

February 4, 2021

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **SATURDAY: New York City Student Athletes and Coaches Stage “Five Borough Rally” Demanding In-Person Sports and Open Schools**

**New York City**—On Saturday, thousands of protesters from the New York City youth sports and athletic community will gather at noon in four separate locations in the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island to call for the reopening of New York City public schools and afterschool activities and athletics.

"I feel like they gave up on us," said Patrick Amoyaw, a football player and a senior at Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem. "They looked at the public school kids and said you know what? They really aren't that important."

In November, Mayor Bill de Blasio shut down all public middle and high schools in New York City with no plan for reopening them. The City is the only public school system in the State to also ban in-person athletics and extra-curricular activities. The City's Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) served 45,000 children before schools were shut down last year.

A [video clip](#) of Amoyaw speaking at a Wednesday morning #KeepNYCSchoolsOpen rally in front of City Hall has gone viral on social media. He talks about the frustration he has felt about missing out on the football season while peers at neighboring private and parochial schools are able to attend school and participate in sports.

**WHAT:** NYC public high school student athletes from across all five boroughs are rallying to demand the reopening of public schools and athletic programs.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 12:00 PM

**WHERE:** There will be four simultaneous rallies:

- 1) **Brooklyn:** Brooklyn Barclays Center, 620 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn, NY
- 2) **Staten Island:** Ocean Breeze Park, 625 Father Capodanno Blvd
- 3) **Bronx:** Bronx Supreme Court, 851 Grand Concourse
- 4) **Queens:** Roy Wilkins Park, 177-01 Baisley Blvd South, Jamaica

**WHO:** The rally is organized by [About U Outreach](#). Rally participants include NYC high school student athletes, coaches, and families.

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