



**Community Education Council for District 4**  
 240 E 109 Street, Room 104, New York, NY 10029

Phone: 212-360- 4777 Email: [cec4@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cec4@schools.nyc.gov)



<b>President</b> Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> Sophie Oulai	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b> Lacey Jordan– D75 Rep	<b>Recording Secretary</b> Lawanda Joyner– MBPA	<b>Treasurer</b> Johanna Domínguez– ELL
---	--	---	--	--

**Council Members:**  
 Elizabeth Soto-Cardona  
 Adriana Tlacomulco  
 Vandana Bonilla– MBPA  
 Tia Jackson IEP  
 Kiera Jerez Alston

**District 4 Superintendent:**  
 Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

**High School Student Representatives**  
 Brooke Howard  
 Kanysia Crute

**Statement by Community Education Council D4 East Harlem**

**Protecting All Our Children: A Call for Accountability, Safety, and Collective Care in East Harlem**

The Community Education Council for District 4 is deeply disturbed by the incident circulating on social media and in the news involving violence against a teenage young woman in East Harlem. We unequivocally condemn all forms of gender-based violence. No child, regardless of where they attend school, should ever be subjected to harm for asserting their autonomy. Every young person deserves to be safe, respected, and protected in their community. We also want to acknowledge alleged bullying among the students involved. Schools play a critical role in preventing violence by proactively addressing bullying through restorative justice practices, social-emotional learning, and creating safe, inclusive environments where students are taught to resolve conflict, build empathy, and support one another.

This incident involves students attending a local charter school that Community Education Councils do not have jurisdiction over and therefore lack the authority to directly intervene. This structural and policy gap highlights an urgent need for stronger state-level accountability measures for charter schools, particularly around how they address bullying, harassment, and violence. Our local public schools share buildings with charter schools, therefore we all have the responsibility to care for each other and support children and families in their time of need.

We call on New York State to take a more active role in ensuring that charter schools are equipped, monitored, and held accountable for implementing meaningful supports for students experiencing harm. Prevention, intervention, and healing must be embedded in school culture and not treated as an afterthought, especially those that share out public schools’ buildings.

We also call on our local leaders, our Community Board 11, City Councilwoman Elsie Encarnación, and Assemblymember Eddie Gibbs to step in and support the young people and families impacted by this incident. These are our neighbors. These are children in our own community. They all deserve to be seen, loved, supported, and protected.

We also implore our elected officials to join us in asking for more accountability from both the city and the state, so charters schools implement the same policies to support students in the

social emotional development and engage families holistically when they express concerns around bullying and violence among students.

As a Community Education Council, we remain committed to advocating for systems that center the dignity, safety, and well-being of all children in East Harlem. We stand in solidarity with the young people and families harmed, and with the East Harlem community calling for safer, more accountable school environments.

*CEC4 Council members voted unanimously:*

**Motion by Vandana Bonilla seconded by Kiera Jerez Alston.**

**D4 CEC Council members as follows:**

*Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Sophie Oulai, Lacey Jordan, Lawanda Joyner, Johanna Dominguez, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Adriana Tlacomulco, Vandana Bonilla, Tia Jackson and Kiera Jerez Alston.*

*This Statement was approved unanimously by the members at D4 CEC Calendar Meeting held on May 13th, 2026.*