



## COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

28-11 Queens Plaza North, Room 512

Long Island City, NY 11101

Tel: 718-391-8380

Fax: 718-391-8500

Email: [cec30@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cec30@schools.nyc.gov)

### Resolution # 143

#### **to Terminate the Contract with the NYPD for the Services of School Safety Agents**

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education is responsible for all interactions students have with adults in our school buildings in order to promote a positive school climate;

WHEREAS, the on September 17, 1998, the New York City Department of Education entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create a joint school security program<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, recent actions of officers in the New York Police Department and it's history of disparate policing based on zip code and racial demographic run directly counter to the Department of Education's vision of Equity and Excellence for All;

WHEREAS, there are over three times as many police officers as social workers in New York City public school buildings, and almost twice as many police officers as guidance counselors<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, the presence of police officers in schools has contributed to the criminalization of young people in New York City;

WHEREAS, the presence of police officers in schools imposes a climate of fear and intimidation in school communities, especially among Black students, that inhibits schools from providing a nurturing, inspiring, and rigorous learning experience<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, many School Safety Agents are valuable members of their school communities;

WHEREAS, the Minneapolis Board of Education voted to terminate its contract with the police department for school resource officers<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS, since Mayor Bill de Blasio took office in 2014, the school safety division budget has grown over 25%, according to figures from the Independent Budget Office<sup>5</sup>;

WHEREAS, funding for School Safety is \$427.3 million in the Fiscal 2021 Preliminary Budget, an increase of \$19.7 million from the Fiscal 2020 Adopted Budget. Though this increase is entirely to support the increased cost of existing staff due to collective bargaining agreements and there is no budgeted increase in headcount, a total of \$303.8 million is budgeted to go directly to the NYPD<sup>6</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/nypd-doe-mou.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nyclu.org/en/press-releases/new-report-shows-shortage-counselors-over-policing-and-discriminatory-discipline>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/de-blasio-deaf-students-raise-concerns-school-safety-article-1.3864047>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.startribune.com/mps-school-board-ends-contract-with-police-for-school-resource-officers/570967942/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/education-indicators-budgets-2020.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2020/04/040-DOE.pdf>

WHEREAS, the Mayor has outlined more than \$800 million in cuts to the New York City DOE budget for Fiscal Year 2021;

WHEREAS, the Fiscal 2021 Preliminary Budget excludes \$1.3 million for Restorative Justice and \$1.8 million for social emotional supports;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York City Department of Education should immediately terminate its contract with the New York City Police Department, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the budget for and oversight of the Division of School Safety should be returned to the Department of Education, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that additional funding be allocated to retrain School Safety Agents in positive approaches to school climate and discipline, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the New York City Police Department, or any other police force, should enter New York City schools only to address threats to physical safety.

**NOTE APPROVED: June 16, 2020**