



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

CHRISTINE C. QUINN  
SPEAKER

TELEPHONE  
212-788-7210

January 30, 2013

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of the City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

We understand that Retired Justice Milton Mollen raised the suggestion today that the City and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181 engage in a cooling off period that would end the current bus strike and postpone consideration of the Department of Education's school bus contract bids. We encourage you to accept the Justice's suggestion.

A cooling off period would bring an immediate end to the school bus strike, which has left less than one third of New York City public school bus routes running. Justice Mollen's suggestion presents an opportunity to end, even if temporarily, the havoc created by the bus strike, restoring much needed normalcy to the thousands of students and families affected by this strike and ending the disruption to the educational and related services provided by schools. Unnecessarily prolonging this strike puts the education of thousands of students, especially special needs students, at risk.

Postponing the bid opening, now scheduled for February 12, 2013, would give all parties time to negotiate a deal that would avoid further disruption and appropriately serve New York students. With a brief cooling off period, the Department would still have ample time to ensure that new contracts are in place for school opening next year. By effectively resolving this dispute now, the City would also be better able to rebid all of its school-age bus contracts without conflict over the next several years.

Again, we urge you to accept Justice Mollen's suggestion of a cooling off period and to commence negotiations with Local 1181 forthwith.

Sincerely,

Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker

Robert Jackson  
Chair, Education Committee

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Council Member

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Council Member

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Jumaane D. Williams  
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Annabel Palma  
Council Member



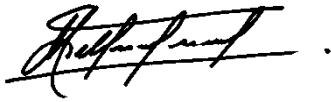
M. C. Arroyo  
Council Member



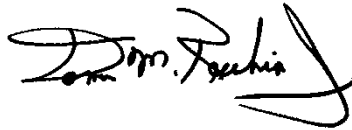
Joel Rivera  
Council Member



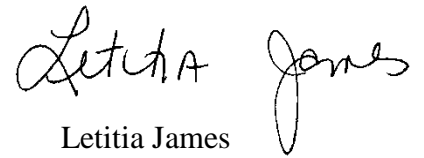
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Council Member



Mathieu Eugene  
Council Member



Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Council Member



Letitia James  
Council Member



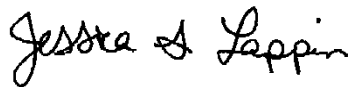
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