



For Immediate Release

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***YOUTH AND ADULT NEW YORKERS URGE BUDGET RESTORATIONS TO INVEST
IN THE FUTURE –SUPPORT OUR KIDS***

(New York, NY) May 11, 2004 – New York City youth joined with concerned New Yorkers on the steps of City Hall to ask city elected leaders to demonstrate their concern for young people and a commitment to supporting their development into successful adults.

The young speakers noted that for the first time since 9/11 happened, New York City is in the position to help children and help families. Money is not so tight this year. In fact, the Mayor and the City Council are planning to give money back to taxpayers.

The press conference was opened by Calife--- a member of YouthAction NYC, a program that engages young people in the civic process. "Let me say, that cutting taxes at the expense of children and youth services is unacceptable! If the city has money to give away, why does the proposed budget even consider cuts - to child care, foster care, services to prevent child abuse and neglect, services to support youth in and aging-out of foster care, programs to keep kids healthy, after school programs and summer jobs for teens?" asked Mr. (Calife) ----

Understanding that there are competing interests and demands on limited city's resources, the young New Yorkers presenting at today's press conference believe children's services are a good investment and urged the Mayor and the City Council to immediately restore the budget cuts to services for children and youth and to move us toward a vision of a city with a great future that invests more in young people.

"Weeks of budget negotiation about basic services all children need and depend on, should not be necessary if our city leaders value children and youth. It is up to the Mayor and the City Council to dispel the notion that government does not care about the youth of today, before more young people grow cynical and wary of the government process and of our elected leaders," said.....

"I am neither cynical nor wary of government. I believe in New York City's strength and I believe that the Mayor and the City Council want to do right by young people. I am here today, to convey an important message to New York City's elected officials who represent young peoples even though we don't yet vote. The message is: Restore the cuts to programs for children and youth now! Invest in the Future and Support Kids! said Mr (Calife...)

A list of the restorations and new investments requested by the New Yorkers present is attached.