - -
5 programs that - - all they have to do is enhance
6 those programs and we'd have something great
7 going on here. Those of us who have been around
8 the school, we've seen - - a lot - - culinary.
9 They go to--in the summertime they work with the
10 airport. There were jobs - - so they have the
11 basic things that they can work with if they
12 were given the money and the opportunity. They
13 talk about--everyone knows that - - classes are
14 better. What they need to do is make sure that
15 - - that the - - of the school are better as far
16 as qualified and better teachers or qualified -
17 - and have more space so that they can do
18 things. They have - - technology program that
19 they've been trying - - into that area - - we
20 don't even have a - - and if these children were
21 able to learn something - - technology, that's
22 great. But everything in this school - - and
23 work on - - . They come and try to take it. I
24 hate to say it, but I really feel the racist
25 situation here.

1 [Applause]

2 FEMALE VOICE: - - . I used to - -
3 Markowitz or whatever her name is. She's rowing
4 and going at the expense of all these poor
5 children - - . So something needs to be done
6 about her. - - , but I can see the money that
7 she's making going into the schools and - -
8 what's she's doing now - - one school or
9 whatever - - school.

10 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you, ma'am.

11 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

12 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. - - Ms. Edwards,
15 speaker number seven. Ms. Edwards. Is Mr. Jack
16 here from - - ? Mr. Jack, would you take - - .
17 Following Mr. Jack, we'll here from numbers
18 eight through twelve - - . That's - - Sanchez,
19 Ms. - - . Ms. Williams, Ms. Bryant, Mr. - - .

20 MR. DWIGHT JACK: Good evening. - - to
21 facilitate our - - all my, um, - - . My name is
22 Dwight Jack [phonetic]. I'm the vice-president
23 of the - - , um, this is the parent-teacher
24 association and when I heard--first let me say
25 that I have a 17-year-old who is in this school

1 who is very impressionable. And to have a kid
2 - - children moving throughout the school and my
3 17-year-old trying his best to get to his next
4 class will definitely be an interruption. And
5 to tell me that you would put these children--
6 and I have small children too--but I'll tell you
7 this, the city would not allow me to have my
8 teenager - - in the same bedroom with my 5-year-
9 old - - . And to think that they want to do
10 this in an educational setting is ludicrous.
11 All - - times, my president, - - we're totally
12 against this effort. And - - reference that - -
13 coming to the 31st, I - - is a thing of the past
14 and Ms. Smith when had the opportunity with her
15 staff to forge ahead - - year to make sure that
16 - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MR. JACK: - - .

19 FEMALE VOICE: Number seven. Number eight.
20 Ms. Washington-Sanchez.

21 MS. WASHINGTON-SANCHEZ: Good evening
22 everyone. I'm a veteran of this - - coming to
23 these meeting for three years in a row - - high
24 school. Obviously I stand in opposition - -
25 interest. I stand in complete opposition to

1 this proposal for obvious reasons - -
2 mentioned before, um, - - having children who
3 are four years old coming to school with
4 children who are 22 or young - - is not a wise
5 thing to do. The dismantling of all - -
6 programs, uh, - - trying to turn around, um,
7 putting stress on a school that was just - - to
8 this building voyages [phonetic], which is
9 supposed to give it, uh, basically a second
10 chance to our youth. I don't think that that's
11 fair. This is very similar to what Bloomberg
12 has been doing for the last few years.
13 Councilman Willis, uh, you indicated in the last
14 few years - - again this is, you know, all
15 around the CSA - - we're fighting against the
16 city. Well, you know, yeah we had - - fight
17 against the city - - fight for all children - -
18 . We fight for all of them. We fight for all
19 - - communities. We fight for all workers.
20 With that in mind, um, what I suggest - - is
21 that it brings more - - into a struggling
22 schools here in district 27. As an example, I
23 want to tell you guys - - in 65 here in - - and
24 with Queens information - - technology and - - .
25 They have begun what is called - - community

1 schools motto. And our motto is that if we
2 uplift our community that our children will
3 perform better in school. So with that in mind
4 - - bringing thousands of dollars into these
5 schools, huge - - and government - - . And
6 within the next - - , which is - - and within -
7 - we will see that the entire community, the
8 entire community - - will be better and I
9 suggest that the Department of Education comes
10 up with a plan that involves uplifting all boats
11 and not just a few - - .

12 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you - - .

13 [Applause]

14 FEMALE VOICE: Number nine.

15 FEMALE VOICE: - - hi in back. I'm - - also
16 - - UFT [phonetic] but more importantly August
17 Martin High School. This is the only school
18 I've ever taught in and I - - many people in the
19 audience. As a matter of fact, - - president of
20 the alumni. Where'd you go? - - so he learned
21 - - so I'm here today in total opposition. I've
22 been here all - - every year. My question - - I
23 notice this is being taped. I don't know who
24 listens to it. I don't know if - - listen to
25 it, if we ever get the response back. To the

1 best of my knowledge, the answer is no. I
2 would say - - because otherwise, we're just
3 spinning our wheels again because we know it's a
4 rubber stamp, right? So - - is being held - - .
5 I believe in prospect high schools. Is that
6 correct? So I think since we're talking about
7 our schools in Queens, doesn't it sort of make
8 sense for a - - or something to happen closer to
9 where we live? Right? So maybe when you're
10 listening to that tape, think - - acknowledged
11 after - - people was very difficult to get to
12 Brooklyn, working people, people with young
13 children having to go home - - because - - . So
14 that's - - also wrong. It's another way that
15 the Bloomberg administration has stopped us--all
16 of us--from doing what's right for our schools
17 and for our children. And remember there is an
18 election. This is probably the most important
19 election for every one of our kids and our
20 schools. Whispering - - . So make sure you all
21 vote and you know what? Why not - - really - -
22 moved somewhere where we can all - - .

23 [Applause]

24 FEMALE VOICE: Number ten. Number eleven.
25 - - . Mr. Williams.

1 MALE VOICE: - - call the name. Just call
2 the number - - .

3 FEMALE VOICE: I know. It got a little bit
4 mixed up because when I called number eight - -
5 eleven. So Mr. Williams.

6 FEMALE VOICE: Mr. Bryant.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Mr. Bryant.

8 MALE VOICE: - - .

9 FEMALE VOICE: Number ten is Mr. Williams.
10 Number eleven is Ms. Bryant. Number twelve - -
11 . Ms. - - . If you have your number, it'd be
12 great if you could bring it up - - only because
13 it just helps to keep the order - - . Go ahead,
14 Ms. Martin. Go ahead, Ms. Martin.

15 MS. MARTIN: Good afternoon everyone. My
16 name is - - Martin. I'm a teacher here at
17 Austin Martin High School. The suggestion for
18 bringing - - elementary schools to August Martin
19 High School has definitely not - - . Currently,
20 there's a - - center, a school for - - plus our
21 regular August Margin High School in this
22 building. Last year - - experiment and we
23 hosted - - on at least two occasions a couple of
24 those - - managed to - - their teachers and
25 we're fought - - August Martin's campus. All

1 the students were - - to see them. Their
2 intentions may be pure, but - - teenagers want -
3 - . The suggestions that an elementary school
4 should be placed in a building with older
5 students is - - . If there's a need for - -
6 build one - - .

7 [Applause]

8 MS. MARTIN: Don't - - . Principal Smith -
9 - change over and she's been our best - - .

10 FEMALE VOICE: Yes she has.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. MARTIN: She has - - curriculum - - to
13 rise against - - .

14 [Applause]

15 MS. MARTIN: - - every time - - .
16 Elementary schools - - need to develop an
17 environment - - other schools - - situations - -
18 . Allowing these students that have - -
19 department - - do them a disservice - -
20 elementary schools in a high school setting - -
21 .

22 [Applause]

23 FEMALE VOICE: - - Ms. Bridges. Mr. - - .
24 Following Ms. Bridges. But actually - - stand
25 in line so we can just keep order. Thank you,

1 sir. I'm sorry. Virginia - - goes behind Mr.
2 - - . - - right now. - - . And then once
3 she's in place - - to proceed. Ms. Bridges.

4 MS. BRIDGES: My name is - - Bridges. I am
5 - - public school for many years as well as - -
6 from August Martin High School. I am tired of
7 every year coming out to these type of meetings.
8 This is crazy. The elementary--I am vehemently
9 opposed an elementary being placed in August
10 Martin. It is a high school. Okay? Elementary
11 school students deserve a different space than
12 high school students. I talk - - but my main
13 concern about this whole application is, number
14 one, for the sake of--you know, for the fact
15 that the elementary school kids need to be - -
16 environment. But my concern really is about the
17 high school students. This is the last stop
18 before they go into, into society. Okay? It
19 was a program at August Martin High School, the
20 career - - program that made a difference in my
21 life. That program exposed me to what I wanted
22 to do in my future. And without the programs -
23 - August Martin that - - principal and the staff
24 an opportunity to not just educate so they could
25 have marketable skills - - society, but to give

1 them the exposure that they need to decide
2 what they want to do. Too many of our students
3 graduate without a clue of what they want to go
4 when they go into the world - - and they're not
5 getting jobs that - - would help them provide
6 for their families. So to wrap it up, I'm
7 saying please do not allow this proposal to go
8 through. Let's focus on building up the
9 programs that we have at August Martin and give
10 - - an opportunity to thrive - - .

11 [Applause]

12 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

13 MALE VOICE: I want to thank - - . So my
14 name is - - . I'm the executive director for
15 the - - Queens and I'm also a licensed clinical
16 social worker and, um, I'm here to voice, you
17 know, my thoughts and my opinion on behalf of
18 united - - in Queens saying that we are
19 vociferously against co-location of an
20 elementary school here at August Martin High
21 School. If we allow that to happen - - add it
22 up - - publicly - - . There is absolutely no
23 way can you expect that small children will feel
24 safe in an environment where there are adults in
25 the building that may very well be learning. I

1 thought it was quite interesting today that -
2 - Boulevard today at noon - - and that at 12:00
3 the shadow cast all the way to the curb from the
4 entrance of the building. And so - -
5 circumstances, the building would not
6 necessarily be safe with small children running
7 around, let alone to have a kind of
8 reconstruction that they got going on - - . I
9 quite don't understand what that's all about.

10 [Applause]

11 MALE VOICE: I do want to say - - say that
12 we are against co-location. We are against
13 anybody's attempt to make a living off the backs
14 of children of color. We are certainly..

15 [Applause]

16 MALE VOICE: Prepared to - - principle. You
17 know, you know, this, this auditorium could be a
18 little bit more filled than it is now, but as I
19 look around the room here, we do have some
20 mighty, mighty warriors and we will - - .

21 [Applause]

22 MALE VOICE: - - coming out and supporting
23 the school environment. It's now--it's
24 beginning to turn this whole educational piece
25 around. I think we were a step slow in the last

1 question about what's going to happen - -
2 school-based administration. But I think we get
3 it. We're going to support the principal.
4 We're going to support the school and we're
5 going to do that in a timely way. So between
6 all those folks that have spoken, don't get
7 confused - - see a limited number of people in
8 the audience.

9 [Applause]

10 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

11 FEMALE VOICE: I'm just going to keep it
12 really brief. You don't have to put that sign
13 on me. But back in 2008, we had a situation of
14 co-location - - me and another, another person,
15 we actually did a lawsuit against the DOE
16 because the stuff that was - - was just - -
17 rooms that didn't exist. When you go to the
18 department building, they state that doesn't
19 occur--it was - - from a city council hearing
20 held by Ronald Jackson [phonetic] that - -
21 information in that blue book wasn't really a
22 true book. And - - we vowed to change that
23 information before - - they could put in - -
24 another co-location and that did not happen. So
25 technically speaking this co-location - - is not

1 even accurate. There's information in - - our
2 science labs and - - building. So when the kids
3 - - space that we really don't have, but what it
4 is - - trying to - - in other community and they
5 - - and they think that we - - .

6 [Applause]

7 FEMALE VOICE: - - more than - - from us
8 because all the things that they're doing in our
9 schools is the program that - - our children the
10 moment the program come in, you find some way to
11 expand the - - .

12 [Applause]

13 FEMALE VOICE: So what we want to do is we
14 want to - - people. You all with me?

15 [Applause]

16 FEMALE VOICE: - - only want to be - - . So
17 - - got on the phone and start harassing the
18 members telling them, oh, you want to stay on
19 the board. You start--harass them and making
20 them change their minds to get a call - - yeah,
21 - - that's when - - we're not going for it this
22 time.

23 [Applause]

24 FEMALE VOICE: - - Kathleen Williams - -
25 Walton and Vanessa Sparks. And I just want to

1 repeat and - - did not come up. - - Edwards.
2 I think that's her first name and the other name
3 that I called earlier, last name Williams, first
4 name could be Brenda.

5 FEMALE VOICE: She already spoke.

6 FEMALE VOICE: She spoke. Okay. Ms.
7 Williams.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is
9 Kathleen Williams. I'm--my son just started
10 here in September. And this is not - - because
11 I don't see - - school. I begin - - .

12 FEMALE VOICE: All right.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. WILLIAMS: - - and we're not talking - -
15 here. - - all the students would be taking care
16 of the younger ones. They don't have time to do
17 what they're supposed to do for all - - so we
18 oppose this - - .

19 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you, ma'am. - -
20 Walton.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Shelayah [phonetic].

22 FEMALE VOICE: Shelayah Walton.

23 MS. WALTON: I went to this school and I
24 feel we shouldn't be subjected or obligated to
25 attend a school with kindergarteners at our age.

1 And I feel that it's already tough throughout
2 the day to be restricted from floors we need
3 access to that - - readiness and space is
4 limited and it's time consuming. I'm going to -
5 - barely exist - - which is - - academy. Why
6 should we collaborate with the aviation academy
7 and school itself? Um, I'm also - - high school
8 environment or efficiently - - bringing in
9 children below our age level and - - . It's - -
10 unbeneficial where - - are learning - -
11 resilient if we don't have the opportunity - -
12 opportunity - - .

13 [Applause]

14 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

15 MS. VANESSA SPARKS: Hi, my name is Vanessa
16 Sparks. I have been in this community--I was
17 born and raised in this community, but more
18 importantly I'm - - school board member, - -
19 vice-president and I've got - - successes and -
20 - . I don't know whose idea it was to put pre-
21 school age, early childhood age children in this
22 building. This is a high school building. The
23 building is not even conducive for young
24 children. - - the Department of Education did
25 not even speak to the residents, the residents

1 of this community. They are the taxpayers.
2 They - - pay for the school building and no one
3 spoke to them about having - - . I'm looking at
4 the handout today. - - propose four schools in
5 this building with an - - 18, 19, if I read this
6 correctly, you went - - 880 August Martin
7 students, but 600 charter school students, you
8 have two alternative programs - - . What you're
9 doing - - people, let me tell you this. This is
10 clearly to set up the demise of August Martin.
11 If you know that no - - school student is going
12 to apply to August Martin when they know there
13 is - - .

14 [Applause]

15 MS. SPARKS: When - - two alternative
16 schools for - - going down to the - - . Many of
17 those students are students that come when they
18 are released from jail and things like that.
19 They are placed here. That's who you're putting
20 in this building. Now, maybe personally I say -
21 - take your behinds down to city hall and shut
22 down - - . The only thing you people understand
23 is numbers and lies. I - - follow the school
24 district, when you try to this foolishness and -
25 - and when you show - - with 700 people - - and

1 they told the Department of Education in no
2 uncertain terms that he was - - and in four days
3 you will send it back to the city. I say that
4 the difference of this community, the students
5 of this school, don't be afraid. Let's go down
6 to - - .

7 [Applause]

8 FEMALE VOICE: - - . We've heard many - -
9 comments and we appreciate your - - . - -
10 policy, which will have us meeting on October
11 30th, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Prospect - - campus
12 883 - - Avenue - - . So go - - . The email
13 address and phone number where you can still
14 leave comments and/or, uh, - - questions is, um,
15 D27 proposals with an S at schools with an S dot
16 nyc dot gov. And telephone number is 212-374-
17 7621. I thank you all for coming. This - -
18 public hearing is officially done. Travel home
19 safely.

20 FEMALE VOICE: Excuse me. Did you notice
21 that there was nobody here speaking here in
22 favor? Did you notice nobody spoke in favor?

23 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

24 FEMALE VOICE: Well, they didn't even have
25 the respect in a sense to - - to speak for the

1 proposal. We have seen - - .
2 [END RECORDING]
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C E R T I F I C A T E

The prior proceedings were transcribed from audio files and have been transcribed to the best of my ability.

Signature 

Date_____10/13/13_____