

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE
ON YOUTH SERVICES

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March 6, 2017

Start: 1:24 p.m.

Recess: 5:27 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

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Chairperson

MATHIEU EUGENE
Chairperson

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A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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Committee for Hispanic Children and Families

Kate Banks, Director
Strategic Partnerships External Affairs
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[sound check, pause]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Good afternoon. Welcome to today's Finance Committee hearing joint with the Committee on Youth. I want to begin by thanking my Co-Chair, Mathieu Eugene and the members of the Youth Services Committee for joining us. I also want to acknowledge the members that have joined us today. As soon as I get that list we'll come back. This afternoon the committee continues its look at the Mayor's FY 2018 Preliminary Budget and FY 2017 Mayor's Management Report with the Department of Youth and Community Development. DYCD's mission is to support our city's low-income youth and their families through a range of programs aimed at providing them with the opportunity to grow and succeed. These include after school and literacy programs, family support services and youth employment. DYCD's work is the reflection of our city's investment in its future. It provides our young people with the tools to transcend their difficult circumstances and become independent successful adults. I can hardly think of a better investment that the city could make. The Council has made DYCD programs particularly those that get our

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youth work experience and a paycheck a top priority.

Last year, we pushed the administration to baseline

\$38.59 million to fund an unprecedented 60,000 summer

youth employment program jobs as well as to provide

an additional \$5 million on top of the million

dollars--\$11 million given by the Council for \$6,000

year-round jobs through the Work, Learn and Grow

Program. We also got the Administration to join us

in creating a joint task force on these programs to

assess their current needs and program effectiveness.

DYCD's Preliminary Budget for FY 2018 continues the

expansion of SYEP through the additional--through the

addition of 5,000 more positions so that work

experience and job training will be available to

65,000 young New Yorkers this summer. While this

certainly is a step in the right direction, it is

nowhere near what is needed to meet the demand. For

example, in Fiscal 2017, the program received 139,916

applications for the 6,000 slot--60,000 slots, and we

expect the number to rise for the summer. Over the

past few years, this Council has pushed for a program

size that truly reflects the need of community and we

will continue to set a target goal of at 100,000 SYEP

jobs. We also led the fight to expand the Beacon

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3 Community Centers program, which established school
4 based community centers aimed at delivering high
5 quality academic and career opportunities to youth
6 and as well to our fostering great community building
7 and civic engagement. Thanks to the leadership of
8 this Council the FY 2015 Preliminary Budget includes
9 funding to open ten new Beacon sites across the city.
10 I look forward to receiving an update from the
11 Administration on these new sites. I also think that
12 Beacons have a very special place in many of the
13 members' hearts because we all in one way or another
14 directed a program or multiple programs or
15 participated in some cases. These are important
16 successes but we can't not do this advocacy alone.
17 We need a partner in the Administration who will
18 fight as hard for these programs, and I can-year to
19 year. It falls upon the Council to ensure that the
20 city lend-lend-the city lends its focus on a youth
21 and that these critical programs are sufficiently
22 funded. It is time that DYCD's leadership step up to
23 the plate and push for greater support for their
24 agency while thinking about how to deliver services
25 in a new and innovative way. Maximizing the
potential of these programs does not only come

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through appropriate financial support, but also
greater oversight and evaluation of work sites, and
program providers. Too often DYCD merely monitors
the implementation of the program at SYEP and Work,
Learn and Grow Program without properly evaluating
their outcomes. We need to make sure that these
programs are laying the foundation for future success
of those participating, and I look forward to hearing
from DYCD about the agency's vision for SYEP, Work,
Learn and Grow Program in particular—particularly in
the light of the work of our task force. Before I
turn it over to my co-chair for his opening
statement, I also would like to thank the Finance
staff for the work on this hearing. Regina Poreda
Ryan, Deputy Director Ayisha Wright, Unit Heads
Jessica Ackerman, Senior Finance Analyst and Ed
Bernstein, Committee Counsel. I would also like to
thank our Director Latonia McKinney for her
leadership in the Council's Budget pushing for the
SYEP expansion. We've been joined by Council Members
Chin, Matteo, Johnson, Van Bramer, Palma and
Williams, and with that, I will pass the mic over to
Chair Eugene.

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2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much
3 Chair Ferreras-Copeland. Good afternoon. I'm Council
4 Member Mathieu Eugene Chair of the Committee on Youth
5 Services, and we would like to thank my colleagues
6 and welcome you all to this oversight hearing of DYCD
7 Fiscal 2018 Preliminary Budget. The Fiscal 2018
8 Preliminary Budget includes \$638.5 million for DYCD.
9 These funds will be used to support a broad
10 collection of services for our City population of
11 youth ranging from academic and local support to the
12 development of our incoming workforce. The purpose
13 of today's hearing is to discuss new funding and to
14 reduce and the Preliminary Budget and plan for the
15 next year's programming. The Council is very pleased
16 with the administration inclusion of \$9.2 million to
17 support 5,000 more job and the initial largest youth
18 employment program SYEP. But we must do more for our
19 city youth-young people. Chair Ferreras-Copeland
20 spoke a moment ago of the more than 139,000 young
21 people who applied to SYEP last year. Even with
22 65,000 jobs this summer we still cannot hope to have
23 every single young person in New York City who wants
24 to work. The Preliminary Budget also includes \$50
25 million to Office Select temp slots to 22,800 middle

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school students through SONYC this summer. Again,
this is not enough to have our young people and
families rely on the city for summer programs each
year. The Fiscal 2017 Budget included enough money
to support 28,000 summer slots for SONYC. We need at
least as much this year, and I would say that we need
more. We need to do more and just because this is
the right thing to do for our children, for our
youth, and this is the right thing to do for their
families. The Administration has added nearly \$6
million to open new Beacon Community Centers next
year. Beacons provide that programming to children
and adults in New York City, and I look forward to
learning more about what the new centers will do. Of
course, there are many other programs at DYCD, and
I'm pleased to have this opportunity to discuss them.
Before we begin, I would like to take a moment to
thank my staff Nathan Tucker, my Legislative and
Budget Director and also Rose Lynn Hill(sp?) I want
to thank also Jessica Ackerman, Senior Finance
Analyst to the Committee and Michael Benjamin our
Senior Policy Analysts. Commissioner Chong, I look
forward to your testimony, I want to take the
opportunity also to thank all of you here who are

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2 present at this moment for the oversight hearing, and
3 I thank all the service providers for what you're
4 doing for the young people in New York City. Chair
5 Copeland, I pass it back to you.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
7 you, Chair. Just a reminder for the public portion,
8 if you can please make sure you fill out a slip so
9 that we can put you in queue for the panel.
10 Commissioner, you will be sworn in by our counsel,
11 and then you may begin your testimony.

12 LEGAL COUNSEL: Can you raise your right
13 hand please. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the
14 whole truth, and nothing but the truth in your
15 testimony before the committee today, and to respond
16 honestly to Council Member questions?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I do. Good
18 afternoon—good afternoon Chairwoman Ferreras-
19 Copeland, Chairman Eugene and members of the Finance
20 and Youth Services Committee. I'm Bill Chong,
21 Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community
22 Development. I'm joined by Andre White, Associate
23 Commissioner for Youth Workforce Development and Ja
24 Goeen Phanor, Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau
25 of Budget and Finance. Thank you for the opportunity

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to testify today on DYCD's Fiscal Year 2018
Preliminary Budget. With additional investments
including our Preliminary Budget, Mayor de Blasio has
demonstrated yet again his unwavering commitment to
youth, families and communities. These new
investments will build on the growth of DYCD's
budget, which has risen by 81% since the Mayor took
office. Over the past few years, it has been
extremely gratifying to DYCD and its contracted
community-based organizations to reach tens of
thousand more young youth and adults through our
programs. Practically everyone of our program areas
from COMPASS and School's Out NYC after school
programs, Beacon and Cornerstone Community Centers,
the Summer Youth Employment Program and Runaway and
Homeless Youth shelter beds have increased—have seen
increased investment under Mayor de Blasio. Quite
simply, our growth has been quite remarkable. We are
very thankful that through the years the City Council
has been a strong supporter and champion of the
Summer Youth Employment Program. In 2016, the
Council support for SYEP was very robust. We
especially want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-
Viverito, Chairwoman Ferreras-Copeland, Chairman

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Eugene, Council Member Williams, and the Progressive
Caucus. Working together the Mayor and the City
Council has significantly increased the baseline city
funding for SYEP greatly stabilizing the program
planning and creating more certainty on the number of
jobs available. Not only did the Council support
increased summer job funding last year, we provided
more work opportunities than ever before. In 2016,
233 young people worked in 27 Council offices gaining
invaluable experiences working in government with an
elected official. Thank you for being an SYEP
employer. DYCD was also appreciative of the
Council's vital support for another year of the Work,
Learn and Grow Program. Over 6,000 participants have
enrolled in the program to build on the SYEP
experience working up to 25 weeks in the 2016 to 2017
school year. In order to continue expanding job
opportunities for young people the Fiscal Year 2018
Preliminary Budget invests \$9.3 million into the
Summer Youth Employment Program to provide another
5,000 job slots. The additional funding rises to
\$10.6 million for Fiscal Year 2019 and \$11.9 million
for Fiscal Year 2020 to account for the cost of the
increasing state minimum wage. In total, the

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2 Administration is committed to supporting 65,000 SYEP
3 slots in Fiscal Year 2018. Since Mayor de Blasio
4 took office, a total of 30,000 slots have been added.
5 Last summer, DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program
6 was the largest in its history, a record 60,113
7 participants were employed at over 10,000 work sites.
8 We increased the diversity of job placements again,
9 exposing young people to more careers and industries
10 than before. The percentage of private sector
11 worksites has still been increased since 2018 when it
12 was 28%; in 2015 it was 35%, and in 2016 it was 40%.
13 Examples of the different industries where youth
14 worked last summer include financial services,
15 technology, real estate, fashion, government
16 agencies, hospitals, summer camps, non-profits, small
17 businesses, law firms, museums, sport enterprises and
18 retail. With the support of the Center for Youth
19 Employment the city increased the number of Ladders
20 for Leaders internships by 48% from 1,035 to 1,538.
21 Summer jobs for the vulnerable youth who are
22 homeless, court involved or in foster care increased
23 by 47% from 2,078 to 3,050. As a city agency
24 committed to continuous improvements, DYCD enhances
25 the Summer Youth Employment Program each year based

on the valuable feedback we receive from work sites, participants and providers. For example, in 2010, DYCD revamped the entire program by creating four program options. The younger youth, older youth, vulnerable youth, and Ladders for Leaders to better meet the needs and interest of the city's diverse youth population. DYCD has been a national leader in using technology to streamline program operations and participants' experiences in the Summer Jobs program. New York City is the only city in the nation with a comprehensive database system that includes online participant and worksite applications, an electronic payroll card system, and direct deposition options for participant wages. Based on our innovations, Newark, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and other cities are striving to adopt the best practices pioneered by DYCD. Additional program innovations to support increased financial literacy include the ability to use direct deposit for the same bank account more than one summer, and opportunities to open new bank accounts. SYEP Financial Empowerment Program has expanded direct deposit use by 200%. Contributing to 30% of last year's SYP-SYEP's participants being banked. Through the expansion of Ladders for Leaders

in SYEP's Private Sector Jobs Campaign, DYCD has addressed requests from providers, employers and participants for a wider range of job opportunities for youth and the ability to introduce potential SYEP hires. As an outgrowth of the campaign, employers are able to specify skills and experiences youth need beyond the SYEP application criteria leading to better job matching. As I mentioned earlier, 40% of the SYEP applications last summer were in the private sector, 12% increase from the 28% in the summer of 2014. Thousands of additional youth are being exposed to careers in sectors they may have never considered. While these examples reflect DYCD's improvements and innovations to the Summer Youth Employment Program over the few years, we are committed to working with key stakeholders to improve the program even further, and exploring ways to do so. As part of the city's continuing investment in youth employment opportunities, Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Mark-Viverito commissioned the Youth Employment Task Force to assess the key areas of growth and improvement for SYEP and Work, Learn and Grow. Through research, analysis and conversations with dozens of stakeholders, the task force is

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developing a set of proposals that will provide a
clear direction for the future of these programs, and
recommendations on how they can evolve and be
enhanced. The final report is being edited and
reviewed, and we expect to it will be released
shortly. I'm confident that the final
recommendations will help shape the future of these
programs for many years to come, even the renewed
purpose, a more meaningful connection to students and
schools, a more robust infrastructure in city
government, and even stronger partnerships with the
private sector. I would like to thank Chairman
Eugene, Chairwoman Ferreras-Copeland and Council
Member Matteo for their leadership on this task force
and for working with us to plan for growth and
evolution of these programs for the future
generations of participants.

With the—when additional funding was
added to Beacons in the Fiscal Year 2017 Executive
Budget, it marked the first increase in nearly a
generation. Launched under Mayor Jenkins, Beacons
have a solid 25-year track record of providing core
youth and adult programming while strengthening
communities. I am excited that Fiscal Year 2018

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Preliminary Budget solidifies the Beacon Program even further by adding funding for new Beacon sites. The new sites will expand the reach of our comprehensive school-based community centers to thousands of additional New Yorkers in the boroughs with the highest numbers of young people in the underserved schools and communities.

DYCD's confidence in SONYC after school programs continue to be very popular and successful in meeting the needs of young people and families. As of last Tuesday, February 28, 119,428 youth were enrolled in COMPASS programs compared to last year we did not exceed this figure until the end of March for SONYC programs. We have surpassed the Fiscal Year 2017 target by 64,620 municipal youth enrolled as of the end of February. This represents 2,610 more youth than at the same time last year. The current budget added \$13 million for 22,800 slots for SONYC summer programs, are honored to serve the same number of youth as last year. Across all of our middle school summer programs, we—which included SONYC, Beacon and Cornerstone, we expect to serve nearly 40,000 youth this summer.

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3 In Fiscal Year 2017, DYCD is glad to have
4 administered an increase in Adult Literacy programs.
5 We thank the City Council and Member Menchaca for
6 working wit the Mayor to increase funding. Improving
7 one's English literacy skills is a key strategy as it
8 fosters greater economic security and social and
9 civil engagement. DYCD's Adult Literacy Programs
10 support community-based organizations that provide
11 instruction in adult basic education, high school
12 equivalency and English for speakers of other
13 languages. Through the increased funding, DYCD's
14 Adult Literacy Programs are project to serve 5,388
15 more students in Fiscal Year 2017 for a projected
16 total of 13,061 students. A portion of the increased
17 funding is also being used to strengthen program
18 capacity and quality so that students can achieve
19 better learning outcomes. For example, community
20 based literacy providers were able to attend
21 increased professional development trainings offered
22 by the Literacy Assistance Center, which is DYCD's
23 literacy technical assistance provider.

24 In addition to expanding our program with
25 the increased investments over the past few years,
we've also been working on various strategies to

better integrate programs and coordinate services locally. DYCD is committed to maximizing its investments, but we want to ensure the New Yorkers can benefit from the full continuum of DYCD funded programs that exist in the neighborhood. To advance our program and to a great vision, we're rolling out DYCD Connect, a component of the first major upgrade to DYCD's information technology systems in over 20 years. DYCD Connects with a single portal for DYCD staff, community based organizations, and technical assistance providers to track program participants, track program evaluation and monitoring and enable providers to request capacity building and support. DYCD Connects streamlines our existing data systems by combining multiple reporting databases while creating a data set that offers increased ability to analyze program impacts and outcomes by both providers and DYCD. This will greatly assist the future decision making on the design and investment of DYCD programs. As you have heard in my testimony today, DYCD is in a very strong position. We are reaching more youth and families than ever before with quality programs that improve lives and create opportunities to advance social-socially and

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3 economically. The mayor and I are very excited about
4 what DYCD's has been accomplishing over the past
5 three years as well as the future of our agency and
6 its programs. We look forward to working with the
7 City Council to continue supporting New York City's
8 Youth, families and communities. Thank you again for
9 the chance to testify today, and we are ready to
10 answer any questions.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you
12 very much, Commissioner for your testimony. I-I have
13 a broad question, and I know that, you know, you and
14 I have engaged back and forth on different levels of--
15 just for us to understand your advocacy or how-how
16 much you've requested from the Administration in
17 priorities and what you've gotten back. Obviously as
18 Commissioner it's your responsibility to advocate for
19 your--for your agency. So was there anything in the
20 Preliminary Budget that wasn't included in your--in
21 your, or that you weren't able to get in--in through
22 this process the first shot at the--

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think every
24 commissioner has a wish--a laundry list of wish list
25 of things, and then I think in--in the case of DYCD,
we're very fortunate. If you look at the investments

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made by the Mayor, the increase in Summer Youth
Employment jobs, the 5,000 jobs, the additional ten
Beacons, we're one of the few agencies and--and these
were a few programs that started to increase in the
Summer Youth budget. So I'm very pleased at what
we've accomplished in the Preliminary Budget. I told
my staff--I--I spoke to a group of advocates recently,
when I started three years ago I had wish list. I
didn't publicize it because sometimes wish lists
don't always come true, and my wish list had three
things on it. One was to make the Summer Youth
Employment funding baseline, which thanks to the
Council's leadership and the Mayor's support is made
possible to with the--to increase the funding for the
Beacon Programs, which again happened this year, and
the third was to implement this new strategy of
program integration because I saw how DYCD operated
was too much is the collection of programs and that
has a system where we can leverage different programs
to have greater impact. So I'm very pleased where
we're at. I don't expect to get everything we want
in a--in a budget, but I think in this Preliminary
Budget we did very well.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, you know, and I know that you've alluded to this in the past, and I understand these were your priorities in the last three years. However, they've been something that we've pushed for aggressively in the council. The Beacon's programs in particular was something that we had personal conversations with-- with the Mayor, and it just seems that I'd like to hear more of your priorities because obviously when we are able to work together they seem to happen, but if you don't share what the other things are, we can't be your partner in that process. When it comes particularly to the increase at SYEP, it's something we've been advocating for since the beginning. The Beacon schools I had to personally make calls to figure out what the expansion capacity would be, which was a challenge to even ask for, and I'm so grateful that we are at this point. But, you know, I would hope that as Commissioner you have the foresight and the vision to understand what your agency needs in the future when it comes to innovation and growth. I think that unlike other city agencies, the Council has to one, advocate, but also provide funding for a lot of the programs that

are running out of DYCD. So, you don't have to respond to it. I just wanted to be clear when it comes to that statement that we'd like to understand what you're vision is for the agency when it comes to it to kind of okay what is--how do you take SYEP and bring it to the next level? How do you take Beacon Scholl programs and bring it to that next level? Because to ask for expansions, we can do. We understand that, but it's kind of creating that vision of what is--what it takes to bring an agency that's been--and--and you and I have discussed this, has had almost no investment in prior administrations. Has been completely depleted. So then to ask that we expand on existing programs that are not being kind of visionous, for lack of a better word, I think it's--the--the job of a commissioner to do. So do you understand what I'm saying?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh, yeah. I agree. I think the--there's--there's always quantity and quality, and think, and I think we've always been very focused on quality. Even when the funding wasn't there, it's how do you maximize the impact of any given program? So take for example the Summer Youth Employment Program. For many years it was

operated by an agency called the Department of
Employment. It didn't change in 50 year. When--when
the programs to DYCD under the previous
administration in 2010, we started making changes.
We--we--for example you understand and the young people
are very different, their needs are different. A 14-
year-old's needs are very different than a 19-year-
old's needs. That's why we created different
options. We can't treat a young person who's court
involved the same as the young person who is in
school. We--we understand that there are some young
people who have made career choices about what they
want to do, and we created Ladders for Leaders. So
I--I agree with you that you can't--we--we never accept
the status quo. We're always looking to improve, and
part of the improvement process is listening to
different stakeholders. That's why the task force is
very helpful. It brought different perspectives.
That's why we do concept papers. We--DYCD did concept
papers before it became a law to do concept papers
because quite frankly we don't think we know
everything. So we always need to hear from the
people who provide the services, and people who
benefit from the services, how we can always improve

things. So I'm confident that since we have for sample the first time in history—I mean this is that I want to emphasize. The first time in history of the Summer Youth Employment Program the city's commitment is baselined. I mean I—I went to the kickoff meeting of—of Summer Youth Employment Program providers in mid-January and one of the providers who's been I think working at La Guardia for 30 years? Thirty years, and she was telling me story about how when the program was funded by the—fully funded by the federal government how you could do planning, and could do greater matching between what a young person's interests were and what an employer's needs were, and with the leadership and the Mayor we can do that now. That's why we opened the applications a month early because we wanted—we heard from the providers they needed time to plan. So, I think, you know, we never give quality short shrift. It's important to do quantity and quality.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I wanted to—in the past you have spoken about it, and we've been engaging SYEP administration and this happened right now just in this negotiation, in this process just now. The Administration has presented a

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3 challenge that was expressed by you and the agency,
4 but there is a limit—but you're limited by the
5 contract. Expansion is limited because of the
6 contract. So can you explain that?

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Let me start with
8 again I think the program is growing exponentially
9 and we're committed to growing this program. I think
10 with the support of the Council the Progress Caucus,
11 the Black and Latino and Asian Caucus that's been
12 possible, but we also want to grow responsibly, and
13 so Andre White will talk a little bit about sort of
14 how we try to grow before them responsibly.

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Hi.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Hi.

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: How are
18 you?

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Can you
20 just state your name for the record.

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Andrea
22 White, Association Commissioner, Youth Workforce
23 Development Programs at DYCD.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
25 you.

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3 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: As the
4 Commissioner said, when we think about growing this
5 program and scaling this program up, qualities are
6 important to us, right? We want to make sure that
7 the goals--[coughs]excuse me--that we set forth is
8 achieved not only by the--by the providers, but also
9 the young people that are involved in the process.
10 So again, quality is critical to us. When we think
11 about expanding the program year after year, we talk
12 to our providers to make sure that they have the
13 capacity to take some additional slots, right? We
14 also make sure that we're talking to folks in the
15 field in terms of what's that development. We get
16 that information and we sort of do an analysis of
17 exactly where we end up each summer and we make a
18 decision we make sure. We make--we make a decision
19 based on the information that we have knowing that
20 capacity is--is an issue.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Now, and
22 either yourself or the commissioner can ask ideally
23 if we're analyzing this and I guess this is the
24 frustration that we have on our end.

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Uh-huh.

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: It's just
3 under \$140,000. It's just round up. Young people
4 are applying for the jobs and 65,000 this summer will
5 get them. That's alarming to us right, because we're
6 saying no more than we say yes in many cases, and I
7 understand you're going to talk about that there's
8 some students that don't respond, and let's say--let's
9 say it's 110,000. Let take--knock out 30,000 young
10 people. We're still saying no more than we say yes.
11 So, what is the number that you think? If you had
12 every resource available, what is the number that you
13 think SYEP should be at?

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean I--I don't
15 think there's a magic number because I think each
16 summer is different. You're absolutely right that
17 there is a drop-off because one of the benefits of--I
18 think we take this for granted. When we moved to the
19 online application a decade ago--

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --the way the city
22 did this, and, you know, it's hard--I tell my younger
23 staff it's--the city used to print carbon copy
24 applications, and anyone on my staff under 30 doesn't
25 know what carbon copy is, and they would define that

number of applications, and they would distribute them to community groups, and then--and then the third copy of the carbon copy you couldn't read. So there was an artificial cap in how many--how many students could actually apply. And so by making it online we--we made it quite frankly easier so even young people who had other job options could apply as a plan B. So there's an attrition year-to-year. It varies sometimes if the economy is going well, and sometimes if it's not going so well, the numbers will, the attrition rate will vary. So I can't give you a hard and fast number. I think the challenge for us is growing capacity, and that's why it has--you know the Council and the Mayor's Office have discussions about expansion beyond this summer, we can ramp up capacity in out years based on doing an RFP, which we're committed to doing later this year to bring on even more programs.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So I'm glad you mentioned the RFP. That's my next question. This is a great opportunity to remodel the program. This, you know, why we wanted to do the task force. It's the challenge that was posed to us is that the contract that really--really allow for that type of

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2 expansion. Are you going to be issuing one RFP or
3 several RFPs for the different components at SYEP?

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So-so the
5 thinking right now this summer we'll be testing a
6 number of concepts, right, based on the discussions
7 that we had through the task force process. We've
8 been evaluating those concepts to see whether or not
9 those are scalable or not, and based on those
10 determinations we're going to use some of those
11 finding in the form of RFP. Currently, as the
12 Commissioner mentioned, we have four service options,
13 right. We intend to proceed with that process in
14 terms of keeping the service options separate. Not
15 one prescription fits all young people so based on
16 the needs of the young people we're going to be
17 target-targeting the program based on their needs.
18 So again, based on these concepts and-and the
19 outcomes of those of those concepts, we are going to
20 be using those in the form of an RFP.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, if-
22 looking at this as like vision and thinking forward
23 and helping with our sister agencies was something
24 that I brought up, other people brought up during the
25 task force is I think we're missing an opportunity

and—and a prime example of that you actually do this with DDC. Right, these are young people that aren't necessarily the—the—the straight A students that can participate and the Commissioner before you testified that there was a—a young person who was in halfway house and, you know, is now well on his path, and has all the support necessary to become an engineer, because of that one experience, and that was through the Work, Learn Grow program. And so, it wasn't like the Ladders for Leaders, which is the more kind of—I don't want say elite, but, you know, the—the more—the kids that are more academically perhaps advanced or exposed. So have you thought of dividing—since the challenge that we have seen is that some organizations have access to certain jobs or some non-profits have access to certain jobs, it's probably above their network, they're bored. You know, a whole host of other complexities that probably allow them to connect in that way and provide those type of jobs. Have you thought of centralizing where maybe there's an RFP just for job development? Or if we take job development let's say and put it in SBS because they do job development. I'm just thinking, or that the DOE does the—the

curriculum component or the outreach component to
young people. Have you thought of it in that way at
all?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I agree with
what you're saying. There's uneven capacity in the
area of job development. I think the toughest part
of running Summer Job program is finding employers
willing to hire high school students, and that's
across the board. So we've been working with the
Center for Youth Employment, which while-while we
have a technical assistance provider that has been
working with the Summer Youth Employment Programs on
how to do outreach and engage employers and build the
capacity. At the same time, the Center for Youth
Employment, has been working with employers and how
to work with young people because there is a bias
among most employers to having high school students.
They would prefer, quite frankly to have college
students. So, we work-and then the Mayor's Fund to
Advance New York City has really opened doors for us.
I've worked with the Mayor's Office of Media
Entertainment to get jobs that quite frankly
wouldn't-they wouldn't take my call, but they would
take their call. And so, you're right, with DDC,

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2 with other city agencies and all this. The one I
3 always like to talk about is the Office of Chief
4 Medical Examiner. For the last three years we've had
5 young people working there in the Forensics Crime
6 Lab. So I think--

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

8 [interposing] Is that SYEP or Ladders for Leaders?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That's Ladders for
10 Leaders.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right,
12 and is that--so that's what and I--I think that's a
13 great example and I commend you on that one, but it's
14 about getting the other young people--

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --not
17 just the Ladders for Leaders because those are
18 probably a lot easier to place, but I think, and
19 that's why I--I focus on the bringing up this young
20 man. You know, he wouldn't have qualified for
21 Ladders for Leaders, and he might not have had that
22 opportunity. So I think it's a--I would hope that you
23 take the--the boilerplate or the concept that DYCD has
24 developed, which seems to be very--DDC has developed,
25 and share that with other agencies. Because as

Council Members we're going to ask every agency would you be willing to hire some of these in front of people, young people, and I'm sure they're going to say yes.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, we—we—in fact, last year for the first time the Mayor sent an email out to every single commissioner and that generated a number of job placement for city agencies. So, I—I don't think we disagree. I think there's a great deal of agreement that the focus has always been on improving the—the quality of the job experience. I mean I personally advocated when I started to increase the number of private sector employers because previously there had been a bias to just keep young people working summer camp. And while summer camp is an important first job for many young people, it shouldn't be the only job, and if you're a 19-year-old and you have interest in science, you should be—be placed in the place which fits in your career interest. So I think the fact that we've gone to 40% last summer, and hoping to get close to 50% of the job being in the private sector this year. It's speaks to our commitment to improving the experience with the young person, but we also need to build

capacity at both ends. Employers need to understand how to work with high school students, and then smaller non-profits need to know how to work with- with employers. So last year for the first time we reached out to the associations with the Business Improvement Districts. They're in the community, and this is a great example of like soiled government. You have this, and business-Small Business Services helped arrange that meeting. You have the Business Improvement Districts in one area, and then you have the non-profits, and they don't talk to each other. So I think we're heading down that path, and I think that with the stable funding and, you know, hopefully a new RFP that will add different approaches and models, we're going to improve both quantity and quality.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So as you mentioned the summer camps, we--while we were going through this task force process, we identified that there's a large percentage of our young people who actually go to work at summer camps in the summer. Do you think that this calls for a separate kind of pipeline? I only say this because as-as you know, I was a Beacon Director for six years, and I would get

assigned 20 kids or 25 kids. It almost felt like they couldn't go anywhere else. Here you go. Here are your kids for the summer, and of the 25 maybe 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 nine of them didn't really want to be working with young people, right, but they were assigned there because they were identified, and I understood that. So it—it took me as a Director time out, my time out to have to train and figure what was wrong with these kids, and then I would put them maybe in security as opposed to working directly with children. Now, on the flip side, as a mom, I would hope that anyone that's working with children, and I'm sure you are, Commissioner, anyone that's working with children really wants to be there, or at least has the training, the proper training to be able to work with young people. And it seems like this to me is—is a—an opportunity to really kind of create its own program especially because of the number of young people that you assign to summer camps.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So I think this speaks to having time to do better planning and better matching because not every young—I agree with you, not every young person should be in summer camp. But when—give the history of the program, when

funding came in literally a week or two weeks before the start of summer, the easiest jobs to place young people in were summer camp. So I think that is—that situation is changing thanks to the baselined support that the Council advocated for and the Mayor provided that we can do better planning because in some cases the summer camp experience is a—the first step in a career path. There are many young people who start and—and I visited Cypress Hills Development Corporation a couple of summers ago, and visited their Summer Youth Employment Program, and they have an intentional model where the director of the SONYC program with the SONYC camp with—where the SYEP programs is located started as an SYEP participant, and, you know, became the staff person, and then eventually moved up to Director. So I think if there's an intentional matching and we can match the young people who want to pursue this as a career with a job placement. I mean I'll give you another example that came up in a very positive state audit, which we'll be happy to provide to you from last summer. The—the state provides a certain amount of TANF dollars, that's—it's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families monies for the Summer Youth Employment

Program. So they go out and they audit the program every year, and they randomly select young people, and they—in their audit they found this young woman they randomly selected. She was picked in the lottery. She wanted to be a veterinarian. She was placed in an animal health clinic, and it was the perfect fit for her. That's the kind of matching we want to do more and more, and I think with stable funding we can do that so that the job experience isn't just a paycheck, but a step towards a career path.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And I—I agree with you. I think we're on the same page with— with that perspective, but when the program has 30— 30. Sorry, 38% of the SYEP participants are assigned to day care or summer camps. It just seems like it's a very large number that probably should have more in-depth support and capacity building.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think, you know, for a lot of the young people are 14 and 15 and that's why we've deliberately and maybe Andre can speak to it more, we—we—we realized that for people who have no work experience, that summer camp is a good start.

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So we're
3 working is over the years it's really difficult for
4 our providers to develop job placement for young
5 people who are ages 14 and 15 right? Unfortunately,
6 employers see them as, you know, young people that
7 they have to babysit. So as a result of this, we
8 carved out two separate options for that population.
9 There's a Community Service and Service Learning
10 model that we implemented a few years ago where
11 providers could encourage young people to come up
12 with a theme, right, and it could be a theme around
13 social justice or a theme around health and wellness,
14 and these young people create projects for the entire
15 six weeks that we engage them. Additionally, the
16 camp is also another way for us to place young people
17 particularly those young people who are 15, right?
18 They—they can become what's called counselors in
19 training, and with general matching process we do ask
20 young people if they have an interest in working in
21 the summer camps, and if they don't, we try our very
22 best to match them in the area that's more
23 appropriate for what they are requesting. So right
24 now I—I think for us what's important, as Bill
25 mentioned because of stable funding we're going to be

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3 able to run Ladders at least a month earlier before
4 it. So our providers will be able literally to sit
5 with each and every younger person and do a deeper
6 assessment about their career interests, and based on
7 what they come up from that assessment process,
8 they'll be able to match them more appropriately to a
9 job that the young person has an interest in.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I wanted
11 to talk about Work, Learn and Grow before I give to
12 my chair. I have additional questions and I'll come
13 back in a second round. What change needs to happen
14 to the Work, Learn and Grow to truly be a year-round
15 program? The intention, you know, this was--this is
16 something I worked really hard on. When I thought of
17 the program, I knew that there are young people out
18 that can work year-around and be assigned to the same
19 employer--either provider or employer, and the reality
20 is that the way it currently works is you're taking
21 from the Summer Youth Employment participants in
22 October some time or what happened just last year was
23 October to April I believe. So it's not a year-round
24 program. Besides the fact that you changed the name
25 of my program, but we'll talk about that offline.
But right now it's Work, Learn and Grow, but the

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2 intention of it being called a year-round program was
3 so that it could year-round. So what would it take
4 for this program to be year-round independent of
5 SYEP? Because I understand that you want to do like
6 a continuation of SYEP, but that would essentially
7 not make it a year-round program.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we appreciate
9 the Council's support for this program. As you know,
10 it's the second year, and so Andre can speak to some
11 of what we're looking at in the evaluation.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Okay, So
14 currently the program is in-is being evaluated
15 internally at DYCD by our Research Department. I
16 think it's important for us to get a great
17 understanding of the impact that this program is
18 having on the ground. So I think it makes sense to
19 do two full or three years so we could have some real
20 outcomes and some performance measures. So right now
21 we're looking—we're talking to providers on the
22 grounds. We're talking to work sites on the ground.
23 We're collecting that data to figure out what changes
24 can be made to the program. The program runs from--

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

3 [interposing] Well, I mean you're in changes so you--
4 you already know that there's problems with program?

5 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: No, no, no
6 I'm not saying--well, I'm not saying there are
7 problems with the program, but whenever you roll out
8 a program that's new, it's important to evaluate it
9 so there could be lessons learned.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

11 [interposing] I agree.

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right, so
13 if you're coming there--if you're thinking about
14 potentially expanding that program, you want to know
15 exactly what those lessons are.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I mean we
18 use those lessons to inform about the decision
19 method.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So what
21 I'm asking for is there's--there's two things. There
22 is expanding where I think more young people could
23 participate by increasing the 6,000 number to more,
24 and I understand that this is a more expensive
25 program because it's year-round. But there's also

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2 the fact that it's not year-round. So that is, you
3 know, every young person that has participated that
4 I've talked to and I would say you know, it's not all
5 6,000 of them, but it's a good portion have all said
6 that they love experience. They love the continuity.
7 They love that they could do something after school
8 and in some cases the weekend. SO, those are my two
9 components. It's not just because we can allocate
10 more money, but if it's not a year-round program it's
11 not a year-round program. So how do we get it to
12 being year round?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, let--let me
14 speak to the evaluation. Before OMB will fund
15 anything they're going to ask us what's the
16 evaluation, what's the impact, what's the outcome so
17 that's why we do that--

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
19 [interposing] I get that, Commissioner. I get that.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --we're doing it.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I get it.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So as to why--

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

24 [interposing]

25

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --why there's a
3 break between us—I guess because the program SYEP
4 ends in mid-mid-September, Mid-August and the program
5 starts up in October.

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I'll can
7 talk about that.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: You want to about
9 the operational?

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes, so-so
11 currently, to give you some context, the SYEP
12 providers are also the same providers that are
13 operators in the Work, Learn and Grow Program. So
14 there's overlap there. So the SYEP program ends in
15 August, mid-August, and during that time providers
16 have to close out the SYEP Program. They're sending
17 payroll for SYEP. They're doing their evaluation of
18 SYEP. We think it was important to give providers
19 some time in between August and October to get their
20 program up and running.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Did the
22 providers ask for that time?

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: They—the
25 providers asked that they need time between the

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3 middle of August to October or September before they
4 can work with an additional 6,000 youth? So from
5 \$65,000--\$60,000 pro-60,000 participant program to
6 6,000 they need a break of two months?

7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right
8 because there's an overlap, and let me just sort of
9 walk you through when I said there's an overlap. So
10 SYEP runs from July all the way through August,
11 right?

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: During
14 this time---

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
16 [interposing] Six weeks.

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Six weeks,
18 correct. This week at this time providers are
19 dedicated to doing payroll for the young people. They
20 are troubleshooting any issues that's going on on the
21 ground. They are also making sure that whatever are
22 the external things that we need to take care of as
23 it relates to SYEP is being done. Also, in August
24 they started to develop worksites for Work, Learn and
25 Grow Program. What most of them have done over the
years they've encouraged the existing Work, Learn and

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2 Grow. I'm sorry, SYEP providers to stay on for Work,
3 Learn and Grow Program. So they're also working with
4 SYEP and at the same time trying to develop sites for
5 Work, Learn and Grow Program, but that takes some
6 more time beyond August.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So I'm
8 going to—it's not the same job. They get one job in
9 the summer and then they get a Work, Learn and Grow?
10 Is that what you're saying?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:
12 Potentially. Depending on whether or not the—the
13 work site wants to come back.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, so
15 I—I think you—we're going to—I'm going to ask both of
16 our committees are going to ask for you to share this
17 evaluation of Work, Learn and Grow, and what the
18 components are, what you found. I just find it a
19 little challenging and I—and I understand and I'm,
20 you know, you guys are the ones that did the
21 evaluation. But in me speaking with providers I have
22 never heard a provider say oh, my God, we can't
23 handle the 6,000 new year-round program. We need
24 that break in the middle. That is not what I'm
25 hearing. I'm only hearing please expand. We'd like

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3 to do more, you know, we'd love to work with young
4 people year round. So I think maybe in the case of
5 summer cam because summer camp ends. That's the only
6 job that ends, and maybe those are the ones that
7 you're having a hard time placing in the year-round
8 program. But for the rest of the jobs, I'm sure
9 there's an opportunity. If you're working for a city
10 agency, the city agency doesn't stop. So it just
11 seems that that might be where you may be presented
12 with some challenges.

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right and--
14 and also when you think about the hours of Work,
15 Learn and Grow, most of the young people their-their
16 hours are in the afternoon, right. So most of them
17 get out of school maybe anywhere from 2:00 to 2:30.
18 By the time they can get to an employer it's at 3:00.
19 So most of the jobs are not necessarily with the
20 existing SYEP provider because most of those business
21 are 9:00 to 5:00, and some of the employers doesn't
22 think it makes sense to take on a young person only
23 for an hour or two each--each--each day or--or each--

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
25 [interposing] Again, not a flag that has been raised
to us.

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2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I would
4 love to see the evaluations that you're having and,
5 you know, in figuring out. I just--well, I'm going to
6 give an opportunity obviously to our chair to ask
7 questions. I have some other questions that I'd like
8 to ask in particular with Beacon and Cornerstones and
9 all of the other programs that you have. Chair
10 Eugene.

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
12 Chair Ferreras-Copeland. We have been joined also by
13 my Council Member Margaret Chin. Council Member Chin
14 is a member of the Youth Service Committee and also
15 Council Member Andy King, Council Member Rosenthal.
16 Thank you very much, and Council Member Green--
17 Greenfield a member of the Youth Services Committee,
18 and I believe this is all, and Council Member
19 Williams also. Thank you very much. Commissioner,
20 we know that the minimum wage has been increased and
21 the since December 31, 2016 we knew that, and we had
22 about 60,000 summer youth jobs that were base--
23 baselined, but in the Preliminary Budget of 2018,
24 there is--that was not addressed. There is nothing at
25 all about the, you know, the increase of the minimum

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2 wage. What can you tell us about that? Why we
3 didn't see any?

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I've been given
5 assurances by OMB that the money for the minimum wage
6 adjustment for this summer will be in the Executive
7 Budget.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: It will be in the
9 Executive Budget. That means there will be an
10 additional 4-5,000 new SYEP slots. Can you guarantee
11 that would have those 5,000 additional slots for
12 Summer Youth job-jobs--

13 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR:
14 [interposing] Hi, I'm Ja Goeen.

15 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --without any. Yes,
16 ma'am.

17 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Sorry.
18 Are you finished? Yes, Ja Goeen Phanor. So we got
19 5,000 additional jobs. That's the \$9.3 million as
20 the commissioner alluded to.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: How much is that?

22 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: So we got
23 \$9.3 million to add 5,000 additional slots, that's
24 the 65,000 slots. The minimum wage will be added in
25 the Executive Budget.

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2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, so that means
3 there will be no issue related to the minimum wage
4 increase, right?

5 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Correct.

6 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, very good. So
7 how much is there going to be to cover the--the
8 increase of the minimum wage?

9 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR:
10 Approximately \$15 million.

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: About--approximately
12 \$156 million, and what will be the anticipated price
13 for each participant for the summer youth this year?

14 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: I think--I
15 believe it's 1,538. Let me check. Actually, it's a
16 bit higher. It's 17,092. Sorry about that.

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. So we know
18 that in New York City we have young people that we
19 call vulnerable young people, vulnerable youth, and
20 it is very important that we do everything that we
21 can do to provide and also the same opportunity
22 especially those young people who are collected to
23 shelter sand who are in the justice system, and
24 runaway young people. But in the Fiscal Year 2017,
25 DYCD set aside 3,015 starts for the young--the young

people. Is there any steps that have been taken to increase the number of slots or opportunities for the vulnerable young people?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So—so last year, as you mentioned, we did serve already 50 young people in vulnerable youth category within SYEP, and this year we're keeping that number old for a number of reasons. We have learned some lessons over the years around young people not necessarily being work ready, and we want to test out a concept this summer to see how we could improve upon preparing those young people for the world of work. So this year is really about learning as much as we can in terms of dealing with our population, and moving forward hoping to increase that number.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, but we know they are partners of providing services and opportunities to all young people especially the vulnerable young people. Why don't you from DYCD to make effort to get more funding to increase those opportunities of those vulnerable people. Because we have to force, we got to push on the Administration because we all know. We say this—every single time we say the same thing.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I-I don't think it's more money. I think it's more quality programs. Not every young person who's been court involved, for example, is ready to work and so what Andre is talking about is that we've come—we've heard from the people who provide these services that some sort of pre-employment service is probably better. It may be a stipend program. So we're testing different ideas because we want it to be a win-win for both the young person and the employer, and the worst thing to happen is to place a young person who doesn't up for work or gets into arguments. So we—we'd rather do the quality than increase exponentially in serving vulnerable youth. So last year for example we—we found a great employer called Techy Youth, and this a—a tech entrepreneur who started a non-profit who wants to provide tech skills to young people who are court involved or homeless, and we placed quite a number of young people who met that criteria who learned now to do coding last summer. And so we want it to be a win-win, a match of the skills and interests of young people with the right employer, and it's more challenging working with a young person who maybe is homeless or court involved. Sometimes

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2 it could backfire if you don't do that kind of
3 screen. So we've decided to focus on quality, but
4 the program has tripled in the last few years. So
5 that says to our commitment that we've tripled the
6 number of young people because this program was very
7 small, and we've tripled in--in less than three
8 years.

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: We have a commission
10 and I think we can do both at the same time because
11 we have been providing services and jobs to the young
12 people for many years. We should have the experience
13 and the track record now to identify on why it is
14 important to do a better job and to provide
15 informational programs--

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] We are
17 doing that. We tripled the number.

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --increasing the--
19 the--the number of sites.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We--we have tripled
21 the number, and we're focusing on quality because we
22 know that young people in these vulnerable situations
23 they have to be ready for work, and so what we've
24 heard from the people who run these programs that
25 sometimes when you rush a young person to a work

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3 site, and they're really ready to work, it backfires
4 on the young person, and the employer. So we're
5 focusing on quality so it's—I think it's an either/or
6 thing, and I think we've done both.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [background
8 comments] Let's—let's talk about the pilot program.
9 What is the—the plan to testing the pilot program
10 this summer?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So we're
12 testing a number of concepts for—for the summer, and—
13 and the—the—we're really looking at how to connect
14 these school yards into a summer job, right, to make
15 sure that there is more intentionality. We're also
16 looking at thinking of ways of doing employer
17 engagement for—for our providers and to make sure
18 that our providers have the tools necessary to
19 develop more jobs in the private sector and even
20 beyond that. But at the very eye level we're looking
21 at a number of different concepts. We're still
22 flushing them out as we speak, but overall it's just
23 to make sure that we make announcements in two weeks
24 of the program that will benefit young people as well
25 as providers as they try to—do more on the ground.

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2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And before I ask my
3 next question, I want to mention that we have been
4 joined by Council Member Miller. Thank you and
5 thanks. Thank you. We know that oversight
6 programming, and to the oversight of programming the
7 site workers are very, very important in providing
8 the best quality of services to the young people. We
9 know that DYCD is, you know, it's all the way to
10 oversight, you know, to do-to visit and to share the
11 programs. So, I know that for the new contract, the
12 service providers are required also to do visits
13 every-every week, and we know that also that they are
14 facing many difficulties, many challenges. What DYCD
15 has been doing to make sure that they have the
16 capacity, the ability to do the site visit for the
17 programs?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Let me-let me start.
19 I mean the Summer-I assume you're talking about the
20 Summer Youth Employment Program or are you talking
21 about any program?

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Any program.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, what's unique
24 about the Summer Youth Employment Program is that
25 the-the programs operate for six weeks in the summer.

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2 So we had to hire temporary seasonal staff to do
3 monitoring and it's--it's--

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] But
5 for--for the summer providers are the six-week program
6 I believe.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And other program
9 also.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay, so let me talk
11 about other programs, and then Andre can talk about
12 the Summer Youth Employment Program. We created a--I--
13 I appointed Denise Williams our Deputy Commissioner
14 for Planning and Programming to create an evaluation
15 because we wanted to standardize what we looked at in
16 all program because we know a good youth program
17 whether it's a jobs program, whether it's an after
18 school program, or whether it's a program serving
19 homeless youth. There are certain basic things that
20 have to be in all programs. So in the past each
21 program has their own monitoring tool. We have a
22 standardized monitoring tool that look at common
23 things, and then also customizes it to meet the needs
24 of a specific program. So we want to be sure of
25 quality so that the things that should be in all good

youth programs are—are measured when they to out and
visit the program. We're moving towards an on-line
system to collect this information. So in the past,
when someone went on a site visit, they had to go
back to the office and manually enter the
information. We're moving to the point where people
when they go out on their handheld devices they can
enter this information, and it would automatically go
to a database, which will be available to not only
the program sites to view, but also for the managers
to view. So I think we're focusing on standardizing
what we do in the monitoring process making the data
more accessible to people, and also we did something
that I think the first time we've done ever—where we
actually did an agency wide survey of all the
programs, and the program directors and the
participants to find out how we can better improve
the programs. In the past what DYCD used to do is
every program did their own survey and, you know, the
information would be scattered and fragmented. So
with this real focus on quality, we wanted to again
speak with one voice and hear the many different
points of view on how the programs help, and maybe
don't help as much, and how we can improve the

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2 programs. So I think we really focus on program
3 quality, and monitoring is a big part of that.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Is it—I'm sorry, go
5 ahead, please.

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So just to
7 add to what the Commissioner mentioned with—with SYEP
8 or monitoring processes are really too small prime
9 (sic), in terms of the approach, right. So we hire
10 60 field supervisors every year. We are responsible
11 for monitoring the work site that we have developed.
12 The providers themselves are also responsible to
13 monitor the work sites as well. So we have what we
14 call our Worksite Assessment Tools that were
15 developed to ensure that the worksite is safe, but we
16 also developed these tools to make sure that the—the—
17 the field supervisors could have conversations with
18 the worksite representative to make sure that the
19 young person is having a meaningful summer job
20 experience. Also, which is really cool is that our—
21 our field supervisors have the ability to complete
22 their assessment on an iPhone or on a Tablet, which
23 is real time information, which we get back to DYCD
24 immediately and that is—that also still gets our
25 information on the lines more quickly around the

number of visits that we're making and the communities that we're hitting. So again, we want to make sure that all the sites are visited, and we do that by the provider, sending their staff into the field and DYCD also having a group of folks that are responsible for that as well.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: With respect to SYEP, we all know that the summer jobs are very, very important, you know, to all young people and also to their parents also. They experience that they are having, you know, when they go through the SYEP, the skill, you know, the self-esteem, the discipline everything that would benefit for SYEP. But it seems that, you know, a very limited number of high schools in the city of New York have the opportunity to have a participation with some participation in SYEP. I mean by connecting the student, you know, to the SYEP. What step has DYCD has been taking to make sure that they partner with the school and their student in those schools that can be a very important component or partner in providing services to the high school student.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yeah, so we work very closely with the CYE, which is the

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3 Center for Youth Employment to help us with targeting
4 and doing outreach for SYEP. On a number of levels
5 we have done a number of things, right. We've worked
6 with the CTE schools to get the work out through the
7 defined means, whether it's a email or talking to
8 parent coordinators as well. On our side what we
9 have done historically is ask our providers to work
10 very specifically with schools within their
11 communities, right, to make sure that their
12 communities are aware of what's going on around SYEP.
13 Also we have a very active social media presence as
14 well, and a number of schools are connected to our
15 pages whether it's Facebook or Twitter or Instagram,
16 and we—we typically pulls updates around the
17 application as well. So again, it's really a
18 partnership between CYE, DYCD and the providers to
19 work specifically with the schools in order to get
20 the word out.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [background noise]
22 Is there any liaison between DYCD and the Department
23 of Education?

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I'm sorry.

25 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Is there any liaison
between DYCD and the Department of Education yearly?

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3 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:

4 Specifically for SYEP I wouldn't say there is one
5 liaison because there are so many different options
6 within SYEP, but again, we do work very closely with
7 the CTE schools particularly the community schools as
8 well, and we have our respective contacts within each
9 of those division ideal-divisions-sorry-ideally.

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, but what is
11 the connection or the partnership between the
12 providers and the school? Do the providers inform
13 the school--

14 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:

15 [interposing] Absolutely.

16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --and give them the
17 right information with respect to the enrollment of
18 the students?

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, also
20 DYCD as you know found a number of programs beyond
21 Workforce Development programs, right. So we have a
22 lot of our programs in schools and we--we share the
23 SYEP application with all our programs across the
24 agency. We ask that they share those programs. I'm
25 sorry, share the application with their partner--with
their groups that they fund within those schools that

those programs are operating. So again, we-we-we try to approach this from different perspective, right. You-you can't just use one approach because as you know there are many schools that you need to reach in and to target. So we try to bring in as many partners to the table together to work it out. (sic)

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm going to ask you a few questions about the Summer Youth Program and after that I'm going to pass it over to my co-chair, but with respect to SUNY summer programs, in the Fiscal Year, this Fiscal Year Preliminary Budgets we have \$50 million to support 22,800 slots, but in the previous budget that's in Fiscal Year 2017 we had the budget to support 28,000 summer slots. There's a difference of 5,200 slots, but the explanation was the vehicle, you know, the-the new budget is based on the number of enrollments from last year, but the following years we are seeing the budget from last season close to adoption. So I think, you know, that this should-this should not, you know, cement the budget and, you know, work on the budget based on the number of enrollment of last year because, you know, the budget was and the-and the-the funding was in the budget close to adoption.

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So this is the first
3 time that the—since last year that we had actually
4 funding for this summer. We know and we can give
5 parents and young people particularly in those
6 schools enough time to make decisions about whether
7 they want to sign up for a SONYC program. And so we
8 base it on actual enrollment not what was in the
9 budget because we want to make sure that city tax
10 dollars are used the best way possible, and as you
11 know, and it's—everyone shares in the anxiety about
12 what is happening at the federal level. We don't
13 know what's going to be happening. So it makes more
14 sense to plan based on actual enrollment, and the
15 actual enrollment was around 22,800 rather than try
16 to come over with a number that's not based on
17 anything but, you know, there wasn't a budget
18 document. I think—we think we tried in this—in this
19 budget from, as I said earlier in the increased
20 Beacon funding, SYEP, DYCD is one of the few city
21 agencies that I think saw any substantial increase in
22 this budget in the Preliminary Budget, and this in
23 the face of as we all know, a great deal of
24 uncertainty about what exactly will the federal
25 budget have on the city's budget if the state budget

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2 is not adopted. So I think we want it to be
3 responsible, but give the families time to plan.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But you know that
5 last year the resources were available too late for
6 all the young people who wanted to be part of the
7 program to be resistant. This is not the fault of
8 the providers. It's not the fault of the student
9 also.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, at this time
11 we have given them plenty of notice and, you know, we
12 think we'll have enough seats to meet the need
13 because it's based on what we saw last year.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So are we still
15 going to see the quote of 5,200 summer slots this
16 summer?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: What's in the budget
18 is what we're planning to do for the summer. The
19 additional seats that were added.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Do that mean that
21 there are additional seats with the--

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] The
23 22,800 is--is what the number we're working off of.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: That's the number
25 we're going to have?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So that means that
4 we would be quote of 5,200.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So that--so that will
6 bring us to exactly where we were last summer. Along
7 with the other funding we expect to serve 40,000
8 young people this summer.

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: 40,000?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Alright, thank you
12 very much. Now, I'll pass it over to Co-chair
13 Copeland.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you
15 Chair. [background comments] We've been joined by
16 Council Members Miller, Mealy and Cumbo. We will now
17 hear from Council Member Chin followed by Council
18 Member Williams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair. Commissioner, let me just follow up with what
21 the Chair asked earlier about the--the Summer Youth
22 for the middle schools. So you said total you will
23 be able to serve 40,000. Is this the SONYC program
24 for middle school kids?

25

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: This is all the
3 programs that operate in the summer, Beacons,
4 Cornerstone in total. So the 22,800 was specifically
5 for SONYC program and -

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay so that was
7 based on last year's enrollment when finally fought
8 to get the money added in and it was very late. So
9 what happened this year is [coughs] you're going to
10 get more kids who want to sign up because now it's in
11 the Preliminary Budget, right. So that there is a
12 little more time personally to inform the parents
13 that these programs are available. So, if more than
14 22,800 students sign up, are you going to be able to
15 provide the program for them?

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: At this point we're
17 not anticipating any more than what we had last year.
18 You know, I think that--

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] Well,
20 how do you anticipate? So are you telling me you're
21 telling the provider that you are only offering
22 22,800 slots? That's it?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes, because that is
24 what is in the Preliminary Budget. Again, this is
25 middle school. So let me just draw some

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2 distinctions. Our experience in middle school
3 programs is that it's—it's 108 hours over I think
4 four weeks. So it's not—it's more—it's not like a
5 summer camp for a young—a child who's in elementary
6 school where it operates 8:00 in the morning to 6:00
7 at night.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I know but were--?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] So-so
10 we, you know, there is always—you know, the
11 enrollment allows for over enrollment because not
12 every young person will show up every 108 hours. We
13 know that middle school youth in the summer tend to
14 have other--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] But
16 what I'm hoping that you would really work with our
17 providers and offer some flexibility because I think
18 that we all know it's a wonderful program, the Middle
19 School program, but the middle school—the after
20 school programs for middle school kids should always
21 include the summer component, and I don't [background
22 comments] why it was left out, but the summer
23 component should be part of it, and that's it, and I
24 think that there's got to be some flexibility there,
25 and now that, you know, it's in the Preliminary

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Budget whether you have some extra funding at DYCD I
hope that when kids apply they'll be able to get the
slots. The other question I have is the COMPASS
Program. Now, it doesn't seem like there is enough
[background comments] funding that's been put in to
really meet the needs of all the kids who have been
waiting. I mean even providers are saying there are
people on waiting lists, and what I've seen in my
district is that because of lack of seats it's
through the COMPASS program the—the after school
program for the elementary school kids that, you
know, some parents have no choice or they have to
take out money to sign up for one of the fee based
programs. Even though some of them okay the fee
might be lower, but still for low-income families, it
is a burden that they have to pay for an after school
program especially a lot of immigrant parents who
cannot afford not to work, and they have—they want
their kids to be in a safe place, and often times
they have to struggle to pay for the fee based
program because we just don't have enough—we don't
have enough for COMPASS funding to provide universal
after school programs for elementary school kids.

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3 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we appreciate
4 the additional money that the Council gave us to
5 address the waiting list--the waiting list issue, and
6 I think we try equitably distribute them throughout
7 the year. It is a major budget request that I'm not
8 sure at this point the city can fulfill. I mean we
9 have--a universal element of COMPASS programs will be
10 a big ticket item, which I'm not sure at this point
11 we can address at this stage of the budget process.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
13 [interposing] I'm sorry to interrupt you,
14 Commissioner.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] But I
16 was--

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm
18 sorry.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I just
21 have to say there is not one commissioner that has
22 come before this committee to say that a particular
23 item is just too much for the budget. It--I--this and
24 you have engaged in this, and you have this, and I
25 understand that you have a challenge to address, but
I feel that as the Commissioner of DYCD you have

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2 placed your own limitations on the capacity of this
3 agency. We want you to ask for what you need. When
4 you say that you're only going to fund a certain
5 amount of slots for SONYC, of course, the agencies
6 are going to or the providers are going to respond to
7 whatever you give them. But for you to ahead of time
8 plan for shortfalls, how much--how much money has the
9 agency sent back to OMB because it wasn't used?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We don't send money
11 back.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Exactly.
13 So we're saying you're not asking enough. We want
14 you to ask for more so that we can partner with you
15 to ensure that our young people are not left out.
16 I'm sorry Council Member.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, I--you know,
18 commissioner I guess, you know, we want to partner
19 with you because we want it be on your wish list
20 because when the Mayor, you know, push for universal
21 after school program for middle school kids, it was
22 great. I have heard so many kids and parents came up
23 to me, and these are parents from different economic
24 stratum, and they talk about how wonderful the
25 program is for their kids, and it's not just for the

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2 low-income kids. The middle school, you know, the
3 middle-income parents also benefitted because the
4 programs are available, but missing the summer
5 component is unconscionable. Okay, so that's
6 something you should work with us to keep fighting
7 for that. That's one thing that should be on way-you
8 wish list so that we can continue to advocate. Don't
9 be so nice to OMB. Alright, come on.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes, well I--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: We have your back,
12 and the other thing is some-the-the universal program
13 after school program for elementary school kids I
14 think that is something we have to strive for. Every
15 kid should have an option for an after school program
16 a place where they can, you know, get help with their
17 homework, recreational program. I worked as an after
18 school teacher, and it's not just for immigrant kids
19 or low-income kids. It is great for them, but all
20 kids could be to have extra, you know, help and
21 also the socialization. That's something every
22 school should offer. So that is something that we
23 should all strive for and work together on, and you
24 could tell us exactly how much that we should be
25 fighting, and the same thing with the SYEP, and it's

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2 so great that we finally got a baseline, \$60,000 and
3 now we're getting 5,000 more. That is emotional, but
4 we're not done yet, right because we've been pushing
5 for universal, right, every child who wants one
6 should get one, right? And that's something we're
7 aiming for. So let's beef up the DYCD budget. Your
8 budget is how much, how much of the City's budget,
9 how many percent? Anybody know?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, I think--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I like to ask this
12 question because--

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean our budget
14 increased 81%.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] Just
16 this budget is less than half of a percent of the
17 city's budget. The Department for the Aging. I
18 think DYCD's is a little bit better.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll--we'll get you
20 that number but, you know, I appreciate the
21 enthusiasm and support. I do want to have some
22 perspective that, you know, our budget has grown 81%
23 in the last three years, and so obviously the more
24 money that we're given the more services we'll
25 provide, but it's--it's not my decision to make alone.

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2 The things I've advocated for we've have-have
3 happened with the support of the Mayor and the City
4 Council. So we look forward to continuing this
5 partnership.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: We just wanted to
7 impress upon you, Commissioner, that--

8 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:
9 [interposing] Council Member Chin, can I--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --that we are your
11 partner. Okay, we want to work with you to advocate
12 more because providing services to our youth have to
13 be a top priority and DYCD also have all these other,
14 you know, community development contracts. You
15 probably could use more staff to help expedite these
16 contracts. So we want the agency to be healthy and
17 strong, and that's why we want to be your strong
18 partner. It's not that we're picking on you. We
19 want to work with you. You know, let's not--let's get
20 together--together to deal with OMB, and--and the
21 Mayor, you know. We're behind you. You have to feel
22 that. That's what we're asking for, and that's why
23 the COMPASS Program we want to make sure that
24 sufficient funding and with SONYC I want to see the
25 flexibility. The more kids who are apply, and I

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2 don't want to see any kids--middle school kids turned
3 away if they want a summer--

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --I'll just say in
6 the summer program. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So gentlemen, just--
8 we show the initial. (Sic) Commissioner, I just want
9 to capitalize on what Council Member Chin also the
10 co-chair I have discussing with you. We went through
11 that several times at any budget hearing to let you
12 know that we City Council Members we want to work
13 together with you to get more resources for our young
14 people, and we all know the importance of providing
15 services to our young people. It seem to me that you
16 are not aggressive enough, but my question to you
17 what is the obstacle? What is upon them? We want to
18 offer our assistance. This is opposition. This is
19 our moral obligation. We want to work together with
20 you. What should we do to help you get more funding
21 more resources from the Administration for our young
22 people because this--we have to do that. It seems
23 there is something there's a lack--there's something,
24 some--some obstacle. What is it exactly? Could you
25 tell us what we should do to help you--

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] I
3 don't even think those--

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --to get more
5 resources for our young people?

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Chairman, I don't
7 even think and if you look at the results, again, we
8 went--our budget has increased 81%, and I believe the--
9 the result of the partnership between the
10 Administration and the Council has made that
11 possible. The other thing that I think has happened,
12 and one of the benefits of having been a Deputy
13 Commissioner at DYCD under the Bloomberg
14 Administration I saw some of the bad times where half
15 the agency's budget had to be restored by the Council
16 every year. Those days are three of the core
17 programs whether it's Runaway and Homeless Youth
18 program, whether it's the Summer Youth Employment
19 Program, whether it's many of our after school
20 programs. For many years from 2010 to 2013, those
21 programs relied on one-year funding. So we're very
22 far from that reality now that because of the
23 partnership of the committee and the Council and the
24 Administration that's been made possible. So I think
25 we're in a very different place. Obviously more

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2 money would benefit more people. I'm not saying
3 that's the case, but I'm also mindful of what the
4 city can fund in any one agency, and we'll—we'll—the
5 thing I've fought for have happened along with the
6 support of the Council whether it's getting baselined
7 support for Summer Youth Employment Program, any of
8 the Beacon budget. I mean for years, in 20 years the
9 Beacon went—it was cut consistently to—of \$336,000.
10 So I think by working together with the Council we've
11 made progress. I want us to acknowledge that and—and
12 hopefully we continue to work together to make even
13 more progress.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: What I'll just that
15 let's just for example for the SONYC program we're
16 going to lose 5,200 slots. We will lose that. We
17 will less slots available for the young people. So
18 we want to know exactly, but did you believe that we
19 as city who have done enough for the young people in
20 New York City? Have we done enough for them?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think we--

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Or can
23 we do more?

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --can do more,
25 Council Member, but again the—the number that's in

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2 the Preliminary Budget was based on actual enrollment
3 from last summer.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Say that again.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We can always do
6 more, but I think the number in the Preliminary
7 Budget was based on actual enrollment for last
8 summer.

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
11 [interposing] Commissioner, just for the record, the
12 actual enrollment was based on the late start--

13 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Uh-
14 huh.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --and
16 what was--what was the enrollment before that?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I don't see it.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well, why
19 don't you share with the committee because I--do the
20 number before that?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we can--leave
22 that on--I know of the top of my head.

23 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: [off mic]
24 You have the number. That is on there.

25

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3 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yes, the
4 number—not the number that was brought—so it's kind
5 of disingenuous, and I don't know. I'm saying that
6 you're trying to be disingenuous, but to take a
7 number from last year after there was challenge, and
8 ramp up problem because it wasn't—it was funded right
9 when the summer began. So to take the number is
10 disingenuous is what I'm saying. So it's not the
11 most effective way to measure the need. Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean I think given
13 the uncertainties the city is facing in the budget,
14 given—

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --all the anxiety, I
17 think it came before --

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
19 [interposing] The number before was 34,000. The
20 slots before.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Budgeted but not
22 enrolled.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Was
24 baselined in FY14 for 34,000 slots. Then we got to
25 last year's issue. We fought back and forth. You
didn't include it in the Preliminary Budget. It

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2 wasn't included in the Executive Budget. We fought
3 and we were able to get to a number that you are now
4 referencing, but it is a flawed number because the
5 number came in too late.

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Again, I think the
7 City took a very cautious approach here. We wanted
8 to maintain the same service levels that we had last
9 summer.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But
11 you're not.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well--

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
14 [interposing] There's 5,000 seats that we're short.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Those were never
16 filled.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: They
18 weren't filled because you started too late,
19 Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I can only base it
21 on what the actual enrollment. I can't base it
22 hypothetical---

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
24 [interposing] But's that's where--
25

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --what the
3 enrollment might have been.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --this is
5 where you went—if you were the commissioner and you
6 have seen that there is a challenge in the
7 organization because of late funding, you're going to
8 advocate for your providers that are saying we have
9 capacity at this number. Mr. Mayor, you're going to
10 include this in the Preliminary Budget, and we
11 applaud you. It should be included at this number.
12 You recommend that it be included at last year's
13 number, which was already a defective number.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think we have to
15 be cautious this year, and as I said I mean I've
16 heard this great deal of anxiety--

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
18 [interposing] What are you being cautious of?

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: What's happening at
20 the federal level.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Oh, so
22 you're worried about the federal perspective on your
23 budget?

24

25

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Well,
3 I'll say, no, okay, the--the city, I don't--usually
4 when I make decisions--

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
6 [interposing] But I want you the Commissioner of
7 DYCD. I don't want the narrative like you're the OMB
8 Director. I want your perspective as DYCD. What I
9 would think if we have federal challenges you're the
10 one agency out of all of them that should be
11 demanding more funding. Why? Because you're doing
12 to need to do more adult literacy. We're going to
13 need more young people to be protected in after
14 school programs, we're going to need more support
15 than ever. So actually, your agency is the one that
16 should be growing.

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And we are growing.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But
19 you're not. You just--you had an opportunity to ask
20 for a real number--

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Well,
22 again.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --and
24 you're saying that you have to met with the
25 constraints of last year's numbers?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: As I said earlier,
3 our budget has grown 81%. So I think to say we're
4 not growing is probably not based on what the actual
5 facts present themselves.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm
7 sorry, you're—I'm just going to ask—

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] But I--
9 I just want to-to remind you of one thing. Last year
10 and the previous year we City Council Members and
11 advocated. We came together to advocate. To make
12 sure that we have the necessary budget for the Summer
13 Youth Employment Program, but it came too late. The
14 providers, the non-profit providers they were ready
15 to start. They want to grow, but the money came too
16 late. They didn't have enough time to organize and
17 to make sure they are capable of providing the
18 service. It came too late. So, why don't we start
19 very early and put the money available early for them
20 because we have the expertise. We have the
21 commitment of the—a dedicated people. We can provide
22 the services to the young people. The need is there.
23 Let's say for example we are add 65,000 slots for the
24 young people in the summer, but how many young people
25 applied for jobs? How many are there?

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3 COMMISSIONER CHONG: As I said---

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You only very
5 recently know half of that--

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, there is a--

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --because the
8 Administration and DYCD thinks this isn't too late.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: As I said in my
10 testimony earlier, that the application number is
11 misleading because not every young person who applies
12 accepts the job, and there is a-a huge attrition rate
13 year to year. So, the fact that we've doubled the
14 number of Summer Youth Employment Program, almost it
15 from three years ago, again speaks to the progress
16 and growth of the program. Are we there yet?

17 Probably not, but I think the larger discussion about
18 expansion is something that has to happen between the
19 City Hall and, oh, and the Council as to where the
20 long-term growth will happen. This summer we're
21 committed to 65,000. That is based on what the
22 people who run the program tell us they can do.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [pause] Co-Chair
24 Copeland, please.
25

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: [off mic]
3 Council Member Williams followed by Council Member
4 Rosenthal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
6 Madam Chair, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Commissioner. I
7 guess you can hear the—I don't know if frustration is
8 the world. Maybe excitement about what we can be
9 doing. I just came off a 27-hour Amtrak trip. I
10 should be home resting, but I wanted to make sure I
11 was here because this is critically important to me,
12 and I know everyone particularly—everyone is
13 concerned about what's going to happen with the
14 Administration with our good President Trump and
15 what's going to happen. I just want to make sure I
16 put on the record that we're talking about issues
17 that are pre-Trump, and so we are where we are before
18 Trump got in—even got into office. So there are
19 cities across this county who are worried we worried
20 about what with Trump is going to happen. But there
21 are Republic controls, Democratic controls, city,
22 state houses, city councils that have allowed these
23 programs to languish for many, many years. So we
24 can't fully blame him, and one of my frustrations
25 that I want to ramp up now [coughs] while we have

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2 the ability to because we know what-what might be
3 coming down plank-pipe. So I just wanted to put that
4 on the record. We're in a hole, we're in a problem
5 now [sneezing] and God bless you, I think. [laughs]
6 We're at-at a problem now where we're talking about
7 how much better we've done and are doing. We were
8 abysmal to begin with, and-and that's before this
9 administration ever took office. I did want to just-
10 one question on SONYC, where are planning to cut the
11 5,200 slots that the chair just referenced? Since
12 there's 500-5,200 slots that are now unaccounted for
13 because--

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think surveying
15 and then I don't know if Susan Haskell can add. Yes.
16 [background comments] We're surveying providers to
17 see what's-how many they can do. [background
18 comments]

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's
20 right. That's right, we-a few weeks ago we put out
21 when we learned about the funding was going to be
22 early, able for groups to plan to hire the
23 appropriate staff to train then-

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAM: [interposing]
25 Sorry, can you identify yourself for the record.

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Susan
3 Haskell, Deputy Commissioner, DYCD.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: So a couple
6 weeks ago when we learned that we would have this
7 funding early, which is going to allow the providers
8 time to hire and train and plan, and enhance the
9 quality of the services that they're going to
10 provide. We did a--we're doing a survey with all of
11 the middle school providers not just the ones who
12 received funding last year, but we're giving an
13 opportunity for providers who--SONYC providers who
14 didn't even, you know, maybe because of the lateness
15 didn't express interest last year. We're asking how
16 many seats will you--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
18 So you're going to--

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: --be able
20 to provide?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --you're going
22 to get them to decide if they have to cut 200?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: No, they're
24 going to tell us. We're collecting surveys now for
25 how--we're just really chasing down the last bit of

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2 providers that we haven't heard from. We want to
3 make sure everyone has an opportunity. Then we'll
4 put--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
6 Your numbers seem to assume that we're going to have
7 to cut. That's what the question is, and so it looks
8 like might be 5,200. Where--where do we have to cut
9 those?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't
11 know that we will have to. I mean we have funding
12 right now for every young person who was served last
13 year, and we were able to serve more than 22,800 last
14 year. I-I-I agree 100% that having it early is going
15 to make all the difference especially in terms of
16 quality, but the truth is last year we were able to
17 offer more than 22,800 seats to young people, and
18 that's the number of young people who showed up. So
19 I think we have the best guess. Yes, being early
20 might make a difference, and we'll--but we'll--we'll
21 see. We are actually funding every young person who
22 was served last year.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I got it. I--
24 you obviously heard that that number is flawed, and
25 so we disagree vehemently with what you're saying.

We—we may not have surveyed one because it was a flawed system. Commissioner, I just—I just want to mention that part of the frustration is mostly when you deal with the negotiations folks ask for more when they get less. It doesn't seem to happen with a lot of requests that come out of DYCD, and many of the things that we discussed from Beacons to some youth actually are driven from the Council, and so we pushed that very much forward. And so what we're trying to get that those initiatives come forward from the agency so that we can help push it, and I think it will be stronger. What usually happens is there are cuts that are happening and we have to fight to push and to push and to push. And so we're trying to get the agency, which I believe is critically important to discussions around violence in particular. We—we actually do really good in changing the perspective of what public safety is. But in resources, folks tend to fund law enforcement at an exponentially higher rate in terms of the budget than they do when it comes to an agency like DYCD. So we will expect that you would push back on that on that notion. I think it follows what the—this administration is trying to do in terms of our

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2 public safety, and so that's important. And so when
3 folks are speaking it's because we're not hearing.
4 This feels like the drive is coming from us, and not
5 coming from DYCD on the most critical--the most--the
6 most critical programs that you're rightfully takin
7 credit for getting better. So I think that's--that's
8 where the frustration is anyway.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And I appreciate the
10 Council's support but, you know, every year we put
11 together an aggressive agenda that's sent to OMB and,
12 you know, we push as hard as we can, but obviously
13 the final decisions about what goes in the
14 Preliminary Budget and what goes in the Executive
15 Budget is a collaborative process with OMB and the
16 Mayor's Office. So you don't get--always ways get
17 what you ask for, but I think if you'd look again at
18 the three-year record, that this agency we've gotten
19 a lot of what we asked for with the support of the
20 Council. I-I-I-I thanked Julissa before the hearing
21 started. Without the support of the Council the
22 funding for SYEP, which is has always grown even in
23 previous Councils, but it's stable. That is such a
24 huge difference to have stable money for the Summer
25 Youth Employment Program. So I hear what you're

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3 saying. I appreciate the support of the Council, but
4 we work, you know, behind the scenes with OMB. We
5 don't always get what--what we ask for, but I think we
6 asked for everything we think we need.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Alright, I do
8 want to talk about Summer Youth for a couple of
9 seconds, and I want to make sure we're on the same
10 goal so that I can understand maybe some of the
11 responses. Do--does DYCD administration believe that
12 universal employment for every young person that
13 applies for a job is a laudable worthwhile goal for
14 us to achieve?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think it's a yes,
16 but the question is when and how, and that's I think
17 a long-term conversation about how to grow the
18 program, not just in this year, but in the out years,
19 and that's a conversation I think the Mayor's Office
20 and OMB should certainly have with the City Council.
21 I think we all agree that the capacity is a real
22 issue. That's what the people who run the program
23 tell us, there is a finite number of providers who
24 run the program. So we want to grow the program.
25 The question is the when and the how

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So I mean yes
3 are deja vuish because they had similar conversations
4 last year, and I agree that there was a-when and how
5 is what we have to discuss. I-I also believe that
6 the longer we wait, the more likely it won't happen,
7 and so I asked last year if there was a time frame
8 that you felt made sense to achieve universal, and so
9 a year has passed. I wonder if there is more thought
10 process put in that, that you're able to say now many
11 years you think it will take to achieve that goal.
12 But apparently both agree this a laudable goal to
13 reach for.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, if you look at
15 where we are today, we have-we're committed to
16 65,000. At this point last year we probably had what
17 35,000. Yeah, 35,000 jobs committed. So from the
18 Preliminary Budget this year to the Preliminary
19 Budget last year, we have-we're committing 30,000 new
20 jobs-I mean 30,000 jobs. That's a huge difference,
21 and if you took a snapshot

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just want to--
23 I just want to pause for second because that didn't
24 just happen. This Council--

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --right, it was
3 almost pulling teeth to get that amount. So it
4 didn't happen because we amicably just agreed. It
5 was a very big concerted effort from the leadership
6 of the Council, from the Progressive Caucus from the
7 Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, the Speaker, the
8 Finance Chair, the Chair of these--making this a
9 primary issue, and so that's what happened. We don't
10 want to have to keep doing that. That's one of the
11 issues that we shouldn't have to fight that hard for
12 something that we apparently are both agreeing is a
13 very important issue and a laudable goal to get to.
14 So I just wanted to pause because I do want to go
15 from that year and skip all the hard work that we put
16 in to get there.

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I absolutely agree.
18 I think now we have a solid foundation. So how much
19 more we grow and how--when we do it I think is a
20 conversation that is to happen in not only an
21 aggressive budget process but also in the out years,
22 and that's a conversation I think obviously OMB and
23 the Mayor's Office has to be a big part of that
24 discussion but I--you know, I think reaching the high
25 number is--

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
3 Well, well, this--this was an out year a couple of
4 years ago. So, at what point do we catch up and say
5 we're going to fund--get to the universal in this
6 period of years because if we keep putting off even
7 the discussion of out years, you know, one of those
8 out years we got to get to it. So I'm trying to
9 figure out when that is.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm confident in
11 the--in the--that--that based on the partnership between
12 the Council and the Administration that we will get
13 there. The question is how and when. I think the--
14 this is a kickoff to that process. I think in the
15 Executive Budget I'm sure there will be more back and
16 forth to see how to grow this program not only this
17 summer, but you know, in future years. The RFP,
18 we'll concentrate (sic) on the RFP will--is part of
19 that--growing that process because we need more
20 programs. We need to improve the model. So all of
21 that is I think before us. So I'm just saying--

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
23 So just so---so right now you don't have an answer
24 when you think we can get to the universal number?

25

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think that's
3 something that OMB has to be part of, and I can't
4 speak for OMB on that.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Well, we just
6 had a discussion last year so my hope is that some of
7 that discussion would happen this year so we can be
8 in a better place this year. Well, I'll rephrase
9 that. My earlier question do-I think-so do you
10 believe in Universal youth, child services.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think if-if we can
12 get to that point, we should try to strive for it.
13 The question is always the how and the when, and so--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
15 It's always-it's always a lot of equivocating words
16 there, if, should. So, do you believe that it is a
17 goal that we should get to?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So we must and
20 we-should we get to that goal? Is that a goal we
21 want to get to?

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes, but the Devil
23 is in the details--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
25 Yes.

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --and I-I don't
3 think we can do it this summer.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean providers
6 have told us what they can do, and so that's why the
7 task force was helpful because they informed
8 different-us on how to further improve the program.
9 The budget negotiations between the Mayor's Office
10 and OMB and OMB and the Council will help hopefully
11 lay out clearer markers for the future. But I'm
12 saying for this summer the goal is 65,000, and I'm
13 sure there is an openness to-to discuss how we can
14 expand it--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
16 I'm not--

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --that-that's--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --I'm not sure
19 that's our goal. As we said, our goal is not 65,000.
20 We-we definitely want to expand more and also when it
21 when comes to Work, Learn and Grow Program,
22 especially want to make sure we didn't accidentally
23 agree to that goal of 65,000 because we definitely
24 want to increase both of those, and you spoke of the
25 report, which I'm looking forward to. My

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2 understanding is that report was supposed to come out
3 before the Preliminary to help inform the Preliminary
4 so that some of these questions will be hashed out.
5 That didn't happen. Do you know when the report may
6 come out?

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think sometime
8 later this month.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, alright.
10 I was impressed to see there's—I think it's 40% of
11 this FYP is now private, which is I think is great,
12 and I also think we missed some opportunities in the—
13 in the public sector. I'm glad that the City Council
14 representation has-- spiked up. My hope is that we
15 can do some more outreach to some more elected
16 officials and officers to increase those as well.
17 What else are you going to beef up the infrastructure
18 of the program because we this discussion last year.
19 So year over year my hope is that there have been
20 improvements or discussions about the program time—
21 timeline. Is it this base rate? How do we get more
22 providers in?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Let me must add one
24 fact, which was handed to me afterwards. On the
25 public sector, so because of the push that the Mayor

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2 made last year, 32 city agencies were worksites, and
3 3,182 young people worked in government agencies.
4 That's probably the highest number in recent history.
5 So I think we're committed to growing not only the
6 private sector and the non-profit, but also the
7 public sector. Andre can tell us a little bit about
8 the operational issues.

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Sure. So
10 as I mentioned before [coughs] the SYEP application
11 was actually released a month earlier. So we
12 released the application on February 6. The
13 anticipated deadline is March 17. Last year the
14 application was released a month later in March. It
15 gives providers more time to do recruitment. To do
16 job development. It also gives them more time on the
17 Ladders to do matching and assessment, which is a
18 very critical part of the program. Also, last year
19 in 2016, we released the Ladders for Leaders
20 application in October of last year, and typically
21 that application is release in January. What we've
22 also done for the providers as well, the start of
23 funding, which has roughly it's always been anywhere
24 from 20 to 25% of their budget. We have increased up
25 to 40% this year to give them more money to hire

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2 staff and to really to-to scale up to get ready for-
3 for the summer.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you. I have
5 one more question, but I do want to—I do want to
6 acknowledge what this means—what we'd be able to do
7 in partnership, and you notice in current (sic) case
8 it's still partnership in getting to where we are
9 with the Summer-Summer Youth and the Work, Learn and
10 Grow. I think it's in line with what I've seen the
11 Administration doing in terms of changing how we
12 address public safety. We should be doing that in
13 New York City if not anywhere else in this country,
14 and we should be leading the way, but this is a lot
15 more not we should be doing, we're supposed to be
16 doing, and it should have happened a long time ago.
17 And so now we're playing catch up at a time when we
18 may be losing funding. So that in and of itself is
19 very frustrating, which is why—which makes the
20 negotiations that much more frustrating that we have
21 to have this back and forth and it's something that
22 we seem to agree on. And when there's a commitment
23 and we keep hearing there's a commitment, and it's
24 tough for it to get to where we need to, that causes
25 some-some-some pause. But hopefully we'll—we'll get

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to it at least this year and in the out years, and
hopefully these questions will be answered so that
next hopefully we're all still her, and I can ask
questions again, and hopefully there will be some
different answers. But I do want to ask a question
about the Mayor's Office of Gun Violence Prevention
that recently opened. I wanted to see if you have
had continued—I know there was some participation
before. It was an office with DYCD. I wanted to
know what that engagement is at this moment in time,
and how you find that process.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So we've
been working with Eric Cumberbatch for two years now
where the Council invested \$1.5 million for a summer
and year-round--

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]
I'm sorry. Say that one more time.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: You
invested \$1.5 million for a year-round and summer
component, right. So currently there's 15 groups at
MOCJ (sic) are currently working. They develop what
we call short-term internships for—for those young
people as well as other worksite opportunities as
well, and they are engaged year-round in the summer

months as well. Just to give you some quick stats, on the number of young people served, last-last summer we received 373 applications, and we enrolled 360 young people. Collectively there worked 78,000 hours, and we paid out \$432,000 in wages to those young people. And right now they're actively engaged in the year-round components of this program, and 305 young people are currently working, and we received 343 applications. So the conversations are ongoing. We're—we're definitely trying to figure out ways to partner more with—with Eric and team at MOCJ with—with Eric and his team at MOCJ and figure out next steps.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So you—you feel like you've been engaged in the process, and with the new officers?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right, well, we need to set up a—a formal meeting I would say to see exactly how we can move the work that we are doing currently and take it to another level. I—I think there are opportunities to grow this particular program and recognize that there is a need, and I think MOCJ and DYCD is both open to doing that.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 Just lastly, just an FY, the Council called for
4 100,000 SYEP jobs by FY year—Fiscal Year 2019, and we
5 put that in the response of last year. So that's
6 what's we're going for. I think we had said when we
7 had this conversation a couple of years ago two to
8 five years was a good—was a good number. I don't
9 know if we're still on that trajectory, but it's
10 commonly thought of 100,000 would meet the number of
11 universal because of the drop-off that is discussed.
12 So maybe I can just asked based on the response last
13 year is that time frame something that seems doable
14 to the Administration?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think—I—I think we
16 are on a path to that kind of growth. Two to five
17 years is a good sort of range. I—I think the biggest
18 challenge is—is expanding the capacity of the field.
19 I mean we heard loud and clear that there's only so
20 many programs that can develop this program. So we
21 had add more programs. So that's why we're
22 interested to release the concept paper, and then the
23 RFP so that we can grow this program as quickly as
24 possible.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Alright, so
3 we're—we're at least in year 2 or 3. Just so year—
4 year 2 or 3 already. Just so we say I believe in us.
5 So I believe we can do it, and I think the more we
6 have outreach, the more we'll see increase, and also
7 programs like Work, Learn and Grow Program. Some of
8 that funding can still be used for that because we
9 often misalign our young people, and here we have
10 them clamoring to get these jobs, to get into this
11 Beacon programs, to get into SONYC. We have a—a duty
12 to provide all the necessary resources to do that.
13 We do know that the number one thing that cuts
14 violent crime arrests is a job, and we should be able
15 to provide that for our young people if they're
16 asking for it. So thank you very much for giving me
17 little to go back and forth. Thank you, Madam Chair
18 and Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you
20 Council Member. We'll hear from Council Member
21 Rosenthal followed by Council Member Miller.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
23 much Chair, and thank you Commissioner for all your
24 hard work. So as Chair of the Contracts Committee,
25 I've been asking Commissioners whether or not they

1 feel their contracts, the programs that they fund
2 through a contract are fully funded, and it's so
3 interesting. This morning D—the DDC designed
4 something in construction, Department of Design and
5 Construction Commissioner is here, a great guy, and I
6 asked him if when, you know, he—he—he bids out for I
7 don't know, anything, a bridge, roadwork he's
8 rebuilding libraries and some cultural centers, and a
9 whole list of things. And I was asking him does the
10 contract that he—that they have with the construction
11 team fully fund the cost of construction, and he said
12 well, you know, usually it's the beginning number,
13 but then, you know, there are—I think they're called
14 CPs when you have got, you know, change of scope or,
15 you know, so you—you find that, you know, the are
16 cracks in the floor you have to fix, and so you have
17 to get these increases to pay for those things that
18 you didn't expect that they're there, and he said
19 that all of those were fully funded

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So I can't speak to
22 other city agencies, but I can speak to in the RFPs
23 we've released in the last few years we've seen
24 increases in the cost per participant for pretty much
25 every program. So if you look at the SONYC program,

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2 the program was funded in the Bloomberg
3 Administration about \$2,200 per young person.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]
5 Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's now \$3,000.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The Beacon contract,
9 which for 20 years was cut, and was at a bare minimum
10 of \$336,000 will be \$550 and eventually \$600,000.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah, per
12 program.

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Per program, and
14 then the homeless program. In the previous
15 administration we would reimburse a provide \$41,000
16 year for a bed. It's \$47,000.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: But I think we are
19 meeting more and more of the cost of running a
20 program.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah, I agree.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I can't speak to
23 other city agencies, but again I think we're
24 committed to quality and quantity and, you know,
25 because of our advocacy with OMB, and the Mayor's

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2 support and the Council's support, we're moving to
3 quantity and quality.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So I don't
5 disagree with you and I certainly don't disagree that
6 the funding for the last 20 years has been abysmal,
7 and that these programs have been out there trying to
8 do the best they can, and severely underfunded. So
9 you inherited a mess, right. In that regard, I think
10 you—you inherited a bunch of providers who are
11 hungry, or have been starved to—and—and it's been so
12 difficult, and I do think that there's no question,
13 it's obvious the de Blasio Administration has done so
14 much more. You know, certainly increases in wages to
15 at least bring it up to, you know, poverty wage \$15
16 an hour. There's no question that the state hasn't
17 put in their share despite the fact that they mandate
18 \$15 an hour but, you know, what I'm hearing there was
19 a, you know, no providers wants to give its name, but
20 one of the umbrella organizations, youth service
21 organizations that in the course of the last year or
22 so, because of the fact that really these contracts
23 are not even close to fully funded, they've decreased
24 the breadth of activities in after school programs.
25 They've deferred the maintenance of the their

facilities, and they had to actually close two major programs. And the point is simply that, you know, especially in Manhattan, but I think throughout the city, you know, costs just continue to grow, and if, you know, a provider had been funded sort of at this, you know, de minimis level and costs, you know, creep, creep, creep, but in the last few years unfortunately I mean it's under your watch, which is just a drag, but, you know, now the cost up here. And so, to the extent that you're increase--there is a whole arm, hand. I don't what happened there, but it's not enough. I'm hearing from provider after provider and I--I do appreciate that as you renegotiate contracts, they're getting closer, but I think that between the fact that they're not close enough, and that maintenance has been deferred for so long and, you know, the IT that's used is so out of date. And the fact that they haven't had reasonable health insurance, you know, for a very long time, and certainly without it being funded, again, not your fault. This happened under Bloomberg I think about seven or eight years ago where the, you know, the insurance program eliminated where non-profits before got to tag on. All of that has left them in a hole,

and I think that I appreciate that DYCD is renegotiating contracts higher. I certainly visited a Beacon Program that said the new contract amount was better, but costs keep going up, and I really hope that as you renegotiated them, you've included cost of living adjustments, salary increase adjustments. You know, when you make a three-year contract, obviously by year 3, you know, the cost of the products is different than it is today. We can't imagine anything different, and I just—I think it's important as Commissioner that you both take credit for the amazing work you've done, but also acknowledge the fact that there's a long way to go. And, you know, to the extent that Councilwoman Chin was talking about the delays in getting contracts, I mean, you know, the current Mayor's Office of Contracts Director came from DYCD, and he certainly brags about all the systems there. But unfortunately it's not good enough, right? If one provider isn't getting what they need, that means all the people that they serve and all the people who work there are put at a disadvantage.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I think--

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]
3 Right?

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think, you know, I
5 think the City and DYCD in particular has made
6 investments. I mean the examples I gave about the
7 increase in contracts, I can't speak to other city
8 agencies, but I know we're--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]
10 No, no, we're just talking DYCD.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And so the other
12 thing I think we've tried to be very purposeful about
13 is locating programs in public spaces, whether they
14 be schools and housing developments because we
15 understand that if you can reduce space cost then
16 more of the money can be invested in staff cost. So
17 we're--we're--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]
19 Sure.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --we're doing that.
21 Are there? Probably not, but I think we are
22 certainly committed to trying to meet the full cost
23 of any program.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: No. Look I
25 get it. I-I don't think it's easy. I'm not saying

it is, but I mean in the example that you just gave in my district that did happen with an RFP in-in District 6, and it meant that the youth, the after school program actually moved from a location in my district to a location in my colleague's district, the one to the north, and it turns out that the place it was pulled from was sort of a school, and it was put into a NYCHA housing development community center, and they're-they are rival gangs between the two. So the thought that the people who had-had formerly one to the program in the school would now go up ten blocks to the other NYCHA building, no way would a parent let their kid do that, and you wouldn't-not-none of us want that to happen, and what ended up happening was that I picked up the cost. And so, you know, we're-I mean it doesn't matter if I fund it or you fund it, it comes out of the same pot of money. So the cost did not go down, and-and, you know, it's just a matter of whether, you know, you wrote the check or you I wrote check. So it's-its-I think it's important to acknowledge that the Youth Service providers are still having a really rough time, and it's not-it's not rosy and that these are our kids.

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think, you know,
3 the cost--the cost of question of increasing contract
4 costs not just in DYCD, but across the city is--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]
6 Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --is really a--
8 citywide issue. It's something that I think, you
9 know, OMB will have to address along with the Mayor
10 because if you're talking about the divestment, it's
11 something that's not just news to this agency, but to
12 many city agencies. So it doesn't require a
13 piecemeal solution, but it requires a much larger
14 solution, which I, you know, I'm sure the
15 conversations are underway, but it's non-profit
16 resiliency task force to look at these issues, and
17 hopefully it will lead to a right sizing.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah, I think
19 that's the right word. That it's right sizing. You
20 know one just a little tip, one thing that would help
21 that I think the city is being a little bit mingy on
22 is the Returnable Grant Fund, and using--accessing
23 that more faster. I think over the past few years
24 what I hear from providers is yes we have the
25 Returnable Grand Fund as a backstop, but, you know,

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2 you have to prove so many things just to get access
3 to it when given the situation we're in--where we're
4 in, when they're getting their contract funded solely
5 after starting the services. It would be great if we
6 could accelerate that, or--or give--open that door a
7 little wider.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: As you know, that
9 program is administered by the Mayor's Office
10 Contract Services. So certainly I'm sure that
11 they'll have some insight into that.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: It is but I
13 mean I--I think you guys have to note where you are in
14 the process. Every agency notes where they are in
15 the process with that provider and, you know, good
16 communication expedites all that stuff.

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, we're in close
18 communications. There is obviously a finite amount
19 of money, and unlimited demand. So we try to make
20 sure that we make the best access of that resource.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: There's a
22 finite amount of money in the Returnable Grant Fund?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I believe so. It's
24 not an unlimited amount of money.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: No definitely.

3 Yeah, so do you--does your agency get a set amount--

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] No.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --basically
6 the idea is--or are you given directions to stay, you
7 know, be careful about what you recommend because
8 there's a finite amount of money?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, I think it's--we
10 put a request in depending on how much money is
11 available at any given time. It's--it's case by case.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yep, yep. Do
13 you think it's the city added funds, and I'll stop
14 now.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: [off mic]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, do--do you
17 think if the city added funds to the Returnable Fund
18 Grant, which everyone knows is, you know, it has a
19 99% return rate. You know, if we added funds to it,
20 that would be helpful to some of these agencies?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean we worked--

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]
23 The provider.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --to expedite
25 getting contracts registered so then we can do

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2 advances. So sometimes when there's a delay, the-the
3 loan fund is a good cushion. So it's not my call to
4 say how much money should be in that. That's larger
5 citywide decision since many city agencies draw from
6 the same fund. You know, I'm sure if you ask every
7 commissioner they would say they want more money,
8 but, you know, it's the larger citywide decision
9 about how much money to-to seed the loan fund with.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
11 much. Thanks for your indulgence, Chair. Sorry
12 about that.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank-
14 thank you, Commissioner and thank you Council Member,
15 and Council Member if you have additional questions,
16 we're going to be forwarding more to the committee.
17 Commissioner, I had a question on the actual
18 placement of SYEP, and we were looking at
19 percentages. I don't want to say the organizations
20 because I don't want one to have an advantage or, you
21 know, and know ways-I just don't want to go down that
22 path. But in analyzing the numbers, 14 are-of the
23 number of those that win the actual lottery capacity,
24 14 or less than 25% of the population is exempted. So
25 14 of the providers are acceptance. Their acceptance

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2 rate in the lottery is 25% or less, and then 27 of
3 the providers--27 of the providers have a 50% rate or
4 less, and there's one provider that everybody that
5 applies to this organization gets a job. So, it just
6 seems improbable if it's a lottery, but I just want
7 you to kind of explain to me why would have an
8 advantage over another perceivably because if I'm in
9 a lottery and I get 100% of the slots so it just
10 seems--

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So let me make one
12 thing clear. It's not one lottery. It's multiple
13 lotteries.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So when a young
16 person applies, they have to pick a specific program,
17 and so if--so if you live in Far Rockaway and you want
18 to work in Far Rockaway, you apply for the program in
19 Far Rockaway. If you live in Far Rockaway, but you
20 don't want to work in Far Rockaway, you apply for a
21 program in Brooklyn to--

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
23 [interposing] But do young people know that
24 beforehand?

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yep.

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2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes, they
3 do.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, so
5 how? How do they know before?

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: In terms
7 of where they apply, correct?

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yeah,
10 because we make that know during the application
11 process, and there is a frequently asked questions
12 that we publish on our website.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So
14 during-during the application process this is a pop-
15 up question that says apply to where you want to
16 work?

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Correct

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
19 [interposing] Okay.

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I think
21 it's like the-the borough that they want to work in.
22 Yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And the same applies
25 to--

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

3 [interposing] So if I look at this list, and-and you
4 can help me understand this. If I look at this list,
5 I'm going to want to apply to the organization that
6 has 100% placement, right.

7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: All the-
8 okay, so let-let me sort of back up. So how the-how
9 the process works currently, as Bill said, there is-
10 there is one and two providers, right?

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Our
13 contracts rather. It's 51 providers.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:
16 Participants are applying to each one of these
17 groups. Each group you have your own lottery pool.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Just you
19 referred to the provider.

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: The
21 provider, right.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Correct.
23 Each provider has it own lottery pool.

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:
25 [interposing] Has its own lottery pool, right?

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yes.

3 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So when
4 you go in to win lotteries we are running literally
5 102 distinct lotteries. So we're not running one
6 general lottery for the entire city. Each provider
7 has their own respective lotteries. For example, if
8 I'm running a non-profit A and I have 50 slots, and I
9 have 270 applicants, those 70 applicants are actually
10 competing for the 50 slots within my non-profit.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So if I
12 am a non-profit B--

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Correct.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --and I
15 know I only have 30 slots, and I get 30 young people,
16 then I have 100% placement?

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: We've
18 never seen that, and I think maybe where the
19 confusion is coming in around there are certain
20 groups that are exempted from the lottery. For
21 example, our VY category, our Vulnerable Youth,
22 those young people bypass the lottery process, and
23 there are seven providers who recruit young people
24 from the city agencies that we have a partnership
25 with.

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: The one
3 I'm talking about in particular is the Younger Youth.

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Oh,
5 younger. I'm sorry.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: This is
7 Younger Youth, an organization that has 100%
8 placement.

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I've—I've
10 never seen that. I'm not sure.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: This is
12 the data you've shared with us.

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So can
14 you—can you disclose the number of applications
15 versus the number of slots?

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: 19 slots,
17 19 placements.

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I think
19 that that—that might have been an error, and so--

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm
21 sorry?

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: That might
23 have been an error.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: An error?
25

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2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes, in
3 terms of maybe our reporting. Maybe or—I'm so sorry
4 about that, but I've never—what we have seen over the
5 years the—we get way more applications than slots
6 that we have available. So I've never seen where
7 it's 100% placement in the lottery.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay. So
9 let's go to another one. 72%, 166 applications, 119
10 slots, but then there's places in New York City that
11 have 4,000 applications and they only have 1,700
12 slots. So it just seems that there's areas in the
13 city that will have a greater advantage of placement
14 that those that are not. You know, so if—if I'm in
15 a neighborhood with a lot of need, obviously all—
16 myself and all my friends we're all going to apply
17 and there's 50 slots. But if technically I could
18 have applied over there, I would have had a better
19 chance.

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So it
21 depends on what the providers request when they apply
22 for the contract, right? So again, I'm Provider A
23 and my capacity is 75 slots, and that's all you can
24 do. That's the number of slots we allocate right
25 before the lottery right? So and what we tried to do

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2 in the past when we got additional slots late on we
3 also look at the number of applications, and we try
4 to match it up against the number of slots available
5 if the provider could take on capacity.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, so
7 I just want to be clear just so that I understand
8 what you're saying. The number of slots or
9 enrollments, right, which is what we're calling it,
10 is based on what the non-profit has asked for?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Correct
12 and their con--when you apply for--when you respond to
13 the RFP, you're asked to proposed the number of
14 slots, the number or young people you can you start
15 up.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
17 [interposing] How often can you update that number?

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: It's
19 updated every year.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So when
21 you're--you don't--well, you don't apply--you don't
22 respond to the RFP every year?

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: No, we do
24 an amendment to their contract. So for example with
25 SYEP currently the base contract is 23,000, right.

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2 Someone releases an RFP four years ago, that's the
3 number of slots the non-profit community proposed.
4 Not only did they proposed this start-up (sic), we
5 have tripled that that number to 60,000 so each year
6 when we get additional funding, we go back to our
7 providers and have a one-on-one conversation around
8 capacity and we amended our contracts to reflect the
9 number of additional slots they could take on.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So do you
11 suggest to non-profits like ones that you see that
12 the percentage is a lot lower compared to--so if
13 there's like this one that has 4,989 applicants do
14 you suggest, you know, can you expand more as opposed
15 to engaging with someone who potentially has 19 slots
16 and--?

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yeah, so
18 it's--it's twofold. So we do it after the application
19 period ends at DYCD, my staff and myself we stay and
20 we do an analysis right, in terms of the number of
21 slots we have allocated, and the number of
22 applications that have been submitted. Based on that
23 analysis, we reach out to the providers and say hey,
24 we recognize you have a lot more applications than
25 the number of slots that you have currently. Can you

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2 take on additional slots, and I will say 99% of the
3 time they are able to, right because we want to sure
4 it's--there's equity across the board. So that's
5 really--

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
7 [interposing] Right.

8 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: --the
9 process.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So that's
11 what I'm inquiring.

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So we'll--
14 we'll follow up with the 19--

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yeah,
16 that--that seems--

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --if you
18 can give me the correct--

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: --because
20 we have never--I think the--the smallest contract we
21 have currently is 400 slots for our younger youth
22 program.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay,
24 well, we still have like a percentage factor that we
25 probably should discuss offline.

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I—I just also want
4 to add one point that the timing of funding is so
5 important. This is something that the providers
6 could check on. When the money comes in late, people
7 feel like they can't do it, they say no. Now, that
8 we have stable—I mean we can have a more equitable
9 distribution so that people don't have to feel like
10 they can say no. If we tell them in January this is
11 the amount of money you have, they can make an
12 informed decision about how many jobs they can
13 process. Whereas, if you tell them in mid—mid-June,
14 unfortunately more people say no than we would like
15 them say no.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right, of
17 course, I get that. Council Member Miller—Council
18 Member, okay.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [pause] I'm
20 sorry. They're here Madam Chair. [pause] And Chair
21 Eugene as well. Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner
22 for everything. (sic) So, I guess when you get to
23 ask questions this late, all the questions will
24 probably be answered, but I'd—I'd still, you know,
25 not that they have been completely answered and I—and

I don't want to beat a dead horse, but there is some things, and you just mentioned yourself about--about timing, and some of the things we have experienced. I know that the last--last summer, the last two summers in particular last summer not only did we have open slots in SONYC as well as SYP-SYEP, so much so I think I had eight or nine summer youth employees in my office, and--and so but I think that's a bit overkill. So, in--in my--hmm, since the 40 years since my summer youth experience I have not see much changes in--in--in the--in the system itself in terms of the experiences that they are providing to our young people. Certainly having--giving them the opportunity of their first work experience, and--and--and nurturing and culture--cultivating a--a good work environment. The opportunities that should be provided base on industries, based on technology and so forth has not much changed. I think what we are looking at, and you're talking about providers. What we're seeing are local providers who don't necessarily have access to some of those opportunities throughout the city, and that we are-- And so, when the study, the report is in, is the report going to acknowledge that we--we need to expand the program beyond neighborhood

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2 genders? And I also want to speak to what you said,
3 timing of--of funding being available so that we can
4 provide the services in the most efficient way.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [off mic] Well, I
6 think that--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [interposing] And
8 what have we learned thus far, because you said
9 we've--

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Well,
11 no--

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: --taken a piece
13 of it?

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So my first job was
15 44 years ago in the Summer Youth Employment Program
16 and I actually went back to my old worksite, and I'll
17 give this example and then Andre can talk about some
18 of the changes that have happened over the--over the
19 years. So my first summer job was with a group
20 called Two Bridges Neighborhood Council in Chinatown,
21 and it was a neighborhood cleanup. We were taking
22 out debris in city-owned lots on Cherry Street, which
23 fast forward 30 years was where the Path Mark was,
24 fast forward 40 years, it's where a 70-story condo is
25 being built. I went back last summer to talk to the

young people who were at that worksite, and we did a partnership with the Mount Sinai Adolescent Town Center, and they did a neighborhood mapping project. They spent the summer going out identifying assets in the neighborhood, and how this could be a resource for people in the community. So I think we've really focused on quality. Is it for every young person? You know, it's uneven. I think we have to build the capacity of the people who provide the services. You're absolutely right. Some people are better at developing jobs than others. Some neighborhoods don't have jobs. That's a real issue. So I think we're committed to improving the quality as well as the quantity and Andre can talk a little bit about what we've done in the area of employee engagement.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So within our portfolio, I will be honest with you. It's really a culture change, right, in terms of the work that the providers have been engaged in. A lot of our providers have been around for a very long time, and we recognize that. So we have invested in technical assistance. So we work with a team—a group, which is called the Workforce Professional Training Institute to develop a training or to engage private employers

for our providers. We have done that for three years now, and it's a shift for them, right, because they're used to talking to folks in their communities, the--the small businesses to get jobs for the young people. But we have challenges, and start thinking outside of the box, and really start approaching larger companies, not just for the larger company expenses. They're better than the smaller companies, but how do you engage the private sector in a meaningful way where they see the--the value add for themselves, and also make sure that the young person have a meaningful summer job experience. So that's a very big part of our portfolio, and that's something that we have never done before. In terms of the changes to the program, over the past 40 years, I will go back to 2003, and this is when the program came over to DYCD. We have definitely done a lot of advancement on the advancement side on the technological side as well as on the program side, right. In 2004, and I'll walk you through this road map that was created we created the first SYEP online enrolled mentoring time keeping system, right. In 2006, we did a--the first online application. It's the first time a young person could actually apply to

SYPMI. Prior to that, it was a paper application. In 2008, we recognized that the work site should have a means to apply to the program as well. So we created an online worksite application for folks—for employers who want to participate in the program. In 2011, we developed our systems, and where we implemented all our workforce system into one data base. In 2010, we started to get more engaged with the banking sector to make sure that young people understand the importance of financial literacy, and creating products that are friendly for young people. In 2009, that's when we first introduced or Vulnerable Youth option, and that's for young people who have just a bias to employment. They are not in the foster care system, court involved, homeless or Risk Preventive services through ACS. So again, I could go and on, but—but as you could there's—there's been a lot of changes to the program over the years, and—and one thing we're challenged with after every summer, we have conversations with our providers with employers to figure out what changes should be met—should be met.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So, so, you do provide the—the technical assistance the capacity

2 building edge to provider to vendors. Is that—is
3 that voluntary for—for the vendors or is it
4 mandatory?

5 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: It's
6 mandatory. Right. It's—it's not voluntary, right,
7 and when you're changing cultures it takes a lot to
8 really bring everybody on board, and there's also
9 they need the tools to be able to—to develop those—
10 the—the jobs that they need to develop. So, it's
11 mandatory that they attend the—the training sessions.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So during my
13 testimony I highlighted, you know, that I personally
14 was very focused on trying to expand the number of
15 private sector employers because I—I-I lived through
16 this experience as well, and it's too easy to just
17 put a young person in a summer camp. And it's great
18 if you're 14 or 15 but when you're 16, 17 and 18, you
19 have some sense of what you want to do in life. You
20 want to give young people the opportunity to explore
21 other options. Maybe not in their neighborhood.
22 They may want to apply for a program in another
23 neighborhood, and so the fact that we've grown the
24 number of private sector worksites from 28% to 40%
25 and we expect we—we hope to get 50% because that

would be ideal that half the worksites are not in government, not in non-profits. The other big piece is with private funding from the City Foundation we've expanded the number of young people who open bank accounts. You know, we don't want young people to go to check cashing places. We want them to understand the importance of banking and having their own account, and something like 30% of the young people last summer opened up bank accounts. So, I mean these are kind of behind-the-scenes things that we've done, but we're always committed to learning and improving the program, and with the finding of the Task Force Report that will be released shortly, it will inform our concept paper, and then the concept paper will inform the new RFP. You know the fact that for many years the--until the program came to DYCD, it didn't change. The program was the same for 14-year-olds as it was for a 19-year-old. I mean the fact where we--we broke it out. A 14 or 15-year-old has to have a very different experience than the older youth I mean--

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [interposing] Uh-huh.

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --we're constantly
3 committed to changing and improving the program.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: You-do you-do you
5 want to add something else do you Andre?

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: [off mic]
7 No, that's it.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay, so-so yeah,
9 that is certainly--that's good information.
10 Peripherally, we see what we-we-we kind of see and in
11 particular even with the best of intentions, if we're
12 not implementing and rolling out in a timely fashion,
13 then we kind of end up with what we used to have and
14 I do mean that people are scrambling to find
15 locations for these young people, and-and we end up
16 very localized and in experiences that are not
17 necessarily the best experiences for the young people
18 or and really in line with our mission. So I look
19 forward to reading the full report and this early
20 implementation and that we can con-continue to grow
21 this program and the other program. But I think the
22 key here is that obviously because we're-we're here
23 talking and discussing the budget, is that the budget
24 that we know we have early enough that we can really
25 provide the-the proper seeding and-and-and

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2 appropriate resources for those young folks. I do
3 want to reiterate that what we--that number that we
4 looked at is a low ball because it was so many young
5 people that came after the fact when the budget was
6 done. Over the past two years we've--we've kind of
7 seen that, and if there is some way that we could
8 have that ask be more consistent of what the actual
9 numbers were at--at the end, I think would be the best
10 way to do it. So I--I thank you for your time, and
11 thank you, Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [pause] Thank you
13 very much, Council Member Miller, and Commissioner, I
14 want to go back again a little bit to this Summer
15 Youth--Summer Programming. 5,200 slots are going to
16 be cut. So what cut (sic) could we be applying?
17 Would it be a cut across all the programs from the
18 previous year, or will we see a ton of programs being
19 cut? What is the possible--

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Again,
21 it won't be a cut. This is the same number of young
22 people that were served last summer. So we're in the
23 process of surveying programs to see how many they
24 can actually serve. There was money unspent last
25 year. I mean the--what's in the budget and what

actually happens on the ground are two different things. So the 22,800 represents slightly more than the actual number of young people that were served, and so together with the other programs to operate this summer, we expect to serve 40,000 young people.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Now with respect to the Runaway and Homeless Youth, in the Fiscal Year 2016, we had the funding for—as a matter of fact, let me commend the Administration and the DYCD also for their effort to increase the number of beds for homeless, you know, our young people, and runaway youth. But in the Fiscal Year 2016, the funding was to increase one of your beds (sic) but, of which seven are still awaiting certification. In the 2017 Budget, we are also funding for 100 additional beds, of which 76 of them contracted. None of them have been certified. What is the current timeline to have the beds, you know, from 2016 and 2017 to be online?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I'll have Susan Haskell come and speak to that, but I know this week we're about to announce the opening of the second Transgender Transition to Independent Living facility. So there is progress. You know, we're—we're focused on making sure these facilities are

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3 safe for young people, and that's why there is a
4 multiple layer review process that Susan can talk
5 about.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yeah, the
7 good news is that we're working very hard on this
8 everyday in cooperation with our providers and in
9 outreach to new additional providers, and as recently
10 as last week, we were—we-or a couple of—about ten
11 days ago we—we need to update the chart that we gave
12 you with the exciting news that Ali Farni (sic) was
13 able to bring 12 beds from this year's 100 beds,
14 which is the transgender tail that Commissioner Chong
15 was talking about. So we actually—we—since this
16 administration, we've been able to—we brought on 100
17 beds in the first fiscal year, and we were fund like
18 you said for another 100 beds that we brought online,
19 and currently we have 89 pending. So we've actually
20 improved stuff even since we—in the last few days
21 when we sent you this, and there were—there were
22 about 43 that are pending siting, but we—we've heard
23 just in the last couple of days again that those
24 community-based organizations have identified sites.
25 So now our staff will go out. We need to make sure
that to Commissioner Chong's point that it's going to

be safe, and--and that the state will certify the site. So we'll go out and look at that. We really are, you know, it's possible we could be done with the siting if those spaces [background comments] turn out to be appropriate.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Thank you very much. You know from the--the bed from the Fiscal Years 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 how many comprises shelter beds, and how many are transitional in the--in a given bed.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Currently, we have active 216 crisis shelter beds, and 248 transitional independent living beds.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So how many of them are new?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: How many of them are new? Let's see, we had before the--this administration we had 253 beds in total. So, almost half of them are new since this administration.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But-but the--the number of youth reunited with families are placed and it's really about the living environment dropped by 12% last year for young people in crisis shelter, and by 3% for young people in transitional and definite

2 (sic) living. What is the problem? What--what
3 exactly is the challenge? Because we have a
4 decrease?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't--I
6 don't have that number in front of me, but I--I know
7 that one of our providers recently brought to our
8 attention that there was an error in the MMR from the
9 year before, and we fixed that now, and if you go to
10 the website that is--has been corrected. So I'm not
11 sure if that's the number that you're referring to.
12 I don't have that in front of me, but I can get back
13 to you on that.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But when you get
15 back to your office probably tomorrow or the next
16 day, can you send the information to us?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes,

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. We would
19 appreciate that. Then the big concern, you know,
20 the--the service providers they express concern about
21 the Assistant Commissioner for Vulnerable and Special
22 Needs Youth, but they say that this is a very
23 important position, and it seems that it may not have
24 been in place. Are you taking steps for the
25

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2 replacement of the Commissioner for the Vulnerable
3 and Special Needs Youth?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes, we
5 are. We--the previous Assistant Commissioner Deborah
6 Harper left just at the end of last year I think in
7 November and we quickly promoted our Director to
8 Senior Director in that role, and--and I'm working
9 closely with him. So, we--we are, you know, there
10 hasn't been any gap in service, but we are planning
11 to fill that position. We've posted the position.
12 It's available online, and we--we are absolutely--we
13 agree that that's an important position.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
15 Council Member Chin, please.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I just
17 have a follow-up question of SYEP. Are there--do you
18 have any statistics or in terms of providers are some
19 of them able to provide for students with special
20 needs and LEP students so that they also have the
21 opportunity to take advantage of the Summer Youth
22 Employment Program?

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes, we
24 do. So--so currently there--there are roughly 20 SYEP
25 contracts with special lotteries for young people

with disability, right. So those young people compete amongst themselves, and they don't compete in the general lottery. The providers are expected to have services, civil (sic) services and case-case management opportunities for these young people when needed. They develop work sites with the knowledge of understanding what a disability might-mean to make sure that a young person can function on the job, and also to ensure that the employer understands what that-what that-what that young person might need for those six weeks. And also at DYCD we provide additional support services to our providers if needed, if they are not able to do so for those young people.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So for the-the students with disabilities do you sort of provide a special outreach to the school, to the parents so they know that they can take advantage of this opportunity?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yeah, absolutely so we-we have a contract with District 75 at DOE, they have an SYEP contract, and that contract is solely for young people with disability, and they are responsible for recruiting from all the schools

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2 across the city, and those young people compete in a
3 lotter for those jobs.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And I--I believe and
5 correct me if I'm wrong that, we actually allow
6 providers to ask for more money per participant?

7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Correct,
8 yes. In the past year, we have told providers that
9 they could ask for an increased fee if they're
10 serving a young person with a disability.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So are--are they--so
12 is that information available only through direct
13 outreach or is it also on the website when a student
14 applies?

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So when--
16 when the--when the participants apply there is a cost
17 and application that asks if you have a disability or
18 not, and once you identify that you do, if you are
19 selected from the lottery and you come in for
20 enrollment, you have to prove that you really have a
21 disability, and we require certain documentations to
22 prove that. And once you have proven that then
23 provider will work on a one-to-one basis with the
24 participant. There's no pop-up that says, you know,
25 if you're--if you're disabled you should apply to-to

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3 this provider or not, but as I said before, there are
4 20 providers that do targeted outreach to-to-to this
5 population.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay. So what
7 about so students with limited-limited English
8 proficiency? Are there like special also programs or
9 a provider that can do a more comprehensive, you
10 know, service for them?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So-so
12 there's no separate service option that's currently
13 carved out for young people ESL students, but what we
14 have encouraged our providers to do is to work with
15 any young person who might have limited ability to
16 speak English, and that simply translates into
17 developing a job opportunity for them where they are
18 potentially able to communicate in their native
19 language, if that's the case. We also ensure that
20 providers are working with our language access folks
21 at DYCD if-if there are issues around translation, if
22 there are issues around documentation. So, there's
23 one service option that's carved out for that group,
24 but we make sure that there's provided if needed.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay.

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And--and just to add
3 that a number of the service providers are immigrant
4 service providers. So we have the Chinese-American
5 Planning Council. It's one of our largest providers.
6 So the---by-by who they serve will likely serve young
7 people who have language challenges.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [pause] Okay, the
9 other--the other question I was interested in is that
10 I think I raised earlier to make sure that DYCD has
11 enough staff on board, and it looks like you have a
12 lot of vacancies right now. Forty-seven vacancies.

13 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: So let me
14 speak to that. We do have an authorized headcount of
15 528. We currently have 481 staff on board. It
16 appears like there is 47, but we have 17 hiring in
17 progress. So that would bring that down to 30
18 vacancies approximately 6%. So we are actively
19 working hiring.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [pause] Okay, I
21 mean because also allocated money in you Preliminary
22 Budget to hire four new staff to oversee the 10
23 Beacon programs. So you got a lot of hiring to do.
24 [laughs] Because we just want to make sure you're
25 staffed up because we have a lot of work to do. So

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2 that's--that's important to the--so can you just make
3 sure you keep us up to date on that. And then the
4 other question I have because I was surprised to see
5 that Cornerstone that you are able to find some
6 efficiency in in Cornerstone spending over \$300,000--
7 \$308,000. I mean what were--what programs were they
8 originally supposed to--to be spend on? I mean I--I
9 know that there is such a high level need for our
10 Cornerstone program. That's a lot of funding that
11 could actually go back into the--the programs.

12 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: So one of
13 the efficiencies we took recently, Cornerstone went
14 to a new RFP, and I believe we had five new providers
15 and then we also had 23 centers that had new
16 providers. So that's turnover, right, and so we made
17 our project or a forecast that because many of these
18 providers were just getting to familiar with the
19 program we could take a substantial amount of under-
20 spending and the \$308 is really attributable to
21 unallocated funding that was put out into the
22 community that we didn't get enough providers to---

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Basically, everyone
24 who applied had everything they wanted.

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2 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR:

3 [interposing] Right.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So this was left.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So you're talking
6 about \$308--

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: In a budget of how
8 much?

9 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: [off mic]
10 \$47 million.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: \$47 million. So
12 it's less than what?

13 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: [off mic]
14 Year over year.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, it's--it's a
16 small amount in the \$47 million. So when we do an
17 RFP, we usually fund everything that they ask for.
18 So, there was \$308,000 that was not asked for.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But I hope you're
20 not giving that money back to OMB.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we were asked
22 for efficiency savings that wouldn't impact services,
23 and so when 94% of our budget is contracts that are
24 already executed or wages, and then 6% is rent, staff
25 and supplies--

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] I
3 know. We have so many programs. I'm sure you could
4 put that back in some good use for services instead
5 of giving it back to OMB.

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We, you know--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] But
8 your budget is less than 1%, right. Well, what's the
9 budget that I just got out? It was .7%. So I'm sure
10 you could keep the money, right? Thank you, Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
12 Council Member Chin, and one more question with
13 respect to vacancies that you have. What was the
14 impact of the--the vacancies on the programs, on the
15 services, and also on the other side, the ability to--
16 of DYCD to oversee the services, and to provide
17 services to the young people? What was the impact of
18 that?

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm--I'm going to
20 have to say that there is very little impact because
21 there's always turnover in any employer. People
22 retire, people change jobs. So we're constantly
23 backfilling positions. So, we--we move quickly to--to--
24 to fill positions. So we've actually automated our
25 human resources functions. So now it's electronic.

In the past, people would have to pass a lot of paper back and forth to fill a vacancy. Now, everything is done internally on--through our computer. So we can streamline the process to--to hire people, but the impact has been minimal because we're always--you know, people give us notice if they're going to be leaving or if they're retiring, and so we make a decision throughout the agency to see what's the best use of this vacancy. Sometimes it was a vacancy in budget, and there's a great need in program, we'll move the line. So we're constantly being mindful of where to best invest the precious staffing lines that we have.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Commissioner, and I want to thank you for your testimony, and I want to thank each member of your panel also and all your staff, but before you leave, I--I want to say that I'm very pleased to see the progress that we have made in the past in terms of providing services to the young people, and also we have seen an increase in the budget related to the services that we are providing to the young people. But I am convinced that we can do more, and we have to do more, and we will do more only by working

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together by teamwork, working together because it is
so important to provide services and opportunity to
the young people. Because many of young people
they're going to the negative path because they don't
have enough resources and opportunities. You say
that you have experience. You went through the
summer program also. I think Council Member Chin and
many of--of--of our members they went to the summer
program also, elected officials, successful people.
Those services are very, very important for the
future of our young people, and also very important
for the parents also because the parents they are
very concerned about the future of their children.
They are working very hard to provide for their
children. Why they are working? They want their
children to have a safe place where they can go and
continue their education, and learn and have the
skills that they need to succeed in life, and we see
the Council Members. We are dedicated. We want to
work together with you, with DYCD to build more
resources that will allow us to serve more young
people. That will benefit the young people, that
will benefit their parents, and also that will
benefit the good city of New York because if we want

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2 to decrease the violence in the street, if we want to
3 decrease the number of young people in jail, this is
4 what we have to do. And I don't believe that the
5 question and the chal-or the challenge is about
6 funding. I don't believe that. I may be wrong, but
7 I think this is about priority that we have to
8 prioritize the youth services, and we have to put the
9 youth services on the top of our priorities because
10 it is a-it is a win-win situation. It is a win for
11 the children, for the youth, for the parents, and it
12 is a win for the city of New York. Thank you very
13 much.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you and we
15 look forward to maintaining the partnership. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. [pause]
18 Now we are going to call the first panel. Grant
19 Coles from Citizens Committee for our Children.
20 Thank you very much. Adam (sic) Guess, Good Shepard
21 Services. Kayla Espinal Antigua, Children's Aid
22 Society, Craig Hughes, Coalition for Homeless Youth.
23 [background comments, pause] Thank you very much.
24 Okay, you may start any time. Please state your name
25 for the record.

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2 GRANT COLES: Hello, good morning or good
3 afternoon. My name is Grant Coles and with the-the
4 Senior Policy and Advocacy Associate for Youth
5 Justice at Citizens Committee for Children. CCC is a
6 73-year-old independent multi-issue child advocacy
7 organization dedicated to ensuring every New York
8 Child is healthy, housed, educated and safe. I'd
9 like to thank the City Council Finance Chair Julissa
10 Ferreras-Copeland and City Council Youth Services
11 Chair Mathieu Eugene as well as all the other members
12 in the City Council Finance and Youth Services
13 Committee for today's hearing. CCC is very
14 appreciative of the Council's longstanding commitment
15 to Youth Services as your remarks today--

16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] I'm
17 sorry-sorry to-to interrupt you, but I just want to
18 let you know that each speaker will have three
19 minutes just for the sake of time.

20 GRANT COLES: Right.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Alright, because you
22 have been waiting for so long.

23 GRANT COLES: Absolutely.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I don't what to
25 punish you more.

2 GRANT COLES: Yeah.

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

4 GRANT COLES: I'll keep it under three
5 minutes. So we are very appreciative of the--of the
6 commitment you all have shown. Because of your
7 leadership and fighting for these programs thousands
8 of additional children and youth are able to
9 participate in summer camp programs, elementary after
10 school programs, Summer Youth Employment, Work, Learn
11 and Grow Program. We also appreciate the
12 Administration's proposals related to Youth Services
13 in the Preliminary Budget. We're extremely pleased
14 to see the addition of \$6.2 million for the ten--the
15 Beacon Community Centers. We are also pleased to see
16 the administration is proactive with regard to the
17 issues surrounding summer programs for middle-school
18 students and the policy restoration of \$15 million
19 for 22,800 middle school students to attend summer
20 camp but resolve the problem of very late funding in
21 June for those hamstrung providers or parents for the
22 past years, and we also are pleased to see the
23 addition of \$9.3 million to create 5,000 more slots.
24 But there are a few things that we hope to see some
25 more stronger investments and the five I'll draw up

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in the next one minute. First, increased funding for
Human Services providers by 12%. On average
government contracts pay only 80% of the true program
costs, and 60% of midsize non-profit human service
organizations are in financial distress. Second,
restore and baseline all funding for summer camp
program for middle school students. While CCC
appreciates the administration's proposal to add \$15
million to partially restore summer programming for
22,800 middle school students this summer we hope to
see the summer programs fully funded and baselined in
the Executive Budget. CCC strongly believes that
there is no reason for these summer programs to be
funded for only one year, and prior to the SONYC
summer camp issue that was two years ago, the summer
program was always considered a component of the
after school model in New York City. Third, restore
baseline, expand elementary after school programs and
increase the rate. While there's been a tremendous
effort to expand middle school programs, there is
still a large need to serve more. Fourth, continue
to expand Summer Youth Employment Program and Work,
Learn and Grow and ensure rates address the minimum
wage. We are pleased to hear today that there is a

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2 guarantee that it will address the minimum wage, but
3 we also want to ensure that happens, and we also look
4 forward to continuing to expand the scope as was
5 mentioned extensively. And finally, restore and
6 baseline City Council Youth Services initiatives, the
7 whole list that all of you are very familiar with.
8 [bell]

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
10 You have been very good. [laughter]

11 KAYLA ESPINAL ANTIGUA: Thanks. Good
12 afternoon. My name is Kayla Espinal Antigua. I'm the
13 Assistant Director of Public Policy at the Children's
14 Aid Society. I would like to thank Chair Ferreras-
15 Copeland, Chair Eugene and the members of the Finance
16 and Youth Services Committee for the opportunity to
17 give testimony today. For more than 150 years,
18 Children's Aid has been committed to ensuring that
19 there are no boundaries to the aspirations of young
20 people and no limits to their potential. We have
21 lead a comprehensive counter attack on the obstacles
22 on certain kids' achievements in school and in life.
23 Success and strong wellbeing are contingent upon
24 positive outcomes in four life domains: Education,
25 health and wellness, social and emotional development

and family stabilization. We have constructed a continuum of services positioned every step of the way throughout childhood that builds wellbeing and prepares young people to succeed at every level of education and every milestone. We are currently doing this throughout 50 locations in four targeted neighborhoods. After school and summer programs play an essential role in keeping children engaged and safe during non-school hours in addition to being a critical support for working families. New York City's SONYC and COMPASS initiatives have a model that—of what an after school system can and should look like to serve children, youth and families with high quality programming. For the 2016-2017 school year, Children's Aid will serve just over 2,500 young people in after school programs across 15 DYCD funded sites in elementary and middle school, community centers in our communities. All our after school programs are structured to include liter-time for literacy enrichment, science, technology, engineering and math activities, arts and self-expression. We also have specific activities and programming for parents with the goal of aligning all of the important adults in a child's life to support their

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2 academic and social and emotional growth. With that
3 said, we are asking the City to continue making the
4 following investments in an increase of 12% on all
5 city services contracts. We are calling for an
6 immediate investment in this sector that serves over
7 2.5 million a year and employs 180,000 people, and is
8 an essential of what New York—the great city that New
9 York is. We are also—we are thankful for the
10 Preliminary Budget's inclusion of \$15 million for the
11 SONYC middle school summer program, but we are asking
12 for baselining and also an increase to meet the
13 demand that, as you mentioned Chair is needed to
14 restore—restore the full funding amount. We are
15 asking also elementary school—we urge that \$60
16 million for COMPASS elementary slots that were
17 Council funded, but were not included in the
18 Preliminary Budget [bell] and that also includes that
19 the COMPASS after school elementary are at the same
20 rates as current COMPASS slots, and we also are
21 thankful for the increase in SYEP of 5,000 slots.
22 Again, I--

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Okay.

24

25

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2 KAYLA ESPINAL ANTIGUA: --thank the Chair
3 and the members of--of the committees for allowing
4 the--the testimony today.

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
6 Next speaker, please.

7 CRAIG HUGHES: Hi. My name is Craig
8 Hughes. I'm the Policy Analyst for the Coalition for
9 Homeless Youth. Thank you, Chair Eugene and Ferreras
10 Copeland for allowing us to speak. Coalition for
11 Homeless Youth has advocated for Runaway and Homeless
12 Youth for about 40 years. We're comprised of about
13 67 providers of services to homeless youth including
14 29 in New York City and elsewhere in the state
15 others. I want to start just by very quickly regis-
16 registering what should be some outrage. The--with
17 all due respect, the Commissioner of DYCD he managed
18 to go through an entire testimony, a formal testimony
19 without mentioning homeless youth, and that's pretty
20 shocking given that there--at the last reasonable
21 estimate there were about 4,000 just under 4,000
22 homeless youth. At any point, at any--and a given
23 point at any--any night in the city. Homeless youth
24 are one of the only subpopulations in the city that's
25 been left with virtually no option for permanent

housing. So I think my time is best spent just
since—since—since DYCD's presentation of homeless
youth was very limited and had some questionable
information just giving some sobering data.
According—according to records released by DYCD in a
foil request, less than 1% of those discharged from
DYCD crisis shelters in FY2016 moved into their own
apartment. Only about 18% of those discharged moved
along the continuum from crisis to transition—to
transitional beds. More than half of those
discharged either went right back into a crisis bed,
or disappeared. The crisis of homeless youth in the
city is absolutely one that should be at the pri-
absolute priority the top of the priorities of DYCD.
Unfortunately, it does not meet priority status
often. We will be submitting formal testimony, but
in short, what we are putting out there very clearly
is that there needs to be an emphasis on housing
options for homeless youth. Homeless youth go in a
circle. They go from crisis shelter to the streets
back to crisis shelter and often disappearing or
ending up in an adult municipal system. The
Department of Social Services has recently announced
that they are going to add access to the rental

subsidies. DYCD does not have any staff in place. They do not fund staff to help young people find apartments. So there's going to be access to rental subsidies, which we fought for for years and is desperately needed to help youth exit homelessness, but there is no one to actually help them. There's not enough staffing. There's no funding for staffing to actually help them find an apartment or get a placement. In addition, just to point out in 2000—in the 2018 Executive Budget, Governor Cuomo has included extended access to shelter for RHY in New York State through 24 years old. Currently youth shelter ends at the—a the 21st birthday. We support the Governor's proposal. We believe that the historic legislation will expand access to developmentally appropriate crisis and transitional—transitional housing, and services across the state. When this legislation is passed, we strongly recommend that DYCD echo the support of its providers and extend RHY services in New York City through 24 years old. And again, just to close off here, I do hope that the Council will continue questioning the city about its Homeless Youth Services, and ensure that it's a priority for the thousands of homeless

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2 youth who are not with adequate services in the city.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much
5 and thank your for your testimony and thank you for
6 the wonderful work you are doing, and the effort for
7 young people. Thank you so very much. Thank you.
8 Next panel, please. I believe it's Loriana Donovan.
9 I'm sorry if I mispronounce your--your name, and I
10 think it's Dennis Wong (sic), Magda Allie [background
11 comments, pause] and also Jessie Lemond (sic)
12 [pause] Thank you very much.

13 LORIANA DONOVAN: Good, good? Okay.
14 Good afternoon, Chairwoman Ferreras-Copeland Chairman
15 Eugene and members of the committee. Thank you for
16 giving us the opportunity to speak today. My name is
17 Loriana Donovan, and I'm an 18-year-old for Long
18 Island City.

19 JANICE: My name is Janice and I am an
20 18-year old from Little Neck.

21 HEBA: My name is Heba and I'm a 17-year-
22 old from Staten Island, New York.

23 LORIANA DONOVAN: Collectively, the three
24 of us have been in Girl Scouts for over 25 years, and
25 we would not be the young women we are today without

the Girl Scouts of Greater New York and the invaluable leadership development opportunities it has given us. These opportunities include the Girl Scout Leadership Institute, a 15-month leadership development intensive that gave us access to professional role models through workplace visits, small group mentoring and internships. It includes earning our gold-Girl Scout Gold Award for deigning and executing an 80-hour service project to solve a problem we identified in our community. As a result of learning about and practicing leadership, I have helped mentor and inform girls in my troop in high school about the issue of teen suicide and so far through my Girl Scout Gold Award. This is an issue that personally affected me and my family. Through Girl Scouts I have been able to deal with this issue personally as well as channel my energy into helping teens that have been affected by it. Girls Scouts enhanced my leadership capabilities through public speaking, confidence, grit and persistence. Currently, I'm a freshman in college pursuing my dreams of becoming an Army officer and the values enlisted in me through Girl Scouts will help me succeed in my future endeavors. As a result of

learning about and practicing leadership I have helped lead young Girl Scouts in my troop especially girls struggling with a lack of confidence and body insecurities. As a survivor of body dysmorphia, the Girl Scouts—the Girl Scout—the Girl Scouting experience has been a blessing for its emphasis on self love and self care. I gained a new found appreciation for my capabilities to set a goal as well as my emotional and academic. I developed the courage to speak to young girls about the pervasiveness of these issues, and to take on other endeavors that I never believed myself competent enough to accomplish such as a science research project, which I presented at yesterday's New York City Science and Engineering Fair. I am extremely grateful for the skills that this leadership experience has provided me.

HEBA: As a result of learning about and practicing leadership I have advanced my public speaking skills as well as taking initiative in school and my community. I'm so grateful for the opportunity Girl Scouts has given me at a time when I was so frustrated and had no sense of who I was in the world. Girl Scout leaders has helped me find—

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2 being part of the Girl Scout Leadership Institute has
3 helped me find my voice through small group mentoring
4 and exposing me to successful women leaders.

5 [background comments]

6 LORIANA DONOVAN: Unfortunately, for
7 girls outside who can't participate in Girl Scouting,
8 these opportunity are not as common. Recently the
9 Girl Scouts State of the Girl Unfinished Business
10 Report found that while all girls believe leadership
11 is important to our society, only 21% of girls
12 surveyed had a desire to and a belief that they can
13 lead. And most girls report that the leadership
14 opportunities they have access to are caregiving
15 roles among family or friends [bell] such as
16 babysitting [coughing] or taking care of a pet.
17 While those are helpful opportunities we also want
18 girls to have options that expand their futures.
19 That's why we urge the members of this committee to
20 look for ways to expand the leadership and career
21 development opportunities for girls in New York City,
22 particularly in public schools in high need areas
23 such as public housing, shelters and detention
24 centers.

25

HEBA: Our leadership development opportunities have helped each develop invaluable skills as well as confidence that will keep us to reach our goals and become leaders in our chosen fields in our communities and the city. We urge you to help make similar opportunities available to girls across the city of New York. We—we know they need them. Our generation is the future of the city and this country. By investing in us, you are building tomorrow's leaders and will benefit us all. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much for—for sharing that experience with us, and thank you also for sharing your skill through—with the other young people and your strong message on behalf of the young girls—girls. Thank you so very much. The next panel please. The next speaker I mean.

JESSE LAYMON: I don't think there is anyway I can follow that. [laughter] I must regretfully inform you I am not a member of the Girl Scouts. I will do my best to—to measure up as little as I can. My name is Jesse Laymon. I'm the Policy Director of the New York City Employment and Training Coalition, and thank you for having me here today to

testify about the city's youth budget. I'm going to cover a few things, and some of the things I'm going to cover briefly I know some of our Coalition members are here and we'll talk about it in more detail such as SYEP and Work, Learn and Grow, and so I'm not going to dwell on those so much as to say that we support the city's continuing expansion of SYEP. You know, we do want to see it continue to grow in the future. We think they are on the right track with that, but there are some areas that we think the DYCD budget is insufficient, and just to add to some of the questions from yourself and some of the other council members, before, I wanted to talk about a couple of areas where we think there's really room for expansion, and that will really meet some of the city's goals. And the--the primary thing that I want to draw your attention to is the degree to which the DYCD budget really needs to be working as part of the broader citywide budget and--and in particular we come concerned about workforce development, about helping unemployed and underemployed New Yorkers of all ages get jobs. DYCD could be doing more to help young New Yorkers get onto a good career path for a living wage career. The City has a plan, the Career Pathways

Blueprint, which lays out what the city is aiming to do in workforce development by 2020, and it includes a variety of benchmarks including some aimed particularly at youth and that disproportionately help you. One in particular is a benchmark for Bridge Programming. Bridge Programs are programs that help people that don't have the skills or education yet to get a job or to go community college, or even to get into a more intensive training program like for example technology program, the coding program and something like that. They may need prerequisites in order to get into a program like that. Bridge programs help people that aren't quite ready to take the next step get to that next step with a Bridge there, and that allows them onto the a real career pathway. The city knows that we need more Bridge programs. The Career Pathways Plan put a number on this. They called for \$60 million of Bridge programming across agencies by 2020. We think that that means there really ought to be at least half that much in this year's budget, at \$30 million of Bridge programming. Last year there was only about \$6 million. So we're well behind track in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. Unfortunately, the was

no additional money for Bridge programming, and we would like to see the Council push to—to increase that Bridge programming in this year's budget within DYCD and across other agencies. DYCD does not need to take on the burden of being all \$30 million of Bridge programming, but it would be appropriate for there to be \$5 or \$10 million of additional Bridge programming through DYCD, and that could take a variety of forms. It could include improvements to the Young Adult Literacy Programs and it could include other Bridge programs funded by DYCD, some of which I know DYCD and the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development have had early discussions about, but unfortunately there's no funding for it there now. That's one area that we would really like to prioritize for additional funding in this year's budget.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, and thank you for your testimony and thank you for the work that you and your organization you are doing on behalf of the young people.

JESSE LAYMON: Thank you for having us.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Thank you very much. I think it is Sally Sanchez [pause]

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2 from Queens Youth Justice Center for Court
3 Innovation, Sheila Wells, Supporter and School
4 Foundation. Michael Rogers, New York Road Runners,
5 Scott Valle from New York Junior Tennis League and
6 Learning Center. [background noise, pause]

7 SALLY SANCHEZ: [off mic] Thank you,
8 Chairs, Youth advocates. (sic) Thank you. Thank
9 you. My name is Sally Sanchez and I am the Project
10 Director at the Queens Youth Justice Center, a
11 project for Center for Court Innovation. Thank you
12 very much for the opportunity to speak with you
13 today. I'm here to urge the Council to support
14 continued funding for the Center for Court Innovation
15 and its groundbreaking efforts to improve public
16 safety, promote and expand the use of community based
17 alternatives to incarceration, increase equal access
18 to just for vulnerable New Yorkers. The Center is
19 seeking \$700,000 in City Council support. This is
20 includes \$500,000 to support ongoing court operations
21 in communities across the city in addition an
22 enhancement of \$200,000 to expand alternatives to
23 incarceration in several key New York City
24 neighborhoods. The center works to create a more
25 effective and human justice system in New York City.

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Beginning with the Midtown Community Court, the Center has created 28 neighborhood based projects in all of the five boroughs of New York City bringing together community members and criminal justice stakeholders to respond to local problems. Through projects such as the Bronx Community Solutions, the Red Hook Community Justice Solution—Justice Center, the Queens Youth Justice Center and the Brownsville Community Justice Center. We fought to improve the lives of New Yorkers in need including immigrants, the poor, young people, women, the LGBTQ community and communities of color. The Center is committed to improving outcomes for young people impacted by the Juvenile Justice system through both court and community based programs such as Project Reset our adolescent and Young Adult Diversion Court in Manhattan and Brooklyn as well as the Youth Justice Centers in Queens and Staten Island. We provide judges, prosecutors, and police with meaningful alternatives to business as usual. Our programs serves more than 6,000 youth in the city each year, and we provide them with opportunities to avoid Rikers Island, and in many cases a trip to court. For example, our Project Reset has kept nearly 200 16

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and 17-year-olds out of jail for low-level crimes.

Allowing them to avoid the lasting collateral

consequences of a criminal record while still being

held accountable. With an average completion rate of

92% Project Reset has embraced—has been embraced by

the Justice System as a new approach to enforcement.

Additionally, our Brownsville leadership project and

Youth Core Programs also participant New Pathways to

the justice system and towards academic social and

vocational success. The City Council's support has

been invaluable to our success at the Center for

Court Innovation and in helping us maintain core

operations and expand our demonstration projects

throughout the city. The Center for Court Innovation

looks forward to continuing to work with the City

Council to improve public safety, and to create new

alternatives to incarceration that result in fairer

and more accessible justice system for all New

Yorkers. We respectfully urge you to continue to

support our work, and I want to thank you again for

this opportunity to speak. [bell]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

Next speaker, please.

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2 SHEILA WELLS: Good afternoon. I Sheila
3 Wells, Deputy Director for Sports and Arts in Schools
4 Foundation. Thank you again for your past support of
5 Sports and Arts in School Foundation celebrating our
6 silver anniversary. SASF is truly a Council
7 initiative having been created 25 years ago at the
8 suggestion of Speaker Peter Vallone. Our Fiscal Year
9 17 Council citywide funding under the Council's After
10 School Enrichment initiative of a million
11 dollars supported our 2016 summer City Council Sports
12 and Arts Camps and Clinics and we weekends Sports and
13 Arts Wellness and Sports League. Our summer programs
14 serve almost 8,000 students at 110 schools, and
15 school year programs serve an additional 4,000
16 students at 72 elementary and middle schools. SASF
17 programs operate in almost every councilmanic
18 district. For the past 25 years Sports and Art has--
19 has been successfully running programs, which engage
20 both physically, mentally our city's youth to develop
21 into successful citizens of our great city. None of
22 this would be possible, however, without the funding
23 support of you and your colleagues of the Council.
24 In Fiscal Year 2017 SASF receive a million dollars
25 for the city--for the Council in Citywide funding down

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from \$1.2 million in Fiscal Year 2011 and \$2.1 in
Fiscal Year 2008. This year, Fiscal Year 18 we are
seeking \$1,325,000 in funding. Council funding at
this increased level will enable us to keep with the
rising DOE and DOH fees as well as rising personnel
and equipment costs. It would also allow us to meet
the requirements of our Haven Foundation Challenge
Grant and enable more youth to receive summer
programing through the creation of 10 additional SASF
summer camps geared towards elementary school
programs. As Fiscal Year 2018 Budget moves forward,
I would like to share with you some quick facts about
SASF. Through our Council camps and after school
sports and arts programs we serve almost every
councilmanic district. Through all of our programs
SASF annually serves 20,000 students, the City
Council funds received 20-12,000 students of this
total through the five boroughs. The overall
majority of youth served are Black and Hispanic from
the highest poverty neighborhoods in the city and our
programs are primarily housed in Title 1 schools.
Again, I thank the Council's time and again we are
asking \$1,325,000 to add ten additional summer camps
for our own official use. (sic)

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much
3 and the next speaker.

4 MICHAEL ROGERS: Good afternoon, Chairs
5 Ferreras-Copeland and Eugene. My name is Michael
6 Rogers, and I'm the Vice President for Development
7 and Philanthropy at New York Road Runners. Thank you
8 for this opportunity to testify today. At New York
9 Road Runners our mission is to help and inspire
10 people through running. While our organization is
11 best known for producing the New York City Marathon,
12 our organization is the largest non-profit provider
13 of free fitness programs in New York City. In 2015-
14 16 school year, our school based programs touched the
15 lives of 115,000 New York City at 663 schools and
16 community centers. The Good news is that we have
17 already surpassed these figures in this current
18 school year. New York Road Runners is asking the
19 Council to consider two request one at \$500,000 on
20 the Physical Education and Fitness Initiative. New
21 York Road Runners is requesting \$500,000 in support
22 of our school based Youth Fitness Programs. For
23 seven years we have received funding under the
24 Council's-Speaker's Obesity Prevention Initiative at
25 \$250,000. That initiative was not funded in FY17.

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With F—this FY16 request we are hoping to restore and increase funding as our physical fitness programs have more than doubled their service numbers to New York City students since initially funded in 2010. I would also like to share that we have recently redesigned our youth program model to incorporate the latest research on physical literacy to grow our reach to the full spectrum of student from pre-K all the way through grade 12. Because the new program will be even more scalable, we are projecting that we'll be able to serve 150,000 students in the 2017-2018 school year. Further, every activity in our new curriculum will also feature adaptations for children with disabilities ensuring that every class regardless of its composition students with physical or cognitive disabilities will be able to participate. Our second request is [coughing] \$100,000 under the Sports Training and Role Model for Success Initiative. New York Road Runners has a program called Run for the Future, a high touch, high impact program for young women across the five boroughs of New York City. The girls learn about running, they build self-confidence, and develop key leadership skills while training for a 5K race. At

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2 the program's completion each participant receives a
3 \$2,000 scholarship for college. Run for the Future
4 is offered free of charge to all participants who
5 enter the program with no or no prior running
6 experience. Nearly all of the participants are young
7 women of color. Year-to year reporting 95 to 98% of
8 our participants are identified as Black, African-
9 American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian or multi-
10 cultural. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
11 We're happy to answer any questions.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

13 Good afternoon, Council Member.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Good afternoon, sir.

15 SCOTT DALEY: Nice to see you again. I
16 want to thank you on behalf of New York Junior Tennis
17 League for giving me the opportunity. My name is
18 Scott Daley and I am the Director of the Free
19 Citywide Community Tennis Programs, which we are able
20 to afford all youth in the city of New York between
21 the ages 5 and 18 with your continued support.
22 Annually, we reach over 150,000 children in the city
23 of New York. We are approaching our 50th year
24 anniversary in the next couple of years, and we have
25 evolved quite substantially over the time. However,

the main thrust of our program has always been that through tennis we can change the lives of city kids. Tennis is as we all know is a sport that's usually associated with those who can afford it with the affluent, but because of the City Council's funding of our programs we give this for free. I want you to understand it's a 12-month program. We work in all four seasons. We are indoors and we have three outdoor seasons. Last year we at 82 different locations and each program ran on an average of eight weeks. The Winter Indoor Program is a 20-week program. We are in all five boroughs of the city, and we touch all 51 council districts. The most amazing thing is when people call and they inquire about the program, and I explain to the caller that this a registration process and not an application. We reject nobody. No one is ever put on a waiting list. Anyone who comes is accepted. No one is left out. We are open to all. In addition, we also reach and we touch the special needs population of district 75. They're invited to all of our summer programs and we offer four separate carnivals in-in the summer months for Children in these programs. And as you all know, we build the character of these children

through the sport of tennis. It's not for learning. It's not through a book. We give them a safe haven to come. We give them an alternative. They learn integrity, discipline, honesty, and sportsmanship. In addition to the free community tennis, we offer what we call school time tennis programs. We teach and train last year 250 New York City physical education teachers. We supply with the equipment and the coaching backup to bring tennis into the schools of these kids who otherwise would never be exposed to it. We provide them also once they go back to the school after our training session, we provide our top level coaches to go in to help them implement all for the benefit of the kids in the New York City schools. Our education component [bell] we just completed a 10-week program of SAT preparation, and there are scholarships available also for these children. We are increasing our ask this year for from \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. That would do a number of things:

No 1: It would restore us to 2008 numbers.

No. 2: It would enhance our program during the summer for extended days.

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2 No. 3: It would defray the higher costs
3 involved for permits, coaches and equipment and it
4 would support our new initiative at the Cary Leeds
5 Center. I want to thank you again for your time. We
6 could not do this without your support. On behalf of
7 all the kids of the city of New York and the parents
8 and teens, I want to personally thank everybody here.
9 Thanks.

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
11 and you very much to each one of you for your
12 testimony, and thank you for the services and the
13 opportunities that you and your organization you are
14 providing every single day to all young people.
15 Thank you very much.

16 SCOTT DALEY: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

18 SCOTT DALEY: [off mic] Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Faith Behum? I'm
20 sorry. Can you hear me? Thank you. Okay you do
21 that now. From the United Neighborhood Houses
22 [pause] I think you said Faith Behum, UJA Federation
23 of New York City. [pause] Chantella Mitchell, Jobs
24 First New York City; Brian Licata, United Activities
25

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2 Limited. [background comments, pause] So you may
3 start Gregory.

4 GREGORY BRENDER: Thank you and thank you
5 Council Member Eugene and Council Member Chin and all
6 your staff members and--and the other members of the
7 committee--

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Yeah.

9 GREGORY BRENDER: --for the opportunity
10 to testify. My name is Gregory Brender. I'm here
11 with Andrea Bowen. We are from United Neighborhood
12 Houses and which is the Federation of New York City
13 Settlement Houses, and in the cooperative spirit of
14 the Settlement Houses we are testifying together. I
15 will be talking mostly about after school programs
16 and Andrea will be talking about the Youth Employment
17 programs. This year in the--first we want to thank
18 the Council also for its partnership which really saw
19 some tangible victories in this year's budget. The
20 baselining with money for those summer jobs and for
21 summer programs. The increase in Beacons both in her
22 Beacon funding and an increase in a number of
23 Beacons, which is sorely needed. So we're really
24 excited to continue this partnership and continue
25 this work. This year we want to focus on fully

restoring and baselining funding for after school slots. We have a summer component. Continuing the expansion of elementary school after school programs, COMPASS programs to-to serve more of this underserved population. Supporting the Mayor's proposal for baselining 65,000 jobs for the Summer Youth Employment Program and expanding programs that connect out-of-school out-of-work youth education and employment, and lastly something we're talking about in every hearing, we are asking along with more than 200 organizations in the human services for the City Council to include in its response to the Preliminary Budget a request that the Mayor increase contracts for all human service con-increase all human service contracts by 12%. So, first, our middle school summer programs a lot of talk around this. In the hearing we really appreciate that. We ultimately want to get to a number of 34,000, which really gets to the point where SONYC program has a summer slot. It's only been in the last two years when these cuts have come and that we've been fighting them off that you have a notion of an after school program in New York City that isn't open in the summer. So while we're glad that there's funding-some funding in the

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2 Preliminary Budget this year, we want to get back to
3 \$20.3 million, which will fund 34,000 summer-summer
4 program slots in the SONYC program. And in our
5 written testimony, which I won't read for time, I
6 give you the chart and all the numbers.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. [laughs]

8 GREGORY BRENDER: For elementary school
9 students, as you know, the Council put in funding
10 last year to support elementary school programs from
11 9,000 children. This included restorations of 3,400
12 slots that the Council has traditionally supported at
13 least for the last three years, as well as 5,600
14 slots, which were new. We certainly hope for the
15 restoration of those slots, as well as continuing
16 this expansion by at least 10,000 slots so that we
17 continue to grow. In a survey that we did after
18 Campaign for Children of elementary school after
19 school programs we found that 88% had wait lists. So
20 now I'm going to turn it over to Andrea to talk about
21 youth employment.

22 ANDREA BOWEN: Thank you Chair Eugene.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, thank you very
24 much.

25

2 ANDREA BOWEN: Thank you Council Member
3 Chin. You are always so great about sticking around
4 to the end Council Member Chin. Thank you. [laughs]
5 Thank you, Chair Ferreras-Copeland and in absentia.
6 So the Campaign for Summer Jobs is 17-year Coalition—
7 a 17-year-old coalition of nearly 100 community based
8 social service and advocacy organizations convened by
9 United Neighborhood Houses to advocate for
10 programmatic improvements and expanded capacity for
11 the Summer Youth Employment Program. So we are
12 asking for a handful of things this year, but I'd
13 like to emphasize that we have always been in favor
14 of making sure that Summer Youth Employment Program
15 gets to universal. We believe that's about 100,000
16 slots, and we'd like to see that done in a measured
17 way. At the same time, it's also become clear in
18 talk with providers and analyzing, they've told us
19 over the last summer and several summers that
20 infrastructure needs to be in place in order to get
21 there, and that infrastructure isn't quite there. So
22 this is, you know, things like making sure that
23 timelines get moved far enough back that jobs can be
24 placed early enough in the year that money is
25 allocated, and given to providers in large enough

chunks at earlier points in the year, and that there are more providers added to the system in a better way of getting more employers in the system, and—and we know. We put out a report last year speaking to all of these things. Knowing how much providers were—were stressed last year by sort of the late—the late ad, which was a fabulous, you know, and starting to see—see the system grow, and yet at the same time, you know, we knew that it was—it was really difficult to be able to put those jobs online so quickly. And so what we would like to see is actually sticking with the 65,000 slots for this budget season that were baselined, and making sure that we keep pressure on future Preliminary Budgets to make sure that we do move towards—towards the goal of universal, but that just to make sure that the system can move and sort of stay—you know, to stay stable, and that providers are—are no stressed. That we maintain the 65,000 baselines now. We'd love to see increased investment in programs for Out of Work and Out of School Youth, and we're working with a variety of providers to formulate a—a larger list of—of budget asks. But just to set the scene, you know, there are 140,302 Out of Work Out of School Youth between 16 and 24

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2 years old, and fewer than 7,000 slots in city funded
3 programs targeting Out of Work Out of School Youth.

4 So we'd like to see more funding put towards this
5 population and that includes things like maintaining
6 and expanding the Young Adult Internship Program Plus
7 or YAIP Plus, which is a well evaluated program. We'd
8 like to see more funding put towards the OS Out of
9 School Youth Program. We'd like to see 250 slots
10 added to [bell] to Work, Learn and Grow, and we'd
11 like to see that program--like-like-like the Council
12 Member spoke about earlier, we'd like to see that
13 program made truly year-round. But funded with
14 generous enough slots with four supportive services
15 and everything that that Out of Work Out of School
16 Youth can truly take advantage of that program. The
17 rest of these items are--are in my--in my testimony.
18 Of course, we're echoing the 12% city contracts ask,
19 he city contracts ask for human services, and I'll
20 stop there.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
22 Next, speaker.

23 FAITH BEHUM: Okay. Good afternoon,
24 Chairperson Eugene, Council Member. My name is Faith
25 Behum and I am Advocacy and Policy Advisor at the UJA

Federation of New York . UJA is one of the nation's largest local philanthropy, and are central to our mission and to care for those in need. We support nearly 100 non-profit organizations serving those that are most vulnerable and in need of programs and services. On behalf of UJA, our network of non-profits partners and those we serve, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of maintaining and expanding services for the youth of New York City. Some of the programs in our network of non-profit partners overseen include Summer Youth Employment Programs, Out of School Learning and Enrichment Opportunities for Children and Youth, and we also manage Beacon. I'm going to focus a lot on what Andrea had just said as far as looking at how capacity impacts the services of our network of non-profits provide or would like to provide. So we have Summer Youth Employment Programs that are housed in UJA non-profits in the Bronx and Brooklyn. The numbers of application providers received often outnumber the slots to they are going to fill. In 2016, one of UJA's non-profits in the Bronx received 7,000 applications for 2,100 SYEP spots. It is clear just from this program that more youth want to

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2 participate than there is capacity to serve. While
3 this may be true, we also recognize that this means
4 more providers would have to be added, and the base
5 rate would have to be increased in order to serve all
6 participates—participants successfully. We believe
7 all eligible youth should be able to benefit from
8 SYEP, but this can only be done if there are enough
9 providers and resources secured months before the
10 youth will be engaging in the Summer Youth Employment
11 Programs. So we support this 65,000 SYEP slots for
12 now. I have more information included in my written
13 testimony, but the—included in my written test—
14 testimony, but I want to add by saying that employees
15 working on the frontlines of our network of non-
16 profits require enough resources to meet the needs of
17 the diverse and complex populations they interact
18 with daily. UJA is support the Human Services
19 Council's proposal to fund a 12% across the board
20 increase to Human Services contracts to ease the
21 unstable financial situation many of our non-profits
22 have been placed into due to past underfunding
23 contracts. Thank you for your time.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

25

2 CHANTELLA MITCHELL: Good afternoon,
3 Chairperson Eugene, Council Member Chin. My name is
4 Chantella Mitchell and I'm the Policy and Program
5 Associate at Jobs First NYC. We are a policy to
6 practice intermediary focused on the issues of young
7 adults who are out of work, out of school and
8 underemployed. I included some of our new data in my
9 written testimony. It's stapled to the back. So I
10 won't go through that, but it focuses on the numbers
11 of Out of School Out of School young adults in New
12 York City. And building Jobs First NYC's work over
13 the past ten years, we are really recommending two
14 areas of investment for the Youth Services Committee.
15 First is the creation of a large scale business for
16 young New Yorkers Public Campaign, and second we are
17 urging you to increase investments in effective
18 training and employment opportunities for a living
19 wage middle skills careers specifically in under
20 resourced neighborhoods. Last month in the South
21 Bronx, the neighborhood was the largest number of
22 young adults but also the highest numbers or Out of
23 School Out of Work place in the city. We worked with
24 community partners to convene dozens of small and
25 medium sized private employers many of whom were not

aware of all of the just robust non-profit and public opportunities for engaging young people in work, and even just from that one convening we've seen incredible success in the employers in the Bronx who are interested in partnering and interested in engaging with these opportunities. Similarly, on the Lower East Side we worked with CBOs in Community Board 3 to create the Lower East Side Employment Network also known as LESEN. LESEN is really able to ensure that the young adults as well as adults on the Lower East Side are able to benefit from all of the economic development and the wealth of opportunities. So, these and other efforts are ones that we think could and should be replicated by the city to best match the workers with local employers, and we think that the city with all of its business connections could really launch a successful citywide campaign to encourage employers, educate employers and help to develop a high level of talent. Additionally, we know that the city has taken multiple steps to improve the quality of training services delivered to Out of School Out of Work young adults. However, many young adults still remain disconnected from training and employment

opportunities. In 2015, half of all New York State—
half of all the jobs in New York State required
training that was beyond high school, but not quite
four-year degrees. So those are often referred to as
middle skills jobs, and a lot of the CBOs who are
present here today, and who are not providing those
through certifications, its sectoral employment
projects, apprenticeships. So really these are in
high demand from young people, and high demand from
employers to fill these middle skills jobs. So we
think that there can be much more investment in those
types of trainings. I have some addition things
listed in my written testimony, but I'll leave you
all with that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

BRIAN LICATA: Good afternoon [coughs]
members of the committee. My name is Brian Licata.
I'm actually here representing two different factions
at once. Unlike everybody else's table, I am simply
a lowly provider that provides youth services. I am
not a policy analyst. The first the first that I'm
representing is Youth Wins of Staten Island. Youth
Wins is aiming to serve the Out of School Out of Work
youth. Right now, Staten Island is only receiving

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3 less than 10% of what it needs to even tip the scale
4 for our 18 through 24-year-olds that are in need of
5 these services. We have one OSY provider on-on the
6 island serving about 60 youth. We estimated there is
7 at least 500 youth on the North Shore of Staten
8 Island that are in need of these services, and are
9 not getting it. We would recommend wholeheartedly
10 that the City Council invest more money into Out of
11 School Out of Work youth because these are the future
12 of our workforce, or these are going to be the future
13 that we need to take care of, and it would be better
14 to do the latter. The second is I'm representing
15 United Activities Unlimited. United Activities
16 Unlimited of Staten Island serves about 10,000 youth
17 annually. We have Beacon programs, SONYC programs,
18 COMPASS programs, ISY programs, SYEP programs, Work,
19 Learn and Grow programs, Ladders for Leaders,
20 Preventive Services and Cornerstone. I might have
21 missed a few, but throughout these programs we see
22 kids from age 5 up until their mid-20s. The purpose
23 of these programs especially the Summer Youth
24 Employment Program is to provide them with services
25 that they need so that they can get on the right
pathway to finding the career. We have partnered

DOE, District 75, District 79, Work Based Learning schools, CTE schools to advance what they are trying to do. The Summer Youth Employment Program has really changed in the last ten years since I've taken over on Staten Island. We are now a Bridge program. We use the Summer Youth Program to leverage what the DOE is trying to do during the school year to do the same thing during the summer that the students do not fall behind. So this way when they come back to school in September, and hopefully go into our Work, Learn and Grow Program, which I'm really hoping you expand into a 12-month program, and also expand the number of slots that you are awarding because the businesses are crying for this program not just the students. We would like to see these programs be part of the school day in a much more way than they are. Right now what we're trying to do is give the kids the opportunity to apply what they're learning during the school day in the real world, which is really the benefit of the Summer Youth Employment Program, and I almost said something that's highlighted enough. As I've said, on Staten Island we currently take in over 10,000 SYEP applications every summer, and we only get a portion of that

return. You know, through the funding that you've been gracious enough to give us, we've been able to apply about 50% of the youth to paid internships. We would definitely like to see that increase. Alright, thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. I want to thank each one of you for all your testimony, and I want to thank your organization for what they are doing for the young people in New York, but with your permission, I want to extend a special thanks to Andrea and Gregory for your dedication where you had, you know, your--the tremendous work that you have been doing, working together with us and the City Council fighting for the young people, advocating for the young people. And because of your hard work also now we can say that the young people in New York can benefit from 65,000, you know, jobs. This is very important. This is remarkable and also we were able also to say 34,000 I think summer youth jobs programs. So we are doing that together. Thankyou very much for your advocacy and to all of you. Thank you so very much, and one thing that I want to mention in past years we know that, you know, the providers, the service providers, the parents,

the young people they were waiting, they were
anxious. They want to start the program. They want
to increase the organization, the providers. They
want to increase the start. They want to serve more
young people, and more young people want to be
involved in those services also, and more parents
also want to see their children be part of those
services, but the problem is the timing of the
ability to have the resources. I agree with you, and
I do believe that, and I'm convinced that we have
what it takes to improve the infrastructure, improve
the infrastructure, the necessary infrastructure in
place in order for the service providers to increase
the number of slots available to the young people,
and we're going to fight. We are going to continue
to work together until we get the opportunity to
serve all the young people in New York City. Thank
you very much and God bless you. Thank you. Thank
you.

Okay, Nicole Gallant, I believe, United
Way of New York City. Is Nick Olson here?

FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] I don't think
he is here right now. (sic)

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry?

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2 FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] I don't think
3 he's here. Yeah, he is here. Yeah, he was here a
4 minute ago.

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay very good.
6 Sherry Levine, Natasha Eng and City First Readers,
7 Jocelyn Rodriguez, Company for the Hispanic-Hispanic
8 Children and Families. City First Readers, Ansari, I
9 believe, City First Readers. [background comments]
10 Video Interaction Project, and Louise Ruden (sic)
11 Reach Out and Read, City First Readers. Thank you
12 very much. [background comments]

13 SHERRY LEVINE: Hi. Good afternoon. I'm
14 Sherry Levine from Literacy, Inc. Thank you, Council
15 Member Eugene, Council Member Chin, and also Jeff
16 from the staff from Council Finance. Right now there
17 is a literacy crisis that's impacting children living
18 in poverty. The majority of those children are not
19 reading on grade level. This impacts these children
20 not just in the early years, but throughout their
21 youth and throughout their adulthood. If these
22 children are to have the skills that they need to
23 gain employment to graduate from school, they need a
24 solid foundation, and so you're looking at here a
25 group of ten organizations who are working in

collaboration to make sure that these children are supported by an environment that supports their early literacy achievement. At Literacy, Inc. we have a comprehensive literacy model engaging families and communities to support young readers, but we know that we can't do it alone, and so we're thrilled to work in partnership with these ten organizations to make sure that parents and children have multiple touch points, and multiple opportunities for them to be supported in their—in their literacy learning.

This is a crisis that these children living in poverty do not have the literacy skills that they need, but it is a solvable problem because we have all of these organizations who have research based programs that are proven to be effective—to be effective. Learning to read is a prerequisite, as I said, for all of the DYCD programs that we've heard about today, and the future of our city depends on it. At City's First Readers we are in our third year of funding from New York City Council. We're looking to increase the funding this year to \$5 million.

That will support all ten organizations who you'll hear from now. So I'd like to pass the microphone to

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2 some of my colleagues who are working together to
3 address this issue. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: We thank you very
5 much. Please go.

6 RACHEL PAINE: Good afternoon. My name
7 is Rachel Paine and I'm the Coordinator of Early
8 Childhood Services for Brooklyn Public Library. I'm
9 here representing the three library systems of New
10 York City, and we are truly grateful for the City
11 Council's generous support of City's First Readers.
12 Each year New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public
13 Library and Queens Library offer Neighborhood Early
14 Literacy programs with an annual attendance
15 approaching half a million. As part of the city's
16 First Readers each library system is developing and
17 expanding its own literacy services. Here are some
18 highlights. At Brooklyn Public Library we were able
19 to—we were able to offer story times in seven
20 languages including Arabic, Spanish, Chinese,
21 Bengali, Creole, Russian Urdu, and we are working to
22 make all our story times more accessible to families
23 who are English Language Learners. New York Public—
24 New York Public Library has distributed 75,000
25 outreach kits to encourage families to read at home

and start—and has started offering family literacy workshops at 51 branches. Queens Library was able to expand program offerings by hiring five Early Literacy specialists. These are staff who are located in community libraries to offer expanded programs directly to families with young children. Here are few examples of how Early Literacy Initiative—this initiative has allowed us to collaborate with the program partners in unique ways. Literacy, Inc. has worked with the libraries to provide programs to families citywide. Video Interaction Project and current Child Home program are working with library staff to get library cards into the hands of families who have never been to the library before, and Reach Out and Read medical providers are prescribing reading and going to the library. This \$5 million in support of City's First Readers the vitally important work will only grow in NYC's libraries. We could expand specialized family learning opportunities, grow school readiness activities, distribute more Early Literacy outreach kits and provide more baby and toddler literacy development programs in locations across the city. In the spirit of the three library systems working

together in support of this important initiative, we need the Mayor and the City Council to keep investing in libraries so we can continue to provide—provide programs and services New York—New Yorkers so readily, so desperately rely on. That means continuing to fund six-day service. It also means increased funding to—the increase of funding to the 2008 level so that libraries can keep up with the demands of our patrons, and with that demand comes the upkeep of our facilities, which have critical maintenance and infrastructure needs. Our libraries are the first social and educational experience many young families have, and we want it to be the most enriching experience that it can be. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
The next speaker.

ANN SIRI: Hi. My name is Ann Siri (sp?).
I'm a Developmental Psychologist from NYU School of Medicine and the Video Interaction Project of VIP. VIP uses Pediatric healthcare to enhance children's early development in school readiness. Pediatric checkups are actually a unique way to reach low-income families since all parents have to bring their

children to the doctor. Allowing programs like VIP and Reach Out and Read that you'll hear from shortly to achieve high impacts at low cost. During their pediatric checkups, families in VIP meet with a facilitator who provides a book or a toy, video tapes the parent and child as they play or read together, and then reviews the video to point out strengths that every parent has. Through City's First Readers, these parents are also connected to other literacy programs in their communities like the libraries. VIP not only promotes early literacy, but it also empowers parents to be their child's first teacher. Rigorous studies show that children in VIP have improvements in skills like language, problem solving and behavior that will help them to succeed in school. Our team of researchers at NYU School of Medicine is currently leading a scientific study of City's First Readers. So far, our findings demonstrate that using healthcare to promote literacy through City's First Readers is associated with the increased use of the library and other community literacy services, and together that this is associated with parents reading more with their children at home. These findings demonstrate the

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potential for large impacts across New York City if
City's First Readers is expanded. Impressively,
City's First Readers has been endorsed by the
American Academy of Pediatrics, and was highlighted
this February at the meeting of the prestigious
American Association for the Advancement of Science
up in Boston. Colleagues from across the country
have been inspired by City's First Readers and want
to model it in their region. It is vital that City's
First Readers continues to grow. Increased funding
next year will allow us to reach more children and
families showing that New York is a forward thinking
city with a priority to help its youngest residents
succeed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

ANDRE EATON: Good afternoon, Council
Member Eugene and Council Member Chin, and thank you
again for allowing us to present to you and talk
about City's First Readers. My name is Andre Eaton.
I am the New York Program Director for the
Parent/Child Home Program. The Parent/Child Home
Program focuses on providing parents with children 16
months to four years with the age, with the skills,
knowledge and materials they need to support school

readiness development in the home, and to provide
caring environments that build their children's
cognitive and social-emotional skills. In doing
this, we are also helping parents to learn what to
look for in a child care setting, and how to identify
and support their children's next educational steps
including enrolling their children—their child in
Pre-K. Focusing on school readiness and early
literacy support for families challenged by poverty,
limited education and language and literacy barriers,
PCHP provided over 29,000 home visits, and
distributed over 14,500 books and educational toys in
New York City last year, which are all gifts to the
families and to children overall. Our partners in
New York City include parent-schools, public
libraries that has been mentioned. The—the group
that you see around this particular table handle the
community based organizations. We recognize this and
you know this as well that young children are being
cared for by parents, grandparents, other family
friends and neighbor-neighboring caregivers licensed
and unlicensed family childcare providers and child
care centers. Many children would be cared for in
several of these environments over the course of

their pre-school years. Low-income children in particular like to be cared for by family members or in informal settings. For these reasons, it is particularly important in addressing the issue of the preparation or school readiness gap, we focus on supporting strengthening and connecting all of these care environments in ensuring that they all have the knowledge, skills and materials to support school readiness. The current funding through the City's First Readers Initiative has allowed PCHP to now provide 75 families with the knowledge, skills and materials with their children for school readiness in three communities: Astoria, Washington Heights and Sunset Park. The tools that we provide for families are books and educational toys to build literacy rich home environments. So the program is really focused about parent engagement, and giving parents involved. Program staff also provide referrals other social service agencies, including those around this table, and administration supports for the families through the sponsoring agency of the program partners when necessary in assisting in that encouraged with registering their children from a Pre-K or kindergarten program within their communities. With

these community partners, we are reaching families who would otherwise not have access to PCHP in these eligible (sic) communities. These communities have had limited early childhood school readiness services, and many families do not access to supports to help prepare their children for school success. With the additional funding the City's First Readers is requesting, PCHP looks forward to open-opening up in its fourth community in Brooklyn in the Brownsville East New York community, and ensure that 100 families will receive over 4,600 home visits and 2,300 books [bell] and educational toys. Thank you for the time, and we appreciate your-your support.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much for your testimony. [pause]

NICOLE GALLANT: Alright, My name is Nicole Gallant. I'm the Senior Vice President of Community Impact for United Way of New York City. I'd like to thank the Council for your continued support and investment in City's First Readers, and I urge your committee to support an increase in the FY18 initiative fund it at the level of \$5 million, which will significantly expand the impact of this critical investment in early literacy. At United Way

of New York City for—for almost 80 years we've been working to support vulnerable New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs, and our mandate is to stem the root causes of poverty and create systems level change so that all individuals and families can access quality education and the opportunity to lead healthy and financially secure lives. Although we reach every community district in New York City our focus is currently in four neighborhoods in Mott Haven in the South Bronx, Morrisania, Brownsville, Brooklyn, and East and Central Harlem. Read NYC is our collective impact program and it's committed to improving school readiness, grade level literacy and engaging in empowering parents as their children's first teachers. Part of the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Read NYC is committed to doubling the number of children reading on grade level by third grade within New York City's most impoverished communities by 2020. And our goal is such because we know that reading on grade level by third grade is the strongest predictor of high school graduation. In 2016, we began our collaboration with City's First Readers in Mott Haven and that's the neighborhood situated in the poorest congressional

district in the U.S. and experiences extremely high poverty, high unemployment, low health quality and high rates of crime. When we started in 2013, less than one in ten children read on grade level by grade 3 in that neighborhood, and just 55% of students were graduating high school on time. With City's First Readers, the funding allowed us to provide book distribution through our partnership with the Imagination Library, delivering books for children below the age of 5 to build at-home libraries. We've delivered a total 5,531 books to over 1,000 children on a monthly basis between the age of 0 and 5. We've increased reading opportunities for our Extended Day Learning Program, which provides students with supplemental literacy instruction and literacy aligned enrichment activities, STEM education, physical activities, access to nutritious foods, and 101 literacy tutoring, and access to resources through eight parent workshops on engagement empowerment providing tax preparation and benefits assistance and referrals for health services, housing and childcare. After three years of work in this neighborhood, we have helped to increase the proficiency level by 50% among third graders. We

have twice as many reading on grade level at this point. Increased funding would allow Read NYC to expand in the—in the following ways: Expand our geographic reach, magnify parent engagement, and strengthen our evaluation infrastructure to ensure coalition members are working collaboratively and strategically, and rebuild organizational coalition capacity to capture and evaluate data on collective efforts citywide. We further [bell] encourage investment in City's First Readers so organizations like ours can continue to provide the resources together in partnership with organizations like these. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

LAURIE WILLIAMS: Hi, good afternoon. My name is Laurie Williams and I'm representing Reach Out and Read of Greater New York where I serve as the Executive Director. I also would first like to take the opportunity to thank the City Council especially Council Member Eugene, Council Member Chin, and everyone who have supported City First Readers. That means an awful lot to everyone in this group, and has done so much as a collective impact project. So we hope you'll consider the \$5 million in Fiscal Year 18

so that we can do even more than we have done. I want to say that there is still a lot of work yet ahead. Over 70% of third graders in New York City are still reading below grade level, and as the curriculum becomes even more advanced, these children will fall farther behind. The majority of the children come from low-income underserved families. Two-thirds of students who are not reading proficiently by fourth grade will end up involved in the Criminal Justice System or on welfare. Consider that by age 3, children from high income families are exposed to 30 million more words than children from low-income communities. This disparity is reflective of unacceptable inequalities, inequalities of access to resources that have profound implications for our children in school and beyond. For the past 17 years, Reach Out and Read of Greater New York has been working to ensure that children all across New York have the resources to develop a strong foundation for lifelong success. Unlike traditional childhood literacy programs, we meet families where they are. The program takes advantage of the unique access that pediatric primary care providers have to the children who are in the critical years of

cognitive and language development. We provide doctors and medical staff, training and resources to help them become a child's first reading role model. Medical providers work with the children as part of their routine well child visits and help them and their family members understand the critical importance of reading aloud to children regularly. And because so many of the families that we work with just don't have the resources to buy books, children are given the books to take home that are culturally and developmentally appropriate. This book is often the springboard of action, a seed of literature that will germinate as families encouraged and informed by our positions make reading a part of everyday life. Currently, we serve 275,000 children and families in the Greater New York area, 205,000 in New York City alone at 155 hospitals and clinics. We really need the city's help to keep caring forth and funding from the City Council has helped us provide early literacy services in 43 of the 51 City Council Districts. Despite impressive efforts made possible by City's First Readers Initiative, much still needs to be done. We are only receiving funds for 30% of the book needs, and with your renewed commitment [bell],

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2 we aim to reach 100% support. Only then will we have
3 the tools to narrow and eventually raise the 30
4 million word gap. Only then will we be truly
5 investing in our future turning all of our children
6 into healthy readers and ultimately strong leaders--
7 leaders. Thank you for this opportunity to testify
8 today.

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

10 DEANA MURTHA: Hi. [coughs] My name is
11 Deana Murtha and I am with Jump Start. I'm the
12 Director of Development there. I'm going to start
13 with the Stat. Laurie talked about the \$30 million--
14 or not \$30 million. That would be nice, too. The 30
15 million word gap, and I also want to say that another
16 way of looking at that is when children from low--
17 income communities, pre-school kids get to
18 kindergarten they are one year behind the more
19 affluent peers. That's already one and just by
20 kindergarten, and as we've mentioned, that
21 achievement gap tends to widen as they go through
22 school. So what Jump Start does is we go back to the
23 pre-school classrooms, and we recruit and train
24 college student volunteers to go into classrooms
25 twice weekly for four hours a week to work on what we

call pre-literacy skills and those are things like recognizing capital letters, recognizing lower letters, the beginning sounds of words, rhyming, things that kids are going to need to know how to do when they get to kindergarten so that they can start on a level playing field and it works. The good news we have 90% increased level from our pre-school students from the beginning of the year to the end of the year, and with City's First Readers funding we've been able in New York City to serve over 1,600 pre-school kids, and that's with over 500 college student volunteers who are going into the classroom and working with these kids from October to May. So along with that we go out to the community. We have had over 30 parent and family volunteers sessions where we give out books with the activities to help parents become those readers at home to help with their kids' literacy. The increased funding would not only help to increase those numbers of classrooms that we're in to increase the number of college student volunteers that we could have, but to have a more robust and comprehensive city's first readers component so that we're all working more closely together, and as kids age from 0 to third grade that

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2 we're going through these--these processes together.

3 So I really encourage you to think about the
4 increased funding, think about City's First Readers,
5 and we thank you so much for your past support.

6 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thankyou very much.
7 Thank you.

8 JOCELYN RODRIGUEZ: Great. Good
9 afternoon. My name is Jocelyn Rodriguez, and I'm the
10 Director for the Early Care Institute, and I'm here
11 on behalf of the Committee for Hispanic Children and
12 Families, again one of the parties of City's First
13 Readers here asking for an enhancement of \$5 million.
14 We appreciate being here as part of the hearing the
15 formal testimony you all have as we're talking about
16 youth and the investment our youth have, and we all
17 know that the invest--as we continue to invest in our
18 youth we can't have the conversation around investing
19 in youth without having the conversation by investing
20 in our youngest of constituents. And so the
21 Committee for Hispanic Children and Families we're a
22 35-year-old multi-service organization that runs
23 after school programs, as well as we work with the
24 family child care sector, and so we help the
25 caregivers who are largely spending 10 hours a day

with these children and supporting this early education of our youngest of constituents. And so in addition to what our other partners have said, what \$5 million will continue to do is also help us continue to build and bridge the data that we continue to need for this initiative and for these partnerships. It's going to continue to allow us to reach out to more families and children. So it is amazing for our organization. We largely—99% of our services are in Spanish. Most of the children that we service are children who do not know English and whose families are predominantly non-English speaking. And so, as we talk about how to navigate systems, for example, the libraries are a huge resource for how many times we've got to advocate for families to go to their local communities to be connected. How important it is that local community based organizations like the ones that are here today are the vehicles for that information to carry that information. The family childcare providers that we work with work with anywhere from 2 to 16 families, and these are vehicles and conduits of communication to our—to our—to our parents in the community. So, our organization worked last year with over 6,000

children and about 2,600 parents and over 1,300 family childcare providers, and if you can think about leaving your child for the day before you go to work and coming in, you're really going to listen to this educator. And so as we continue to talk about promoting literacy and bridging this gap that we're talking—we're talking our people, we're talking about my children, my nieces, my nieces and my nephews, and it's important that we continue to invest in these initiatives that are starting with our youngest of constituents. So we thank you today again. All this information and our asks are in our written testimonies, and we know it's been a long day. [laughs] So, I appreciate you still being here, and hearing us out, and we hope that City's First Readers is—is considered as you move forward. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Thank you very much. Any other speakers? Thank you so very much for your testimony, and thank you for the wonderful that you're doing on behalf of the young people. Thank you. [pause] Now, our last panel is Kate Banks. [background comments, pause] Miss Kate Banks you are the lucky one. [laughs] Alright,

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2 Miss--it seems that we don't have a sign-in sheet for
3 you. We don't have your name. Anyway, can you--

4 KATE BANKS: Sure.

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --when you are about
6 to speak, please.

7 KATE BANKS: Sure.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Just for the record.

9 KATE BANKS: We're one--we're one
10 organization so--

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

12 KATHY BANKS: --we Vivian Santora our
13 President our President and CEO of Power Play NYC.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Uh-huh.

15 KATE BANKS: Good afternoon and hello.
16 My name is Kate Banks, Strategic Partnerships and
17 External Affairs Director at Power Play NYC. I'd
18 like to begin by thanking Chairman Eugene and the
19 rest of the Council Committee members for taking time
20 today to hear our testimony, and for your crucial
21 leadership in support of our work in youth
22 development. Power Play NYC advances the lives of
23 girls in New York City helping them grow physically,
24 emotionally and academically stronger. We create
25 opportunities for girls ages 6 to 21 by partnering

with schools and community based organizations to
conduct after school and summer programs and
emphasize physical fitness and education. Using
sports as our hook, we build girls with confidence
and resiliency from the inside out, and create safe
spaces where girls learn from each other and from
strong female role models. [coughs] Our work
focuses on young women of color living in poverty who
are among New York City's most vulnerable
populations. Power Play programming is offered in
all five boroughs in New York, City, and is
concentrated in in low-income underserved communities
and in Title 1 funded public schools. Ninety-eight
percent of our participants are girls of color and
over 90% receive free lunch in school. Power Play
fills the critical service gap for young women of-of
color who face structural barriers limiting their
access to valuable resources and making them
particularly vulnerable. Our programs for girls and
young women help to fill the gap through a continuum
of services beginning with girls as young as six and
intensifying as girls mature. We believe that New
York City's young women are a valuable source of
talent and leadership, and in order to thrive they

need safe spaces to be active, think creatively and talk about issues that affect them. Power Play has a proven track record as a leading youth development organization in New York City. For the third consecutive year Power Play has been selected as the lead organization with the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative. This spring we will host the third annual STARS Citywide Girls Leadership Summit for over 500 young women. Power Play serves over 1,800 girls and young women through central programs, the STARS Series After School Program, the Rising Stars Leadership Academy and the Super Stars Leadership Academy. The City Council has previously discussed the need for more programming for the city's most vulnerable youth population. We are grateful to the City Council—or we are grateful the City Council acknowledges the importance of prioritizing opportunities for girls and we are here to highlight the ways in which our org—our organization's programs, particularly the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative can serve as an example for programs citywide. I have provided a report of the most recent update of—for the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative, which has been funded by DYCD since

Fiscal Year 2015. Women of color have higher levels of unemployment, are concentrated in low-paying jobs, and earn less for doing the same work. We know girls and women are the keys to creating lasting change in our communities, and when we support them, they will in turns uplift the families and communities.

Therefore, in order for New York City to thrive, we must recognize girls with strengths, create safe spaces for them to prosper and develop them as leaders. [bell] Power Play is the lead agency in the sports training and role models to success the Citywide Girls Initiative funded at \$1.2 million by the City Council, which offers the City of New York a unique opportunity to support the healthy development of thousands of girls and young women of color. The STARS Initiative is a collaboration of nine leading New York City non-profits helping girls and young women of color overcome barriers to success, gain access to high quality out of school activities and develop as leaders in their communities. The nine partners, Girls Right Now, Groundswell Community Renewal Project, Lower East Side Girls Club, Power Play, Run New York, City Initiative Leadership Project, the Anne-Marie Foundation, Figure Skating in

Harlem, and Girls for Gender Equity all leaders in the out of school time space are collectively serving more than 4,000 girls each year, and deepening in programming and on April 12th of this year, hosting the Third Annual STARS Citywide Summit, a day long conference where over 500 girls from all five boroughs will participate in workshops and conversations about identity, college access and preparedness and what it means to be a girl and a leader. With the support of the Council the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative is developing the life and leadership skills in New York Girls through after school and summer sports, academic enhancements, STEM, college prep and the arts. In 2017, STARS is seeking enhancement to \$1.7 million and funds will be used to expand and address girls' needs in the immigrant youth communities, and explore avenues and programming to address topics like violence in relationships, health, trauma and social activism. Moreover, STARS will use the additional funds to strengthen and enhance programming to reach girls and young women in the LGBTQ communities, and develop outreach methods to include parents and their guardians. In its first year funded at \$1.1 million

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with seven members, the initiative created over 1,400
new after school and summer programs sponsored by
girls and young women across NYC along with the non-
profits to serve more girls and serve them better.

In the initiative's second year, STARS expanded to
nine members. It was funded at \$1.2 million and
together 4,000 girls were served throughout all 51
Council Districts. In the third year, the initiative
is seeking renewed enhanced funding to \$1.7 million
to deepen and expand programming to address girls'
need in the vulnerable immigrant youth community and
explore avenues and programming to address topics
like violence in relationships, health, trauma, and
social activism. STARS has placed over 600 middle
and high school girls and young women to attend the
Third Annual Youth Summit, the initiative's
culminating event, which will offer [bell] a full day
of speakers—I'm almost done and seminars—seminars and
career awareness, college access and leadership
development to activism, and attendees will receive
training in critical writing, artists, community
building and essential life skills. Student will
come away with increased knowledge of career fields
in the health—in the high school and college

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application process, increase motivation to do well
in school to maximize their opportunities, and new
robust networks of strong and supportive girls and
young women. The STARS will draft a set of
recommendations for the Young Women's Leadership
Agenda to present to the City Council and for example
last year the young women recommended funding for
school based clubs focusing on gender equality and
female empowerment. The STARS CGI Summit is a-is an
empowering and inspiring event created with the
purpose of connecting girls from across New York City
who share similar experiences and giving them the
voice of that change. On behalf of Power Play, the
STAR Citywide Girls Initiative thanks Council Member
Eugene and the Council Members in attendance for your
ongoing support and collaboration. We encourage the
City Council to continue to fund organizations who
serve girls and young women where they receive the
resources and tools they need to succeed in school
and life. Power Play and STARS are meeting a variety
of needs of thousands of vulnerable girls and young
women across all five boroughs, particularly girls of
color and these achievements would not have been

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2 possible without your strategic input and
3 collaboration.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

5 KATE BANKS: Thank you. Sorry.

6 [laughter]

7 FEMALE SPEAKER: Well, that's it.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Oh, very good

9 KATE BANKS: Yes.

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: Emotionally it's heard.

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

12 [laughter] That was a support team after. Very good.

13 So thank you very much, and I want to on behalf of

14 the City of New York, on behalf of all the young

15 people, their parents, and also on behalf of the

16 Committee on Youth and Services, I want to thank you

17 all for your testimony, and also thank you for the

18 wonderful services that you are providing to the

19 young people to their parents, and to the New

20 Yorkers. Because of the services that you provide

21 every single day, New York is a better place for the

22 parents to raise their children. And because of the

23 services that you are providing also to the young

24 people, to their parents, and to the New Yorkers, New

25 York is a safer place also. And the young people

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2 they learn so much from you, and they can become the
3 leaders that we want them for them be, and for that,
4 to all of you thank you so very much, and may God
5 bless you. Let's continue to work together to
6 advocate for the young people because you are true
7 advocates really. Not only you are providing
8 services, but you are advocating every day for the
9 young people, and thank you very much for everything
10 that you have been doing. God bless you. Thank you,
11 and I want to—I would be remiss also if I didn't take
12 the time and the opportunity to thank the wonderful
13 people, you know, also on the Youth Services
14 Committee and my staff also because you have been
15 patient. You have a lot of cool, Chan (sic) because
16 we have been here for over four hours. So thank you
17 very much to Anthon (sic) Tucker, and my Legislative
18 and Budget Director. Thank you to Rose Lynn Janville
19 (sic) also, and thank you to Jessica Ackerman, Senior
20 Finance Analyst to the Committee and thank you to the
21 Michael Benjamin our Senior Policy Analyst and also
22 thank to Erica Burston, Counsel to the committee.
23 Thank you very much and God bless you, and the
24 meeting is adjourned. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date March 27, 2017