



Testimony

By

Gregory Floyd, President, President of Teamsters Local 237

**To the New York City Council Committee on Education, Jointly with the
Committee on Public Safety**

Oversight – Examining School Safety and Crossing Guard Operations at DOE Schools

April 29, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Dinowitz, Chair Feliz, and to the members of the City Council Committees on Education and Public Safety. My name is Gregory Floyd, and I am the President of Teamsters Local 237 and Vice President-at Large of the General Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. I appreciate the opportunity to address you all today.

As you know, Local 237 represents over 24,000 members who work in all the city's municipal agencies, including the city's public housing facilities, public hospitals, schools and colleges, homeless shelters, ACS facilities, and almost all other municipal agencies.

This afternoon I am here on behalf of the 3,600 school safety agents who, despite being massively understaffed and short-handed, continue to bravely ensure the safety and security of public-school students and staff. Historically, our ranks have numbered 5,500, but today we face a shortage of roughly 2,000 agents. The nearly 30 percent drop is owed to the pandemic, attrition and the inexplicable cancellation of training classes. As a result, our force is badly depleted and our schools, students and staff, at extreme risk.

The shortage in safety agents has also made it harder to perform basic perimeter patrols during school arrivals and dismissals and makes it difficult to keep school campuses open on nights and weekends to accommodate extracurricular activities.

This is not news or a problem no one saw coming. It is an acute crisis that has unfolded over the last 5 years and has been underscored by increasing instances of violence and

assault perpetrated against teachers, principals, students and our badly out-numbered agents.

Despite the increasing threat to public safety in our schools, along with the skyrocketing cases of hate crimes, the past administration and the New York City Council chose to ignore the problem.

Indeed, I provided testimony to this City Council at a hearing in January 2021 about the impending dangers caused by a shortage of school safety agents, hoping this legislative body would not allow a reduction in the workforce. But it was at this hearing that a decision was made to cancel a class of 500 School Safety Agents and not hire additional agents for at least two years, creating the shortage we have now.

And today, we have arrived at the very place I pleaded with the City Council not to allow us to reach - an overworked and outmanned safety agent force, and crisis in our schools.

The significant rise in violent incidents in public schools has been accompanied by the recovery of over 6,000 weapons. Taken together, with the escalation of conflicts around the world and our City as a primary target for terror, I would think the City Council would want its school safety agents at full strength.

I strongly urge this City Council not to double down on its past mistake and do everything in its power to restore school safety agent staffing levels to pre-pandemic levels. They represent the frontline in the protection of schools, students and communities, and they deserve to have the respect and support of the City they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to address these committees today, and I am more than happy to take any of your questions.

###