



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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*District 3 Community Superintendent*

November 10, 2016

New York City Office of School Design  
and Charter Partnerships  
100 Gold Street, Suite 3500  
New York, NY 10038

Re: Charter Renewal for Opportunity Charter School

To Whom It May Concern:

Community Education Council District 3 (CEC3) is supportive of Opportunity Charter School's (OCS) mission to provide a full range of educational and health services to students. Unlike most other charter schools, OCS has a long history of serving a high percentage of students with learning disabilities and other high needs, and for this we commend them. We further support OCS's goal to move to a school which enrolls only students with learning disabilities, as this community has been vastly underserved. Additionally, OCS has been a good and supportive neighbor to its co-located public school, PS 241, STEM Institute. As such, CEC3 fully supports OCS's desire to renew its existing charter for another 5 years starting in September, 2017.

In regard to OCS's desire to increase its enrollment and to expand its charter from a 6-12 school to a K-12 school, CEC3 is neither supportive nor opposed. We appreciate and commend OCS's track record as a model of serving students with learning disabilities, and its desire to serve an even greater population of high needs students. At the same time, District 3 has been inundated with co-located charter schools which has exacerbated a severe shortage of space in our district public schools. Additionally, CEC3 is concerned about the general diversion of resources away from our already under-resourced public schools and toward the charter sector, which are not subject to the same oversight and accountability standards as public schools and, with the exception of a few schools like OCS, don't serve the same high-needs' populations. These factors have led CEC3 to call for a district-wide moratorium on charter school co-locations in District 3. We understand that OCS is already co-located in a public school building, but an expansion of that co-location would lead us to withhold support for OCS's expansion plans. In no event will CEC3 support the expansion for any charter school co-located in District 3 public school buildings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Community Education Council District 3