

Dear Mayor Bloomberg and  
City Councilmembers

More and more every year, we are reminded about the importance of Public Health services and programs. When we get our flu shot, when we get reminded to cut down on salt and sugar-sweetened beverages, when we are beginning to not feel well, but are not yet sick – we are aware of the importance of public health. We are aware of the growing negative results of poverty, homelessness, food deprivation, and the impact that they have on a person's health and ability to function.

We are part of the PBC and are beginning our efforts early this year to be sure to put the message about funding for health services at the top of the priority list for the Mayor and for all of our City Councilmembers. Each year we usually start the budget dance around February. This is when the Mayor delivers his Preliminary Executive Budget and eliminates funding for important services. Then we are called on to start the fight to get this funding restored, as well as to urge funding for new programs to meet public health needs.

**This year, we don't intend to wait until February! Before the Mayor releases his Preliminary budget, we are going on record to say that Public Health funding is too important to be batted around in a budget dance. We urge you to meet with us and prepare a concrete plan for improved public health funding!**

Sincerely,