

4/17 Copy to Mr. Shertov

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THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT COALITION ON EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND SERVICES

c/o The African-American Teachers Association
1064 Fulton Street - Brooklyn, New York - 11238

April 15, 1968

Mr. Porter R. Chandler
Chairman
Board of Higher Education
City University of New York
535 East 80th Street
New York, New York 10021

1968 APR 17 AM 11:50
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Dear Mr. Chandler:

I, and the Steering Committee, received Dr. Burkhardt's letter of April 3, 1968 in which the resolutions made by the members of the Board of Higher Education, at their regular monthly meeting of March 25, 1968, regarding the proposed Mid-Brooklyn College Number Seven and the concerns of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Coalition, were presented.

After careful review of our meeting with you on March 14, 1968, and after careful evaluation of the Board's resolutions presented in Dr. Burkhardt's letter, the Steering Committee is beginning to feel that you, apparently, did not seriously consider our just demands nor our dedicated commitment to those demands. In fact, Mr. Chandler, your Board did not address itself specifically to our most intimate and irreversible concerns: a four year college that is community controlled.

We understand, and appreciate, that the members of the Board of Higher Education have attempted to initiate a process of developing a college that is different from your traditional way with the hope of involving the community, and thereby providing a college that will meet the needs of the community. It is with deep conviction, and with thorough knowledge of the ineffectiveness of City Colleges vis-a-vis the Black and Puerto Rican community that we reiterate our just demand for community control of the proposed college for Central Brooklyn, and that it be an

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institution offering baccalaureate degrees.

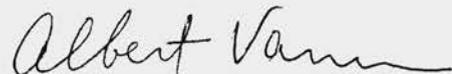
Sir, only by community control can this college be made "legitimate." That is, it will be in accord with the values of the people in the community, it will meet our needs, it will thereby realize the aspirations and goals of the people it purports to serve. The only alternative to "legitimacy" is "alienation." One cursory glance at the lower school system in New York City will attest to the widespread and chronic "alienation" which has produced chaotic and deplorable conditions.

I think that our community representatives are caught up in the spirit emanating from the impact and tragedy of our beloved Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. which has prompted us to approach you again as an ally to help us bring about smoothly the necessary changes to fulfill the community's earnest demands.

The Steering Committee of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Coalition on Educational Needs and Services will meet on Monday, April 29, 1968 to be followed by a mass community meeting within a couple of days. It is imperative, Mr. Chandler, that you respond in writing to the Steering Committee indicating the mechanism whereby the community can be assured of a "legitimate" college: community controlled, bachelor degree conferring institution---so that we can report positive progress at this mass community meeting.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and prompt attention to our plight.

Peace and unity,



Albert Vann
Chairman
The Steering Committee

AV/pp

cc: Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller
Senator Robert F. Kennedy
Mayor John V. Lindsay
Commissioner James E. Allen
Dr. Frederick H. Burkhardt