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66 City Council Candidates Back UYC Student Demands for Police Free Schools

Urban Youth Collaborative (UYC) demands total diversion of SSD funds to guidance counselors, social workers & restorative justice programming

FY21 NYC budget allocated \$451,566,931 to School Safety Division

*[**Click here to read the demands and for full list of signatories**](#)*

NEW YORK — 66 candidates for New York City Council today announced their support for the Urban Youth Collaborative’s “Young People’s Vision for Police Free Schools,” a set of demands to divest from all police presence and metal detectors in schools and invest in restorative justice practices, school support staff, and a mental health continuum. Signatories span all five boroughs and more than 30 separate City Council races; all are running in contested races, in some cases for the same seat.

[Click here](#) to read the vision, along with the full list of signatories.

New York City’s FY21 budget allocated \$451,566,931 to the School Safety Division, including funding for School Safety Agents (SSAs), metal detectors, and fringe benefits. The proposed budget for FY22 [maintains similar funding levels](#), despite the city’s enormous budget deficit. Meanwhile, Mayor de Blasio is proposing cuts to restorative justice programming.

“By signing on to our vision for police-free schools, these 66 candidates understand that City Hall of tomorrow must finally invest in students instead of criminalizing them,” said **Urban Youth Collaborative Research and Operations Coordinator Nia Morgan**. “UYC members have been fighting to get cops out of their schools for nearly two decades — but the current administration has responded year after year by growing the SSD budget. Our vision reflects youth frustration with the status quo and enthusiasm for schools where they can finally feel welcome and safe. We’re thrilled to see a break from this disappointing precedent in such widespread support among this class of City Council candidates. A future of police-free schools in New York City is around the corner.”

In June of 2020, Mayor Bill de Blasio refused to heed the call from students and activists to remove NYPD presence from schools and instead coalesced around [ineffective reform](#) to shift jurisdiction of school security to the Department of Education. To date, the city has [failed](#) to implement even this minor shift.

“Transferring oversight of SSAs to the Department of Education is not enough. We don’t want a police force working for our schools in any capacity. We want people to take care of us so that students feel safe and our social, emotional, and mental health needs are supported,” said **Jade Entien, a junior at Dreamyard Preparatory Academy in the Bronx**. “I know students who

are old enough to vote this June will have a lot to say at the voting booth about police power, and especially police power in schools. I'm excited to make my voice heard when I turn 18, too."

"I am an immigrant. On my first day of school in the U.S, I got to the building, saw all of the police around, and thought 'am I in school, or am I in trouble?'" said **Dariel Infante De La Cruz, a senior at Multicultural High School in Brooklyn**. "Police do not belong in schools.. We need those funds to go to the classroom, to support for students, to extracurricular activities. The priority should be to educate us and for us to feel safe."

Candidates Signed on to the "Young People's Vision for Police Free Schools":

1. Tiffany Winbush, District 1
2. Phelan Fitzpatrick, District 3
3. Aleta LaFargue, District 3
4. Arthur Schwartz, District 3
5. Shaun Abreu, District 7
6. Marti Allen-Cummings, District 7
7. Maria Ordoñez, District 7
8. Jeanette Toomer, District 7
9. Ruth McDaniels, District 9
10. Kristin Richardson Jordan, District 9
11. Mario Rosser, District 9
12. Sheba Simpson, District 9
13. Carmen de la Rosa, District 10
14. Angelica Fernández, District 10
15. Mino Lora, District 11
16. Abigail Martin, District 11
17. Majorie Velázquez, District 13
18. Adolfo Aberu, District 14
19. Pierina Sanchez, District 14
20. Ischia Bravo, District 15
21. Elisa Crespo, District 15
22. Althea Stevens, District 16
23. Amanda Farias, District 18
24. Darlene Jackson, District 18
25. John Choe, District 20
26. Tiffany Cabán, District 22
27. Jaslin Kaur, District 23
28. Moumita Ahmed, District 24
29. Shekar Krishnan, District 25
30. Carolyn Tran, District 25
31. Amit S. Bagga, District 26
32. Julia Forman, District 26
33. Hailie Kim, District 26
34. Jesse Laymon, District 26
35. Sultan Maruf, District 26
36. Brent O'Leary, District 26
37. Emily Sharpe, District 26
38. Ebony Young, District 26
39. Harold Miller, District 27
40. Nantasha Williams, District 27
41. Aleda Gagarin, District 29
42. Douglas Shapiro, District 29
43. Juan Ardila, District 30
44. Shaeleigh Severino, District 32
45. Felicia Singh, District 32
46. Lincoln Restler, District 33
47. Jennifer Gutiérrez, District 34
48. Curtis Harris, District 35
49. Crystal Hudson, District 35
50. John J. Joyner Jr., District 36
51. Sandy Nurse, District 37
52. Alexa Avilés, District 38
53. Cesar Zuñiga, District 38
54. Shahana Hanif, District 39
55. Brandon West, District 39
56. Rita Joseph, District 40
57. Josue Pierre, District 40
58. Edwin Raymond, District 40
59. Wilfredo Florentino, District 42
60. Nikki Lucas, District 42
61. Zuri Jackson, District 46
62. Mercedes Narcisse, District 46

63. Tiffany Tucker-Pryor, District 46
64. Amoy Barnes, District 49

65. Ranti Ogunleye, District 49
66. Kelvin Richards, District 49

*****Please note: UYC reached out to every registered candidate in the races listed above for whom public contact information was readily available.*****

About the Urban Youth Collaborative: The Urban Youth Collaborative (UYC) is a coalition of students from across New York City fighting for transformative education reform that puts students first, with a focus on replacing harmful policing in schools with trauma-informed care. The UYC coalition is made up of members from the [Future of Tomorrow](#) of Cypress Hills Local Development and Corporation, [Make the Road New York](#), [the Rockaway Youth Task Force](#), and [Sistas and Brothas United of the Northwest Bronx](#).

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