



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

RESOLUTION

Date: February 18, 2020
Committee: Youth & Education
Board Vote: 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining

RE: "Black Lives Matter" in Teaching and Curriculum

WHEREAS, February is Black History Month.

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter is a Civil Rights movement that reflects the society's inability to recognize the basic civil rights and humanity of African Americans and Black People of all cultures.

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter week in schools offers an opportunity to add to schools' commitment to Civil Rights and Human Rights.

WHEREAS, NYC's Public School System is one of the most segregated in the United States.

WHEREAS, many NYC Public Schools have not integrated African American History and Civil Rights History into an asset-based approach to US history and social studies.

WHEREAS, the lack of consistent integration of the contributions of African Americans and people of African descent may be understood by all students to mean that the contributions are insignificant due to these omissions.

WHEREAS, the contributions of people of color across the full spectrum of the diaspora must be integrated into curricula, particularly as the majority of students in School District 4 have roots in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and various Caribbean and African-diaspora countries.

WHEREAS, professional development and training to empower the delivery of African American cultural contribution is needed to address these omissions.

WHEREAS, such a resolution does not discount the contributions of people of European descent but hopes to integrate meaningful materials and approaches into teaching and learning that reflects the complete scope of contributions, experiences, accomplishments, and struggles representative of all people.

WHEREAS, such a curriculum rich in the diversity of contributions in literature, science and socio-economic movements of immigrants and African Americans should be weaved in the natural fabric of curriculum and pedagogy at public schools and not be limited to a month; and

WHEREAS, our public schools are the cornerstone of a democratic society where children of all colors, creeds, religions, races and ethnicities interface and serve as the basis to mold and inspire young minds and hearts to contribute to a society that respects and values human life, dignity and Self-determination; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Manhattan Community Board 11:

1. supports Black Lives Matter in school's week and a commitment to authentic culturally grounded and social justice-oriented curricula and instruction in schools that affirms Black/African-American and people of color's history and self-determination.



Nilsa Orama
Chair
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, U.S House of Representatives (via email)
Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney US House of Representatives (via email)
Hon. Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate (via email)
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Scott Stringer, New York City Comptroller (via email)
Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul (via email)
Hon. Michael Benedetto, Chair, Committee on Education, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Shelley B. Mayer, Chair, Committee on Education, New York State Senate (via email)
David Giordano, Community Board 11
Denilyn Arciaga, Community Board 11