

January 26, 2024

Mayor Eric Adams
City Hall, New York, NY
10007

Mayor Adams,

We the undersigned New York City unions and Labor-affiliated organizations call on the Administration to reconsider the severity of the budget cuts in the November plan. At this pivotal moment, New York City cannot afford austerity when so many issues are unresolved and so much is at stake. We are concerned for the future of CUNY, where students and workers have experienced continued austerity and deep need. We are asking the city to take a more thoughtful approach than reducing critical services, programs, and staffing levels, and to vigorously defend your alma mater, CUNY.

The proposed cuts will inevitably diminish vital services affecting everyone, especially the most vulnerable people and families in the five boroughs. Cuts will directly impact the workers we represent, reducing resources, straining working conditions, lowering standards, and diminishing expectations for all. As the workforce of the City of New York, our members deserve better, and so do the communities we serve.

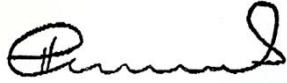
When it comes to higher education, learning loss, and the future of work, the outlined cuts to CUNY will adversely impact student degree progress and effectiveness of instruction. As our colleges rebound from COVID, learning loss must be confronted at the college-level, and the city must commit to closing racialized achievement gaps. The continued vitality and quality of the CUNY experience for students depends critically on adequate resources for academic programs and staffing. Many of the proposed cuts would undo hard-fought wins and undermine programs meant to transform the lives of people—we cannot go back now. As a graduate from the institution yourself, the life you have lived is a testament to the impact CUNY has on individuals in shaping and transforming their lives. It is crucial, in this adverse moment, to stand with the institution and support a system that has not only created so many of our leaders of the past and today but will foster those of tomorrow as well.

We urge you to reconsider the level of cuts and austerity to our agencies and institutions. We propose finding collaborative solutions that would not compromise the quality of public services or the livelihoods of the workers who provide them, the people on whom the city's residents depend.

We can find ways to keep a sustainable course that does not impede the long-term health of the city and its people, or endanger the future of CUNY, a landmark public institution in the five boroughs and the nation.



James Davis, President, PSC CUNY



Henry Garrido, Executive Director, District Council 37



Dr. Michael Zingman, National Secretary Treasurer, CIR SEIU



Vincent Alvarez, President, New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO



Brandon Mancilla, Executive Director, UAW Region 9A



Patricia Kane, RN, Executive Director, NYSNA