



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor—New York, NY 10027
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

September 14, 2016

CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance
10 East 34th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10016

To whom it may concern:

As Chair of Manhattan Community Board 10, I am writing to express our support for the Police Athletic League's proposal to launch a Youth Hub for youth and residents in Central Harlem. We are also pleased to express our interest in participating on the advisory board for the Hub and to connect our resources to best serve the Harlem community.

As the local representative body of Central Harlem community members, we are very familiar with the Police Athletic League's excellent programs for youth of all ages. For decades, the Harlem Center has been a community fixture, unifying parents, teachers, community organizations and city resources in support of our community's most important asset: its youth. The comprehensive services offered at the Harlem Center are driven by needs observed in the community. These include: academic assistance, employment preparation, structured sports and engaging clubs.

Most importantly, the Police Athletic League addresses a vital need to bring youth, families and law enforcement together in positive, community-focused settings. Too rarely does a police officer have the opportunity to coach or play basketball alongside young people from the community. PAL creates much-needed safe spaces that break down silos through its Cops and Kids sports leagues and community events.

As a member of the Harlem Hub's Community Advisory Board, we look forward to supporting this community effort in the following ways:

- Introducing community members to services available at the Youth Opportunity Hub,
- Identifying resources that can enhance program offerings,
- Helping to identify community benefit projects for young people participating in afterschool and teen programming at the Hub, and
- Helping youth in workforce development programs expand their employment networks within the community.

We fully support the proposed Hub and attest to the ability of the Police Athletic League's leadership team to promote pathways to success for hundreds of youth in Central Harlem.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Benjamin
Chairperson
Manhattan Community Board 10