

COMMUNITY OFFICE:
64-69 DRY HARBOR ROAD
MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379
(718) 366-3900
FAX: (718) 326-3549

CITY HALL OFFICE:
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1774
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7381
FAX: (212) 227-7164

EMAIL: RHolden@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
ROBERT HOLDEN
COUNCIL MEMBER, 30TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

COMMITTEES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
HIGHER EDUCATION
TECHNOLOGY
JUVENILE JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION
MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES AND ADDICTION

June 15, 2019

**Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007**

Dear Mayor Bill de Blasio,

We are writing to express our deep concern over the recent lawsuit filed by veteran Department of Education employees against the city. The suit entails very troubling allegations against Chancellor Richard Carranza and a hostile atmosphere fostered by his administration.

Since coming to New York City in April 2018, Chancellor Carranza has been rightfully focused on creating a more equitable school system, but his comments and actions have seemingly made the system even more divided. He has yet to outline a comprehensive academic agenda on achieving the goals for the department. Rather than taking criticism into honest consideration, Chancellor Carranza and his administration respond by making accusations of their own.

The allegations listed below have resulted in alienating key stakeholders:

- **Cronyism in the hiring process**
- **Usurping trusted job candidate search committees**
- **Meritless firing or demotion of qualified, veteran employees**
- **Releasing divisive statements directed toward parents and students**
- **Changing policies based on ethnicity rather than efficacy**
- **Creating an environment for schools to potentially violate equal employment opportunity laws**

While there is an obvious need for improvements in the schools that serve minority communities throughout the city, it is divisive to place blame upon students and parents from other backgrounds who are merely pursuing the best education possible for themselves and their children. Furthermore, putting department staff in a position where they are made to feel uncomfortable because of their ethnicity is reprehensible.

Chancellor Carranza should cease the contentious rhetoric and spend more of his time on providing solutions for schools on the ground level. While we acknowledge how difficult it is to be a chancellor in the largest city in the United States, we need a chancellor who promotes education, not division. At this time, we the undersigned believe that if Chancellor Carranza continues to divide this city, then someone who can unite this city and provide a quality education for all should replace him.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Holden
Council Member, District 30



Paul Vallone
Council Member, District 19



Peter Koo
Council Member, District 20



Eric A. Ulrich
Council Member, District 32



Joseph Borelli
Council Member, District 51



Chaim M. Deutsch
Council Member, District 48



Karen Koslowitz
Council Member, District 29



William Colton
Assembly Member, District 47



Peter J. Abbate, Jr.
Assembly Member, District 49