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THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**STEPHEN T. LEVIN**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 33<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

CHAIR  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING  
DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS

COMMITTEES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
GENERAL WELFARE  
LAND USE  
LOWER MANHATTAN REDEVELOPMENT

September 20, 2013

To whom it may concern:

As the Councilmember representing the 33<sup>rd</sup> District, which includes the growing Downtown Brooklyn neighborhood, I strongly support the construction of a new district elementary school in the Downtown Brooklyn area.

As families continue to populate an area that was envisioned to be mostly commercial buildings, we need to re-evaluate the need for additional city services beyond what was called for in the environmental impact study for the 2004 rezoning. The city anticipated only 979 residential units to be built in the area but since 2004, 5,000 new apartments have been built. With construction starting or restarting at many more sites, thousands of new units are still slated to come online in coming years. There will be an estimated 2,600 elementary school-aged children in the neighborhood with only 400 seats available in zoned elementary schools.

Additionally, neighborhood schools create a sense of place and can define a community. Downtown Brooklyn is somewhat isolated from surrounding neighborhoods. Intersected by major traffic arteries, such as Tillary Street, Flatbush Avenue, Myrtle Avenue and Jay Street, Downtown Brooklyn can be difficult to navigate. In addition to not having enough capacity, the school that most students are currently zoned requires them to cross dangerous intersections to reach it. Having a school near where children live is essential to establishing a residential neighborhood and ensuring the safety of all students.

It is my hope that we can work together as a community to create a new elementary school in Downtown Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen T. Levin".

Stephen Levin  
Councilmember, 33<sup>rd</sup> District