

COMMUNITY OFFICES

- 751 WEST 183RD STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10033
(212) 928-1322
FAX (212) 928-4177
- 425 WEST 144TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10031
(212) 234-0551
FAX (212) 234-0552
- CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1747
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7007
FAX (212) 788-9190

jackson@council.nyc.nyu.s
www.nycouncil.info

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
NEW YORK



ROBERT JACKSON
COUNCILMEMBER • 7TH DISTRICT
MANHATTAN

CHAIR
EDUCATION
CO-CHAIR
BLACK, LATINO & ASIAN CAUCUS

COMMITTEES
CONTRACTS
FINANCE
HOUSING & BUILDINGS
LAND USE
RULES, PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS
SANITATION & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
STANDARDS & ETHICS
ZONING & FRANCHISES

August 29, 2007

Mr. Darren Guez and Mr. Michael Mascetti
The Upper Manhattan Specialized Science
High School Initiative
1380 Riverside Drive, Room #12G
New York, NY 10033

Dear Messrs. Guez and Mascetti:

It is a genuine pleasure to offer my enthusiastic support for your efforts to increase the number of low-income students from Upper Manhattan at New York City's renowned Specialized Science High Schools. For many decades, children from Harlem and Washington Heights have been terribly under-represented at these schools. I have been concerned about this fact from multiple perspectives: as a parent (of a Bronx High School student), as the Parents' Association President for PS/IS 187, as a member of Community School Board 6 for 15 years, as the lead plaintiff in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit and, most recently, as the Councilmember who represents these communities and as the Chair of the City Council's Education Committee.

New York City's Specialized High Schools are unique gateways to better universities, better careers, and better lives. Their alumni are among the most successful and influential people in the country – people who appreciate their roots and give back to their communities. Yet they are not demographically representative of our city. While community activists have tried to solve this problem by urging the abandonment of the entrance test as the sole admissions factor, your organization takes a refreshing view: **kids from Northern Manhattan will make it into these schools if they have competent preparation for the admissions test.** I agree with this assessment.

The **Upper Manhattan Specialized Science High School Initiative** is a truly innovative and unique approach to opening the doors to Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, Brooklyn Tech and the newer specialized high schools for underprivileged kids in our community who have the talent. I want you to know that you have my complete support for your project. Together we will find classroom space and funding to launch the Initiative.

I'm with you all the way.

In Unity,

Robert Jackson

