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June 9, 2009

Chancellor Joel I. Klein
Office of the Chancellor
52 Chambers St.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Klein:

I am writing to urge that the School Construction Authority set the best possible example in the forthcoming construction of the new middle school in Highbridge, building it as the first school with a Platinum LEED certification in New York State.

For decades, the parents and community leaders of Highbridge have advocated for a middle school of their own, and I cannot overstate how happy they are that their longtime wish is finally coming true. But more than just a new middle school, the people of Highbridge want this new building to send a strong message about conservation, preservation and environmental justice.

In New York State right now, only three schools are certified LEED platinum, and none of them are public schools in New York City. Platinum LEED certification is the highest environmental honor one can get. It means that you took the time to make sure that your building met the highest possible environmental standard. It means that, rather than focus on short-term costs, the developer thought instead about the long-term well-being of our community.

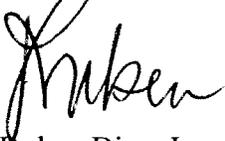
From the day I first became an elected official 13 years ago, the environment and environmental justice has been one of my highest priorities and will continue to be during my tenure as Bronx

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Borough President. By ensuring that the construction of this new school will meet the highest possible green standards, we can show not only the City and the State, but the entire nation, that the Department of Education, the School Construction Authority and the people of The Bronx are committed to the environment, and will do whatever it takes to lower our carbon footprint.

I invite you to reach out to me to discuss this issue further, and I hope we can work together in the future for a cleaner and better New York City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben", written in a cursive style.

Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Bronx Borough President