

Council Officers

Council Members

President	Stephen Stowe
First Vice President	John Ricottone
Second Vice President	Elizabeth Chan (IEP Rep)
Recording Secretary	Xiaoqiong (Joyce) Xie
Treasurer	Meifang (Junmi) Chen



Wenming (Angie) Chen	Tamara Stern (BP Rep)
Yanqing (Angi) Chen	Kevin Zhao
Maya Rozenblat (ELL Rep)	

(Resolution #5 SY23-24)

Enhancing Student Security By Increasing School Safety Agents

Approved by a vote of 8 on (12/13/2023)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Stephen Stowe - Yes | 6. Wenming (Angie) Chen - Excused |
| 2. John Ricottone - Yes | 7. Yanqing (Angi) Chen - Yes |
| 3. Elizabeth Chan - Yes | 8. Maya Rozenblat - Yes |
| 4. Xiaoqiong (Joyce) Xie -Yes | 9. Tamara Stern - Abstained |
| 5. Meifang (Junmi) Chen - Yes | 10. Kevin Zhao - Yes |

Sponsor: John Ricottone

Co-sponsor(s): Stephen Stowe, Xiaoqiong Xie, Mei Fang Chen

WHEREAS, the well-being of our children and personnel in the public schools of District #20 is of the utmost importance.

WHEREAS, The Mayor of the City Of New York wants all city agencies to submit a plan to decrease the budget by 5 percent but the safety of our children and staff is paramount and should not be compromised by budget cuts.

WHEREAS, The 2023/2024 New York City budget allocates \$4.3 billion for 4,000 School Safety Agents compared to the actual number of 3,900 currently. At this time we are short 1,100 School Safety Agents relative to the pre-pandemic number of 5,000¹.

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic there were 5,063 agents total within the five boroughs. On September 1, 2023 the Mayor had a public safety meeting and stated that currently the school safety division has 3,900 school safety agents and a class of 250 agents were supposed to go into the academy². On October 27, 2023, the administration canceled this new training class. However, since then, the Mayor has reinstated the class at a

¹ <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2023/3/14/23640387/school-safety-agent-david-banks-eric-adams-budget-nypd/>

² <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/632-23/transcript-mayor-adams-delivers-remarks-public-safety-briefing>

headcount of 120 agents³. The reduction in total class headcount is likely related to budget cuts that will have to take place in part due to the additional costs associated with the migrant crisis.

WHEREAS, it is deeply troubling that most elementary and middle schools in District #20 have only a single safety agent at schools with 1,300 or fewer pupils, in addition to 150 staff members or less.

WHEREAS, one school safety agent is not sufficient if the ratio of students and staff to agents exceeds 400:1. A ratio in excess of 400:1 makes it very difficult for a school safety agent to adequately monitor and ensure the safety of such a large population.

WHEREAS, school buildings are mainly four to five floors and the exterior for the building could be a four block radius. We understand that all school buildings will be equipped with locked doors, buzzers and surveillance cameras. School Safety Agents are responsible for patrolling by making rounds on each floor and the perimeter of the school building. The agent is also responsible for watching the surveillance cameras, opening the door, checking identification and doing rounds of the 4 to 5 floors and the perimeter checks of the exterior of the building⁴. One school safety agent is unable to effectively monitor and ensure the security of the entire building. This could indeed compromise the safety of the children and the staff.

WHEREAS, School Safety Agents are allotted a meal break and personal breaks. When they are on meal or personal breaks, a school aide or a teacher would cover their position. However, the school aides and teachers do not receive the proper training. Nor do they have the department-issued radio to call for assistance and don't have a bullet resistant /stab proof vest.

WHEREAS, recent incidents and trends have highlighted the need for additional personnel to ensure proactive surveillance and swift responses to potential threats.

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Management Report released in September 2023 showed major felony crime in public schools spiked by 16% in Fiscal Year 2023 — which ran between July 2022 and this past June — compared with Fiscal Year 2022. Burglaries and grand larcenies in schools also saw increases, according to the report⁵.

WHEREAS, as reported by local news outlet ABC Channel 7, “Officials say 6,945 weapons were seized on school grounds in 2022, some of them guns and box cutters, but most of them were knives”. The children have consistently stated they bring weapons to protect themselves outside of school⁶.

WHEREAS, The recent rise in anti-Semitic and anti-Islamic incidents across the five boroughs has only increased safety concerns for many families within the NYC school system. District 20 already had two instances that had to involve the NYPD.

WHEREAS, On Monday July 17, 2023 at Approximately 1:00 PM a 15 year old child was walking with six other young people on 20th avenue in Bensonhurst (District #20) when he was shot and succumbed to his injuries although he was not even the intended target. The suspect in the shooting was believed to be from Franklin D Roosevelt High School which is a High School in the confines of District #20⁷.

³

<https://www.nydailynews.com/2023/12/06/adams-admin-set-to-hire-120-new-nyc-school-safety-agents-weeks-after-cancelling-class-of-250-sources-exclusive/>

⁴ <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/education/2023/02/17/locked-doors--cameras-and-buzzers-are-coming-to-public-schools>

⁵ <https://www.nyc.gov/site/operations/performance/mmr.page>

⁶ <https://abc7ny.com/back-to-school-back-to-school-nyc-public-schools/13725589/>

⁷ <https://abc7ny.com/nyc-teen-shot-brooklyn-shooting-foridun-mavlonov/13517929/>

WHEREAS, On Thursday September 28, 2023 there was an altercation between children who were playing at the IS 201 basketball court. The conflict became physical and the victim was allegedly assaulted both by other children and then allegedly assaulted by the 24 year old uncle of one of the children. Two days later on September 30th, 2023, this uncle and his two nephews went to the home of the victim armed with a bat. The victims father was allegedly assaulted by the uncle and sustained serious physical injury to his head⁸.

WHEREAS, On November 17, 2023 around 3 PM a 14 year old female was stabbed in the neck at New Utrecht Avenue by an unknown male in his twenties who then fled the location⁹.

WHEREAS, at Edward R Murrow High School in District #21, on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023 there was a stabbing in which a 15 year old boy was allegedly stabbed by another student. Also after the fact the school safety officers conducted a metal detector scanner on students at the school and recovered a stun gun and numerous knives¹⁰.

WHEREAS, as part of this resolution we conducted outreach to every K-8 school in District 20 regarding their need for School Safety Agents. The results of that outreach are published in Appendix 1. Almost every Principal contacted believes the number of School Safety Agents currently serving their school is too low relative to the number of students and staff.

WHEREAS, State Senator Iwen Chu and State Assemblyman Michael Tanoussis have publicly spoken out in support of ensuring sufficient numbers of School Safety Agents and urging the City and NYCPS to reconsider suspending or reducing the entering class of new agents^{11, 12}.

WHEREAS, Each NYC Police Precinct is supposed to have eight police officers assigned to the role of Youth Officer and one Sergeant assigned to supervise the Youth Coordinator Officer (YCO). As Community Education Council Members we would like to be

THEREFORE, the Community Education Council of District 20 requests that New York City Public Schools Chancellor David M Banks and Chief of Safety and Prevention Partnerships Mark Rampersant take the following actions:

- Request that PS 186 is given a permanent full time School Safety Agent. The school was the only respondent in our survey to report not having even 1 full time, permanent Agent.
- Request at least 1 additional School Safety Agent in each school that only has 1 agent.
- Request additional School Safety agents in a school that had 3-5 agents before the pandemic and restore these schools to their pre-pandemic levels.
- Request the Youth Coordinator Officer (YCO) of each Precinct within District #20 (Precincts 62,66,68,72) alert us through the CEC email (cec20@schools.nyc.gov) when an incident takes place on school property or involving school students. The CEC will use this information to promote community awareness.

8

<https://www.archysport.com/2023/10/conflict-between-students-leads-to-violent-retaliation-middle-eastern-parents-attack-chinese-family/>

⁹ <https://abc7ny.com/brooklyn-14-year-old-girl-stabbed-bensonhurst-stabbing-nyc/14077148/>

¹⁰

<https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/15-year-old-stabbed-inside-edward-r-murrow-high-school-in-brooklyn-police-searching-for-teenage-suspect/>

¹¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tFVLAQJYofhNO8ZwLGXy85x4I-6IB2nf/view?usp=drivesdk>

¹² [Tannousis Letter Regarding School Safety Agent Class 11-13.docx.pdf - Google Drive](#)

- Request that in high profile cases involving our district that the YCO join our subsequent public meeting.
- Request Mayor Adams to reinstate the full class of 250 School Safety Agents, not just the 120 reported.
- In the event City budget restrictions prevent District 20 from full staffing of School Safety Agents as requested in this resolution, request that Elected Officials Of District 20 identify available funding to hire School Safety Agents for District 20.
- Request that all enhanced security provisions (ie - locking doors, security cameras, ID checks) are operational at all schools in District #20 by the end of March 2024.

Appendix 1 - Feedback from District 20 Principals regarding School Safety Agents

WHEREAS, The Principal of Mckinley PS 259 is requesting to gain another School Safety Agent and to keep the two agents they have. The school has over 1700 students and approximately 200 adults. On a good day they have 2 school safety agents but at times one is pulled to cover another school. The Principal spoke about this for the last few years. At one time, for many years, they had 5 School safety agents.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS 204, had two safety agents two years ago but now currently only has one agent. This makes it extremely hard for that one agent and the school aide that covers the agent for breaks and perimeter and hallway checks. The school currently has 1056 students and 140 staff members.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS 164 Caesar Rodney school is requesting another school safety agent as she feels that the school community is compromised with only one safety agent. The school has over 800 students with over 125 staff and only have one school safety agent.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS 170 The Ralph A Fabrizio School states they only have one school safety agent but prior to 2021 they had two school safety agents. The school has 880 students and about 12 staff members which is 1000 people inside the school. The school is very busy and large in size and needs another agent.

WHEREAS, The Principal of 176 states that her school always was safeguarded by two safety agents, one of her agents retired three years ago and that position was never filled so they only have one safety agent and is in need of the second agent. The administrative aides have to take control of the door when the school agent is conducting rounds and perimeter check of the school building.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS 102 is requesting a second agent. In years past the school always had 2 (two) Safety Agents.

- Students and Staff are approximately **1,300** in number.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS/IS-686 and PS 682 is requesting a second agent for a school that has a campus of 3 schools with a total of 924 students. The school hasn't had a second agents for five years.

- PS 682- 368 children

- PS/IS-686 500 children

- D75-56 children

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS 200 is requesting a new loud speaker system as the system they have is over 100 years old and is outdated and at times the system doesn't work and in some classrooms the voice over the loudspeaker is unrecognizable. The tech for the system is constantly inside the school on a weekly basis to fix the issues. The Principal is requesting another school safety agent as the school has 1245 or more students and over 125 staff members.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS 105 is requesting another school safety agent as she feels that the school community is compromised with only one safety agent. The school has over 1000 students and over 125 staff with only one school safety agent.

WHEREAS, The Principal from JHS 227 Edward B. Shallow is requesting to replace the retired Level 3 agent and to gain a second safety agent. The Principal states that the school is the third largest in the district with 1365 students and 189 staff. The school has 3 safety agents assigned as well as a level 3 daily. The school lost their level 3 and a safety agent and they were never replaced. They currently operate with 2 agents barring an absence or the pulling of an agent to cover another school, which happens 2-3 times a week. The school is next to two large High Schools (New Utrecht and FDR) which causes disruption at the ingress and dismissal time.

WHEREAS, The principal from PS/IS229k is requesting a second agent and states the school currently has one agent as they used to have two agents. The school has around 1250 students, and 120 staff. The school is from Pre-K to 8th grade and they state they definitely need a second agent.

WHEREAS, The Principal of 127 Is requesting a second agent as they only have one agent and they have a second building. The Principal states that the school safety agent needs to take his lunch and also conduct walk-through two times a day. At those times, a school aide covers him.

WHEREAS, The Principal Ms. Diaz from MS 936/939 requests a second SSA, as the prior years they did have a second agent for a few months. The student and staff enrollment is around 985 and the number is projected to grow in the next two years with the amount expected to exceed 1200 students and staff, indicating a need for additional agents at the school.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS/IS 163 is requesting a second school safety agent. The school is a co-located site with a D75 program (75k370) located on the second floor. The school did gain a second agent at one time but the agent passed away due to COVID and was never replaced. As the principal stated, with two sites and multiple entry/exit points, a second agent is definitely warranted.

- PS163 has 631 students and 75+ staff.
- PS 370 has 30 students plus at least an additional 20/25 staff members.
- Total students- 661
- Total staff - 100

WHEREAS, The Principal is requesting a second school safety agent as of now they only have one agent. There are two schools located at 371 89 street - PS264 and PS 231 (District 75). There are two different entrances and exits and ingress and egress.

- PS 264 Children 408 staff 62
- PS 231 Children 45 staff 51
- Total children 453 and staff 113

The Principal has to pull school aides and other staff members to cover the school safety agent lunch and perimeter checks. Also, when the Agent is absent, Assistant Principal Nichols sits at the desk from 7:00 am until someone is able to relieve her. If an Agent is unavailable, at ingress the principal usually sits at the desk until she can be relieved by a safety agent.

WHEREAS, The Principal of 186 is requesting a permanent school safety agent and an additional agent. The school currently has no permanent agent but is staffed on a rotating basis by agents available from other

schools. The Principal states that he requested an additional agent for many years. The Principal states he has over 1000 students. Furthermore, the permanent safety agent is out on leave since May, and when the school opens there is no safety agent and they have to make a phone call to have an agent respond. The safety agent tends to be different each day, so there is never any continuity. A service request was generated to **MAYOR ADAMS OFFICE SR# 1-1-2427694**.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS/IS 30 Mary White Ovington is requesting a second or third school safety agent daily. The Principal stated the school is slated to have 3 SSA. Two for their main building (co-located site with 75k232) and 1 for the Annex. As the principal stated some days they only have 1. At least once a week a SSA gets pulled out to cover another building.

They have a total of 960 children and 160 staff which include both buildings. This school is a K-8 school with 2 buildings and a co-located school.

WHEREAS, The Assistant Principal of Seeall Academy states she has two safety agents but at times they pull one of the agents to go to another school, and administrators aren't even notified. Seeall Academy has 875 students and 100+ staff. In addition they house a D75 school in the building which one of the agents is responsible for 75 k231 which has 100 staff and 125 **students**.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS 205 is requesting another school safety agent as there is only one agent for 1100 children and over 100 staff.

WHEREAS, The Principal of IS 223 states he usually has 3 school safety agents but at times they take one agent to cover at another school which leaves the school short staffed and it's a middle school.

WHEREAS, The Principal of PS 310 is requesting another school safety agent the school currently has 547 students and 73 staff members, the total of people in the building is 620 a second safety agent is needed.

WHEREAS, The Principal of (PS/IS 192 and PS36, a district 75 school) is requesting another school safety agent and or a third. The school currently has 1 school safety agent in the school and in the past they had 2 agents and, at times over the years, 3 agents.

- PS/IS 192 - 585 students and 120 staff

- PS 36 - 65 student and 50 staff

Total # 650 students and 170 staff.