



CITY OF NEW YORK
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD
FOUR**

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

December 20, 2023

Hon. Eric Admas
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall, New York 10007

Re: Impact of 60 Day Eviction Policy on Children Living in Shelters

Dear Mayor Adams,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2023, voted 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, in favor of waiving 60-day shelter evictions for families with children enrolled in New York City Public Schools. MCB4 is grateful for the visit by Iris Gersten, Regional Director of Students in Temporary Housing for Schools District 2 to the Arts, Culture, Education & Schools (ACES) Committee on Monday, November 13, 2023. Ms. Gersten discussed the enormous and detrimental challenges these evictions present for families, students, and the schools they attend.

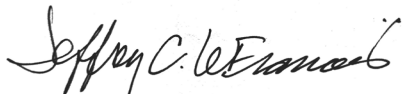
The 60-day shelter evictions are being imposed on families residing in Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers (HERRC's) created and administered by Health + Hospitals to accommodate recently arrived migrants. There are two HERRC shelters on the borderline of MCB4, the Row Hotel at 700 Eighth Avenue and the Stewart Hotel at 371 Seventh Avenue. Families at both facilities have received 60-day notice letters from the city. Many of the asylees residing at these shelters attend schools in MCB4 including but not limited to PS 11, PS 33, PS 51, PS 111, and PS 212. In three of these schools, the population of students in temporary housing is 20-25% of the school's entire population. Our schools have worked tirelessly in welcoming, supporting, and educating asylum seeking students and their families since the arrival of the first buses last summer. The 60-day evictions will cause serious disruptions to school communities, the budgeting process, and the allocation of personnel and other resources. The October 31st cutoff date for school

funding means that schools enrolling students after that date will be subject to a long and onerous appeals process to receive funding for those students.

Under the new 60-day eviction regulation for HERRC shelters, a student could move up to five times during a single school year. This upheaval in a child's life will have severe effects on their school attendance, academic learning, and their social emotional wellbeing. In the 2022-23 school year, over 70% of students in temporary housing were chronically absent.¹ According to the Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness, 29% of homeless students that have mid-year transfers and/or chronic absenteeism drop out of school. In contrast, the study further states that, "when homeless students were able to attend school regularly and did not have to transfer mid-year, they graduated at rates similar to their housed peers."² The 60-day eviction policy will only exacerbate chronic absenteeism and mid-year transfers because there is no guarantee that families who re apply for shelter services will be housed near their school or even in the same borough. While students in temporary housing are guaranteed bus services under the McKinney-Vento Act, the transportation provided by the Office of Pupil Transportation is egregiously inadequate as detailed in MCB4's letter to the Mayor on August 8, 2022.

While we understand that "shelter space is limited" as stated in the 60-day notice letter, we also know that the success of a child's future begins with a sound and basic education. For the wellbeing of students and our school communities, MCB4 urges the Mayor to waive 60-day shelter evictions for families with children enrolled in public schools.

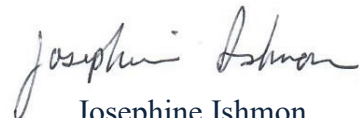
Sincerely,



Jeffery LeFrancois
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Josephine Ishmon
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

CC: Brad S. Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough Presidents office
Hon. Rita Joseph, City Council
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council
David Banks, Chancellor, Dept. of Education
Kelly McGuire, Superintendent, District 2, Dept. of Education

¹ https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2023/11/29/schools-prepare-for-shelter-limit-on-migrant-families/?utm_source=Chalkbeat&utm_campaign=965b41cee2-New+York+As+shelter+limit+for+migrant+families+nea&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9091015053-965b41cee2-%5B%5D&mc_cid=965b41cee2&mc_eid=f18dbfed32

² <https://www.icphusa.org/reports/disparities-in-academic-achievement/#2-0-disparities-in-academic-achievement-on-time-high-school-completion>