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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

June 5, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Corey Johnson
Speaker
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Johnson:

We write to reiterate our strong support for the funding of SYEP and other youth programs this summer. Mayor de Blasio's budget for FY 2021 contains more than \$213 million in cuts across a full range of vital youth programs – from SYEP to Beacons to Cornerstones to summer camps. These cuts will impact 175,000 young people and their families.

As you know, youth programs play a critical role in our city and in the lives of young people. They provide support, education, and economic opportunity. They provide safe spaces, caring adults, and engaging activities. These organizations are needed now more than ever, as our youth have faced massive changes in their lives, have suffered losses, faced economic hardship, and have had to contend with new educational structures.

Some of these programs are essential as parents get back to work and need a safe space for their children. But also important is the role these programs play in supporting the socio-emotional health of young people, building cognitive skills, providing healthy and meaningful activities, and assisting families and caregivers in providing support.

SYEP is a particularly successful model that provides teenagers with needed work experience and economic support. At a point when many adults are out of work, it is more important than

ever that young people bring in some income over the summer. And we know that money earned by young people is money that stays in our communities, bolstering our small businesses.

Many in the youth field have been coming up with creative and meaningful remote programming for SYEP and are prepared to launch these programs. On April 22, 2020, we initiated and hosted an SYEP Youth Impact COVID 19 Town Hall Teleconference with 5 youth program professionals, hundreds of participants, and everyone had creative ideas as to how to engage young people virtually or in other safe ways.

In addition, the Governor has announced that summer camps will open on June 29th. We know that for many of the community-based organizations that run these camps, the hiring of teens staff through SYEP is a key factor in their success.

We urge you to provide the entire \$124 million needed to employ 75,000 young people this summer through SYEP and to provide additional funding for other youth programs to ensure that there are ample opportunities for our young people to stay safe, engaged, and healthy this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President