

Exhibit 2

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PTO, INC., et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BILL DE BLASIO, in his official capacity
as mayor of New York, et al.,

Defendants,

and

TEENS TAKE CHARGE, et al.

Proposed Defendant-Intervenors.

Case No. 1:18-cv-11657

DECLARATION OF ODUNLAMI SHOWA

Odunlami Showa, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declares the following:

1. I am the father of two teenagers who attend New York City public schools, my son A.S. is 13 years old and my daughter R.S. is 15 years old.
2. I am Black and my children also are Black.
3. A.S. is in the eighth grade at St. HOPE Leadership Academy Charter School in Harlem (“St. HOPE”). He enjoys reading, is in math club, and is part of the fencing team. He hopes to one day be a forensic scientist.
4. A.S. took the Specialized High School Admissions Test (“SHSAT”) in October 2018 and applied to the following five New York City specialized high schools (“Specialized High Schools”): The Bronx High School of Science; High School of American Studies at Lehman College; Stuyvesant High School; High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College of New York; and Queens High School for the Sciences at York College. A.S. found out on March 18, 2019 that his SHSAT score was not high enough to qualify him for automatic admission to one of the Specialized High Schools he applied to, so the Discovery program is now his only possible chance of admission to one of the Specialized High Schools he applied to for next year.

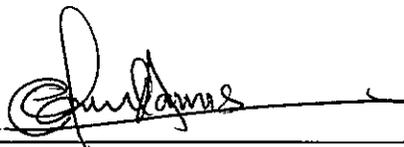
5. My son qualifies for the Discovery Program. He receives free or reduced-price lunch. St. HOPE has an Economic Need Index (“ENI”) of 89%.¹
6. Eligibility for the discovery program increases the chances that he will be able to attend a Specialized High School next year.
7. A.S. has been preparing to take the SHSAT since 6th grade. Beginning in sixth grade and continuing until he took the SHSAT in eighth grade, A.S. had private tutoring sessions on the weekend, which my family paid for. Beginning in seventh grade, at the invitation from his school, he has participated in the test prep course at St. HOPE. My son wanted to participate in the test prep course because he wants to go to a school with more opportunities.
8. I believe it is important for my children to attend academically excellent schools because I want them to have the same opportunities as anyone else. Our family values education and we know that an excellent education can prepare our children for a positive life.
9. To me, education is the most important thing, because it is about the future.
10. A.S. wants to attend a Specialized High School because he cares about his education and wants to be in a high performing academic setting.
11. I would also like A.S. to attend a racially diverse school that is open to all students. I believe that when people are exposed to people with different backgrounds, they gain a different scope of understanding. And going to a racially diverse school will create an environment that will allow my son to feel relaxed and be able to focus on learning.
12. I know it is important for A.S. and other students to have the opportunity to receive a good education at a school that is racially diverse. Without the Discovery Program, this may not be available to my son and others.
13. My daughter, R.S. took the SHSAT last year in October 2017. She participated in the test prep course at St. HOPE and saw a private tutor on the weekends to prepare for the test.
14. R.S. wanted to attend a Specialized High School because she cares about her education and wanted to be in a high performing academic setting.

¹ NYC Dep’t of Educ., 2017-2018 School Performance Dashboard, https://tools.nycenet.edu/dashboard/#dbn=84M388&report_type=EMS&view=City (last visited March 19, 2019).

15. When R.S. found out that she was not admitted to a Specialized High School she was completely devastated.
16. My daughter thrived at St. HOPE because it offered her a strong academic program. She is now in a school that is not academically strong and I am worried about her. Her performance has dramatically dropped, and I am really concerned.
17. I wish the Discovery Program had been expanded when R.S. applied to high school.
18. The Discovery Program is very important to my family. It gives my son, A.S. a better chance of getting into a Specialized High School and having access to a high quality education in a racially diverse school. It is an expanded opportunity that I wish my daughter R.S. had access to. It is also important to my family because it opens up more opportunities for less privileged kids of color including those who are from my community and look like my children and from diverse communities across New York City.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 19 day of March 2019.



Odunlami Showa