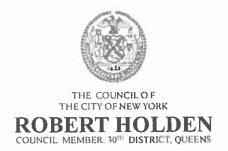
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE
HIGHER EDUCATION
TECHNOLOGY
JUVENILE JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION

MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES AND ADDICTION

COMMITTEES

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.

Robert F. Holden

Council Member, District 30

Peter Koo

Council Member, District 20

Joseph Borelli

Council Member, District 51

Karen Koslowitz

Council Member, District 29

Peter J. Abbate, Jr.

Assembly Member, District 49

Paul Vallone

Council Member, District 19

Eric A. Ulrich

Council Member, District 32

Chaim M. Deutsch

Council Member, District 48

William Colton

Assembly Member, District 47