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Testimony of Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal on the New Charter School Application KIPP Beyond Charter School (CSD 3) to the New York City Department of Education (DOE) and the SUNY Charter Institute

February 28, 2019

I am Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal and I represent the 67th Assembly district, which includes many of the schools in Community School District 3 (CSD3). I would like to thank the New York City Department of Education (DOE) as well as the SUNY Charter Institute for the opportunity to comment on KIPP Beyond Charter School's (KIPP) application to operate a 451-seat middle school serving grades 5-9 in CSD3. I stand with the Community Education Council 3 (CEC3), parents and the CSD3 school community in opposition to KIPP's application to locate a charter school in CSD3 at this time.

CSD3 is in the first year of implementing a comprehensive integration plan designed to address the lasting effects of institutionalized racism in housing and education. New York City is home to the most segregated school system in the nation, and the CSD3 community worked with DOE for months to create and implement in June 2018 the first district-wide middle school integration plan in the City of New York. By reserving 25 percent of middle school seats for students from low-income backgrounds or with lower academic performance, CSD3 committed to making a meaningful and intentional change that will help improve the quality and equity of middle schools across the district. At the time of announcement, I joined the DOE, the community, and many local elected officials to herald the plan.

If CSD3's plan is to be used as a model for other districts across the City, we must carefully control the environment in which it operates to understand and scale its implementation.

KIPP will not be required to participate in the CSD3 middle school integration plan, and instead will use its own lottery system with a 60% set aside for students eligible for free and reduced lunch. While KIPP's admissions plan is laudable, introducing a new charter within our district that specifically targets the very same population that the middle school integration plan is intended to target will endanger the success of the DOE plan. By the time all five grades have been populated, KIPP will have pulled 451 students from traditional public schools, thereby decreasing the pool of students with diverse backgrounds from which traditional public schools can draw.

Community Education Council 3 (CEC3) has made clear its opposition to approving the plans of additional charter schools in the district. The district is saturated with eight charter schools, the second highest in Manhattan. This problem is acute given the fact that charter schools, unlike their traditional public school counterparts, have large marketing budgets that enable them to target desired families in ways that traditional public schools simply cannot. At a time when we need families to work together

with their peers and elected leaders toward the successful implementation of the integration plan, approving an additional charter school will interfere with that process.

The DOE, CEC3, local elected officials and members of the school community worked together for many months to create a middle school integration plan that is both responsive to the community's needs today and flexible to accommodate the needs of tomorrow's students. Throwing a new charter school into the mix at this delicate juncture would be a mistake; we must not allow any new schools to operate outside the bounds of the integration plan. At this critical point in the implementation of the CSD3 integration plan, a KIPP middle school in CSD3 would further complicate an already intrinsically complicated matter. Thank you.