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SUPPORT NEW YORK CITY'S YOUTH! FY 2011 City Budget Priorities

❖ **Restore \$12.18 million for Out of School Time (OST)**

OST programs provide youth with safe places to go after the school day ends and enrichment activities that help them succeed. They also offer an important support for working parents. The proposed FY 2011 City Budget cuts Out of School Time (OST) by \$6.18 million, which would eliminate 33 school-year OST programs in elementary and middle schools (4,110 slots). In addition, the proposed budget does not include funding for the \$6.0 million Out-of-School Time Option II program, a flexible after school model that leverages private matching funds and serves approximately 10,750 youth in New York City. As a result of these cuts, 14,860 OST slots are at risk of elimination - nearly 25% of the City's Out of School Time system.

❖ **Restore \$8.55 million for Beacons**

Beacons are school-based community centers that provide educational and extra-curricular activities to children, youth, and adults after school hours and during school holidays. The proposed FY 2011 City Budget cuts Beacons by \$2.75 million. This cut would force 66 of the City's 80 Beacons to reduce their contracts by 7% and would eliminate enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacons/OST middle school programs. In addition, the proposed budget does not include the \$3.5 million restored by the City Council last year for Beacon programs or the \$2.3 million in stimulus funding used to support Beacons in FY 2010.

❖ **Provide 52,255 Jobs through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**

For over 40 years, SYEP has provided summer jobs to hundreds of thousands of New York's teens. Summer jobs help teens gain valuable professional and life skills and allow them to explore career options and support their families. SYEP also stimulates local economies, since youth typically spend the majority of their paychecks in their communities.

Most of the proposed reductions to SYEP are due to the elimination of \$35 million in State SYEP funding (which includes \$19.5 million for New York City) and the absence of the \$20.7 million in federal stimulus funds available for SYEP last year. Although the Mayor's Executive Budget reverses a \$1 million proposed City cut (saving 662 jobs) and adds \$9.72 million to support an additional 6,430 jobs, SYEP only expects to serve 24,292 youth this summer – almost 28,000 fewer than last summer. The cuts to SYEP are especially worrisome given the City's 2009 youth unemployment rate of 25%. Demand for SYEP is tremendous – 143,000 young people have already applied for jobs this year.

❖ **Restore \$5.99 million for Shelter Beds for At Risk, Runaway, and Homeless Youth**

These funds, restored by the City Council last year and not included in the proposed FY 2011 City Budget, support crisis shelter beds and transitional independent living beds for at-risk, runaway, and homeless youth.

❖ **Restore \$7.74 million for City Council Discretionary Funding for Youth Services**

This discretionary funding provides critical support to youth development programs in the City's 51 community districts.

❖ **Restore \$3.8 million for The After School Corporation (TASC)**

These funds, restored by the City Council last year and not included in the proposed FY 2011 City Budget, support 38 TASC after school education and enrichment programs in New York City for school-age youth.

❖ **Restore \$1.0 million for Neighborhood Youth Alliance/Street Outreach**

These funds, restored by the City Council last year and not included in the proposed FY 2011 City Budget, support approximately 40 programs that provide youth with opportunities to participate in community service, neighborhood improvement, and leadership development activities.