



# National Association of Minority Contractors New York Tri-State Chapter

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May 5, 2020

**Nayan Parikh**  
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The Honorable Bill de Blasio  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

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Dear Mayor de Blasio:

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On behalf of the NY Tri-State Chapter of NAMC, I would like to commend you for your leadership and the tireless efforts you and your office have been tenaciously putting forth towards the betterment of our City. The NY Tri-State Chapter of NAMC has more than 150 members, and half of the membership are contractors who solely depend on work from the NYC School Construction Authority. As you are aware, this work has been out of commission for the past two months, highly affecting the workforce placing financial hardships on families, and compromising their mental health at the same time. I am writing this letter on behalf of hundreds of small businesses who are experiencing the negative misfortunes of this decision. Eligibility for the Payroll Protection Program is unfortunately not applicable to all, and this includes support from the CARES Act.

## Board of Directors

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Our organization respectfully requests the NYC School Construction Authority, in conjunction with the City of New York to reevaluate opening construction on all open CIP and Mentor contracts. All contractors would adhere to the below standards:

1. Contractors are willing to sign a waiver understanding that payment may not be made until the next fiscal year. This will allow for workers to be paid while alleviating pressure on the city to immediately tender payment. It is especially important that work is resumed. Please note that jobs can be completed within 2-6 weeks.
2. Job sites will adhere to an approved site safety plan that will practice social distancing and administer daily temperature checks. The SSP would include the use of face coverings and all other protective equipment as outlined by the CDC. Such measures will be conducted and monitored by the superintendent on site each day and we are confident that guidelines that were set by New York City and State will be followed.

## Corporate Members

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School construction has been deemed an essential service in NY State and the rest of the country. Similarly, government work in New York City has remained active like NYCHA, MTA, and the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development. The benefits of turning this situation around would be substantial. Companies can salvage their financial statements for the remainder of this year, bonding capacity will expand and open, and the government stimulus funding can be taken advantage of if returning to work is viable.



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As minority business owners and contractors, we are committed to closing our outstanding jobs expeditiously and safely. We recognize that this is a unique crisis with tremendous financial pressures associated therein. Strategically floating payments would be in the best interest of the City to help return school personnel and students to clean modernized facilities.

Mentor contractors are the great protégés of the highly regarded Mentor and Graduate Mentor programs conducted by the NYC School Construction Authority that seeks to increase MWLBE participation in School Construction projects. The contractors that are born out of this program play a crucial role in the fabric of our City and we want to ensure that generations to come will be able to have these same opportunities.

We cannot stress enough how critical of a time our industry is in. Realistically, if these projects are not in position to start up next week, significant damage will occur, and several businesses will be at risk for closure the longer this goes on for. We strongly request action from your office as soon as possible for this population to return to work.

Sincerely,

Nayan Parikh  
Executive Vice President, NAMC National  
President, NY Tri-State Chapter of NAMC  
President, Ashnu International, Inc.