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**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

August 26, 2020

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

Re: URGENT release of FY 20 capital funding for schools

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

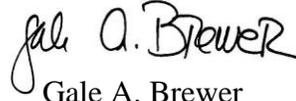
I write to request the immediate release of the \$12,956,075 capital funding dollars I allocated over a year ago to Manhattan schools. These funds, much of which are for technology at schools, are crucial for our students, especially in underserved communities, to learn remotely. I also allocated capital dollars for HVAC and cooling systems, bathrooms that have been in disrepair for years, and refillable bottle water fountains. Without a doubt these projects are all imminent for a safe reopening of schools amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the School Construction Authority, the Division of School Facilities and school staff are at a loss for when they will be able to move forward on these funded projects.

It is shocking to me that these desperately needed funds have not yet been released. I have made numerous inquiries at various levels of government and have gotten no reliable information. At first, I was told that all capital spending had to be related to handling the pandemic. This clearly includes funding dedicated to digital tools for remote learning and improved air circulation systems.

Have these capital dollars been spent or misappropriated for other uses? Or have they been spent without notification? How can we ask principals to make their buildings safe and ensure all students have the tools for remote learning if you will not release **already allocated** funding for appropriate purposes?

Please respond to this letter and inform me when these allocated funds for critical school needs will be released. Contact Vanessa Díaz-López, Director of Budget & Capital Projects, at [vdiaz-lopez@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:vdiaz-lopez@manhattanbp.nyc.gov) or (347) 909-0366 with questions. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "B".

Gale A. Brewer

cc: Richard Carranza, Chancellor, NYC Department of Education, 52 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007  
Melanie Hartzog, Budget Director, OMB, 255 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10017  
Paul Tymus, Assistant Director, OMB, 255 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10017  
Lorraine Grillo, President & CEO, SCA, 3030 Thomson Ave., Long Island City, NY 11101