



For the record

HELEN M. MARSHALL
PRESIDENT

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CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS
120-55 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11424-1015

FOR THE RECORD

It is a pleasure to re-submit my testimony in support of the construction of the Gateway High School for Health Sciences on the Queens Hospital Center Campus.

I applaud Community Board 8, and the School Construction Authority for their patience negotiating the finest, safest, schools in the country that will prepare thousands of students to be successful, productive, members of our community. Now let's put the shovel in the ground.....

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONY TO NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL**

June 4, 2007

GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE PROPOSED GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL.

WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN? THEY WILL BE THE RESIDENTS, WORKERS AND LEADERS OF TOMORROW. MEDICAL CARE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING AND ADVANCING. WE NEED TO GIVE OUR STUDENTS ALL AVAILABLE ADVANTAGES AND RESOURCES IN A PROPER SETTING - TO PREPARE THEM TO DO THE RESEARCH AND THE WORK OF THE FUTURE.

IN ADDITION TO ACADEMIC TRAINING, PRACTICAL HANDS ON EXPERIENCE IN A STATE-OF-THE-ART, REAL LIFE CLINICAL SETTING IS ESSENTIAL TO GAINING THE HIGHLY SPECIALIZED EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING THAT ARE REQUIRED TO BECOME A DOCTOR, A NURSE OR A TECHNICIAN IN A CONSTANTLY ADVANCING ENVIRONMENT.

THAT IS WHY IT IS CRITICAL THAT GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL IS LOCATED ON THE QUEENS HOSPITAL CENTER CAMPUS.

NOT SO LONG AGO, ANOTHER ADMINISTRATION WAS READY TO SHUT THE HOSPITAL DOWN AND SELL IT FOR DEVELOPMENT. IT WAS AFTER A LONG HARD FIGHT, THAT THE STATE-OF-THE-ART QUEENS HOSPITAL WITH IT'S CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE, WAS BUILT AS A PART OF A PLAN TO TRANSFORM THAT CAMPUS INTO A FACILITY THAT WOULD TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR ALL PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITY - YOUNG AND OLD.

THE KEY - TO LOCATING THE GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL ON THE QUEENS HOSPITAL CENTER CAMPUS - IS EXACTLY THAT - CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A WORKING HOSPITAL THAT PROVIDES THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THAT CAN BE GAINED NO WHERE ELSE! INSTEAD OF LOSING VALUABLE TIME COMMUTING, STUDENTS WOULD BE MINUTES AWAY FROM THE INVALUABLE TRAINING AND TIME SPENT IN CLINICAL SETTINGS. THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION RECEIVED ON THIS CAMPUS WOULD PREPARE OUR STUDENTS TO GO ON TO MEANINGFUL CAREERS IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONS.

IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THE SITE IS SUITABLE FOR THE GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL, THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY HAS CONDUCTED, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND COMPREHENSIVE TESTING AS SPECIFIED BY THE REGULATIONS OF THE NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT.

THESE ACTIONS ARE SUMMARIZED IN A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS THAT DISCLOSE THE FINDINGS, REQUIRED MITIGATIONS AND ALL ACTIONS REQUIRED TO FULLY ADDRESS ANY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. ALL ACTIONS WERE PLANNED AND COMPLETED WITH CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, AND THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

EXTENSIVE MEASURES WERE TAKEN, SOIL VAPOR SAMPLING, SOIL BORINGS AND MONITORING WELLS WERE INSTALLED TO ASSESS THE EXTENT AND CONTENT OF CONTAMINATION AROUND A SITE WHERE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS HAD BEEN LOCATED.

THE RESULTING DATA WERE USED TO FORMULATE, AGAIN IN CONJUNCTION AND APPROVAL OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEC AND DOH, A PLAN THAT WOULD EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE CONTAMINATION THAT WAS FOUND.

THE PLAN INCLUDES EXCAVATION OF 6,000 TONS OF SOIL, REPLACEMENT OF THAT SOIL WITH CLEAN FILL, GROUND WATER

MONITORING WELLS WILL BE INSTALLED AND CHECKED WITH FINDINGS REPORTED TO NEW YORK STATE DEC ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, A VAPOR BARRIER AND DEPRESSURIZATION SYSTEM WILL BE INSTALLED BELOW THE BUILDING TO PREVENT ANYTHING FROM ENTERING IT, AND MONITORING WILL BE IN PLACE DURING THE ENTIRE REMEDIATION PERIOD TO PROTECT WORKERS DURING ALL PHASES OF WORK ON THE SITE.

IN ADDITION TO THE SOIL ISSUES, MEASURES HAVE BEEN OUTLINED TO ADDRESS TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES THAT WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE ASSESSMENTS. ALL OF THESE WERE CONDUCTED AS SPECIFIED BY NEW YORK STATE LAW.

THE PROMISE OF THE GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL CAN NOT BE FULFILLED ON ANY OTHER SITE. I WOULD NOT SUPPORT THIS PLAN UNLESS I WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF OUR STUDENTS AND THE WORKERS WHO WILL BUILD IT WERE ABSOLUTELY PROTECTED. AND, I WOULD NOT SUPPORT THIS PLAN IF IT WOULD HARM THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.

I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO APPROVE THE GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL ON THE QUEENS HOSPITAL CENTER CAMPUS BECAUSE IT WILL BECOME AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE IN PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR CAREERS AND FUTURES IN MEDICINE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL BECOME AN EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENCE IN THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Good afternoon Chair Lappin, Council Member Gennaro and members of the Land Use Subcommittee on Public Siting. My name is Dennis Walcott. I am the Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development. I come before once again today in support of this extremely important project, the Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School. We are joined by the principal and some of her students today, who you will hear from shortly. I want to thank you for your guidance and leadership over the past month.

As you know, last week we withdrew our application in light of some outstanding concerns raised by Council Member Gennaro and the community in which the proposed school site lies. In the last week, we have worked tirelessly to address these concerns, which I will outline for you.

I, along with SCA, went to a meeting of the Executive Committee of Community Board 8 last Wednesday to hear their specific concerns, and again last night to their full board meeting. The primary concerns were around parking, traffic and environmental issues. There are the steps we've taken and commitments we've made to address each of them, and I was heartened by the Community Board's vote in support of Gateway last night.

With regard to parking, the Health and Hospitals Corporation has agreed to provide an area adjacent to the school site for use as free parking by school staff under a permanent arrangement for the duration of the school's existence. A preliminary evaluation of that area indicates that approximately fifty (50) parking spaces can be accommodated. The SCA and HHC will work together on the final design for the parking area so it will meet the parking needs of school workers, and all document pertaining to the transfer of this area to DOE will be shared with the community board.

Also in regard to parking and traffic, we have committed to work with the Department of Transportation to explore the feasibility of angle parking along Goethals Avenue. Additionally, we will continue to coordinate with the MTA to ensure service levels accommodate increased demand for bus service in the area.

We've made a lot of progress on the environmental front. The community was concerned about the soils being used, and we have agreed to use soils that will meet the TAGM and Part 375 standards. Furthermore, SCA will verify that the soils provided by the contractor meet these standards through independent testing conducted by the SCA's environmental consultant.

We have also agreed to conduct indoor air quality testing in the new facility prior to its occupancy by the Gateway School. After the school opens, we will do indoor air sampling twice during the first year of its opening, and once a year for the next five years. If the IAQ results indicate any potential concerns, the SCA will investigate and take immediate action to remedy the situation.

To ensure the community has the all the information it needs, a reporting protocol shall be developed with the Community Board so critical information regarding the planning and progress of environmental remedial efforts and construction can be shared. The SCA will provide periodic updates to the Community Board during the duration of the construction, and will consider feedback from the community to minimize construction impacts to the neighborhood.

This proposal to place the Gateway School on the campus of the Queens Hospital presents a unique opportunity for our students to pursue careers in the fields of medicine and research. As you know, this school is currently located in a building that serves 569 students and is operating at over 112% capacity. Even in these overcrowded conditions, the quality of this school and the success of our students are exceptional. The Gateway is a school of excellence with an average attendance rate of 95%, and where the graduation rate is 90% with 90% of the students earning a Regents diploma. They have accelerated math and science programs and earn college credits through the College Now program. The new facility will allow the school to accommodate 800 students and will strengthen the school's existing partnership with Queens Hospital. The building facility will include state of the art science labs, demonstration rooms and a library specializing in the health sciences. It will allow direct access to the hospital and will provide the students opportunities for internships and research projects.

Our children deserve to learn in state-of-the-art facilities with adequate space to receive a high-quality education that they are entitled to.

I want to thank Chair Lappin, Councilman Gennaro and the community for its input to make this school site a reality.

91-53 175th Street
Jamaica, NY 11432
June 12th 2007

New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, NY 10007

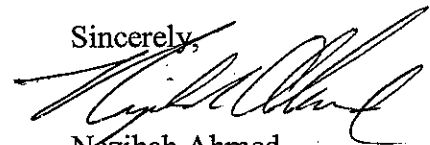
Dear Sir/ Madam:

I Nazihah Ahmed, have attended Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School for six years. I am now currently a proud graduating senior. Queens Gateway has given me many unforgettable memories. I have been given the pleasurable opportunity to attend a school whose staff shows genuine compassion and commitment. The relationship among the students and staff are not only professional but a loving and caring one filled with companionship. The school has not only provided a sophisticated learning environment but also a family environment where everyone shows great respect for one another. The students of Queens Gateway are of a unique group. They are exceptionally bright and incredibly well-mannered. Although our school is small the students work very passionately to attain the highest level of education the school can provide.

Although I am a graduating senior and will no longer attend Queens Gateway, I have a great love for my school and would like to address my concern for the betterment of its future. Queens Gateway is located in a small building which currently contains approximately 600 students which is an increase of about 100 from when I entered the school. Although allowing more students to have the opportunity to attend Queens Gateway is delight, space becomes an issue. There is not enough convenient space to accommodate a larger number of students. Many bright and acceptable students must be rejected due to the lack of space availability. The small environment not only restricts student population but resources as well. We are limited in extracurricular activities and other enlightening experiences. Allowing our school to be relocated in the Queens Hospital campus will aid us in standing for our name: Queens Gateway to Health Sciences, and give the students the education they expect to when they enter Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School.

Your cooperation and consideration will be highly appreciated

Sincerely,



Nazihah Ahmed

92-53-175 Street
Jamaica, N.Y. 11433
June 12, 2007

New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Sir/Madam:

Queens Gateway to Health Sciences stands for pride and integrity. Our school sets high standards for us, to make us work harder to reach our full potentials. We take pride in our school and would really appreciate it if another one was built on the Queens Hospital grounds. Queens Gateway is small, but we treat each other as if we were family and it will be great if we can expand and offer our services to other dedicated and focused students.

I feel very proud to be apart of this remarkable school and hope that we can have another one available to others. Each year students apply, and are rejected because the school has no space to accommodate them, it would be incredible if we can have another one to do so. Queens Gateway has an excellent, accelerated academic curriculum and extracurricular activities that can be bigger and better in time to come. Although I will not be here to experience and enjoy a new Queens Gateway, I hope that my children will.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter, and hope you will take my opinions and views into consideration.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fatima Shabbir". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Fatima Shabbir

143-27 97 Avenue
Jamaica, N.Y 11435
June 13, 2007

New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Sir/Madam:

Queen Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary school is in need of a new building. The school is perfect the way it is now, the students, the teachers and staff, even the building is in good condition. The only problem is the lack of space the school has indoors and out that brings it down. I believe changing location to the Queens Hospital will be both beneficiary to both the students and teachers in expanding the learning experience.

It will be better because the students will be exposed to the hospital scenario which could easily prepare the students who are interested in working in the medical field. I also believe it will be better because it's a safer location and considering the school is a health science school I think being around a hospital could help out all the students who are interested in becoming a nurse or any other health professions, which a lot of students in Gateway are interested in. The staff would benefit because it would ensure safe learning quarters and will enable them to teach a hands on topic, involving the hospital in their curriculum.

I appreciate you for taking time out of your schedule to listen to my opinions concerning our school.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyepher Espinoza". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'E'.

Kyepher Espinoza

Hemant Singh
13305 101 Avenue
South Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11419
June.13,2007

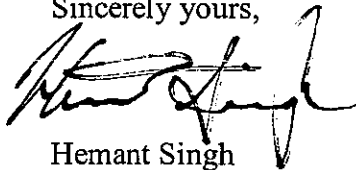
New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, N.Y. 10007
06/13/07

Dear Sir/ Madam:

I am writing to you today in regard of my school Queens Gateway to the Health Sciences Secondary School. I would like to bring to your attention how small Queens Gateway is and how much the students are being deprived of a normal high school experience, such as sports and extracurricular activities. It would be beneficial for not only the students of Queens Gateway but society at large if the Queens Gateway school site was moved onto the grounds of Queens Hospital Center. Queens Gateway is highly focused on the health sciences and what better way to promote this by having the school on a hospital site. This would encourage students to further their studies in the health sciences and one day, attain a profession within the health science studies. Maybe one of Queens Gateway's students may become the person who develops the cure for cancer some day.

I would greatly appreciate it if you took this matter into serious consideration because it is has the future of the younger generations closely at heart.

Sincerely yours,



Hemant Singh

116-30 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. Apt. 8F
Jamaica N.Y. 11434
0June12, 2007

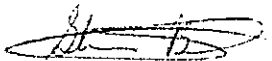
New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a student of Queens Gateway, I truly believe that the Queens Hospital is an appropriate place for my school to be. I have attended Queens Gateway for six years and it has been an experience. There are some things I'd like to be done to help improve this school. If the school were moved to Queens Hospital Center the students would have a more broad opportunity to deal with health and science. By moving the location of Queens Gateway it would have a positive effect on the students. It would encourage students to want to continue in the medical field because there would be more hands-on activity. As a result students would love to pursue medical careers.

I would really appreciate it if you take my school's needs into consideration. Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Yours truly,



Shanice Blair

136-30 241 Street
Rosedale, NY 11422
6/12/07

New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is Kirt Henry. I am a student of Queens Gateway. I believe Queens Hospital Center is the appropriate place for Queens Gateway. Our school is focused on the medical field. Having the school located on a hospital site will be very influential in the students' studies. I hope you consider this option.

Thank you for reading my letter. I appreciate it.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirt Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Kirt Henry

205-13 115 Rd
Saint Albans, NY, 11412
June 12, 2007

New York City Council
Legislative Office, City Hall
New York, NY, 10007

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is Michael Salmon and I am a student at Queens Gateway High School. I believe that the Queens Hospital center would be a perfect site for the next building. Since Queens Gateway is a school of health sciences it would be best to have it next to an actual hospital. The opportunities that would be available to the students through the hospital would benefit the students of Queen's Gateway greatly. Being that Queens Gateway is a health high school the students would be exposed to the variety of careers in the medical field.

I would like to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to hear my thoughts. I just really believe that this is the best course of action for the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Salmon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Salmon

134 -17 105 Avenue
South Richmond Hill, New York 11419
June 12, 2007

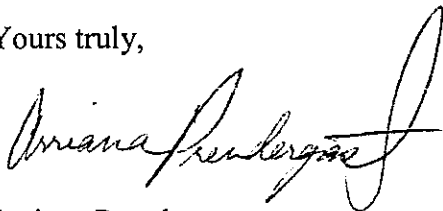
New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Madam/Sir:

Queens Gateway School will be relocating in the near future and I believe that Queens Hospital Center is the appropriate place for it to be. Our school specializes in health and science fields and what better place to accentuate those qualities by surrounding our school in such an environment. Most of the students who attend Queens Gateway are already quite familiar with the Queens Hospital Center. There is a program at our school intended to provide the students with the experiences and labor that goes into working in a hospital. The hospital program that many of the students participate in exposes the children to a variety of medical and science fields which they may want to explore in the near future and beyond.

Please take this request into consideration. Our school is and will continue to open many opportunities to adolescents. With your help, we can make those doors of opportunity open a lot wider. This is a small step compared to the great things our students will accomplish. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arriana Prendergast". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Arriana Prendergast

150-05 88th Avenue, Apt. 3A
Jamaica, NY 11432
June 12, 2007

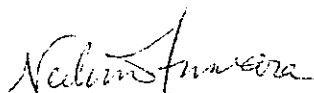
New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Sir/Madam:

Queens Gateway is a school that gives students a lot more focus on the sciences and the health professions in particular. It helps students achieve a better understanding on the workings of a hospital and insights interests on how a patient can be diagnosed and cured. Earlier on, students were enrolled in a program where they would spend time every week for one semester on hospital grounds learning about the particular field of study that they were more interested in. This allowed them first hand experience in a hospital and engaged in the environment to learn from and get accustomed to it. I was one of these students, and I can definitely say it taught me a lot about the particular areas I wanted to study, what my strengths and weaknesses are, and how I would be a good addition in a hospital environment.

Queens Hospital Center is a prominent establishment in our community. It offers health care of a wide range and houses a large number of doctors that occupy their positions efficiently. Learning in an environment that has more to do with the core subject that Queens Gateway is dedicated to would help the students immensely in pursuing their goals in life in a medical profession. Queens Gateway students, and not just the administration, would be grateful and appreciative to both the Queens Hospital Center and City Council if they are allowed to learn and grow on the hospital campus. The environment will allow for a unique learning experience that the students will be able to look back on and cherish for a long time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neelima Anwara".

Neelima Anwara

216-12 115 Avenue
Cambria Heights, NY 11411
June 12, 2007

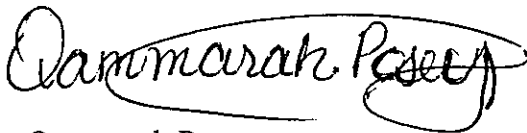
New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Sir/ Madam:

I am a student at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School. Queens Gateway is a school geared for students who want to pursue a career in the medical field. This is why Queens Hospital Center is the appropriate place for Queens Gateway. If the school was near the Queens Hospital Center, it would be an excellent way for the students to experience and see life in the hospital. This will expose the students to life in the medical field and they will be able to see if this is the right career for them. This also will give them access to the medical facilities and give them hands on learning experience which is an effective way to learn.

Please take my school's needs into consideration. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Qammarah Posey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish under the name.

Qammarah Posey

53 Yancy Drive
Newark, New Jersey 10703
June 12, 2007

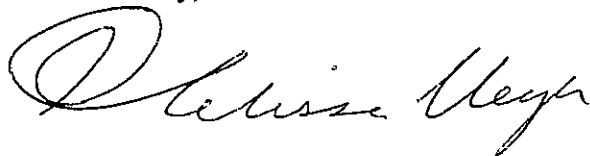
New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, New York 10007

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that in the year 2010 Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School is to move to Queens Hospital Center. Though there is much opposition to this decision, it is my firm belief that the students of Queens Gateway will prosper more on the grounds of a hospital site. Annually students apply to this school in hopes of performing and participating in classes that will prepare them for a future career in the medical field. With the small size of our current school, we aren't able to offer as many of these opportunities. We are the only school in Queens that doesn't have enough programs to offer our students to help pave the way for their future.

Nothing would please us more than to be able to provide our students with an adequate amount of programs that will prepare them for their future careers. We would greatly appreciate it if you would take our letters into consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Vega". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name below it.

Melissa Vega

111-51 Inwood Street
Jamaica NY, 11435
June 12, 2007

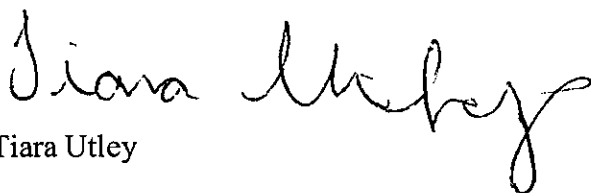
New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a senior at Queens Gateway and I am writing on behalf of my school. As much as I've enjoyed my four years at Gateways current location, I feel it is time for a change. My school is a specialized school designed to help children who want to excel in the health and sciences. Due to the size, and location we can only accept x amount of children, this is not fair to the students who are willing to learn, but can't because of our school size. If we move to Queens Hospital center we will be able to expand the amount of student we accept, and further the next generation's education. The students at Gateway are not rowdy, nor rude, so we would not be disturbing any of the neighbors. If we had the opportunity to move to Queens Hospital, we would have more activities for the students to secure a brighter future.

Please take into consideration my schools needs. Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tiara Utley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Tiara Utley

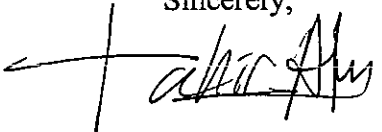
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
Legislative Office Hall
New York, New York, 10007

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tahir Ahmad, and I am a graduating senior of the class of 2007 at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School. I am writing to you to express my feeling regarding Queens Gateway's new school location and why our students and faculty should have it erected. First off, Queens Gateway is one of the top high schools in the borough of Queens. I am honored to have attended a school with such dedicated and heartwarming staff that is set on educating the student body. Our administration is like no other. They take care of us students like family. Our student body is exceptional. It consists of hundreds of bright individuals who understand not only the value of education but strive for it so fervently. It is noteworthy to mention that our school has won this year's Fed Challenge Alt. Division competition, which is a huge accomplishment. We have won this prestigious honor for the second time in the past three years.

With this being said, I must express my concern for the new building, and say that this school truly needs a new facility to take care of our increasing student body and faculty. Currently our school is housing 600 students. Our hallways are increasingly getting cramped by the numbers year after year. When I first came to this school in 7th grade, we were only 500. Classes are increasing in size, and the school is running out of space to house these students. It would be highly unfortunate to not accept the bright students that eagerly want to attend our school but cannot due to lack of space. Secondly, our school is deprived of numerous extracurricular activities, and facilities that allow it to partake in sports such as basketball, track, and soccer. Our gymnasium doubles as an auditorium. It becomes a concern when not all the parents of our student body can come to our National Honor Society Installment for new members or our Awards Night. It's also upsetting to know we cannot hold our own Rights of Passage ceremony for our 8th graders who are moving onto 9th grade in our own school. We also need more room to house our music and art classes. These rooms double for Mathematics classes in our schools. These facilities are much needed and overdue for our school. Most schools have these facilities. Even though some may view these things as unnecessary, I have to disagree and say that these take away from the overall high school experience. Our striving student body deserves these opportunities. It is indescribable as to what a new school would mean to the student body and our faculty. We are dedicated striving scholars, and thus being said, we are entirely deserving of a better school. With the introduction of such a facility, there is no telling how much more my fellow students will strive and advance in their search for education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tahir Ahmad', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tahir Ahmad

New York City Council
Legislative Office Hall
New York, New York, 10007

To whom it may concern,

I have attended Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School for six years, and within those six years I have grown and matured. Queens Gateway's reputation for excellence has always been evident, but our school lacks resources that truly allow us as students to grow. My high school experience feels like it has been deprived of sports, extracurricular activities, clubs and diverse curriculum. With a new school there will be better opportunities for students to expand their gifts and talents. Gateway consists of talented and ambitious students but they are unable to fully express themselves with the limited resources that our school has. Even though I have enjoyed my years in Gateway I wish I had a wider range of class choices. As a graduating senior of Gateway I would like the future students of Gateway to have the best opportunities and not be subjected to just taking one foreign language, or school dances in the cafeteria, or a gym that can barely fit a whole a class. What a new building will mean to our school can not entirely be described in words, because obtaining a new school will give the biggest reward. It will provide Queens Gateway a level of respect by other schools and peers and the ability to truly call ourselves individuals.

A new building will not only help advance the learning skills of Gateway students but I believe it will inspire future students to do better. Sports, Arts, Drama, Theater and so much more are only a few things that our school does not have. A new building will be able to provide all of that. It will help give students a more reason to enter the prestigious academic life of Gateway and expand their extracurricular as well as have the opportunity to really show a student's talents. A student should not be limited to just studying and working hard, they should also be able to express themselves in art, drama or theater. Currently our school does not even have an auditorium or a full sized gymnasium. Our school does not have proper music equipment or proper sports equipment. A new building will help give us a new gym, an auditorium, a music room and an arts room. The possibilities are endless. Queens Gateway is an excellent school but it could be so better if given the opportunity to do so. A new building for Gateway will only help bring future leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Carmela Laya

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carmela Laya', with a small flourish at the end.


New York City Council
Legislative Office Hall
New York, New York, 10007

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Asif Yeahia, currently a senior of Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School. I have attended Queens Gateway from the seventh grade up until now and overall, my experience was good. Gateway lacks nothing academic-wise, but there are a multitude of things that are lacking extracurricular-wise. Although Gateway is considered a health sciences school, there are only a few things that make it a health sciences school. For example, we do not have any direct internships or lectures at local hospitals anymore. If Gateway moved to its new location, we would have direct contact with Queens Hospital Center, which would greatly benefit all students that are planning to enter the health sciences field.

As I matured in Queens Gateway, I felt as if I was lacking the high school experience. Queens Gateway has no sports team and a minimum number of extracurricular activities. There are very few activities that interest me and make me want to stay after school. I do not want future generations to go without having any fun activities to do in school and moving Queens Gateway to the Queens Hospital Center campus will not deprive these students of everything that I have been deprived of.

Sincerely,


Asif Yeahia

Alicia Mohamed
89-12 145th Street
Jamaica, NY 11435
June 12, 2007

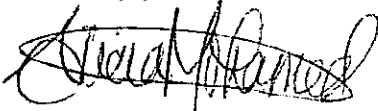
New York City Council
Legislative Office City Hall
New York, N.Y. 10007
06/13/07

Dear Sir/ Madam:

As a student of Queens Gateway I feel that the new Gateway school should be built at the Queens Hospital location for the betterment of the students. Gateway is a profound school with diligent students. The Queens Hospital environment will encourage students to pursue medical careers, which will benefit the world. Our students look forward to learning in such a prestigious environment. Our students are level headed, hardworking and desire to achieve the best.

The Queens Hospital Center will be the ideal environment for a student of Gateway to adapt to a hospital setting. Most students who enter Queens Gateway are willing to change the world for the better. Having Gateway at the hospital will give the students a first hand experience encountering life at a hospital. We would appreciate if you consider our proposal for the new school to be located at Queens Hospital Center because it would open doors for future generations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicia Mohamed', written in a cursive style.

Alicia Mohamed

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
Legislative Office Hall
New York, New York, 10007

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to start off by first introducing myself; my name is Jaquelyn Cordova and I am a senior at Queens Gateway HSSS. It's hard to believe that I have been at Gateway for 6 years now and within those 6 years I've come to love and appreciate all the wonderful opportunities Gateway has provided to me. When I first came in the 7th grade everyone was speculating ideas about having a new school in hospital grounds and by senior year it would be finished. I'm sorry to say that this speculation has not yet become a reality. I have worked so hard throughout high school and waited so eagerly to attend a larger school. I love Gateway but I feel it is too small for the number of kids we have been accepting recently. I was appalled in the manner that the new school was rejected and question why people can be so narrow.

Maybe all people need is a bit of knowledge about what they are foolishly fighting against. Gateway is a commendable school; it brings honor and prestige to the average high school. I have personally participated in the Brain Bee competition, the Quality of life competition, that helps our community to achieve greatness, I am in the honor society, I am also the senior class vice president, and just recently won the Fed Challenge competition. I will be attending Cornell University in the fall and I am proud to say that Gateway has helped me get into an Ivy League school. I have done a lot of great things at Gateway but feel that my potential was not put to its full capacity. I would have liked a variety of sports teams, a theater department, and a larger campus where teens can eat and socialize. Gateway is full of lots of wonderful kids and one day they will take over past generations and do great things. Please give this school a chance and know that we are all intelligent, hardworking, and persistent at everything we do.

Sincerely,
Jaquelyn Cordova

