



CITY EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 237
AFFILIATED WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
216 WEST 14TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011-7296
212-924-2000 • www.local237.org



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October 6, 2022

Dear Mayor Adams:

Local 237 is advised that you plan to hire and deploy "Violence Interrupters" in the New York City public school system. As you know, Local 237 represents the School Safety Agents whose functions already include preventing and calming violent disruptions among students. The Agents, the vast majority of whom are women of color, are well regarded by students, who recognize them as members of their own communities and often turn to them for advice and support before going to teachers or guidance counselors. You have publicly praised the Agents for their performance.

For this reason, there is curiosity and apprehension among Agents regarding the role the "Violence Interrupters" are intended to play in the schools, and how they will coordinate with the Agents' well-defined role. We have formulated the following questions, so we may understand the purpose of this new group of employees in the schools:

Where will the Interrupters be assigned? To whom will they report? What kind of visual identification will distinguish them?

Who will hire the Interrupters? What kind of training will they receive?

What will be the qualifications of Interrupters? Will they meet the current standards demanded of prospective employees of the Department of Education? Who will perform the background investigations of applicants for the position?

Most importantly, how will Interrupters interact with School Safety? Agents are specifically concerned that Interrupters will interfere with or question Agents' responses in situations which require quick and determined action. As you surely understand from your own law enforcement experience, serious problems could arise without careful definition of the Interrupters' role.

The safety and well-being of our students, and maintenance of an orderly and welcoming environment in the schools, is of concern to us all. We look forward to clarification of the functions of the Interrupters so we can continue to provide that environment.

Sincerely,


Gregory Floyd
President, Teamster Local 237