

Exhibit 3

**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.,

*Defendant-
Intervenors.*

Case No. 1:18-cv-11657

DECLARATION OF ROSA VELASQUEZ

Rosa Lidia Velasquez, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declares the following:

1. My name is Rosa Lidia Velasquez, I am over 18 years of age, and I am fully competent to make this declaration.
2. I was born in Santiago, Dominican Republic, and have lived in the Bronx, New York since 1994.
3. My son, C.M, is an eighth grader at St. HOPE Academy. He is of Dominican and Guatemalan descent.
4. C.M. went to elementary school at PS 86 and PS 163. C.M. went to the Bronx Early College Academy for Teaching for middle school, at first, but he was only there for one month. I have a niece who was at St. HOPE, and I had applied for C.M, but there

were no spots for him. When a spot opened up at St. HOPE, C.M. went and it has been a great experience for C.M.

5. C.M. has thrived at St. HOPE, they made him feel more confident and supported. The teachers really care and C.M. has really shone since being there. He had one semester where he struggled, but he has raised his grades every year, and he has been on honor roll.

6. C.M. loves technology and math. He is crazy for math and does well at it. He is doing geometry now. In the future, he would like to study computer science, and maybe have a career in it.

7. C.M. also loves baseball, which St. HOPE doesn't have, but C.M. plays in a league and would love to play in high school.

8. At the end of 7th grade, I received a letter from St. HOPE informing me about the SHSAT prep program at his school. But I didn't know what the letter was about, that it was about the Specialized High Schools. Also, C.M. was in a baseball league at the time, in spring semester of his 7th grade. That schedule conflicted with the schedule listed in the letter, so I thought C.M. was unavailable.

9. But, later, I found out about the Specialized High Schools because C.M. told me about it. He has a cousin who went to Stuyvesant who C.M. idolizes and talks to a lot. That has really motivated C.M. in school, and specifically to go to a Specialized High School. His top choice is the High School of American Studies at Lehman College.

10. Also, at the end of 7th grade, after I got the letter, C.M. asked me about preparing for the SHSAT and said he was interested in the Specialized High Schools. He

asked me to buy him a book to prepare for the SHSAT before the August prep class at school began, so I did. C.M. practiced baseball two nights a week and had baseball games on weekends, and then he studied on his own over the summer. Once 8th grade started, the prep class was in August, September, and October.

11. C.M. said the SHSAT was hard, but he was proud to have finished and said he didn't feel the time go by. He even said that they were told they could take breaks or have snacks, but he said he decided not to because the clock was running, and he wanted the full time to focus on the exam.

12. On Monday, March 18, we found out C.M. did not score high enough on the SHSAT to get in based only on his score. I just don't understand the test or how this result is possible; he is such a smart kid.

13. I am glad he got into the Bronx High School for Medical Science, but hopefully C.M. can still get into Lehman College High School. The Discovery Program is the only way he has left to get in, and he is eligible for the program: His school has an Economic Need Index ("ENI") of 86.4% and he receives free lunch at school.

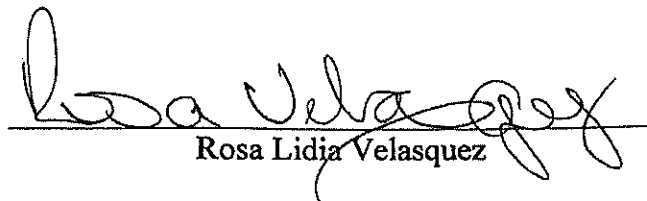
14. I am glad that C.M. has a better chance than kids in his position in previous years with the new program – he deserves the opportunity to get into these schools.

15. It's important for me for C.M. to get in, but it's important not only that my kids get the opportunity, but also that the next generation has access to the same opportunities. If C.M. gets the opportunity to go, I want him to be have classmates that are different from him, but also those who, like him, maybe don't have the same

opportunities. The next generation deserves to get the chance to go to the Specialized Schools regardless of their race.

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

20 day of March 2019.


Rosa Lidia Velasquez