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**Testimony of Ronnie Lowenstein  
Director of the New York City Independent Budget Office  
To the New York City Council Finance Committee  
On the Mayor's Executive Budget for 2015 and Financial Plan**

**June 6, 2014**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Ferreras and members of the committee. My name is Ronnie Lowenstein and I am director of the New York City Independent Budget Office. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with you the main findings of IBO's latest economic forecast for the city and our estimates of tax collections and spending under the framework of the Mayor's Executive Budget for 2015 and four-year financial plan.

Contrary to the assertions of some fiscal observers, the city's budget gaps are not ballooning. By historical standards, the budget shortfalls we anticipate are relatively modest. These shortfalls—smaller than the budget gaps estimated by the Mayor—are largely the result of our expectation that tax revenues will be higher than those projected by the de Blasio Administration. Under our forecast, city tax revenues will grow at a moderate but steady rate. And even after accounting for the costs of the anticipated settlement with the municipal labor unions, IBO expects that spending will grow at a slower rate than revenues over the 2014 through 2018 period.

IBO projects that the city will end the current fiscal year, for which just three weeks remain, with a surplus of \$1.8 billion, \$131 million more than estimated by the de Blasio Administration. The Mayor has projected a balanced budget for next fiscal year. In contrast, we anticipate that the upcoming year will end with a surplus of just over \$830 million. For 2016, we project a shortfall of \$1.6 billion, or about \$930 million less than the budget gap expected by the Mayor. Our budget gap estimates for 2017 and 2018 are also substantially smaller than those projected by the Mayor.

Let me provide some context for the budget gaps we project. While \$1.6 billion is a large number to most of us, it is a comparatively small share of city-generated revenue: 2.9 percent of tax collections, fines, fees and other locally generated revenues based on IBO's projections for 2016. For some perspective on this number, we reviewed Executive Budgets from the past two decades, covering the five terms of Mayors Giuliani and Bloomberg. We found that for the comparable point in time—two years beyond the then-current fiscal year—projected budget gaps averaged 7.4 percent of city-generated revenues. The budget gap estimates for the ensuing fiscal years were similarly several times

greater as a share of city-generated revenue than our estimates of shortfalls under the de Blasio Administration's financial plan.

The reason we project a surplus in 2015 and smaller budget shortfalls than the Mayor in the subsequent years is our estimates of higher tax collections. IBO's tax revenue forecast exceeds the Mayor's estimates by nearly \$800 million in 2015, \$1.1 billion in 2016, and \$2.3 billion by 2018.

Our higher tax estimates are not the result of an optimistic outlook for the local economy. IBO projects that local employment growth will slow from a gain of about 83,000 jobs last year to just below 76,000 this year. For 2015 through 2018, we expect job growth to average 56,400 per year—disappointing compared with the average gain of nearly 86,000 jobs the city enjoyed over the past three years. Our forecast assumes that a substantial share of those new jobs will be in relatively low-paying industries such as education and health care, where the average wage was \$50,000 in 2013, and leisure and hospitality, where wages averaged \$42,100.

We expect Wall Street to play a smaller role in the city's growth than it has in recent years, a far cry from the driving force that propelled the last expansion. IBO forecasts that Wall Street profits will remain fairly flat, averaging about \$15 billion a year over 2014 through 2018. Wall Street is expected to generate only about 1,200 new jobs a year over that same period, 2 percent of our projected increase in local jobs but 15 percent of the total increase in wages and salaries.

Nor are our year-to-year expectations for tax revenue growth extraordinary. IBO forecasts that tax revenues will rise at an average rate of 4.2 percent from 2014 through 2018, growing from \$47.3 billion this year to \$55.8 billion by the end of the financial plan period. Once again using history to put these numbers in context, our projected annual growth rate is well below the average increase of more than 7 percent a year in the three years immediately following the 2008-2009 recession and roughly a third of the almost 12 percent average during the boom years of 2003 through 2007.

The moderate rate of growth we anticipate in tax revenues is matched by a similarly moderate forecast of spending growth. IBO's projection for spending increases incorporates the de Blasio Administration's estimates of the cost of a contract settlement with the municipal unions. We expect that total city expenditures will grow at an average rate of 2.7 percent a year, from \$76.2 billion to \$84.7 billion in 2018 after adjusting for the use of the projected 2014 surplus to prepay some 2015 expenses. Looking just at city-funded expenditures and again adjusting for the use of the 2014 surplus, we expect spending to grow at an average annual rate of 3.4 percent and rise from \$54.8 billion this year to \$62.7 billion in 2018.

Other than the \$5.6 billion in new funding added to the financial plan to cover the costs of the expected labor pact, most of the newly proposed spending initiatives are relatively small such as the one-time, \$70 million in aid for the housing authority or the roughly \$40 million a year to implement Vision Zero. Two other comparatively large initiatives—the expansions of pre-K (\$300 million) and middle school after school-programs (\$145 million)—are being funded with state dollars.

As in the past, there are several areas where IBO's spending projections differ from those of the de Blasio Administration. The single largest difference in 2015 is our expectation of \$45 million in additional spending by the education department. That estimate includes \$28 million in city funds needed to meet our projection of higher enrollment at charter schools than assumed under the Mayor's budget. We also anticipate that federal Medicaid reimbursements for certain special education services will fall \$17 million short of the Mayor's projection, requiring the city to make up the difference. By 2018, we anticipate that the education department will need \$326 million more than currently budgeted—\$279 million for charter school enrollment growth (based only on schools already open or approved for opening) and the rest to cover a continued shortfall in Medicaid reimbursements.

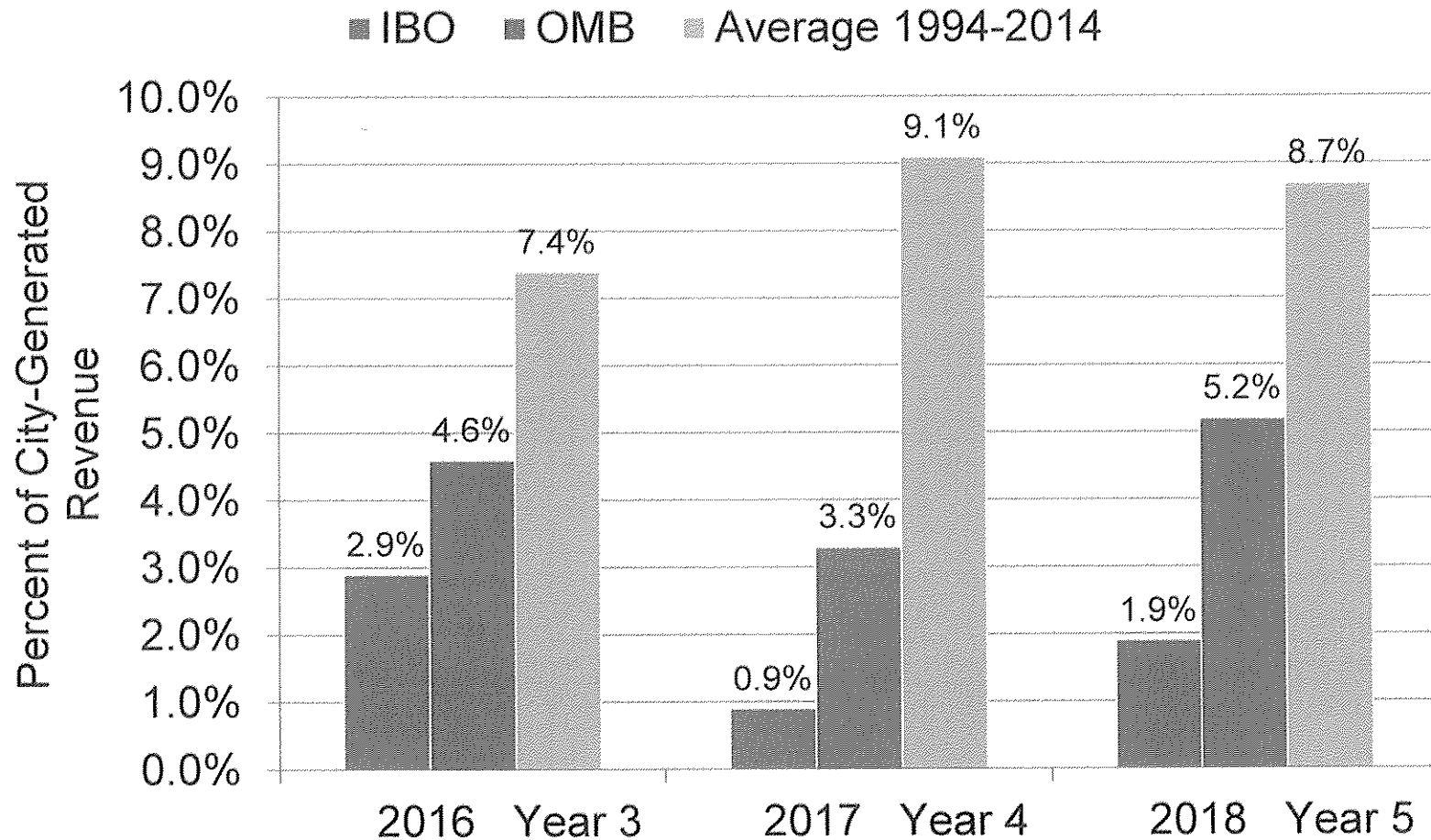
While our latest economic forecast and tax revenue and spending projections point to a relatively positive fiscal outlook for the city, there are ample reasons for caution. On the economic and tax revenue side, there are legitimate reasons to question whether the local economy can continue to add jobs at the pace we project without being led by Wall Street. On the spending side of the budget equation, there are a number of potential risks. For example, it is not clear that all unions will accept the terms of the proposed labor settlement—and in particular the police and fire unions have vociferously objected to the pattern ratified by the teachers' union. The ongoing fiscal problems faced by the New York City Housing Authority and the Health and Hospitals Corporation could also lead to mounting pressure on the city to provide additional aid.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to be here today and I am glad to answer any questions you have about IBO's review of the Mayor's budget plan and our economic forecast.

*IBO's full, 17-page report on the Mayor's Executive Budget, including details of our latest economic forecast and tax revenue and spending projections, is available here: <http://bit.ly/1kaP0v4>.*

# Gaps Are Relatively Manageable

Gaps as Share of City-Generated Revenue, Fiscal Years



May 2014

Reestimating the Mayor's Plan:

## An Analysis of the 2015 Executive Budget & Financial Plan Through 2018

When Mayor Bill de Blasio presented his Executive Budget for 2015 and financial plan through 2018 earlier this month, he characterized the plan as fiscally responsible, progressive, and honest: Fiscally responsible, in part, because it establishes and funds a pattern of labor settlements that had been the greatest source of uncertainty in recent budget proposals; progressive because of its investment in the new Mayor's priorities such as enhancing services for children and adolescents and providing affordable housing; and honest because it undoes the "budget dance" of past years in which Mayors routinely cut and the City Council regularly restored funding in an annual ritual affecting a variety of services.

While what constitutes a progressive budget is fundamentally a subjective matter, examining the Mayor's budget themes of fiscal responsibility and budget honesty fall more directly within IBO's role. But it is a role made more complicated for this report because of the tentative pact with the teachers' union and its possible extension to other unions. It is a highly complex agreement, reached just days before the Mayor released his Executive Budget, and has multibillion dollar effects on the city budget over seven years—beyond the four years covered in the financial plan.

The de Blasio Administration quickly built its estimated costs of the proposed labor settlement for all unions into the financial plan, but issued a revised plan on May 22 that addressed an accounting concern raised by City Comptroller Scott Stringer. In making the change in the revised plan, the amount in the Mayor has set aside to cover the cost of the tentative contract settlement has increased by \$115 million. The revised plan was released as IBO was due to issue this report and we do not yet have a clear explanation of the increase. Even before this change, IBO had questions about other aspects of the proposed pact and their potential costs, questions that have prevented us from incorporating our own estimate of the settlement's cost into this review of the Mayor's Executive Budget and financial plan.

With this caveat in mind we project the city will end the current fiscal year with a surplus of \$1.8 billion, \$131 million more than the Mayor. Our estimate is based on IBO's latest economic forecast and projections of tax revenues and spending under the contours of the Mayor's revised Executive Budget and financial plan. We estimate that the upcoming fiscal year, 2015, will end with a surplus of \$833 million, and that 2016 has a shortfall of \$1.6 billion, \$934 million less than projected by the Mayor. The budget gap IBO projects for 2016 is a manageable 2.9 percent of city generated revenues, particularly in light of the surplus we projected for 2015.

**U.S. Economy.** Economic growth in the U.S. essentially stalled in the first quarter of 2014. (All years in this section on IBO's economic forecast refer to calendar years.) The primary reason was harsh winter weather in much of the country, which took its toll on output in many sectors, especially construction. Preliminary data reveal that real gross domestic product (GDP) growth dwindled to only 0.1 percent on an annual basis compared with 2.6 percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2013. Despite the disappointing first quarter, IBO continues to expect robust GDP growth in the remainder of the year, with much of the economic activity that would otherwise have occurred in the first quarter of 2014 shifted to the second quarter and beyond. Taking into account the first-quarter stagnation, IBO has reduced its forecast of real GDP growth for 2014 as a whole to 2.6 percent, down from 2.8 percent in the March forecast, but we have left our GDP forecasts for 2015 and beyond unchanged.

IBO projects that the U.S. economy will grow faster this year than in 2013, when contractionary fiscal policies and October's federal government shutdown together constrained real GDP growth to 1.9 percent. The fiscal drag attributable to last year's tax increases and spending cuts has been abating, and no new contractionary policies are expected in the near term. IBO forecasts faster economic growth after 2014, with GDP rising 3.5 percent in 2015 and 3.2 percent in 2016.

The U.S. economy's recovery from the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009 has been unusually slow, with modest private sector job growth coupled with declines in government sector employment. It has taken four years for the private sector to regain the 8.8 million jobs lost over 25 months of contraction, and total employment (private and government sectors) is now just shy of its pre-recession

peak. However, these job gains have resulted in only a gradual decline in the nation's unemployment rate, from 9.9 percent at the recession's trough (fourth quarter of 2009) to 6.7 percent in the first quarter of 2014—still well above the average 4.6 percent unemployment rate in 2007.

Despite lackluster employment gains and GDP growth during the recovery, conditions favorable to a more robust economic expansion have been in place for some time. These conditions include a corporate sector flush with cash from record high profit margins and cost-cutting measures, a household sector with the lowest debt-to-income ratio in decades plus considerable pent-up demand for many consumer goods, and a banking sector well capitalized due to low interest rates and more stringent capital requirements in the wake of the financial crisis. Very low interest rates have increased access to mortgage financing, stimulated home sales, and reversed the long slide in home prices. The improving housing market and the strength in the stock market have created a wealth effect that has also boosted spending, especially by higher-income households.

The Federal Reserve's (Fed) policy of low interest rates, keeping the federal funds rate on overnight loans between banks near zero and continuing to buy up financial assets (albeit at a slowing pace) to put downward pressure on long-term interest rates (quantitative easing), has been a key ingredient fostering economic growth. Low rates have been vital to the turnaround of the housing market, which had been a major impediment to growth in the aftermath of the Great Recession. The Fed has indicated that it will continue its accommodative monetary policy until labor markets have substantially recovered from the recession or inflation appears to be taking hold. Based on our forecast of the U.S. unemployment rate averaging 6.4 percent this year, this suggests that the Federal Reserve will maintain a near-zero federal funds rate through most of 2014.

<b>Total Revenue and Expenditure Projections</b>						
<i>Dollars in millions</i>						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average Change
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$75,108</b>	<b>\$75,118</b>	<b>\$78,016</b>	<b>\$80,809</b>	<b>\$83,490</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Total Taxes	\$47,304	\$48,428	\$51,004	\$53,330	\$55,843	4.2%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$75,108</b>	<b>\$74,286</b>	<b>\$79,650</b>	<b>\$81,367</b>	<b>\$84,685</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>IBO Surplus/(Gap) Projections</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$833</b>	<b>(\$1,634)</b>	<b>(\$558)</b>	<b>(\$1,195)</b>	
<b>Adjusted for Prepayments:</b>						
Total Expenditures	\$76,186	\$76,152	\$79,753	\$81,367	\$84,685	2.7%
City-Funded Expenditures	\$54,775	\$55,604	\$58,781	\$59,920	\$62,708	3.4%
NOTES: IBO projects a surplus of \$1.8 billion for 2014, \$131 million above the de Blasio Administration's forecast. The surplus is used to prepay some 2015 expenditures, leaving 2014 with a balanced budget. Figures may not add due to rounding.						
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**IBO versus Mayor's Office of Management  
And Budget Economic Forecasts**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>National Economy</b>						
Real GDP Growth						
IBO	1.9	2.6	3.5	3.2	2.7	2.4
OMB	1.9	2.5	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0
Inflation Rate						
IBO	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.5
OMB	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.1
Personal Income Growth						
IBO	2.9	4.9	6.2	5.3	4.5	3.8
OMB	2.8	3.7	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.3
Unemployment Rate						
IBO	7.4	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.4
OMB	7.4	6.4	5.9	5.6	5.2	5.0
10-Year Treasury Bond Rate						
IBO	2.4	3.2	4.1	5.0	4.9	4.7
OMB	2.4	3.3	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.6
Federal Funds Rate						
IBO	0.1	0.1	0.3	2.3	3.6	4.1
OMB	0.1	0.1	0.4	2.2	3.8	4.0
<b>New York City Economy</b>						
Nonfarm New Jobs (thousands)						
IBO	83.1	75.7	63.8	60.0	51.5	50.2
OMB	83.0	58.0	51.0	58.0	55.0	50.0
Nonfarm Employment Growth						
IBO	2.1	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.2
OMB	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2
Inflation Rate (CPI-U-NY)						
IBO	1.7	2.1	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.0
OMB	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.3
Personal Income (\$ billions)						
IBO	484.1	511.3	540.0	568.2	592.5	615.3
OMB	484.8	501.2	520.0	544.0	571.3	598.3
Personal Income Growth						
IBO	2.8	5.6	5.6	5.2	4.3	3.9
OMB	2.7	3.4	3.7	4.6	5.0	4.7
Manhattan Office Rents (\$/sq.ft)						
IBO	68.4	67.8	68.9	71.1	72.5	73.8
OMB	68.9	68.0	69.9	71.7	72.7	74.2

SOURCE: Mayor's Office of Management and Budget

NOTES: Rates reflect year-over-year percentage changes except for unemployment, 10-Year Treasury Bond Rate, Federal Funds Rate, and Manhattan Office Rents. The local price index for urban consumers (CPI-U-NY) covers the New York/Northern New Jersey region. Personal income is nominal. For 2013, New York City personal income and growth rates are estimated, pending Bureau of Economic Analysis release.

New York City Independent Budget Office

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IBO assumes the Fed will be able to slowly wind down its asset purchases in a transparent and orderly fashion and succeed in avoiding sudden spikes in interest rates.

In addition to assuming that there will be no unintended consequences from monetary policy, IBO's economic forecast is premised on there being no significant external shocks to the economy and no additional drag from fiscal policy. The budget agreement approved in Washington at the end of 2013 removed the threat of a government shutdown or another round of sequestration cuts in 2014, and it is consistent with our assumption that the total dollar amount of deficit reduction in federal budgets will remain essentially unchanged through 2018, the final year of the city's financial-plan period. Also consistent with our assumption of no shocks to the economy is a Congressional agreement to temporarily shelve the political brinksmanship that had undermined consumer and business confidence through much of the recovery.

IBO forecasts some acceleration of personal income growth from a modest 2.9 percent in 2013 to 4.9 percent in 2014 and 6.2 percent in 2015—these increases are somewhat slower than the growth anticipated in our March forecast. Faster growth of income and output will bring a reduction in the unemployment rate, to an average of 6.4 percent in 2014 and 6.0 percent in 2015. It also will put upward pressure on prices. As the unemployment picture improves, we expect the Fed to begin increasing the federal funds rate towards the end of 2014 in order to start bringing monetary policy back to a more neutral stance and to contain potential inflation. IBO forecasts a rise in the inflation rate from 1.8 percent in 2014 to 2.1 percent and 2.4 percent in 2015 and 2016, respectively. After 2015, IBO expects growth to moderate, with real GDP growth dipping to 3.2 percent in 2016, and then falling further to 2.7 percent in 2017 and 2.4 percent in 2018. Although economic growth slows, we expect the unemployment rate to continue its gradual decline, reaching 5.4 percent in 2018.

Compared with IBO's macroeconomic forecast, the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) projects somewhat less real GDP growth in 2014 (2.5 percent versus 2.6 percent for IBO) and 2015 (3.1 percent versus 3.5 percent). Despite OMB's expectation of slower growth, the two forecasts of unemployment rates are identical for 2014 and differ little for 2015 and 2016. With slower growth, OMB forecasts lower inflation (1.6 percent in 2014 and under 2.0 percent until 2018) than does IBO (1.8 percent inflation in 2014 and over 2.0 percent in subsequent years).

**New York City Economy.** The number of jobs added to New York City's economy so far this year has continued to exceed expectations, and IBO has raised its forecast of 2014 employment growth to 75,700 (1.9 percent) compared with the 70,300 new jobs we projected in March. After 2014, however, we expect employment growth to diminish each year, with the city gaining an average of 56,400 jobs annually, slightly less than in the March forecast. In line with our expectation of more modest increases in local employment, IBO has also lowered its forecast of personal income growth to 5.6 percent in both 2014 and 2015 compared with our previous projections of 5.8 percent in 2014 and 6.3 percent in 2015.

Since the Great Recession, strong employment growth in New York City has been accompanied by income growth that is weaker than had occurred in the previous economic expansion. Over the last three years, New York City payroll employment grew by an average of 85,500 (2.3 percent) per year, with private-sector growth—90,300, or 2.8 percent per year—the strongest for any three-year period on record.<sup>1</sup> However, the growth in the number of jobs has been offset somewhat by a decline in average hours worked per private-sector employee—a decline that started in the recession and has continued through 2013. While total private employment increased 5.6 percent from 2008 through 2013, aggregate hours worked increased only 2.5 percent. We estimate that about four-fifths of this decline reflected shrinking work weeks within specific industries with the remainder resulting from change in the relative size of different industries in the city. In particular, employment in financial activities (where average work weeks are long) has been falling and the shares of employment in education and health care and in leisure and hospitality (where average work weeks are relatively short) has been rising.

The shift in employment growth from high-paying finance jobs to low-paying jobs in retail trade and leisure and hospitality has also had the effect of curtailing aggregate wage growth in the city, as have declining average wages within the securities industry, the most highly compensated segment of the financial sector. Real average wages on Wall Street have fallen in five of the past six years, though they remain five times higher than the average for jobs in other industries. [Click here for a set of graphs of New York City wage and employment growth by industry in the current expansion (2009-2013) and in the prior expansion from 2003 through 2008.] The bailout of the industry in the wake of the financial crisis and the plunge in firms' interest expenses due to near-zero federal funds rates helped securities firms earn a record-breaking \$61.4

billion in profits in 2009. But total industry revenues collapsed during the recession and have changed little since, constraining firms' ability to maintain compensation levels while achieving profits. Since 2009, the continuation of very low interest rates and reductions in compensation have enabled firms to earn healthy profits—averaging \$18.9 billion a year through 2013.

Though the city's employment growth in the recovery has generally outpaced the rate of job creation in the nation as a whole, the city's annual average unemployment rate only declined from 9.6 percent in 2010 to 8.7 percent in 2013; over the same period the national unemployment rate fell from 9.6 percent to 7.4 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate would have been higher, however, had there not been a decline in recent years in labor force participation of working-age Americans—a decline which by itself causes the unemployment rate to fall since those not looking for work are not counted among the unemployed. In contrast, although New York City's labor force participation rate has been lower than the nation's, it has not been trending down as the nation's has.

IBO's economic forecast does not include any large shocks during the forecast period that would have a significant impact on the national or local economy, but a confluence of factors lead us to expect New York City job growth to taper off over the next five years. Total payroll job growth is projected to slow from about 75,700 in 2014 to 50,200 in 2018, averaging 56,400 (1.5 per percent) per year—moderate by recent standards, but still on par with “typical” expansions going back to 1950. Private-sector payrolls will grow by an average of 60,000 (1.7 percent) per year. IBO expects the deceleration in city job growth to become more pronounced after 2016, largely in line with the slower growth we project for the U.S. economy overall. Before that, however, the city economy will be boosted by rising labor force participation and the city's unemployment rate is projected to fall throughout the plan period, hitting 5.4 percent in 2018, just equal to the projected rate for the nation as a whole.

The mix of industries IBO expects to add jobs over the next five years looks a lot like the mix adding jobs over the past four years. Again, most job growth will come from education and health care services (26.6 percent of total employment growth from 2013 through 2018), professional and business services (23.8 percent), leisure and hospitality (14.7 percent), and wholesale and retail trade (12.9 percent). The latter two sectors will continue to be substantially boosted by tourism. The securities sector

is expected to pick up slightly, but will account for only 2.1 percent of projected city job growth and 15.2 percent of projected aggregate real wage growth—still a very far cry from expansions prior to the Great Recession.

With Wall Street adjusting to a new and still unfolding regulatory regime, IBO anticipates a moderate rise in New York Stock Exchange broker-dealer revenues, which in 2017 are expected to surpass \$200 billion—still well below their \$352 billion peak a decade earlier. But profits will remain fairly flat, averaging about \$15 billion over the next five years, with the increases in revenue largely offset by the rising cost of interest.

IBO's forecast for the real estate market has changed little since March. The total value of taxable commercial real estate sales recorded in 2013 was \$53.8 billion, an increase of 43.4 percent over 2012. Commercial sales recorded in early 2013 were unusually high, reflecting the rush of transactions initiated in late 2012 to avoid the 2013 increase in the capital gains tax. Residential sales were \$40.7 billion in 2013, an increase of 23.5 percent above the prior year. Sales of coop and condo apartments have largely regained their pre-recession levels, particularly in Manhattan. However, the total value of one-, two-, and three-family home sales outside Manhattan is still substantially below their 2005-2006 peak prior to the housing downturn.

During the first four months of 2014, the value of commercial sales is down 8.3 percent compared with January-April 2013 and residential sales value is up 17.5 percent. For 2014 as a whole, however, IBO expects the total taxable value of commercial property sold to decline 17.9 percent, and the value of residential property sold to increase just 3.0 percent compared with 2013. IBO projects that the total value of residential and commercial properties will together increase at an average rate of around 7.0 percent annually in 2015 through 2018.

IBO projects a slight (-0.9 percent) decline in average Manhattan office rents in 2014, followed by modest growth (2.1 percent per year) through the rest of the plan period. This outlook reflects weakness in the office-using employment sector, particularly financial services, as well as the relatively large amount of Manhattan office space expected to come on line at the World Trade Center and Hudson Yards beginning in 2015.

There are considerable differences between the IBO and OMB forecasts with respect to the pace and timing of employment and income growth. In general, OMB forecasts

slower New York City employment and income growth than does IBO and—consistent with the differences in the two macroeconomic forecasts—expects peak growth to occur later in the forecast period. IBO forecasts employment gains averaging 60,200 annually from 2014 through 2018 compared with 54,400 for OMB. While IBO expects increases in employment to taper off throughout the forecast period, OMB's forecasts of employment gains are as large in 2016 as they are for this year. Similarly, OMB's forecast of personal income growth from 2014 through 2018 is lower than IBO's, but peak income growth occurs in the last two years of the OMB forecast compared with peak growth in this year and next in the IBO forecast.

**Risks to the Economic Forecast.** IBO's outlook for the U.S. economy is premised on there being no significant external shocks to the economy, and on monetary and fiscal policies remaining conducive to growth. The risks to the nation's economy from unforeseen events or policies also extend to the city's economy, which has significant exposure to the national and global economy in its role as a world financial center and major tourist destination.

The execution of monetary policy poses a major risk: unwinding quantitative easing as the economy strengthens without generating sharp increases in long-term interest rates will pose a challenge for the Fed. The risk of fiscal policy brinksmanship returns in 2015, as another showdown over the federal budget or debt ceiling could again undermine consumer and business confidence—essential ingredients to sustained economic growth—and potentially trigger another downgrade of U.S. debt.

A major shock to the U.S. economy, whether from a large rise in oil prices or economic disruptions elsewhere in the global economy, could derail the economic growth IBO is projecting. While potential geopolitical flash points such as the Middle East or, more recently, Eastern Europe could bring collateral economic disruptions, the economic problems of China—the world's second largest economy—may pose the greatest international risk. China's policymakers are just starting to confront the challenge of weaning the financial system and the broader economy from reliance on an unsustainable expansion of credit, but it remains to be seen if this can be accomplished without major disturbances to international trade and finance.

Given New York City's role as a global financial center, shocks to the U.S. economy from financial crises in Europe, China, or elsewhere would have a disproportionate impact on New York City's economy. In addition to harming the

city's financial services industries, the shock would also be transmitted to the city's tourism and retail sectors. Finally, the city's economy could be challenged if additional capital requirements, other regulations, or rising interest rates affect the revenue and profitability of firms in the securities and banking sectors more than IBO has anticipated.

### *Tax Revenue Projections*

After better-than-expected tax revenue growth in the current fiscal year (a gain of 5.4 percent), IBO projects that tax revenues for 2015 will grow at less than half that pace and total \$48.4 billion for the year. (All years in the tax revenue and following sections of this report are city fiscal years unless otherwise noted.) With the strongest economic growth during the financial plan period expected in calendar years 2015 and 2016, tax revenue growth is forecast to accelerate in fiscal year 2016 and total \$51.0 billion (a gain of 5.3 percent). For 2017 and 2018, revenues are expected to grow more moderately—an average pace of 4.6 percent—and reach \$55.8 million.

The current forecast for 2014 is over \$1 billion higher than IBO's forecast in March with roughly half of the gain due to a surge in personal income tax payments during the spring filing season. IBO's projections for 2015 through 2018, however, are now lower in each year than in our March forecasts—the differences range from \$199 million to \$364 million.

While the outlook for the financial plan is slightly less optimistic than it was three months ago, IBO's current forecast is significantly above the outlook when the 2014 budget was adopted last spring. For 2014, tax revenues are now expected to be \$2.8 billion (6.4 percent) better than the Bloomberg Administration assumed in June 2013, accounting for much of this year's budget surplus. For each year from 2015 through 2017, our current forecast exceeds the adopted budget projections by between 3.1 percent and 4.9 percent.

IBO's tax forecast exceeds OMB's in each year from 2014 through 2018, although the difference is quite small for this year. With the 2014 fiscal year largely complete and little time left for further revenue surprises, IBO's and OMB's forecasts have converged, with ours \$196 million (0.4 percent) higher. The difference grows for 2015 to \$779 million (1.6 percent) and continues to widen, reaching \$2.3 billion (4.3 percent) by 2018. Much of the difference is found in the outlook for the business income taxes, although IBO's forecasts are generally higher than OMB's across each of the major tax sources.

**IBO Revenue Projections***Dollars in millions*

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average Change
<b>Tax Revenue</b>						
Property	\$19,975	\$20,816	\$21,784	\$22,876	\$24,060	4.8%
Personal Income	9,342	9,433	9,948	10,292	10,798	3.7%
General Sales	6,436	6,729	7,114	7,455	7,771	4.8%
General Corporation	2,923	2,928	3,095	3,231	3,355	3.5%
Unincorporated Business	1,923	2,020	2,154	2,295	2,446	6.2%
Banking Corporation	1,198	1,226	1,349	1,433	1,531	6.3%
Real Property Transfer	1,467	1,375	1,508	1,578	1,635	2.7%
Mortgage Recording	938	910	993	1,038	1,062	3.2%
Utility	413	437	459	473	486	4.1%
Hotel Occupancy	530	560	589	614	645	5.0%
Commercial Rent	706	728	746	782	795	3.0%
Cigarette	58	56	54	51	49	-4.0%
Other Taxes, Audits, and PEGs	1,394	1,211	1,211	1,211	1,211	-3.5%
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>\$47,304</b>	<b>\$48,428</b>	<b>\$51,004</b>	<b>\$53,330</b>	<b>\$55,843</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>						
STaR Reimbursement	\$838	\$889	\$880	\$885	\$891	1.6%
Miscellaneous Revenue	5,571	5,268	5,174	5,162	4,794	-3.7%
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Aid	-	-	-	-	-	n/a
Disallowances	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	n/a
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,394</b>	<b>\$6,142</b>	<b>\$6,039</b>	<b>\$6,032</b>	<b>\$5,670</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL CITY-FUNDED REVENUE</b>	<b>\$53,697</b>	<b>\$54,571</b>	<b>\$57,044</b>	<b>\$59,362</b>	<b>\$61,513</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
State Categorical Grants	\$11,735	\$12,453	\$12,906	\$13,407	\$13,953	4.4%
Federal Categorical Grants	8,250	6,779	6,690	6,668	6,657	-5.2%
Other Categorical Aid	888	788	863	859	855	-0.9%
Interfund Revenue	538	527	513	513	513	-1.2%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$75,108</b>	<b>\$75,118</b>	<b>\$78,016</b>	<b>\$80,809</b>	<b>\$83,490</b>	<b>2.7%</b>

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding.

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**Personal Income Tax.** IBO's forecast for personal income tax (PIT) revenue is up \$559 million from our March projection, with the change due to unexpected strength in current year collections. The forecasts for 2015 through 2018 were reduced for each year by quite modest amounts (\$25 million in 2015, \$41 million for 2016, and an average of \$109 million for 2017 and 2018).

For 2014, IBO now expects PIT revenues will total \$9.3 billion, which is \$174 million (2.6 percent) higher than in 2013. With continued gains in local employment, which was expected, and a better than anticipated Wall Street bonus season from December through March, collections from withholding this year are now projected to be 6.8 percent above last year. As a result, we have raised our withholding forecast by \$130 million since March. Withholding growth

during the months of December through March, which were the strongest months for withholding throughout the fiscal year, occurred despite a decline in the profits of New York Stock Exchange member firms. Some of the additional withholding revenue may have resulted from the exercise of stock options that had been granted in earlier years under deferred compensation arrangements.

Estimated payments, which include installment payments taxpayers with significant nonwage income are required to make on a quarterly basis and payments when filing for extensions, are the other large contributor to the upward revision in the 2014 PIT forecast. IBO had anticipated a sharp drop in estimated payments made with final and extension filings this spring. The decline was expected because of the ability of some taxpayers to shift the

timing of certain types of income, such as capital gains realizations and bonus payments, in order to take advantage of lower federal income tax rates that expired at the end of calendar year 2012. These shifts in timing increased payments made with final returns or extensions last spring. It also meant that some income that would have otherwise been realized in calendar year 2013 and resulted in payments with final and extension filings this spring had instead already been realized in the prior year.

Taxpayers may not have fully adjusted their estimated payments to account for tax policy-induced shifting of income, preferring to overpay in order to avoid penalties and claim refunds later. Throughout 2014, quarterly installment payments for calendar year 2013 liability have been surprisingly strong, and for the current fiscal year IBO now projects a 9.9 percent increase in installments, compared with a 2.1 percent increase in the March forecast. Most extension payments are made in April, and collections this year indicate that there will be almost a 40 percent decline in extensions from 2013—far less of a decline than what had been expected in March. Taken together, IBO now expects total estimated payments to decline by 11.1 percent for the year as a whole, as compared with our March forecast of a 21.0 percent decline. This unanticipated revenue accounts for \$285 million of the \$559 million increase in IBO's PIT forecast for 2014.

For 2015, IBO expects PIT revenues to total \$9.4 billion, 1.0 percent higher than in 2014. The growth in collections from withholding is projected to slow to 1.3 percent for the year in the face of slower employment growth and lower Wall Street profits and compensation, which will reduce bonus payouts. Estimated payments are expected to rise by a healthy 8.2 percent.

With local personal income growth projected to peak in calendar year 2015, IBO forecasts 5.5 percent PIT growth in 2016, with revenues reaching \$9.9 billion. After 2016, PIT collections will grow more slowly—for 2017 much of the slowdown is in withholding and then in 2018 it shifts to estimated payments. On an annual basis, growth will average 4.2 percent in 2017 and 2018, with PIT revenue expected to reach \$10.8 billion in 2018.

IBO's PIT forecast exceeds OMB's in each year, although the differences are relatively small. Like IBO's current forecast, OMB's Executive Budget forecast included a major increase in the outlook for PIT revenues in 2014, leaving only a \$27 million difference between IBO and OMB for the year. The difference grows to \$242 million (2.6 percent) in

2015, \$331 million for 2016, and then widens further in the remaining years of the financial plan. By 2018, IBO's forecast exceeds OMB's by \$578 million (5.7 percent). IBO's expectation of higher PIT revenue is attributable to our projection of faster employment and income growth for most of the forecast period.

**Business Income Taxes.** Consistent with the changes to IBO's overall tax revenue forecast, we have increased our estimates of 2014 collections from the city's three business income taxes by a total of \$158 million since our estimates in March. Although IBO's forecast for total business income tax revenues has increased for the current year, we have reduced our estimates in each of the subsequent years of the financial plan. The forecast for 2014 is now \$6.0 billion, an increase of 3.2 percent from 2013. Combined business tax revenues are expected to grow, albeit at a slower rate of 2.2 percent, to \$6.2 billion in 2015. With increases in local employment and output projected to be strongest in calendar years 2015 and 2016, business tax revenues are expected to increase by 6.9 percent, to \$6.6 billion in 2016. By 2018, revenues will reach \$7.3 billion.

The general corporation tax (GCT) is the largest of the business income taxes and is expected to show the strongest growth for 2014, increasing by 8.6 percent to \$2.9 billion—\$109 million higher than our March forecast. The upward revision was prompted by greater than anticipated collections, which through March were up by 10.1 percent over the same period last year. The latest available data on GCT payments over \$1 million show that the strength in current year collections is concentrated in the finance and insurance industries.

GCT collections are expected to be essentially flat in 2015 but then pick up as stronger economic growth in calendar years 2015 and 2016 contributes to greater profitability, spurring revenue growth of 5.7 percent in fiscal year 2016. GCT revenues will reach \$3.1 billion for the year, a level that finally approaches the 2007 peak in GCT revenue. IBO expects economic growth to moderate at both the national and local levels beginning in calendar year 2017, which leads us to forecast slower GCT revenue growth—averaging 4.1 percent annually—for fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

IBO's forecast for unincorporated business tax (UBT) revenues in 2014 is now \$1.9 billion, 6.3 percent above the 2013 level. Robust growth in the professional and business services sector, which is expected to add another 60,200 jobs in the next four calendar years, and steady gains in receipts among firms in these industries will help drive UBT

revenue growth at an annual average rate of 6.2 percent in 2015 through 2018. By the final year of the forecast period, UBT revenue is projected to reach \$2.4 billion.

The banking corporation tax (BCT) is the weakest of the three business income taxes, with revenues expected to fall by 11.7 percent in 2014 and then increase by only 2.4 percent to \$1.2 billion in 2015. Data on BCT payments over \$1 million through March indicate that much of the decline in 2014 results from a decrease in payments by commercial banks. IBO expects BCT revenue growth to pick up beginning in 2016 and to average 7.7 percent annually from 2016 through 2018. BCT revenue is expected to total \$1.5 billion in 2018.

IBO's revenue forecast for the combined business income taxes is \$137 million (2.3 percent) above OMB's forecast in 2014 and \$215 million (3.6 percent) above OMB's in 2015. For 2014, most of the difference comes from IBO's higher GCT and UBT forecasts; in contrast, IBO's 2014 BCT forecast is slightly below OMB's. The difference between IBO's and OMB's forecasts in 2015 is more evenly distributed among the three business taxes. After 2015, the difference between the two forecasts grows each year, reflecting IBO's expectation of higher local employment and output.

New York State recently enacted legislation altering its business income tax structure, most notably combining the general corporation and banking corporation taxes and moving away from physical presence as the standard for determining whether an entity is taxable by the state. These changes have not yet been adopted by the city and the de Blasio Administration has so far given no indication that it plans to do so. For now, IBO has assumed that the city will not conform its business tax structure with the state's.

**Real Property Tax.** IBO expects real property tax revenue to total \$20.0 billion in 2014, an increase of \$189 million from our March forecast; OMB's forecast for the current year is essentially the same as IBO's. The change from our prior forecast is attributable to delinquencies, refunds, prior-year collections, and smaller technical adjustments. At this point in the fiscal year, there are no changes to the assessments or levy for the current year.

For 2015, we expect total revenue of \$20.8 billion, which is \$72 million less than we forecast in March. As in 2014, the changes in our revenue forecast relate to items in the property tax reserve, primarily a higher forecast for refunds.

IBO's property tax revenue forecast is \$21.8 billion for 2016, \$22.9 billion for 2017, and \$24.1 billion for 2018;

annual growth over the three years will average 5.1 percent. Each of these forecasts is slightly lower than in March, with most of the change once again due to our expectation of higher refunds and reductions in other components of the property tax reserve.

Our real property tax forecast reflects the recent change to the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), which raised the income eligibility threshold for the exemption to \$50,000, at least for the next two years.<sup>2</sup> Qualifying seniors living in rent-regulated apartments are protected from rent increases and their landlords are compensated for the lost rental income through a property tax abatement. Although the income threshold was raised from \$29,000 to \$50,000, the state will reimburse the city for the increased cost of the SCRIE program in 2015 and 2016.

IBO reduced its forecast for 2014 and each year through 2018 for the school tax relief (STAR) exemption to reflect lower-than-expected payments from the state in 2014. STAR reduces individual homeowners' property tax through an exemption and localities across the state are made whole by compensating STAR revenue payments from the state to individual school districts and cities such as New York that finance schools as part of the general government.

IBO's property tax forecast exceeds OMB's by relatively small amounts in each year of the financial plan. The difference in 2015 is \$137 million, with \$41 million due to our slightly higher levy forecast. The difference widens in 2017 and 2018, when our forecast of the levy is higher than OMB's in each year due to our expectation of higher market values and assessments. The difference between the two property tax forecasts reaches \$582 million (2.5 percent) in 2018, with \$435 million attributable to IBO's higher levy forecast.

**Real Property Transfer Tax and Mortgage Recording Tax.**

Revenues from the real property transfer tax (RPTT) and the mortgage recording tax (MRT), often referred to collectively as the transfer taxes, have rebounded sharply since the financial crisis. IBO projects that receipts from these two taxes will reach \$2.4 billion in 2014, an increase of 31.6 percent over 2013 and almost 2.5 times the level of just four years ago, when revenues hit bottom.

Transfer tax collections are projected to dip by 5.0 percent in 2015, as commercial sales return to trend levels and higher interest rates put a brake on all transactions. IBO expects growth to resume in 2016, and by 2018 the combined transfer tax revenue is projected to reach \$2.7 billion, 18.1 percent below the 2007 peak of \$3.3 billion.

The recovery in the real estate market has been especially notable in commercial sales, which are taxed at a higher rate than residential properties. Commercial sales were the main driver of the decline in sales and transfer tax revenues in 2008 through 2010. IBO projects that taxable commercial sales will reach \$54.9 billion in 2014, a 32.4 percent increase over the total for 2013. Taxable residential sales for 2014 are forecast to reach \$42.7 billion, a 23.5 percent increase over 2013. Large commercial sales, defined here as taxable commercial transactions valued at over \$100 million, play an important role in the real estate market. There were 65 such sales in the first three quarters of 2014, compared with 52 during the same period in 2013.

IBO projects that total RPTT revenue for 2014 will reach \$1.5 billion, an increase of 35.1 percent over 2013. With interest rates expected to rise, we forecast that RPTT collections will fall 6.3 percent in 2015, to \$1.4 billion. RPTT growth is expected to resume in 2016 and by 2018 revenue is forecast to reach \$1.6 billion, just 5.1 percent below its 2007 peak.

The forecast for MRT revenue in 2014 is \$938 million, an increase of 26.4 percent over 2013. MRT collections are then projected to decline by 3.0 percent in 2015, to \$910 million, in part due to our assumption that interest rates will rise. IBO expects moderate MRT growth to resume in 2016, with revenues reaching almost \$1.1 billion by 2018. While this is almost three times the level of collections in 2010, it is still one-third below the 2007 peak of \$1.6 billion.

IBO's transfer tax forecasts have changed little since March and the overall trends are essentially the same. Our forecast of RPTT revenues is slightly higher in each year. MRT revenues are higher in 2014 and 2015, and slightly lower in 2016 through 2018, than we expected in March.

IBO's RPTT forecast exceeds OMB's in each year by relatively small amounts. The differences are generally even smaller between the two MRT forecasts. For the combined transfer taxes, OMB's forecast follows the same trend as IBO's: a strong gain in 2014, a slight dip in 2015, and moderate growth through 2018.

**Sales Tax.** IBO projects sales tax revenues of \$6.4 billion in 2014 (a gain of 5.0 percent over last year) and \$6.7 billion for 2015 (up 4.6 percent year-over-year). Revenue growth is expected to pick up somewhat in 2016, to 5.7 percent, generating \$7.1 billion, before moderating in 2017 and 2018, with \$7.8 billion in revenue expected in the latter year.

Collections through the first nine months of the fiscal year are 5.9 percent higher than in same period last year, although they are expected to slow somewhat for the balance of the year. IBO's current sales tax forecast is only slightly changed from our March estimate, with very small reductions of \$11.7 million and \$35.1 million for 2014 and 2015, respectively. Conversely, our current forecast for the remainder of the financial plan period is somewhat higher than we projected in March, by \$64 million in 2016 and \$155 million in 2018.

IBO's sales tax outlook is premised on sustained consumer demand from residents and spending by visitors and tourists. Continuing employment and earnings gains are expected to enable consumers to satisfy pent-up demand for consumer durables and appliances, particularly from 2014 through 2016. In the last two years of the forecast period, with some of the backlog of spending exhausted, growth in consumer spending is expected to slow.

An estimated 54.3 million tourists visited the city in calendar year 2013, 3.0 percent more than in 2012. Over 11 million were international visitors (up 4.6 percent from the prior year), who are among the highest spending tourists. The strength in tourism has contributed to robust employment growth in retail, food service, and accommodations, which have added almost 87,000 jobs from 2010 through 2013 as tourists eat at local restaurants, purchase goods from local retailers, and stay at local hotels. (Hotel bills are subject to sales tax, in addition to the separate tax on hotel occupancy.)

IBO's sales tax forecast is very similar to OMB's, particularly for 2014 and 2015. The difference widens a bit beginning in 2016 with IBO's projection exceeding OMB's by between 2.4 percent and 2.8 percent each year.

**Hotel Occupancy Tax.** IBO's forecast for hotel tax revenue in 2014 is \$530 million (up 5.0 percent) and \$560 million for 2015 (an increase of 5.7 percent). Hotel tax revenue growth is expected to moderate somewhat beginning in 2016 when revenues are forecast to be \$589 million. For 2017 and 2018, growth will average 4.6 percent, with revenues reaching \$645 million in the latter year.

IBO's current projection for 2014 is \$11 million below our previous forecast because of lower-than-anticipated collections through March. Collections this winter were particularly slow because cold weather and snow hampered visitors' travel plans. According to the most recent tourism estimates by NYC & Company, both occupancy rates and airport arrivals were down this February as compared with

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February 2013, although a 5.9 percent increase in room inventory also contributed to the lower occupancy rates. IBO expects the number of visitors to pick up significantly in the remainder of the year.

IBO's hotel tax forecast is approximately the same as OMB's in the current year. In 2015, IBO's forecast is \$25 million (4.7 percent) higher. The difference grows each year thereafter and reaches \$50 million in 2018.

### Expenditures

While there are a number of new spending initiatives included in the Mayor's Executive Budget for 2015, the plan does not contain a set of spending reductions, or Program to Eliminate the Gap (often called PEGs), that had been a key portion of recent Bloomberg Administration budgets. By far the largest component of the new spending is the money allocated for new labor contracts. Based on the tentative agreement with the United Federation of Teachers, the revised budget includes about \$13.7 billion for fiscal years 2014 through 2018 to cover the costs of the agreement with the teachers union as well as applying the relevant portions of that settlement to all the other municipal unions. Other new city-funded spending such as \$70 million for the city's housing authority (only for 2015), more than \$40 million annually to implement Vision Zero traffic safety initiatives, and \$8.5 million annually for expanding the number of job slots in the Summer Youth Employment Program, are modest in comparison.

IBO estimates that under the Mayor's plan, spending from all revenue sources in 2015 will total \$74.3 billion. When we adjust our 2015 estimate to account for the use of the 2014 surplus to prepay some of next year's expenses, total spending to meet 2015 needs is \$76.2 billion. Looking just at spending using city-generated funds and again adjusting for the use of the projected 2014 surplus, 2015 expenditures will total \$55.6 billion, about \$830 million more than this year.

The Mayor's budget plan maintains some built-in cushion against unexpected expenditures. The balance in the Retiree Health Benefits Trust fund remains \$1.0 billion and is untapped during the 2014-2018 period. Each year's budget for 2015 through 2018 includes a general reserve of \$600 million, \$500 million more than required and about \$300 million more than the reserve the Bloomberg Administration typically included in its budgets.

**Contractual Matters.** Although the Mayor has only reached a tentative labor settlement with the city's teachers, the

Executive Budget and financial plan assumes that the teachers will vote to approve the contract and all other municipal unions will agree to the same fundamental terms. The de Blasio Administration's revised financial plan, released as this report was being completed, projects that the total cost of the proposed settlement with all unions is \$13.7 billion through 2018, \$115 million more than previously budgeted.

The financial plan adds \$5.6 billion in new resources to cover the cost of the proposed labor settlement, while also drawing on \$8.1 billion from reserves health offsets and projected savings to cover the full \$13.7 billion cost of settling all of the expired contracts through 2018. The plan would use \$3.7 billion that was already set aside in the budget for a potential labor pact, along with offsets of \$3.4 billion in targeted health care savings and \$1.0 billion from the health stabilization fund jointly controlled by the city and the municipal unions. The health care savings are part of the deal and have already been approved by the Municipal Labor Committee, which is comprised of all the city's unions.

Following the release of the financial plan, Comptroller Stringer sought a technical adjustment to one aspect of the accounting for the proposed contract. The change revolves around when the cost of lump sum payments for teachers expected to retire during the 2014-2018 period should be recognized as a liability. The revised plan shifts about \$725 million into 2014 to cover these payments, which had previously been spread throughout the 2014-2018 period.

**Other Spending Factors.** While the proposed labor settlement has dominated much of the public discussion of the Executive Budget since the Mayor presented the plan two weeks ago, there are a number of other points worth noting. The size of these other initiatives is small in dollars and cents compared with the costs of the potential labor agreement, but the initiatives clearly put the stamp of the de Blasio Administration on the plan in a way the Mayor's Preliminary Budget in February did not.

Two programs closely identified with the new Mayor, the expansion of pre-K and after-school programs, are being funded with state dollars, \$300 million for pre-K and \$145 million for after school. Vision Zero, the program to reduce traffic, bike, and pedestrian fatalities is funded with more than \$45 million in city dollars in 2015 and somewhat lesser amounts in the ensuing years (an expense partly offset by ticket revenue expected from speeding drivers caught by new cameras). The largest shares of the funds would be spent by the transportation department (\$29

# **IBO Expenditure Projections**

Dollars in millions

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average Change
<b>Health &amp; Social Services</b>						
Social Services						
Medicaid	\$6,547	\$6,628	\$6,597	\$6,597	\$6,597	0.2%
All Other Social Services	2,987	3,066	3,018	3,011	3,009	0.2%
HHC	81	81	81	81	81	0.2%
Health	1,421	1,400	1,387	1,387	1,387	-0.6%
Children Services	2,793	2,799	2,824	2,824	2,824	0.3%
Homeless	1,045	995	960	960	960	-2.1%
Other Related Services	651	587	540	540	540	-4.6%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$15,525</b>	<b>\$15,557</b>	<b>\$15,408</b>	<b>\$15,401</b>	<b>\$15,399</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
<b>Education</b>						
DOE	\$19,713	\$20,631	\$21,309	\$22,007	\$22,695	3.6%
CUNY	843	875	870	873	821	-0.7%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$20,556</b>	<b>\$21,507</b>	<b>\$22,179</b>	<b>\$22,880</b>	<b>\$23,516</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>Uniformed Services</b>						
Police	\$4,761	\$4,692	\$4,674	\$4,667	\$4,667	-0.5%
Fire	1,976	1,876	1,852	1,833	1,796	-2.4%
Correction	1,098	1,083	1,082	1,081	1,081	-0.4%
Sanitation	1,460	1,482	1,536	1,515	1,515	0.9%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,294</b>	<b>\$9,133</b>	<b>\$9,144</b>	<b>\$9,097</b>	<b>\$9,059</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
<b>All Other Agencies</b>	<b>\$9,474</b>	<b>\$8,323</b>	<b>\$8,360</b>	<b>\$8,465</b>	<b>\$8,639</b>	<b>-2.4%*</b>
<b>Other Expenditures</b>						
Fringe Benefits	\$5,007	\$5,229	\$5,662	\$6,129	\$6,663	7.4%**
Debt Service	4,698	4,898	7,242	7,582	7,840	8.2%*
Pensions	8,145	8,227	8,316	8,417	8,594	1.3%
Judgments and Claims	663	674	710	746	782	4.2%
General Reserve	50	600	600	600	600	n/a
Labor Reserve	2,095	139	1,950	1,873	3,282	n/a
Expenditure Adjustments	(400)	-	80	176	312	n/a
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$75,108</b>	<b>\$74,286</b>	<b>\$79,650</b>	<b>\$81,367</b>	<b>\$84,685</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

NOTES: \*Represents the annual average change after adjusting for prepayments.

\*\*Fringe benefits exclude DOE and CUNY expenditures, which are reported within DOE and CUNY budget amounts.

Expenditure adjustments include prior-year payable, energy, lease and non-labor inflation adjustments. Figures may not add due to rounding.

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million in 2015, \$23 million in subsequent years) and the police department (\$13 million each year). Other agencies such as the fire and sanitation departments and the Taxi and Limousine Commission each have about \$1 million annually for driver training.

The budget also creates two new rental assistance subsidy programs for families in the city's shelter system. One program will be geared for families who have been in the shelters for at least a year and have one member working full time. A family could receive a rent subsidy for up to five

years. The city is budgeting a total of \$80 million over four years for the program, and seeking half of the funds from the state. About 800 families are expected to be subsidized each year. The other new rental subsidy program aims to assist families who have been in the shelter system more than once and are eligible for federal public assistance. Details are still emerging for this program, but the de Blasio Administration expects to generate \$60 million a year to support it by capping the average monthly rent of \$3,000 the city currently pays to the owners of hotels and groups of apartments used to shelter some families.

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In addition to the rental assistance programs to help move people out of the shelter system, the budget adds just over \$12 million in funds annually for homeless prevention efforts. Of this amount, \$2.2 million is city dollars and the remainder federal grant dollars. Most of the new funding (\$11 million) will go to expanding the Homebase Program, started under the Bloomberg Administration, in which community-based organizations work to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless by linking them to job training, child care, and other services. The rest of the funding will be used to expand the city's anti-eviction legal services.

With the federal Environmental Protection Administration giving initial indications that it may hold the city liable for a large share of the remediation costs at the Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek Superfund sites, the de Blasio Administration plans to undertake additional research to help support the city's contention that its liability is more limited. For this purpose, the Mayor has added \$8.3 million to the budget of the city's Department of Environmental Protection for 2015 as well as \$7.1 million in 2016 and \$5.4 million in 2017.

The Mayor also proposes the addition of \$8.5 million annually in 2015 through 2018 to maintain the number of work slots in the city's summer jobs program for youth. The funding enables the city to provide 36,000 work slots, the same level as last summer despite an increase in the minimum wage.

Two other de Blasio initiatives come in the form of revenue forgone. The city will forgo a \$70 million reimbursement in 2015 from the New York City Housing Authority for providing policing in public housing projects. This extends a measure first included in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget that forgave part of the reimbursement for this year. By forgoing the payment, the de Blasio Administration is intending to help the housing authority complete its backlog of repairs. The financial plan assumes the payments to the city resume in the years after 2015.

The budget plan also anticipates less revenue from fines next year, in part because the Mayor intends to ease enforcement of some small business regulations. The Executive Budget anticipates revenue from fines will total \$844 million this year and \$789 million in 2015, a decline of \$56 million. This is somewhat smaller than the decline noted by the Mayor when he introduced the budget and compared fine projections for 2015 with collections in 2012, highlighting what would be a 44 percent drop in

health department fines over this period. When projected revenue is instead compared on a year-to-year basis, the decline is a more modest 17 percent, from \$36 million to \$30 million. Conversely, the drop in projected consumer affairs fines is a bit higher when 2015 is compared with 2014—a 28 percent decline from \$13.5 million this year to \$9.7 million in 2015 as compared with a decrease of 21 percent under the Mayor's formulation.

**School Spending.** Based on the Mayor's plan, IBO estimates Department of Education spending will total \$20.6 billion in 2015, an increase of \$893 million, or 4.5 percent, over the current budget for this year. This estimate does not reflect the additional salary expenses that will be added to the education department's budget if the tentative settlement with the teachers' union is approved. (Funds for the labor settlement now sit in a separate line and would be reallocated to agency budgets as needed.) The bulk of the increases shown in the financial plan derive from state funds, which have grown by \$522 million, or 6.3 percent. City funding increases by \$195 million, or about 2 percent.

The new state funding is being used in part to support two initiatives that are hallmarks of the de Blasio Administration: the expansion of pre-K (\$300 million) and middle school after-school programs (\$145 million). State funding for charter schools in New York City, which flows through the education department's budget, is increasing by \$77 million. Some of the additional city-generated funding is being used to expand arts education (\$23 million) and to pay the rental costs for three charter schools as required under new state legislation (\$5.4 million). The new state charter school funding is a supplement to the city's current share of spending for charter schools, which IBO estimates is \$1.1 billion this year.

**Repricings.** Much like with past budget plans, IBO has differing estimates of some costs as projected by the de Blasio Administration. The differences in these estimates are modest considering the scope of the \$74.3 billion budget for 2015.

The single largest difference for 2015 is \$45 million in IBO's projection of additional spending by the education department. Of that amount, \$28 million is city funds that will be needed to meet our estimate of higher enrollment at charter schools than assumed under the Mayor's budget. We also anticipate that federal Medicaid reimbursements for certain special education services will be \$17 million less than projected by the de Blasio Administration, requiring the city to make up the difference. By 2018,

IBO estimates that the education department will need to spend an additional \$326 million—\$279 million for enrollment growth at charter schools (based only on schools already open or already approved for opening) and the remainder to cover a continued shortfall in projected Medicaid reimbursements.

IBO also projects the need for an additional \$40 million in spending for overtime for the police (\$25 million) and correction (\$15 million) departments based on

historical patterns. Given the uncertainty surrounding implementation of the cap on the rent paid to owners of certain hotels and apartments used to shelter homeless families, we project lower savings and the need for an additional \$10 million in 2015.

The city may see a modest amount of savings based on our projections as well. We estimate the public assistance caseload will be lower than projected by the de Blasio Administration and require \$7.9 million less in spending in

### Pricing Differences Between IBO and the de Blasio Administration

Items that Affect the Gap

Dollars in millions

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>GAPS AS ESTIMATED BY MAYOR</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>(\$2,568)</b>	<b>(\$1,879)</b>	<b>(\$3,105)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
<b>Taxes</b>					
Property	\$6	\$137	\$70	\$273	\$582
Personal Income	27	242	331	344	578
General Sales	(24)	63	168	195	215
General Corporation	79	70	145	195	219
Unincorporated Business	77	87	138	209	278
Banking Corporation	(19)	58	166	243	305
Real Property Transfer	34	23	32	47	59
Mortgage Recording	(12)	36	2	8	-
Utility	20	22	46	52	55
Hotel Occupancy	(4)	25	33	41	50
Commercial Rent	9	13	1	4	(17)
Cigarette	3	3	3	1	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$196</b>	<b>\$779</b>	<b>\$1,135</b>	<b>\$1,613</b>	<b>\$2,323</b>
STaR Reimbursement	-	2	3	4	10
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$196</b>	<b>\$781</b>	<b>\$1,139</b>	<b>\$1,617</b>	<b>\$2,333</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Education	(\$46)	(\$45)	(\$149)	(\$241)	(\$326)
Police	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Board of Elections	-	-	(20)	(20)	(20)
Correction	-	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)
Homeless Services	-	(10)	-	-	-
Public Assistance	5	8	8	8	8
Small Business Services	1	8	(4)	(4)	(4)
Campaign Finance Board	-	-	-	-	(40)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(\$65)</b>	<b>(\$79)</b>	<b>(\$205)</b>	<b>(\$297)</b>	<b>(\$422)</b>
<b>TOTAL IBO PRICING DIFFERENCES</b>	<b>\$131</b>	<b>\$702</b>	<b>\$934</b>	<b>\$1,320</b>	<b>\$1,911</b>
IBO Prepayment Adjustment 2014/2015	(131)	131	-	-	-
<b>IBO SURPLUS/(GAP) PROJECTIONS</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$833</b>	<b>(\$1,634)</b>	<b>(\$558)</b>	<b>(\$1,195)</b>

NOTES: Negative pricing differences (in parentheses) widen the gaps, while positive pricing differences narrow the gaps.  
Figures may not add due to rounding.

New York City Independent Budget Office

2015. We also expect the Department of Small Business Services' brownfield remediation and "clean heat" programs will, as in the recent past, underspend their 2015 budgets, and result in city savings of \$8.1 million (after also accounting for some expected increases in agency spending, primarily for the Industrial Business Zones).

**Capital Considerations.** Much as the labor contract overshadows any new spending initiatives in the expense portion of the Executive Budget, the Mayor's plan to create and preserve 200,000 units of housing over 10 years dwarfs other new capital spending initiatives.

After accounting for a shift in housing capital commitments from 2014 to 2015, about \$1.2 billion has been added to the plan beginning in 2015 and continuing through 2018 for the Mayor's Housing New York program. Roughly \$820 million of this additional planned spending is for new construction, \$246 million for special needs housing, and \$154 million to help preserve existing affordable housing. Nearly all of the \$2.5 billion in the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's capital commitment plan

for 2015 through 2018 is for the Housing New York initiative. The Mayor projects a total of \$6.7 billion in city capital commitments to Housing New York over the next 10 years.

A number of other infrastructure projects have also been added to the commitment plan. The plan includes a combined \$373 million in new funding for infrastructure improvements to support the Coney Island West project, the second phase of Hunters Point South, and second and third phases of the Homeport development. Other sizable new capital expenditures on infrastructure include \$337 million in funding for bridge repair and maintenance. Bridges in the city's parks are also getting additional attention with a new commitment of \$55.3 million for the upcoming year.

Among other additions to the commitment plan are increased funding for road repair (\$57 million), construction of the Croton Filtration Plant (\$20 million), and reconstruction of the Catskill Aqueduct (\$17 million). The plan also has new funding for emergency sewer reconstruction (\$16 million) and emergency water main reconstruction (\$12 million).

#### Hurricane Sandy: Federal Aid, City Spending

The de Blasio Administration's financial plan anticipates receiving a total of \$1.2 billion in federal aid in the city's operating budget in response to Hurricane Sandy in 2014 through 2017. The vast majority of this revenue, \$1.1 billion, is budgeted for the current fiscal year. Comparatively modest sums of \$30 million in 2015, \$12 million in 2016, and \$5.9 million in 2017 are included in the budgets for the upcoming years. These amounts are likely to grow substantially because nearly \$2 billion out of the \$3.2 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief funds allocated to the city have yet to be included in the financial plan.

Substantial federal Sandy relief funds are also expected to be used for capital projects such as repairing Sandy-damaged schools, parks, and roads. There is now a total of \$2.4 billion in the capital commitment plan for 2014 through 2018 for Sandy-related projects that the city expects will be reimbursed by the federal government. The city now plans to commit nearly \$1.5 billion of these funds this year—\$577 million previously planned for this year has been shifted into other years, mostly 2015.

The commitment plan now includes a \$143 million project to repair fire alarm box wiring damaged during

Hurricane Sandy. Funding has been increased for some previously planned projects and reduced for others, and in a number of cases projects that had been planned for commitments this year have been shifted to next year. For example, the commitment plan has reduced funding for street reconstruction projects by nearly \$72 million, to a total of \$337 million. There is \$246 million for specific street reconstruction projects such as Beach Channel Drive and Front Street as well as almost \$91 million for other unspecified street reconstruction.

Among the other changes are allocations of \$200 million in 2015 for repairs at Coney Island Hospital and \$106 million at Bellevue Hospital (shifted primarily from an unspecified allocation of funds in the prior capital plan). All of the nearly \$40 million in funding for repair of the Battery Park underpass has been shifted to 2015. Likewise, about \$58 million in planned commitments for repair projects on Rikers Island have been rescheduled for 2015, in addition to the \$21 million planned for this year. All the nearly \$30 million in funding for reconstruction at the Brooklyn Navy Yard has also been moved to 2015. For more details on Sandy-related federal funding and spending, see IBO's April 2014 testimony to the City Council.

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Overall, the May 2014 Capital Commitment Plan for 2014-2018 totals \$48.9 billion. City funds comprise \$37.1 billion of the total. Even with the additional commitments for housing construction and preservation, the largest shares of the commitment plan continue to be allocated to school construction and repair, water and sewer projects, and bridge and road repair. The de Blasio Administration has also started an initiative to better align the timing of projects in the capital commitment plan to when those projects will likely get underway. In the past many projects—and billions of dollars in planned commitments—routinely “rolled” from one year to the next.

**Paying for the Capital Plan.** The de Blasio Administration has also realigned its plan for borrowing to finance the capital plan: reducing the volume and changing the mix of new debt it will issue in 2015, and sharply increasing borrowing expected for 2017, 2018 and subsequent years. Much of the cost of the new borrowing does not rise rapidly until 2019 and beyond—the years after the current financial plan.

The city has reduced the new debt it plans to issue in 2015 by a total of \$450 million (7.9 percent) and will shift the composition of its bond offerings to rely less heavily on general obligation debt. While the city had planned to issue \$1.4 billion in new general obligation debt in the first half of 2015, it will now sell none; however general obligation borrowing in the second half of the year will increase by \$325 million, bringing total general obligation issuance for 2015 to \$1.8 billion. Instead, the de Blasio Administration will sell \$650 million more in Transitional Finance Authority bonds than previously planned, bringing total finance authority borrowing in 2015 to \$3.5 billion. With interest rates on debt issued by the Transitional Finance Authority typically slightly below that on the city's general obligation debt, the changing composition of city borrowing will provide savings on debt service, the interest and principal paid by the city on its borrowing.

The overall reduction in planned borrowing next year is offset by increased general obligation and Transitional Finance Authority borrowing in the subsequent years: \$120 million more in 2016 (\$5.2 billion total), \$680 million more in 2017 (\$5.2 billion total), and \$1.0 billion more in 2018 (\$5.0 billion total). While some increased interest expenses show up in 2017 and 2018, the cost of this new borrowing does not rise rapidly until 2019 and beyond.

**New Steps to the Budget Dance?** While the annual ritual of cuts and restorations that dominated budget negotiations

between the Mayor and Council for years—the budget dance—may well have ended, the City Council will likely still want to leave its imprint on the budget that is passed. The Executive Budget provides funding for some of the priorities presented in the Council's response to the Preliminary Budget such as \$6.0 million for antigun violence programs and \$2.6 million to expand case-management services for seniors, although only in 2015. But many other City Council priorities have not been addressed.

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito has recently expressed her intention to continue to press the de Blasio Administration on at least two proposals that were included in the Council's response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. One proposal is to hire an additional 1,000 police officers to bolster precinct staffing at a cost of \$94 million in 2015, as estimated by the Council. The Speaker also intends to urge the Mayor to support the Council's proposal to provide free lunch to all students regardless of income. The Council estimates this would cost an additional \$20 million to \$24 million a year.

The Council has also suggested that the de Blasio Administration could better meet its goal of an honest or more transparent budget by revamping some units of appropriation—the basic level of detail in the budget. The City Charter says a unit of appropriation should reflect a clear program and goal. But many agencies' units of appropriations lump together many programs. A prime example: Units of appropriation 401 and 402 in the Department of Education contain more than \$6 billion in general education spending. The Council's budget response presents suggested changes for about a dozen agencies.

**Taking Measure of the Plan.** In the days after the Mayor released his Executive Budget some fiscal observers were highly critical of the plan, in particular noting the costs of the tentative contract settlement has caused projected budget gaps to balloon. Based on IBO's analysis of the Mayor's spending plan and our latest projections for tax revenues—projections that have been reduced a bit since our prior forecast—we anticipate that budget shortfalls through 2018 will be smaller than expected by the de Blasio Administration.

Both in dollar terms and as a share of city-generated revenue, IBO's projected budget gaps are relatively modest. The \$1.6 billion gap we project for 2016 is 2.9 percent of city-generated revenues. The projected gap of \$558 million in 2017, 1.0 percent of city-generated revenues, is even smaller and both gaps are unexceptional as compared

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with gaps projected in past financial plans. It is also worth noting that the budget plan contains a \$600 million general reserve in each year and that the \$1.0 billion in the Retiree Health Benefits Trust fund remains untouched.

Still, there are ample reasons for caution. Numerous questions remain about details of the proposed labor pact, details that could significantly alter estimates of just how much the settlement could cost in the coming years. Nor is it clear that all of the unions will accept the terms. The city's police and firefighter unions have publicly expressed their displeasure with the terms, in particular the zero wage increase in the first year. Both the police and firefighters can opt for arbitration.

There are also potential risks to IBO's economic forecast and our estimates of higher tax revenues than those presented by the de Blasio Administration. Perhaps the greatest risk is whether the local economy can continue to add jobs at the pace we project without being led by growth on Wall Street.

There are other potential risks as well. A sharp jump in interest rates as the Fed pulls back from its very accommodative monetary policy stance could slow economic growth and depress local tax revenue. Another showdown in Washington over the federal budget or debt ceiling next year could undermine growth we expect in the

national economy and lead to a downgrade of U.S. debt. And given New York City's role as a global financial center, financial problems in China, Europe, or elsewhere would have a disproportionate effect on the local economy, weakening the city's financial services and tourism industries.

Risks can also emerge on the spending side of the budget plan. While the Mayor has provided a fiscal helping hand to the city's public housing authority, it is only for one year. Moreover, the Health and Hospitals Corporation remains mired in red ink. The hospitals corporation projects operating losses of \$535 million this year that—absent measures to close these shortfalls—grow to \$1.6 billion in 2018. Pressure may well mount for additional aid from the city.

Although IBO projects a surplus in 2015 and relatively manageable budget gaps in the future years of the revised Executive Budget and financial plan presented by the Mayor, there is no shortage of potential fiscal hurdles in the years ahead.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>These growth rates reflect the March 2014 benchmark revisions of employment data.

<sup>2</sup>The state legislation only increased the annual income threshold for two years, after which it is slated to return to \$29,000. As with many legislative changes containing sunset provisions, it is likely that the higher threshold will eventually be extended for additional years.

**Testimony of Oren Root**  
Before  
**the Committee on Finance**  
**New York City Council**  
Regarding  
**the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project**

June 6, 2014

**Introduction**

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Ferreras and fellow Councilmembers. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before the Committee today. I am Oren Root, Director of the Center on Immigration and Justice at the Vera Institute of Justice.

The Vera Institute is the recipient of the \$500,000 Fiscal Year 2014 grant from the City Council that has funded the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) pilot at the Varick Street immigration court. The Vera Institute is working with the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights, The Center for Popular Democracy, Make the Road New York, the Immigration Justice Clinic at Cardozo Law School, and scores of other immigrant, legal services, and progressive organizations to make NYIFUP a reality in Fiscal Year 2015 for all detained New Yorkers in deportation proceedings.

The Vera Institute and our fellow collaborators are very grateful to the Council for making possible the pilot that has undertaken representation of 190 cases at Varick Street since last November and that is demonstrating how a very modest investment of \$3,000 per case is preventing the deportation of members of the communities of our great City who have a legal right to remain in the United States and is allowing them to continue to contribute to the welfare and happiness of their New York families and the economy of the City.

The Council's leadership in funding NYIFUP has generated tremendous interest in other jurisdictions around the country in following New York's lead in providing representation to indigent immigrants in their locales. Active replication efforts are underway in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco; and we have received inquiries from a number of other jurisdictions. Due to the Council, New York has been first in providing a public defender system for indigent immigrants facing deportation. **With an investment of \$5.3 million in Fiscal Year 2015, New York can become the first city in the country to assure that every detained immigrant facing deportation will have a lawyer, if he or she cannot afford one.**

**NYIFUP Goals**

The goals of the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project are to:

- Obtain successful case outcomes for detained New Yorkers who have a right to remain in the United States.
- Ensure that all detained New Yorkers facing deportation are empowered to make informed decisions about their cases and receive due process of law.
- Keep New York families intact and our immigrant communities strong and contributing segments of the City.

- Create efficiencies in the process by reducing the number of clients who have to fight their cases while detained and by speeding the resolution of cases for those who cannot be released from custody.

### **The Need**

The \$500,000 received this fiscal year from the Council has funded the representation of 166 detained New Yorkers facing deportation at Varick Street. With some supplemental funds from the award of legal fees received in prior litigation by the Immigration Justice Clinic at Cardozo Law School, the pilot has been able to provide representation for 190 individuals facing deportation at Varick Street who otherwise would be left to fend for themselves in a system that the New York Immigrant Representation Study<sup>1</sup> showed would result in 97 percent of them being deported. While the present funding is incredibly valuable to, and often life changing for, the 190 individuals who have and are receiving representation and their families, it allowed NYIFUP to meet only 20 percent of the need at Varick Street. There are approximately 700 other New Yorkers of the total 900 estimated indigent unrepresented immigrants annually at Varick Street who are not being represented and who have only a three percent chance of winning their cases without a lawyer. An estimated 750 additional indigent New Yorkers, who, by the vagaries of which county jail U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) assigns them to, have their cases heard in the immigration courts in Elizabeth and Newark, New Jersey, are also currently going unrepresented.

To provide representation to all of the 900 indigent detained unrepresented individuals a year at Varick Street and the 750 indigent detained unrepresented New Yorkers at the Newark and Elizabeth immigration courts would cost **\$5.3 million**. The per-case cost would remain at just over \$3,000 per case.

### **Preliminary results**

NYIFUP representation is being provided by Brooklyn Defender Services and The Bronx Defenders, operating as a consortium under the name of New York Immigration Defenders (NYID). NYID was selected as the legal services subcontractor pursuant to an RFP process.

From inception of operations in November, 2013 through April, 2014, NYID accepted representation on 190 cases, the full complement for which funding was available. NYIFUP clients have come from 38 of the 51 Council districts (see the annexed Appendix for a breakdown of clients' Council district of residence). Other pertinent data include:

- Forty-eight percent of the cases are still being litigated. (By comparison, in the cases examined by the New York Immigrant Representation Study, only five percent of detained unrepresented individuals were able to identify relief they could pursue.)
- Seven cases have successfully concluded with the clients being entitled to remain in the United States; this number will grow substantially, but because of typical court processing times, few cases have had enough time to come to successful conclusion.
- All of the cases to go to a merits hearing (the equivalent of a trial) have resulted in the client getting relief and being able to remain lawfully in the United States.
- Two cases have been administratively closed.
- A robust 27 percent of NYID clients have been released from detention.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cardozolawreview.com/content/denovo/NYIRS\\_Report.pdf](http://www.cardozolawreview.com/content/denovo/NYIRS_Report.pdf).

- In 11 percent of the cases, NYID has filed, or secured other counsel to file, ancillary proceedings—in federal court for habeas corpus, in Family Court for guardianship and special findings; in various state courts for post-conviction relief, and before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for immigration benefits.
- Eight percent of cases ended in an order of voluntary departure, which makes more feasible for the individuals involved to apply to return to the United States lawfully than if they were deported.
- In one case, a client's two-year-old was put into foster care because his father was detained (and then the child's mother attempted suicide). NYID obtained the client's release after securing successful representation for him on two ancillary proceedings: a post-conviction motion and a writ of habeas corpus. The client, who was recently released, is seeking the termination of foster care—which will result in significant savings to the City. Without representation, the client would have been deported and the child might well have remained in foster care for up to 16 more years, at a huge cost to taxpayers.

### **Examples of how representation has made a difference**

Immigration law is fiendishly complex. Ninety-nine percent of lawyers in the United States would be ill-equipped to conduct an effective deportation defense. To expect non-legally trained individuals, many of whom do not speak English, to advance successful defenses or claims for relief (where the burden of proof is on the individual, not the government) is unrealistic, particularly while being detained in a county jail in New Jersey. That is why only three percent of detained unrepresented individuals examined in the New York Immigrant Representation Study won their cases. What follows are illustrations of how, thus far, with many cases still in their early stages, NYIFUP representation has made a difference.

**Knowing what claims of relief or defenses to advance** is often complicated. And, as noted, the individual must prove entitlement to the defense or the relief sought; the government does not have to prove lack of such entitlement.

- A 56-year-old lawful permanent resident (LPR) from Queens, who has lived in the country for more than 40 years, with three U.S. citizen children, four U.S. citizen siblings, and a U.S. citizen mother, won his case by filing for a form of relief that was abolished in 1996, but which a subsequent U.S. Supreme Court ruling has stated still applied to people with convictions that predated the statutory change.
- A 37-year-old lawful permanent resident from Staten Island, who has lived in the country for 27 years, with three U.S. Citizen siblings and a fourth who is an LPR, with a long work history, won his case (it was terminated, the equivalent of a dismissal) by successfully challenging the government's contention that a particular conviction was a crime involving moral turpitude.
- A 23-year-old lawful permanent resident from Queens, who has lived in the United States since he was three years old, and who is supporting his mother, his sister, and his sister's child, from his earnings working at a supermarket, also got his case terminated, because his lawyer alerted the judge that the charges did not support the contention that he was deportable.
- The lawyer for a 20-year-old man from Brooklyn, where he lives with his sisters, is eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, based upon abandonment by his father, which claim requires filing for guardianship and special findings in Family Court in Brooklyn. The young man was released on bond and is now home with his sisters and working. The petition for guardianship and special findings was granted by the Family Court and NYID is seeking the necessary immigration agency approvals for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

- A 38-year-old from the Bronx, who has lived in the United States for 18 years and who has worked for the same employer for the past 15 years, made an application in 1998 that would have given him legal status in the United States, but the application was later deemed abandoned. His lawyer recognized that the client could renew that long-ago application for status before the immigration court.

**Presenting sufficient proof to obtain release** is a significant challenge in part because, just as in claims for relief and defenses, the individual has the burden of proving that s/he should be released and in part because immigration judges often require a great deal of documentary proof to set bonds at a level that the individual's family can post. Few unrepresented detained individuals have the knowledge of what documents would be necessary, much less the ability to obtain them while in a county jail in New Jersey.

- A 39-year-old lawful permanent resident from the Bronx, who has lived in the United States since he was nine years old and who was diagnosed six years ago as bipolar and schizophrenic, was legally ineligible for release on bond. Because of his mental health condition, which deteriorated as a result of his being detained and receiving different medication while in detention, his lawyer persuaded ICE to release him on medical and humanitarian parole. To obtain that release, however, required having a psychologist evaluate him in detention and prepare a report showing that continued detention was deleterious to his health. In addition, his lawyer had to order the stenographic transcripts from two state court proceedings from 1991 which showed that the official court records stating that those two cases had ended in convictions were both erroneous. The client is now back in the community receiving support from his parents, grandmother, and mental health service providers.
- A 31-year-old from Queens, who has lived in the United States for 15 years and who has maintained steady employment, has a two-year-old U.S. citizen child with his longtime partner, who is an LPR. He was arrested when a neighbor called the police because he was having a non-violent argument with his partner. The police arrested him despite his partner saying there was no violence and that she was not pressing charges. ICE held him on no bond. To get bond set, and in an amount his family could afford, his lawyer obtained affidavits from the partner, the partner's parents, a cousin, and his criminal defense lawyer (stating that the case would not end in a criminal conviction). Based upon this array of evidence, the immigration judge set a bond the family could meet and the client, who is the primary caretaker for his son because of his partner's long hours working at a job in New Jersey, is reunited with his family.
- A 38-year-old from Brooklyn, with a U.S. citizen wife, who is a truck driver for a well-known multinational corporation, was turned over to ICE in violation of New York City's detainer discretion law regarding arrests with no convictions due to a court paperwork error. ICE held him on no bond and, once in court, the immigration judge declined to set a bond. His NYID lawyer prevailed upon his criminal defense attorney to get the Brooklyn criminal case advanced on the calendar and dismissed. Once that occurred, ICE set a bond the client's family could meet and the client is back at his job.

Often **ancillary proceedings**—that is, proceedings before a different court or government agency—are **essential** to successfully pursue relief in immigration court. Except in theory, it would be impossible for a detained unrepresented immigrant to pursue such ancillary proceedings.

- A 31-year-old lawful permanent resident from Brooklyn, who has lived in the United States since he was seven years old and all of whose relatives are U.S. citizens, needs a motion to vacate judgment on his one criminal conviction. NYID secured representation for the client on

that motion and the post-conviction lawyer negotiated the vacating of the old problematic conviction and obtained a new disposition in that case that makes him eligible for discretionary relief to remain in the United States. Once the problematic conviction was vacated, NYID secured representation for the client to bring a writ of habeas corpus in federal court, as he had been denied any bond in immigration court. The writ of habeas corpus was granted, a bond hearing was ordered, and the young man was reunited with his family (where his mother had lost 30 pounds from the stress of his incarceration and the mother of his two-year-old son had attempted suicide).

- As noted above under relief claims, the 20-year-old from Brooklyn who is seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status first had, through his lawyer, to bring a guardianship proceeding in Brooklyn Family Court. The necessary order and findings from the Family Court was successfully obtained.

Clients are often so traumatized by detention and the prospect of extending their stay in custody that one of their NYID lawyer's initial tasks is to **persuade the client not to give up**. This is a prevalent problem that too often ends up with clients throwing in the towel though they might have prevailed. In the following cases, clients who came into court planning on accepting an order of deportation, took their lawyer's advice (often after extensive discussion), and have reason to be glad they allowed themselves to be persuaded.

- The 37-year-old lawful permanent resident from Staten Island, who has lived in the United States for 27 years, and whose case is also listed under knowing which defenses to advance, was released two days after he had to be persuaded to fight his case, and then his case was terminated four days later. His lawful permanent resident status remains intact.
- The 20-year-old from Brooklyn who is seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and who has been reunited with his sisters and is gainfully employed also had to be persuaded the day his lawyer met him not to give up and accept an order of deportation.

Lawyers provide **valuable services even to clients who are ordered deported**. Additionally, all those who accept an order of deportation do so after having received competent legal advice so that they can intelligently make whatever decisions they believe are best for themselves.

- A 24-year-old Mexican man was the victim of labor law violations by his former employer. His lawyer worked with the New York State Department of Labor to get him \$3,700 in back wages which has been sent to him in Mexico. At NYID's request, the Department of Labor has also issued a certification that the client had been a victim of a crime. His lawyer will be applying for a U Visa for the man, which will allow him to return to the United States with lawful status. The application for a U Visa could have been made without the client accepting an order of deportation, but it would have required his remaining in detention, probably for months, and he was unwilling to do so.
- After a 40-year-old Bronx man, with a U.S. citizen wife and two U.S. citizen children, was ordered deported, his lawyer obtained his release, got his deportation deferred indefinitely, and is seeking work authorization for him.
- A 29-year-old Guatemalan man who was ordered deported was believed by ICE to be from Mexico. Only through NYID's intervention with both the Guatemalan and Mexican consulates, after intervention with his assigned deportation officer was unsuccessful, was he not deported to the wrong country.
- A 53-year-old Dominican woman decided to accept deportation rather than to stay in detention and fight an uphill battle to maintain her lawful permanent resident status. NYID provided ERO

her passport shortly after she was ordered deported to shorten her time in detention before being deported.

- A 52-year-old Mexican man decided to accept an order of deportation when his lawyer told him that he had no valid claim to remain in the United States. He was owed back wages, however. He authorized NYID to represent him in negotiations with his former employer who agreed to pay the client \$1,600 of the \$1,750 he was owed.

As demonstrated by the work to get deported clients back wages discussed above, NYID endeavors to provide **holistic services** that meet as many of their clients' needs as possible.

- Following his lawyer's negotiating a reduced bond that his family could post, a 27-year-old man from Queens, with two U.S. citizen siblings, went to see his lawyer in her office. His lawyer realized that he was in serious mental distress. A social worker and legal advocate attached to the NYID team went into action, getting him an immediate appointment with a psychiatrist, who determined that the client was suicidal and needed immediate hospitalization. The team then applied and obtained emergency Medicaid coverage for the client who was then admitted to a hospital for a few days. The team continues to ensure that he receives appropriate outpatient mental health services. Without a lawyer, he would have been deported and likely had to fend for himself to deal with his mental health problems in Mexico.
- Even though NYID has already won the right for the 56-year-old lawful permanent resident from Queens to retain his legal status in the United States and his deportation case has been completed, NYID helped the client obtain proof of his restored green card status from USCIS.

Not only do the above examples demonstrate how much of a difference representation makes, they also demonstrate the superior quality of representation that NYID is providing. Representation of this quality and breadth in the private marketplace would be available only to the wealthy, as it far exceeds what most private practitioners would include in their representation of a deportation case.

### **Data Analysis and Evaluation**

One of Vera's functions pursuant to the City Council grant is to gather and analyze data concerning case outcomes and court processing times and to report relevant data to the City. It is essential to document the successes and efficiencies of NYIFUP to demonstrate the value of the project. With present funding, Vera is able to provide only relatively straightforward data analysis, such as is provided above, but as the project continues, we will be seeking foundation funding for a rigorous social science evaluation of the project. The evaluation will involve comparing NYIFUP case outcomes and processing times to unrepresented but otherwise similarly situated comparison groups. We will be using immigration court agency data regarding the comparison groups and, if we can obtain it, ICE detention time data. Even though Vera does not yet have the funding for an evaluation, we are gathering the necessary data from NYID so that it will be available when we do obtain the necessary funding.

One thing that we expect that an evaluation will show is that providing counsel for detained immigrants saves ICE money in reduced detention costs—both because more people will be released and because having a lawyer at the inception of a detained case will make it move more efficiently. Since ICE detention costs an average of \$159 per day per person, case processing efficiencies can realize appreciable savings. Merely 20 days of detention time saved will offset the cost of one case.

If, as we expect, we are able to show offsetting detention cost savings for ICE, we would hope that that evidence would be persuasive in getting that federal government to pick up at least some of the costs of representation of detained immigrants in deportation proceedings. That, however, is a long-term strategy that will not come into play until a full-blown evaluation has been completed several years from now.

### **Conclusion**

I believe that my testimony has demonstrated how big a difference NYIFUP is making for the pilot's clients, their families, their employers, their communities, and ultimately for all of us New Yorkers. For a relatively modest **\$5.3 million in Fiscal Year 2015**, the benefits of NYIFUP can be extended to all 900 unrepresented individuals at Varick Street and the 750 additional New Yorkers whose cases are being heard in Newark and Elizabeth. The Vera Institute submits that such an investment would benefit the City and its citizens many times over.

**APPENDIX**  
**NUMBER OF NYIFUP CASES, BY COUNCIL DISTRICT**  
**NOVEMBER, 2013 TO APRIL, 2014**

<b>District</b>	<b>Council Member</b>	<b>No. of Cases</b>
3	Corey Johnson	1
4	Daniel R. Garodnick	1
7	Mark Levine	3
8	Melissa Mark-Viverito	7
9	Inez E. Dickens	3
10	Ydanis Rodriguez	3
11	Andrew Cohen	3
12	Andy King	2
13	James Vacca	3
14	Fernando Cabrera	5
15	Ritchie Torres	7
16	Vanessa L. Gibson	2
17	María del Carmen Arroyo	3
18	Annabel Palma	1
20	Peter Koo	2
21	Julissa Ferreras	11
23	Mark Weprin	1
24	Rory Lancman	3
25	Daniel Dromm	5
26	Jimmy Van Bramer	4
27	I. Daneek Miller	3
28	Ruben Wills	3
29	Karen Koslowitz	1
33	Stephen Levin	1
34	Antonio Reynoso	3
35	Laurie Cumbo	2
36	Robert Cornegy	2
38	Carlos Menchaca	4
39	Brad Lander	3
40	Mathieu Eugene	3
41	Darlene Mealy	2
42	Inez Barron	5
43	Vincent J. Gentile	2
44	David G. Greenfield	3
45	Jumaane D. Williams	4
47	Mark Treyger	3
48	Chaim N. Deutsch	1
50	Steven Mateo	1



New York City Alliance  
Against Sexual Assault



Mount Sinai  
Hospital



Crime  
Victims  
Treatment  
Center

## The New York City Sexual Assault Initiative

### Testimony

#### New York City Council Hearing on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

#### Finance Committee

June 6, 2014

My name is Mary Haviland. I am the Executive Director of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault. I am here this afternoon to represent the Sexual Assault Initiative. This Initiative has been funded for the last 9 years by the New York City Council. We are very grateful for this on-going support from the Council and thank the Finance Committee and its Chair, Julissa Ferreras, for holding these hearings today.

Sexual Assault is a serious public health, public safety and human rights issue in New York City. One needs only to look at the daily papers to know this is true.

We now have more accurate prevalence statistics from a 2011 landmark survey by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). It found that nearly 1 in 5 women have been raped in their lifetime while 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> 1.1% of women in the U.S. experienced rape in the last 12 months. In NYC this translates into nearly 50,000 rapes a year.

Yet, the NYPD reports only about 1,200 rapes per year.<sup>2</sup> This is very striking evidence of how underreported the crime of rape is.

Sexual Assault is a crime that disproportionally affects our youth. The CDC's survey found that victimization begins early in life: almost half of female victims experienced the first rape before age 18, and 28% of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, while virtually all other major felony crimes are in neutral or downward 5-year trend, according to the Mayor's Management Report, there is a **5-year upward trend in forcible rape.**

These statistics reveal that there is an acute need for sexual assault programs in New York City. Over the last 30 years survivors and those who assist them have spoken of the need for sensitive expert interventions in cases of sexual violence. Empathy, a resumption of control over their lives, expert healthcare and forensic evidence gathering, expert investigation and prosecution and on-going counseling and support groups are needed in order to heal from the trauma of sexual assault.

<sup>1</sup> Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>2</sup> Mayor's Management Report (2013)

<sup>3</sup> Black et al (2011)



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### The New York City Sexual Assault Initiative

The Consequences of Lifetime Exposure to Violence and Abuse (COLEVA) Project has identified more than 150 health-related symptoms associated with victimization.<sup>4</sup> These symptoms include physical and mental health as well as behavioral health issues. Research has estimated that each incident of rape costs \$151,425 (in 2008 dollars).<sup>5</sup>

The four groups that are part of the Sexual Assault initiative each provide unique services in New York City that contribute to best care practices in sexual assault intervention. They include:

- The only free long-term treatment program for sexually abused children in NYC provided by Kingsbridge Heights Community Center;
- The only program to assist young victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Queens provided by SAVI at Mt. Sinai Hospital;
- The only Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) training program open to all Emergency Department and licensed medical personnel in New York City organized by the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault;
- The only free treatment program for male victims of sexual assault in New York City offered at the Crime Victims Treatment Center at Mt. Sinai St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

With city council funding in fiscal year 13, our programs served 2,558 clients and provided over 10,000 individual counseling sessions. Of those served, 52% were female and 47% were male and 1% identified as gender queer. Twenty-seven percent served were Hispanic, 22% were African American and 8% were Asian. One hundred and fifty eight professionals were training to better intervene in cases of sexual violence including 33 Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners.

We are requesting **\$75,000 per organization for a total of \$300,000 in this year's budget**. This represents an increase of 50% over last year. We are requesting this increase because:

Currently 3 groups have **waiting lists** and 1 group is at capacity;

The Alliance needs to respond to increased requests for training and certification of Emergency Room professionals treating sexual assault victims in all five boroughs. Since January, the Alliance has been working to train and certify a core group of 30 North Shore hospital employees who will be working in their new free standing Emergency Room to be opened July 1st in the old St. Vincent's building. This facility will be opening as a Center of Excellence in sexual assault. The Alliance has a similar training request from Montefiore hospital.

In addition, all four programs would like to:

<sup>4</sup>COLEVA Project. (updated 2011). Consequences Map.

<sup>5</sup> Delisi, M. (2010). Murder by numbers: Monetary costs imposed by a sample of homicide offenders. The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology, 21, 501-513.



New York City Alliance  
Against Sexual Assault



Mount Sinai  
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Victims  
Treatment  
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### **The New York City Sexual Assault Initiative**

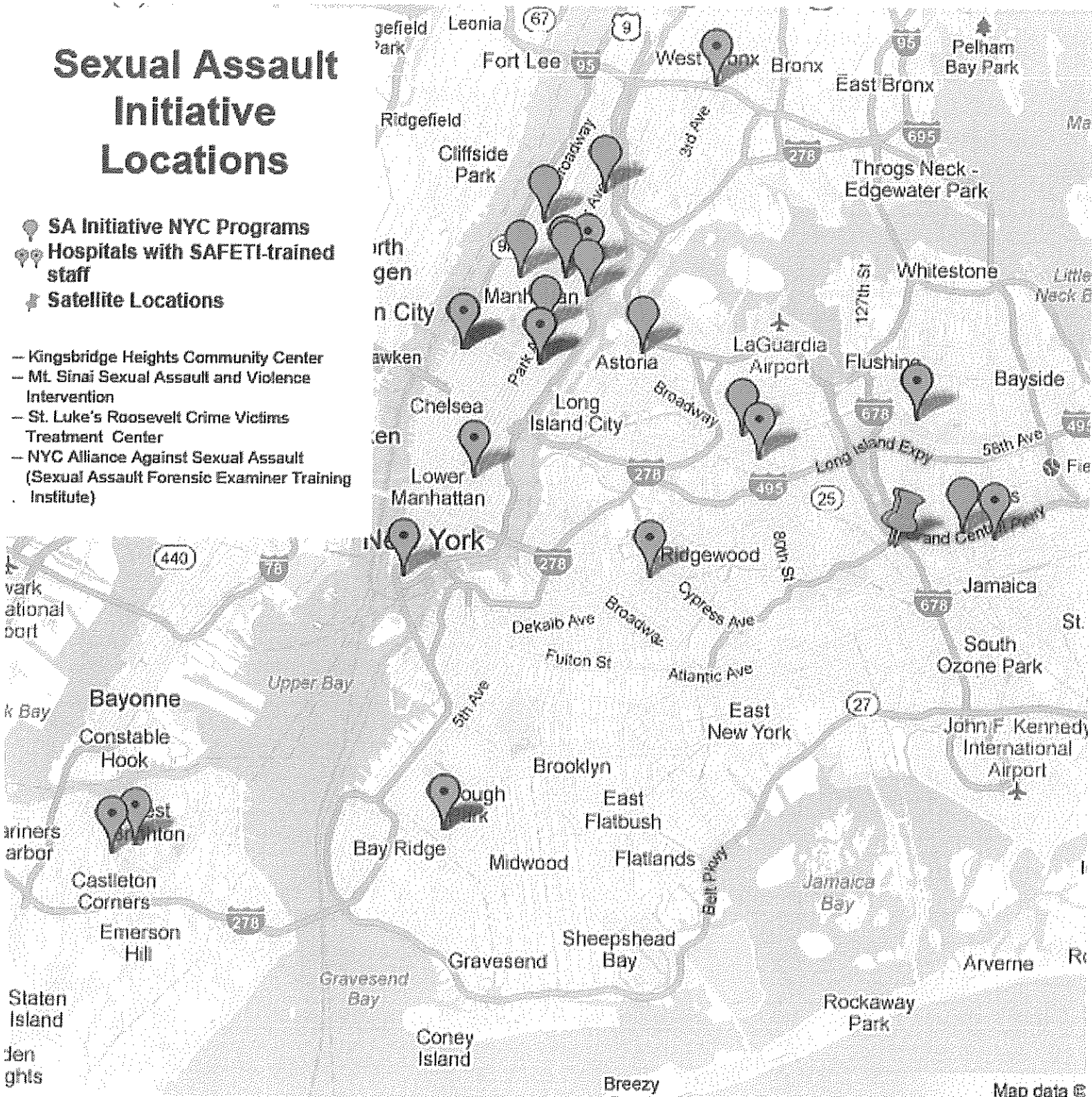
- Implement programs that provide care to the most vulnerable: child victims, LGBTQ, and people living with physical and developmental disabilities;
- Provide rapid response to trafficking victims; and
- Address the continued need for high quality care to men and boys who are victims of sexual assault.

As I said, we are extremely grateful to the council for their steadfast support of the Sexual Assault Initiative and are hoping for your continued support at the \$300,000 level. Thank you.

# Sexual Assault Initiative Locations

- SA Initiative NYC Programs
- Hospitals with SAFETI-trained staff
- Satellite Locations

- Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
- Mt. Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention
- St. Luke's Roosevelt Crime Victims Treatment Center
- NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Training Institute)





[www.CVHaction.org](http://www.CVHaction.org)

### **Testimony for 2014 NYC Council Budget Hearing**

Good afternoon, I am Joseph Mpa, member of Community Voices Heard. I am here today to speak about why the budget process should be an important part of ending a form of slavery called Work Experience program or WEP.

What is the sweat of a persons' brow truly worth? What makes one persons' sweat more valuable than another. Ultimately the survival of our species revolves around its' ability to sustain, grow, nurture and adapt, doing things in a manner which bring about harmonious productive results.

Today in New York City, almost 12,000 people are working as WEP (Work Experience Program) workers. As currently is implemented by the Human Resources Administration, the Work Experience Program is not nurturing, not harmonious, not productive, and not sustaining. It has successfully created a vehicle by which intimidation, frustration, humiliation and indifference have paved a path to a cycle of poverty. Through misinformation, miscommunication, prejudice, sexual harassment, hazardous working conditions, lack of training, little to no supervision and a lack of proper equipment, WEP has become another word for failure. Failures to positively engage, motivate, train, educate and incentivize men and women who desperately want to exit off of the poverty highway.

There exists an army of people with employable skills, decades of experience, extensive education and a burning desire for an honest opportunity to better themselves and their families. They want respect and a chance, dignity and an opportunity to work, to be employed and earn a living wage. The injustice of WEP is that you can have a person with education and experience assigned to do the exact same task as another individual who receives a living wage, contributes to their Social Security Account, is eligible for vacation, sick leave, and employee bonus, an opportunity for a promotion and a raise, benefits, a paycheck and the respect and self-esteem that comes with it. While the person who is a WEP worker receives none of these things and since they are not considered an employee they are not eligible for disability benefits, unemployment benefits or rights enjoyed by every other worker.

We cannot erase the tragedy of Slavery but we can end a modern day version of it by treating people with dignity, providing real opportunities for education, training and employment. Transitional jobs is what is needed, they can be funded by using Grant Diversion, and the millions of dollars being ineffectively used by contracted unsuccessful back to work agencies. There is no substitute for the feeling of satisfaction one gets from receiving a living wage paycheck and an opportunity to prove yourself and advance based upon the work that you do.

Joseph M. Mpa  
Community Voices Heard



[www.CVHaction.org](http://www.CVHaction.org)

### Testimony NYC Council Budget Hearing 2014

Good Afternoon!!! To all of the Council Members . My name is Milinda G. Nimmons a proud new member of Community Voices Heard. I'm a current public assistance recipient like thousands of others that have lost their source of income and have tried multiple ways of seeking employment independently with no success. We have no other choice than to depend on the insufficient benefits provided by HRA's currently failing Public Assistance system trying to survive and/or to support our families. I truly appreciate the funds available to those in need, but the total of rental cash benefits for single adults is \$215.00 a month and it cannot even pay rent for a room. I strongly believe that WEP Workers deserve to earn a sufficient salary for their services and/or physical labor performances contributed during HRA's requested working hours.

Community Voices Heard is here to speak out with an attempt to have our voices heard as one, and to obtain the appropriate attention and gain the needed support towards having WEP positions replaced by subsidized employment transitional jobs in all city agencies.

It would be cruel and unfair to have these WEP positions put on the back burner, held over for another year or longer. We the people can't afford to put the lives of thousand of families on another waiting list. It's more than due time for a change. CVH has been seeking for many years and still needs your support to put into motion the budget for transitional jobs in all agencies currently using WEP workers. The HRA Commissioner is working on a new plan for replacing WEP, but in order for the positions to be replaced with transitional jobs, the budget process needs to plan for that.

Replacing WEP will begin to improve and build the economy. Replacing WEP will help many unemployed citizens gain back a sense of self-esteem. Over all it will help to eliminate a lot of pain and suffering for a wide range of individuals that are currently unemployed. There's vast amount of serious problems caused due to poverty and dependence on the HRA's system that will began to decrease slowly but surely.

In speaking for all of the members of CVH today it is easy to say that any and everyone whose ever been subjected to completing a WEP assignment agrees upon eliminating the current structure of the program because it isn't successfully

utilizing the original plans and major purpose of providing the necessary work experience and/or providing gainful employment for it's participants as intended.

It's time to allow ready, willing, able Americans that want to work for a living and earn an honest salary be counted in the workforce with respect be given a fair chance to obtain additional and gainful employment opportunities. Qualified individuals deserve chances to be compensated for their labor and services which leads to a sense of pride and independence. CVH will continue to do what's necessary to move this in the right direction. We're fighting for true humanity and independence for those who qualify for a salary in the United States of America.

Thank you for your time and patience and I hope that you can sympathize with this cause and help us achieve our goal of getting WEP eliminated in the city and across the state. Please put funding into the budget and please help pass the resolution supporting the Bill A7119A/S5120A to prohibit WEP across the state of New York.

**BRONX JUSTICE NETWORK  
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
BUDGET COMMITTEE OF CITY COUNCIL  
JUNE 6, 2014**

Bronx

Legal  
Services NYC

**MISSION**

The Bronx Justice Network is a coalition of eight community-based organizations with a successful history of doing social justice work paired with Bronx Legal Services. The Network was formed with the purpose of building the capacity of grass roots organizations in the Bronx and working towards a coordinated strategy to address the community's greatest challenges in the following areas: immigrants' rights, housing, opportunities for youth, and sustainability. We have submitted a Speaker's Initiative request for \$500,000 to implement an intensive training program followed by a series of issue-related forums.

**METHOD**

We will **build capacity** by doing targeted outreach to thirty groups working in each of the four issue areas, conducting intensive two-day trainings with each group of thirty. Each training will have a concrete skills component, a fundraising component, a movement-building component, and an issue-identification component. The trainings will be supplemented by on-going peer-to-peer mentorship, resource sharing and legal services support.

We will work towards a **coordinated strategy** for confronting the Bronx's greatest challenges in immigrants' rights, housing, opportunities for youth, and sustainability by taking the issues identified in the trainings and convening broad-based community forums. The forums will provide an opportunity to share community issues and challenges with elected officials, policy leaders and community-based organizations throughout the Bronx. We will introduce thought leaders and scholars to provide the network with greater insights and strengthen the knowledge base of the network members and the community at-large. And, finally, the forums will serve as a venue to invite, engage and recruit community-based organizations and community leaders in collaborative problem solving and strategy development.

**ILLUSTRATION**

To provide an example of how this would work, Mothers on the Move (MOM) has been engaged in community organizing in public housing developments for many years. Nos Quedamos does both housing development and advocacy. They would partner with

Legal Services to provide training and on-going support to thirty organizations. The trainings would address concrete skills (housing court, public housing rights and termination proceedings, and tenants' rights under rent stabilization). The trainings could also draw from Community Action for Safe Apartments' and MOM's tenant organizing experiences to paint a picture of movement building. The participants would be asked to identify the most common issues confronting their constituents – as an example: public housing tenants being terminated or barred from admission because of a family member's contact with the criminal justice system. The year-end forum would pull together thought leaders and community leaders to devise a strategy to address the problem which could be legislative, court-based, movement-based, or all three.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Bronx is in desperate need of this project. As community groups flounder with fewer resources for the kind of grass-roots work that this would support, they are forced to shut their doors and decrease services. And, this is a model that will leverage a small investment to help thousands of residents receive badly needed, quality services. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please support our initiative request.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Levy at (646) 717-3951 or [JenniferL@lsny.org](mailto:JenniferL@lsny.org).

# Building Power in The Bronx

## Who We Are

We are a coalition of neighborhood based not-for-profits working to advance social justice and community empowerment in the Bronx. We are groups who work for immigrants' rights, housing rights, youth leadership, and sustainable development. We span the Bronx and have diverse constituencies and local priorities, but are all united in our commitment to improving the lives of Bronx residents by fighting for:

### *Immigrants' Rights*

More than a third of Bronx households are foreign-born and speak a language other than English at home, and it is both the poorest and most segregated of the 5 boroughs. A comprehensive approach to immigrants' rights that promotes integration, educational advancement, and pathways to citizenship and economic stability is needed.

### *Housing Rights*

The Bronx has the 4th lowest number of residents in the City but has the highest number of evictions, the highest number of serious housing code violations, and the neighborhoods containing the highest concentration of public housing residents. The resources devoted to eviction prevention and code enforcement are woefully inadequate. The Bronx needs a new eviction prevention subsidy, a shared strategy to address housing conditions, and a platform for NYCHA reform.

### *Opportunities for Youth*

The Bronx has the highest percentage of disconnected youth in the City. The schools are the lowest performing in the City, and the borough leads the City in unemployment and poverty rates. Creating opportunity for young people in the Bronx requires education reform and an investment in youth empowerment and innovative job creation strategies.

### *Sustainability*

Sustainability in the Bronx means creating a system that is healthy for our residents and our natural environment. We are setting high standards for development that call for local contracting and hiring; reverse the effects of decades of toxic dumping in our water, air and soil; and channel resources into cooperatives and other creative collaborations that benefit the community at large.

## What We Propose

The Bronx Justice Network will build strength in the Bronx by providing constituents with the tools they need to advocate for themselves and their neighbors. We will co-ordinate:

- Four day-long forums in each of our core issue areas. The forums will include panelists with expertise in local and national strategies for addressing systemic inadequacies and will provide opportunity for Bronx-based groups and their constituents to identify collaborative strategies for change;
- A series of intergenerational trainings to teach constituents how to advocate for their rights to legal status, safe housing, education, and to have a say in planning their community;
- Capacity-building workshops aimed at increasing the resources available to the Bronx in addressing its needs, including targeting private and public sources of funding; and
- Work in tandem with Network partners to provide intensive wraparound services to constituents in order to secure stable households, buildings, and communities.

## Budget

We are seeking \$504,000 to fund a coordinator, organizational liaisons, and legal services support.

## Collaborations



### Distressed Buildings

New Settlement Apartments' Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) organized tenants' associations at buildings owned by the landlord, College Management, which was ranked as the #1 worst landlord on Public Advocate's Worst Landlords Watchlist. The buildings at 1259, 1265, and 1269 College Ave. had been cited for hundreds of dangerous violations of the Housing Maintenance Code. In June 2012, more than half of the tenants organized to bring a lawsuit against the landlord, seeking his removal. Legal Services NYC-Bronx and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest worked with the tenants associations to file three separate 7A lawsuits. Under mounting pressure from an aggressive organizing campaign, the landlord finally relinquished control of the buildings to a responsible owner committed to affordable housing who secured City funding to rehabilitate the premises and make the buildings worthy of the tenants.



### Environmental Justice

The South Bronx River Watershed Alliance is a coalition of community-based organizations including Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Mothers on the Move, the Point, Sustainable South Bronx, and Nos Quedamos, who are working towards realizing a vision of the southern Bronx River watershed that includes a healthy environment, a working economy, and a community that enjoys the benefits of the river as a natural and recreational resource. The Alliance engaged hundreds of neighborhood residents in a community planning process that resulted in a plan that is now being considered as one of the two main options for development of the area. Consistent with the community's vision, the plan would open up 28 acres of land for affordable housing, businesses, and open space.

## The Network



*Legal Services NYC – Bronx* provides free legal services to low-income Bronx residents in all civil practice areas. It is the largest provider of civil legal services in the Bronx.

### GREEN WORKER COOPERATIVES

*Green Worker Cooperatives* is a Bronx-based nonprofit organization dedicated to incubating worker-owned green businesses that build a strong local economy rooted in democracy and environmental justice.



*Mothers on the Move* is a member-led community organization founded in 1992 as a vehicle for low-income people of color to take strategic leadership in campaigns to transform themselves and their communities.



*New Settlement Apartments* creates and maintain economically and ethnically diverse affordable housing and works with residents and neighborhood organizations to develop community programs and businesses.



*Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition* unites diverse people and institutions to work for racial and economic justice through intergenerational community organizing that transforms the Bronx and beyond.



*Nos Quedamos* is a coalition of residents and business people in the Melrose neighborhood who are working towards creating an economically productive, sustainable, and healthy community.



*Sustainable South Bronx* is dedicated to the implementation of sustainable development projects that are informed by the needs of the community and the values of environmental justice.



*The Point* is a Community Development dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx.



*Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice* is a non-profit organization dedicated to the positive transformation of impoverished neighborhoods through youth leadership development and community organizing.

# Plan of Action

## PLANNING & OUTREACH July - August

Steering committee forms subcommittees for each of the following focus areas:

- Immigrants' Rights
- Housing
- Sustainability
- Youth

Subcommittees draw in thought leaders and identify 30 community groups as trainees.



## LAUNCH September - April

Subcommittees present two, two-day long trainings to 30 community-based organizations and 60 participants in each issue area.

Each training has the following components:

- Concrete Skills
- Advocacy Training
- Fund Development
- Issue Identification



## FORUMS May - June

Legal Services NYC will provide wrap-around services to trainees' constituents. Based on evaluations and issue identification sessions at each training, we will host community forums in each issue area. The forums will draw on local and national expertise to develop strategies for Bronx-wide platforms for change.

30 organizations strengthened

480 people trained

400 people attending forums

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= More and Better Help for 3,000 Bronxites

Cultural Institutions Group

Testimony to the New York City Council Committee on Finance  
June 6, 2014

Good afternoon, Council Member Ferreras, and members of the Finance Committee. I am Arnold Lehman, Director of the Brooklyn Museum, and Chair of the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG). On behalf of the CIG members and their respective board members, I am delighted to express our continuing gratitude to members of the Council for their longstanding leadership and support of culture in all five boroughs.

This year, we want to thank the Mayor and City Council for baselining funding to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and ending the budget dance. This vital step continues to demonstrate that you understand that a sustainable funding model for culture allows cultural organizations to better serve our great city and the millions of residents who want and benefit from our services. Cultural organizations and artists are essential to our economy, they provide supplemental education to our children, critical programs for our seniors, and they contribute to our city's cultural vibrancy which serves our citizens. It is vital that the city continue to support the full scope of nonprofit culture which includes organizations of all sizes, all disciplines, and in all neighborhoods whose collective work support and serve communities throughout our city. That is why a diverse range of cultural organizations are joining together and taking the first steps toward developing common language and shared goals.

The CIG is a coalition of some of the most respected art, science, and performing arts institutions in the world. Our exhibitions and educational programs attract 20 million New York residents, families, schoolchildren, teachers and tourists each year. According to 2012 data, we employ nearly 9,000 people who live in each of the City's 51 Council districts, and we spend more than \$300 million annually on purchased goods and services from more than 11,000 NYC based vendors. We are a critical and essential component of the City's economic development goals; we support public education, and offer creative solutions to address social issues. In addition, the CIGs are essential to our communities playing a distinct and important role in community development. We ask that you continue to baseline the funding for both the CIGs and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) which supports the Program Category. We also ask that you support the \$6 million increase to the CDF which the New York City Arts Coalition requested in the Preliminary Budget Hearing in order to provide an opportunity to fund newer groups and increase funding for those which are underfunded.

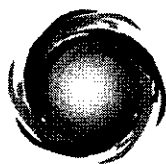
For all of the impressive economic activity that can be attributed to the cultural sector our commitment to supporting public education is the one of our finest achievements. The museums, science centers, theaters, botanical gardens, and zoos that comprise the CIG provide services to more than a million schoolchildren and teachers annually. As you know the Mayor's Executive Budget includes \$23 million dollars in new funding for Arts Education in the Department of Education's budget. We commend the Mayor and the City Council for creating this new funding pool. A recent report from Comptroller Stringer's office identified that 244 of our schools do not have a partnership with a cultural organization. We in the cultural community want to ensure that this number decreases because all NYC students

deserve the opportunities that cultural partnerships provide. We are therefore asking that additional new funding be added to the Department of Cultural Affairs budget to help cultural organizations create partnerships with these schools.

The CIGs are charged with and provide exceptional stewardship for many of the most important New York City owned properties. Over the years, the Council has supported CIG initiatives and the cultural sector as a whole by supporting capital projects throughout the five boroughs. This support has allowed cultural organizations to fulfill their mission of providing art experiences and quality programs and services to families, seniors, schoolchildren, public school teachers, and individuals. Cultural organizations are accessible spaces in communities that offer a variety of services to engage visitors as well as places of respite. Our doors are open to all and each visitor can tailor their experience to fit their needs. It is critical that the Mayor and Council continue to provide capital support to the CIG to ensure the ongoing care and security of these cultural treasures.

Finally, the depth and breadth of New York City's cultural community is what makes this one of the most desirable city's in which to live, work and visit. The amount that the City invests in culture is less than 1%, and provides a remarkable return on investment that is significant and critical to the City's long-term economic development strategy.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Written Testimony Submitted to the **New York City Council**  
FY15 Budget Hearing: Finance and Contracts

Submitted by Frances Lucerna, Executive Director of El Puente  
June 6, 2014

On behalf of El Puente, I respectfully submit this testimony in regards to the FY15 Budget Hearing. El Puente is a thirty-old community human rights institution in North Brooklyn that promotes leadership for peace and justice through the engagement of youth and community members in the arts, education, scientific research, wellness and environmental action. We thank the New York City Council Finance and Contract Committees, Speaker Mark-Viverito, and the City Council Members for the opportunity to provide our input on funding priorities for FY15.

We are here today to ask for your consideration of two distinct areas for funding. First, we call on you to support grassroots arts and culture in New York City. Cultural organizations are the backbone of our communities. They providing opportunities for enjoyment of the arts, and are culture bearers for NYC's diverse communities. They supplement and improve education by partnership with schools, and providing afterschool arts training and activities for young people. They employ artists, who are often not only creators but also creative community builders in their neighborhoods. Grassroots arts organizations also enliven public spaces, making our streets and parks safer, more vibrant, and better cared for.

Specifically, we ask that you increase the overall funding allocated to the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) to \$6 million, as well as prioritize the equitable distribution of funding for arts and culture. Small and neighborhood-based cultural organizations ought to be considered on par with larger and more-resourced institutions, especially since they often serve underrepresented communities. Priority ought to be given to organizations, arts-based and non-arts based, who are rooted in the communities they serve and who can better nurture arts and cultural activities that reflect communities and cultures. Criteria for excellence must recognize the wide diversity of artistic and cultural practices that must be supported, some of which are very informal and craft- or artisan-based. Venues supporting this diversity of cultural practices must also be supported and funded, including local artists and projects in nontraditional but more accessible arts spaces, including churches, community centers, public parks, etc.

In addition, the Mayor's Executive Budget includes \$23 million dollars in new funding for Arts Education in the Department of Education's budget. We commend the Mayor and the City Council for creating this new funding pool. A recent report from Comptroller Stringer's office identified that 244 of our schools do not have a partnership with a cultural organization. We are therefore asking that additional new funding be added to the Department of Cultural Affairs budget to help cultural organizations create partnerships with these schools.

Second, we express our support and respectfully request the New York City Council allocate \$10 million in the FY15 Budget for a new initiative establishing a Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (NSF) for community based organizations (CBOs) led by communities of color. This request has the support of the major community of color umbrella organizations in New York City including the Asian American Federation, Black Agency Executives, Coalition for Asian American Children & Families, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Hispanic Federation, and NYS NAACP, along with their respective member nonprofits (including ours), whose numbers total more than 140 organizations in all five NYC boroughs and who serve millions of mostly low- and middle-income children, youth and families.

Organizations like ours are a precious resource, which must not only be preserved, but also fortified. In addition to providing vital services to millions of New Yorkers of all races and ethnicities, our agencies have developed “organically” within neighborhood settings, and thus are frequently the social glue that brings – and keeps – communities together. We are economic drivers, employing tens of thousands of local community residents, and with rent and procurement expenditures totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, provide communities of color with much needed economic stimuli. Finally, we are frequently the crucible for developing the next generation of leaders, especially within African-American, Latino and Asian communities.

Unfortunately, in the aftermath of the “Great Recession,” too many city nonprofits have yet to recover from the last economic crisis. Many, facing major retrenchment of funds from public and private sources, are struggling to keep their doors open. And all are facing ever growing demands from impoverished individuals within divested communities – individuals that need jobs, education, training, child care, health services and other programs in order to flourish and grow as human beings. The Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (NSF) will help secure the long-term viability of community-based human service organizations led by communities of color that serve clients in diverse and low-income New York City communities, by providing these nonprofits with comprehensive capacity building assistance including Financial Management; Board Development; Fund Development; Nonprofit Management and Leadership Training; Information Technology; Facilitated Collaborations (including organizational mergers); and Outcomes and Evaluation.

Investing \$10 million in the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund will ensure that nonprofits led by communities of color will be able to provide the critical services that properly address the diverse and growing needs of New York City’s African-American, Latino and Asian communities. Moreover, this capacity building initiative will level the playing field by assisting our organizations in qualifying for more city-funded human service contracts.

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests, and please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.



**FOR THE RECORD**

**Testimony before the New York City Council  
Housing and Buildings and Budget Committees**

**Regarding the New York City Preliminary Budget Proposals for FY2014**

**May 21, 2014**

Good morning. My name is Christie Peale, and I am the Executive Director of the Center for NYC Neighborhoods. I would like to thank Chairwoman Ferreras, Chairman Williams and the members of the Finance and Housing and Buildings Committees for holding today's hearing on the City's Preliminary Budget for City Fiscal Year 2014.

With the release of the Mayor's ambitious new housing plan earlier this month as well as dynamic new leadership at City Council, this is a very exciting time for affordable housing in New York City. We look forward to working with the Mayor, Commissioner Been and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development as well as the City Council Housing and Building Committee to promote and protect affordable and sustainable homeownership.

I would like to thank all members of the New York City Council for your strong advocacy and support for foreclosure prevention initiatives in New York City. Today, I speak before you to respectfully urge you to continue your support of essential foreclosure prevention counseling and legal services administered citywide by the Center for NYC Neighborhoods.

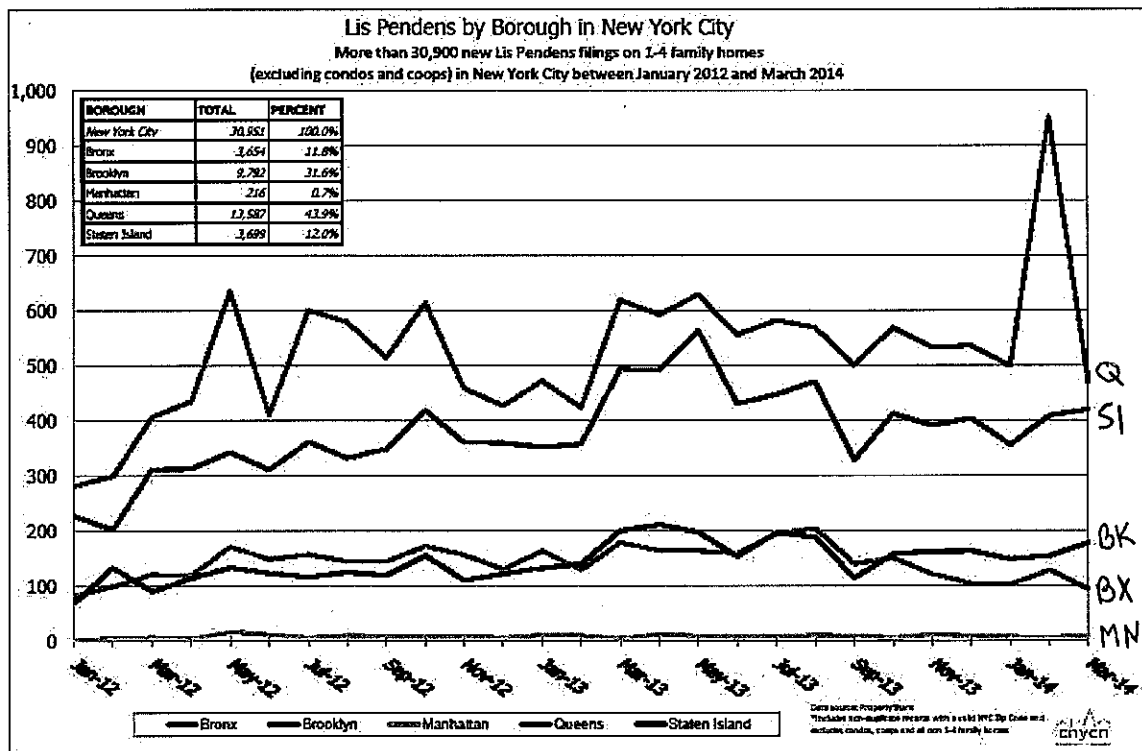
**About the Center for NYC Neighborhoods**

At the Center for NYC Neighborhoods, our mission is to promote and protect affordable and sustainable homeownership in New York City, focusing on those neighborhoods hardest hit by foreclosure. We were created in 2008 by members of the New York City Council and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development in order to leverage public and private resources to combat the growing foreclosure crisis. Since 2008, our network of 37 foreclosure prevention partners located throughout the five boroughs has assisted over 30,000 homeowners and prevented close to 5,000 foreclosures.

**Foreclosure in New York City**

Though our national economy has slowly reemerged from the depths of the 2008 recession, the foreclosure crisis that precipitated the recession continues to be a daily source of stress, confusion, and anger for many New Yorkers. Today the crisis has resulted in thousands of foreclosures in New York City and even more homeowners struggling to make monthly mortgage payments. While foreclosures have declined in many parts of the country, in New York foreclosure starts ("lis pendens") are on the rise again, with filings increasing 30% in 2013. Worse, there remains a tremendous backlog of owners stuck in the foreclosure process and

thousands more families continue to fall behind on their mortgage payments each month.



## The Importance of Supporting Foreclosure Prevention

New York City foreclosure prevention counseling and legal services provide essential assistance to homeowners struggling to keep their homes. Our Network of housing advisors and attorneys obtains results: an analysis conducted using the Center's data found that homeowners who received foreclosure prevention counseling from the Center's Network are 30% more likely to receive a modification than homeowners who do not receive counseling.

Since the City Council helped found the Center in 2008, our Network has served nearly 30,000 homeowners and helped homeowners prevent nearly 5,000 foreclosures, with thousands more at-risk homeowners continuing to work with Network counselors and attorneys to resolve their housing crises. The average homeowner assisted through our network earns \$47,000 annually, and the average modification received by homeowners reduced payments by almost \$1000 a month, allowing them to stay in their homes and contributing to the stabilization of their communities.

Beyond the statistics, I would like to share with you one of the thousands of stories of homeowners who have been helped by Council-supported foreclosure prevention services:

- Ms. R got in touch with our network partner Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush when she was already 5 years behind on her mortgage. After her husband's job was downsized in 2005, Ms. R exhausted her savings but was unable to sustain her mortgage payments and became delinquent. Unfortunately, at the time, Ms. R was unaware that high-quality legal services can be obtained free of charge through the Center's network partners. Instead, she hired an attorney to assist her in obtaining a loan modification. This attorney charged her \$7,000 and failed to get her a loan modification, leaving her worse off than when she started. Fortunately, Ms. R's counselor at NHS was successful in helping her obtain a loan modification with principal reduction of \$104,000. Ms. R's husband has returned to work as of May 2013 and today they are able to afford their modified payment.
- Ms. S and her elderly mother co-own a three family home in Bedford-Stuyvesant. They fell into foreclosure in 2011 after trying unsuccessfully for over a year to obtain a loan modification from the FHA. Our network partner South Brooklyn Legal Services, assisted Ms. S in applying for a loan modification. When the FHA wrongly failed to approve her modification, her attorneys at South Brooklyn advocated on her behalf with the House Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform and a regulatory affairs officer at her lender, with successful results. Ms. S successfully completed her 3 month trial plan and was offered a permanent loan modification which reduced her interest rate and lowered her monthly payments by over \$300.
- Mr. and Ms. D are a Staten Island couple, both of whom have disabilities, received legal representation from our network partner MFY Legal Services. After representing them at 10 settlement conferences over the course of a year, their attorneys successfully obtained an affordable loan modification, resulting in a monthly savings of \$477.24, and a total savings over the life of the loan of \$76,264. Unfortunately, before the permanent modification could be finalized, their mortgage was transferred to another servicer, which delayed the execution of the modification for months. By filing a complaint with the NYS Department of Financial Services, MFY was able to pressure their servicer into executing the modification, which means that Mr. and Ms. D will be able to stay in their home.

### **Council Support of Foreclosure Prevention Services**

At the Center, we are extremely grateful for the Council's strong partnership in the fight against foreclosure. The Council's funding support for our network of housing counseling and legal services organizations is invaluable in providing much-needed assistance to New York City families at risk of losing their homes. Additionally, Council members provide crucial assistance through their visibility on the foreclosure issue and by continuing to spread the message that high-quality, free assistance for homeowners is available and can be obtained by calling 311. We look forward to continuing to work with you to combat this crisis.

Every year, the City Council's investment of \$750,000 in foreclosure prevention services

provides leverage for the Center to attract hundreds of thousands in additional funds. For FY 2015, we intend to match the \$750,000 investment with an additional \$1 million in corporate and foundation contributions. These combined donations will ensure a strong citywide response to the national foreclosure crisis, keeping homeowners in their homes and stabilizing foreclosure-stricken communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We look forward to working with you on this very important issue.



**Testimony of Marianne C. Yang**  
Before  
**New York City Council's Committee on Finance**  
Regarding  
**the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project**

June 6, 2014

Good afternoon, and thank you—Chairwoman Ferreras and fellow Councilmembers—for this opportunity to testify before you today. I am Marianne Yang, Immigration Unit Director of Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS) and Co-Director, with Jennifer Friedman of the Bronx Defenders, of the New York Immigration Defenders. As some of you know, BDS is one of the largest public defender offices in New York City, defending more than 40,000 low-income New Yorkers each year. Bronx Defenders, also a public defender office, represents more than 35,000 individuals a year.

Together, as the New York Immigration Defenders, we have been the legal service providers under the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) pilot started last November, serving as assigned counsel to defend indigent, detained New Yorkers in deportation proceedings. We have undertaken representation of 190 people under this pilot—about one-fifth the annual number of all unrepresented individuals in deportation proceedings at Varick Street.

I have been working as a nonprofit immigration lawyer, specifically, in advocating for indigent and low-income immigrants facing immigration detention and deportation, for nearly fifteen years. At BDS, I supervise a team of fourteen immigration lawyers and paralegals who engage in a range of both defensive and proactive advocacy for our immigrant clients—from advising clients and our defense colleagues about the immigration consequences of a criminal charge and crafting defense strategies to minimize those consequences where possible, to intervening with ICE deportation officers and advocating for their lifting of immigration detainers against clients, and identifying potential immigration relief. When our limited capacity

has allowed, we are able to go so far as making affirmative applications for immigration relief for clients and representing some of our clients who are transferred by ICE to immigration jails in their detained deportation cases. Before BDS, I directed the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP), a nonprofit legal resource and training center that promotes, nationwide, fundamental fairness for immigrants at risk of deportation because they have been accused or convicted of crimes.

Over the past several decades, the immigration detention and deportation laws have become increasingly intricate and complex. Therefore, it is difficult, if not impossible, for immigrants and their families to navigate on their own in most cases. These laws are extremely harsh, often mandating deportation and detention for individuals with the most minimal records. And never, not until New York City launched this first-in-nation program last year, was any immigrant ensured the right to assigned counsel in her defense if she could not afford one.

In the absence of a right to counsel, poor immigrants and their families have been left to fend for themselves. I have seen over and over again the results: New Yorkers are unnecessarily separated from their families and communities when they are swept into the immigration detention and deportation system. In the absence of a right to counsel, advocates have made some significant inroads into trying to ensure greater fairness, such as starting Know Your Rights and legal orientation programs, or, like BDS, taking on a few cases for representation where capacity allowed, or relying on pro bono counsel programs from law firms where possible. As important as these developments have been, they cannot substitute, or even come close to meeting the need for, the universal representation that all poor immigrants need. They cannot replace having assigned counsel making the case for indigent immigrants every day, mounting the complex legal arguments, and gathering and preparing substantial evidence and testimony for the case. The bottom line is that to prevent unnecessary deportations and due process violations, each detained indigent New Yorker facing deportation needs a lawyer.

BDS and Bronx Defenders—as the New York Immigration Defenders—are now in our seventh month of the pilot project toward such universal representation. One made possible with New York City's visionary leadership. We cannot express enough how thankful we are to this City Council and this City, for having funded the pilot project as a test case for promoting a more fair and just process for our immigrant communities. Through this pilot program, we have been able to say to our immigrant New Yorkers that yes, we can represent you if you don't have the means to pay a lawyer. Yes, we can defend you no matter how difficult your case may be, or how long it may take. We will not be able to prevent deportation in all, or even most, cases,

because the laws are very harsh. But we will be able to ensure that our clients are aware of their rights and have a knowledgeable, experienced attorney by their side to defend them every step of the way.

I would like to provide you with two individual case examples of the critical difference NYIFUP has made for immigrant New Yorkers and their families:

- **Jenny** is a young woman in her twenties who has been living in New York since she was six years old, when she came to this country from Trinidad and Tobago. She had been detained by ICE and placed in removal proceedings because she had no lawful status here, but also because of an arrest history that included mostly petty crimes. When we met Jenny, she expressed to us her fear of return to Trinidad and Tobago. She self identifies as lesbian, and was terrified of the prospect of being returned to a country where she would face stigma and persecution, possibly even death, as a result. BDS attorneys—with co-counsel at Immigration Equality—represented Jenny from start to finish of her case. We pursued asylum, withholding, and Convention Against Torture relief for her. We briefed a thorny issue of why her past criminal record did not bar her from seeking asylum. We also introduced evidence of her Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome to explain why Jenny had been unable to file for asylum within the usual one-year deadline for doing so. On the strength of the evidence and our advocacy, the government's attorney agreed not to contest withholding, and to stipulate to the expert's finding of PTSD. Last month the Immigration Judge granted Jenny all of asylum, withholding and CAT. He said in his 25 years as a sitting judge, he has only ever granted asylum without trial in one other case. Jenny's lawyers secured her release from detention on that same day, took her to Chipotle, and then to be reunited with her mother. Jenny was relieved and thrilled beyond belief.
- **Samuel** is a long-time lawful permanent resident who came to the US from Jamaica in 1999, when he was 10 years old. He has been a Brooklyn resident for almost all his time here in the United States. Despite a childhood of neglect and significant hardships throughout his early life, Samuel became a purpose-driven young man. He became a steady and reliable employee with Duane Reade, working as a cashier and stocker in one of its Manhattan locations. He filed and paid taxes for each year he has worked and was obligated to pay taxes. He has been living in Brooklyn with his fiancée and her three US citizen daughters, whom he helps to raise and support. He is the loving father of his two-year old U.S. citizen son, for whom he petitioned in family court to obtain visitation rights after separating from the child's mother, had custody every other weekend, and regularly paid child support.

Samuel was taken into ICE custody last December, when his fiancée was four months pregnant with Samuel's second child. He was coming home from his night shift at Duane Reade, and ICE officers were waiting for him outside his residence. Held without the right to seek a bond hearing, he was charged in detained removal proceedings as deportable based on one misdemeanor drug conviction from 2010. Samuel's NYIFUP attorneys identified LPR Cancellation of Removal as Samuel's potential defense against deportation. They worked with Samuel, his fiancée, his US citizen sister, his LPR father, and his supportive employer, to prepare for his defense.

They also discovered, with the aid of a psychologist, that Samuel had significant cognitive deficits that had never previously been diagnosed, and that would exponentially increase the hardship to him were he deported to Jamaica. Samuel's individual merits hearing took place on March 4, 2014, four months into his custody. On the strength of his equities and NYIFUP attorneys' pre-trial preparation of his application, ICE Chief Counsel's office expressed at the outset of the hearing that they would not oppose the judge's grant of Cancellation of Removal. The immigration judge granted this relief in short order. Within an hour of that decision, Samuel was released to his family and attorneys, who were eagerly waiting for him. He will now be able to move beyond his past mistakes, and he was able to be home for the birth of his second child last month.

These are examples of how NYIFUP attorneys identify claims of relief for clients and prepare the most robust of applications that our detained clients would have had no ability to mount by themselves.

NYIFUP makes a critical difference in other ways as well. Our attorneys have discovered and corrected government errors—such as incorrect criminal court records—that would not have been caught otherwise and would have had devastating effects on clients and their families. They have made successful legal arguments that clients are not deportable at all in the first instance. And they have gone into other courts—such as federal district court and family court—to press for claims that are essential to get clients out of detention or successfully defend against deportation.

#### POSITIVE SYSTEMIC CHANGES

We have now been at the Varick Street facilities and courtrooms day in and day out for seven months now, interacting with court officers, government trial attorneys, and court clerks. We have been appearing before each of the three Varick Street judges on a regular and frequent basis, pressing the arguments and cases for our clients before each of them. I can attest to the significant and positive changes that this assigned counsel model—through our constant presence and advocacy, has brought to the overall culture and practice of detained removal proceedings at Varick Street. For example, Varick Street Immigration Judges have acknowledged—both in stakeholder meetings and in off-record courtroom asides—that the New York Immigration Defenders have been “raising the bar” on the standards of legal practice in the courts. We believe we have been raising this bar in a range of ways, including by putting the government to its burden of proof, questioning its positions where they are unfounded, challenging removability, or establishing eligibility for relief with sophisticated legal arguments.

We have been mounting bond and merits hearings with well-documented evidence packages, and thoroughly preparing testimony from clients, families, and experts.

As other examples, through our advocacy, our clients are now routinely given copies of important documents in their case, and there has been more simultaneous interpretation in the courtrooms for our non-English speakers. Our constant presence also yields efficiencies and helps us build better working relationships with ICE Chief Counsel, deportation officers, and court clerks. We routinely ask ICE attorneys for additional information or documents in our clients' immigration files, and they have been responsive. Where we prod, they even canceled a charging document after conducting their own investigation in one case, and promptly released another client after we raised a question as to whether the client may have derived citizenship.

We believe these and other positive changes to be the natural result—over time—of having competent assigned counsel constantly present and advocating in the courts. BDS and Bronx Defenders—because we are already public defenders in criminal cases—know from deep experience that these cultural shifts are bound to occur when counsel are in the courts day in and day out. Judges become accustomed to lawyers' mounting layers of defenses. Opposing counsel become accustomed to freer flows of communication between the parties, and work with us more frequently to achieve negotiated outcomes for the sake of fairness or efficiency. Court clerks more readily facilitate our requests for to ensure better case flow. And court officers are more open to granting us greater access to detained clients for private attorney-client meetings. We believe these positive shifts in culture and practice—absorbed over the long-term—are an important part of the bigger picture of the difference that a universal representation model can make in deportation proceedings as well.

Thank you again for this opportunity to share with you today how impactful the NYIFUP project has been, from the perspective of its legal service providers. I trust that the testimony you hear from others today, and me, underscores for you the tremendous importance NYIFUP plays in protecting our immigrant New Yorkers, keeping their families united, and keeping our communities stronger. I hope the City will now invest in a continued NYIFUP, one that ensures representation to all unrepresented, detained New Yorkers.

**FOR THE RECORD**

# **B'nai Jeshurun** **בני ישורון**

Testimony before the New York City Council Aging Committee on the New York City Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget

Presented on June 6, 2014

Chairperson Chin and members of the Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We are the Rabbis of B'nai Jeshurun, one of the largest and most active synagogues in New York City. Located on Manhattan's Upper West Side, BJ serves more than 3,600 members living throughout the five boroughs. As people of faith, we embrace the great responsibility of caring for the needy and vulnerable in our midst. Our congregation provides vital social services to the community; we shelter homeless individuals five nights a week, provide free lunch to approximately 115 individuals weekly, and tutor 30 children through a literacy program in an area public school. Since 2003, we have undertaken community organizing and advocacy campaigns, which we call Panim el Panim ("face to face" in Hebrew). Through Panim el Panim our community affects systemic change and addresses the root causes that underpin the need for our social service programs. Over eleven years, we have built deeper relationships among congregants, identified issues of shared concern, and advocated for social change in partnership with other communities.

We are also a part of the New York Caring Across Generations coalition of over 40 organizations representing over 200,000 New Yorkers—we're part of a national effort to ensure dignity, respect, and a good quality of life for caregivers and people who receive care.

This year B'nai Jeshurun participated in a series of "Dialogues" between home care workers and consumers from our congregation and from Damayan, Adhikaar, Domestic Workers United and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice. In each dialogue we shared stories, those of workers, of seniors, of family caregivers, about our experiences with elder care. We heard stories of illness from caregivers without the financial means to access any form of home care. Additionally, we heard from our own members whose friends and family were not able to take time from work to help out during the day, because they needed their salaries to live on. Or from members whose family members live too far away to assist with their care on a daily basis. It was in these dialogues and through many conversations with seniors in our community over the years that it has become apparent that there are many seniors who will not be able to age in place with dignity in NYC without assistance.

The number of New York City seniors is growing rapidly, but the City has been steadily cutting funding for senior services. More than 1 million seniors will likely need home care in the next decade. Right now, tens of thousands of New York City's seniors are unable to access the home care they need to live with dignity.

For low-income seniors, these budget cuts hit even harder. A Department for the Aging program called the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) provides hope to low-income seniors who need home care. EISEP helps non-Medicaid-eligible low-income seniors 60 years and older—including those who are undocumented—pay for part-time home care services. The program is a lifeline to almost 3,000 seniors, offers respite to family caregivers, and provides living wage jobs to home care workers. It should be expanded.

# B'nai Jeshurun בני ישורון

Unfortunately, in the past several years, City funding for EISEP has been cut. As a result, fewer and fewer seniors are being served, hours are being cut, and there is a growing waiting list for the program.

Members of our own spiritual community are struggling to age in place with the dignity they deserve. A 92 year old, who has lived independently for as long as possible, should now be able to get the help she needs to remain in her home and maintain connections to her community and friends. It is the simple physical tasks of daily life that become too difficult to manage, and a program like EISEP that expands access to in-home care could make all the difference in the world to a senior without adequate means. As Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel said, 'A test of a people is how it behaves toward the old.' Far too many seniors in New York City are struggling and we can take steps to change this reality.

Because EISEP is underfunded, the program is unable to adequately meet the needs of the nearly 80,000 low-income seniors who could benefit from the program. There are almost 80,000 New York City near-poverty seniors (seniors between 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) with care needs who do not meet income eligibility requirements for Medicaid and are unable to afford the out-of-pocket cost of home care.

Increasing funding for home care in this year's budget would represent an important first step in addressing unmet home care needs for low-income seniors. Beyond restoring funding cut since 2008, we need an expanded and sustainable long-term investment in seniors and home care services. Furthermore, a commitment by the Department for the Aging to comprehensively assess unmet care needs by geography, race, language, and income, will enable targeted service provision to populations in greatest need.

Today, we urge all members of the Aging Committee and the Council to support New York City's seniors, and strengthen the programs that provide them with the services that allow them to thrive as they age. B'nai Jeshurun and New York Caring Across Generations urge the City to allocate an additional \$1.8 million for EISEP home care to clear the 240-person home care waiting list. In choosing to invest more adequately in cost-effective EISEP home care services, New York City can be an example to cities around the state and the nation looking for innovative ways to support seniors, their families and home care workers. At a time when the need for home care services is growing quickly, and when the need for good jobs is growing, the City must do more to support smart programs like EISEP that benefit many people in our communities.

It's time we heed Rabbi Heschel and start planning for how we, as a society, will ensure dignity, respect and a decent quality of life for both caregivers and those who receive care.

Thank you.

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon  
Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein  
Rabbi Felicia L. Sol



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET

JUNE 6, 2014

TESTIMONY OF NINA K. DASTUR  
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY  
UNION SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION

Good evening, Madame Speaker and members of the City Council. My name is Nina Dastur, and I am the Director of Policy and Advocacy at Union Settlement Association in East Harlem.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today regarding the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015. We are here to urge the City Council to prioritize three issues in its final budget negotiations: (1) strengthening the Early Childhood Education System by increasing teacher salaries and funding full day programming for preschoolers; (2) increasing the City's investment in Adult Education services provided through community-based organizations; and (3) funding universal free school lunch. I am joined here today by two students from our middle school afterschool program, Keyla Jimenez and Gloria Cruz, who will also be testifying in support of universal free school lunch.

Since 1895, Union Settlement Association has been creating opportunity in East Harlem by offering comprehensive programs that help underserved residents improve their skills and build better lives for themselves and their families. Today, we are the area's largest social service agency, serving more than 10,000 of our neighbors each year with effective programs in education, childcare, youth development, senior services, job training, the arts, nutrition, counseling and community development. We are also one of the neighborhood's largest employers, with 250 full-time staff, many of whom hail from and/or live in East Harlem.

### **Strengthening Early Childhood Education**

We have offered Early Childhood Education services to East Harlem families for over a century, and we are now the tenth largest provider of early childhood education services in New York City, serving almost 700 children each year with a well-rounded program that promotes their cognitive, social, emotional, creative and physical development. We are a trusted provider of high quality early childhood education, enabling families to work, seek employment or care for loved ones. We also serve approximately 56 homeless families, providing crucial socialization and stability for their children, allowing parents time to seek housing and work.

We appreciate the Mayor and the Council's commitment to making free pre-kindergarten (UPK) programs available throughout New York City, and your success in obtaining \$300 million in State funding to support pre-K expansion.

Our collective goal is to create an integrated system of high quality education for children ages 0-5, which provides programming on a full-day (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.), full-year basis to support low-income families and children. We appreciated that the Mayor's FY2015 executive budget included language recognizing the need for an integrated early education system, and stating that a task force will be convened to deliver a strategic plan for reforming the system as a whole.

Given the importance of this issue, however, we were disappointed that the Mayor's budget did not include additional City funding to move us further towards the ultimate goal, and we urge the Council to make additional investments to meet key objectives in the next year. In particular, while some portion of the UPK funds garnered from the State will be used to increase the base salaries for certified UPK teachers in community-based organizations, the budget fails to fully address the reality that the salaries of teachers and other employees at non-profit early childhood centers are much lower than the salaries of DOE employees in the public schools. The Mayor's proposal: (1) still leaves those teachers short of the salaries of public school UPK teachers; (2) only adjusts starting salaries, leaving unaddressed the even greater disparities between experienced teachers; and (3) fails to address the woefully low salaries of teachers of 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds, assistant teachers, teacher aides, and administrative, kitchen and maintenance staff. A table comparing teacher salaries across community-based organization and the Department of Education is attached to my testimony, and the recently-announced contract settlement with the UFT, while giving public school personnel well-deserved raises, will simply increase the inequities that exist as depicted in the table.

Quite simply, there is no legitimate basis for paying teachers of 4-year-olds more than the teachers of 3-year-olds or 2 year olds. The salary of a child's teacher should not depend on

whether the closest classroom is in a public school or in a non-profit early childhood education center. The City is paying the salaries of all of these individuals, and there should be “equal pay for equal work.”

Moreover, while increasing the pay for certified teachers of 4-year-old children is an important acknowledgment of the need to reduce income disparities across the system, establishing teacher pay differentials based solely on the age of the children being taught will be very disruptive for our organizations, our teachers, and the families and children we serve. Right now, decisions on who teaches our 2-year-olds, our 3-year-olds and our 4-year-olds are based upon the teachers’ skills, expertise, and the best interests of the children. Providing teachers of UPK classes of 4-year-olds with significant pay increases – and no classes to teach in July and August – would create new inequities and will drive teachers toward those classes, causing a drain of quality teachers from the 2-year-old and 3-year-old classrooms.

Our understanding is that the Administration for Children’s Services has estimated that an additional \$38.4 million investment would equalize early childhood teachers’ salaries across community-based organizations, and adjust the salaries of other educational staff accordingly, and we urge the Council to secure this investment from the Mayor in this budget.

A second issue that needs to be clarified in the budget relates to supporting truly full day programming for the new UPK seats. While the \$300 million in UPK funding provided by the State obviously is critical to the expansion we all support, the reality is that the “full-day” UPK classes are really “school-day” classes that last only 6 hours and 20 minutes (generally ending at 2:20 p.m.), and are not available in July or August. This creates substantial hardships for low-income parents, particular the many working single mothers that our organizations serve.

The current ACS EarlyLearn wrap-around model, with educational programming from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., recognizes the value of early childhood education as a support service for working parents. As a result, we believe that the FY2015 budget should include funding to ensure that the UPK classes in non-profit centers offer this true “full-day” programming, and are available in the summer months. This will eliminate the barriers to participation that the

truncated “school day” UPK schedule creates for low-income working parents. State funds will now be used to cover more of the programming day for existing pre-K seats in community-based organizations, replacing the funds that ACS has allocated for wrap-around programming, which could and should now be used instead to extend the availability of care for new UPK seats in community-based organizations. Without this plan, parents will be forced to make arrangements to retrieve their children in the middle of the workday, with parents of multiple children potentially facing multiple schedules for children in different classes at the same center. This makes no sense for teachers, administrators, or families, particularly the low income families for whom the UPK expansion is so critical.

### **Investments in Adult Education**

This is a critical moment in the field of adult literacy education in New York. Our economy, like local economies around the country, is changing, and having a skilled and educated workforce is increasingly critical to attracting employers who can offer good jobs to support the economic vitality of the city. Now more than ever, a high school degree and pathways to postsecondary education and training are the key to financial security for families and our city as a whole. At the same time, there are new challenges to helping adults move forward on that path that require additional investment by the Council in this budget.

The General Educational Development (GED) exam, which has long been the traditional pathway to a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma in New York, was recently privatized by education-industry giant Pearson Inc., which announced its plan to double the cost of the exam to the state in 2014. In response, the New York State Education Department (SED) undertook a competitive process to identify a replacement, settling in March on the “Test Assessing Secondary Completion” (TASC) developed by CTB/McGraw Hill. The new assessment will be instituted beginning in January 2014 in conjunction with a shift to incorporate more rigorous Common Core standards and move to a computer-based exam within the next three years.

These changes are occurring in the context of drastically reduced resources to support the full spectrum of adult education classes, from basic education to English language instruction

to HSE preparation. Since FY2010, New York City's annual investment in adult literacy programs has dropped from \$10.2 million to \$3.5 million, representing a loss of more than 7,000 classroom seats in the last four years. At the same time, 1.7 million older youth and adults in New York City are currently out of school and lack a high school credential and/or English proficiency.

The need for adult education is particularly acute in our predominantly immigrant community. Seventeen percent of East Harlem residents have less than a ninth grade education. Thirty-three percent of adults here did not graduate from high school, only 25% of adults have a college degree, and 24% of residents do not speak English "very well." Not surprisingly, these statistics translate into higher rates of unemployment and poverty: 13.5% of adult residents of East Harlem are unemployed, almost five points higher than the overall city rate and nearly twice the national average, and 44% of East Harlem households live on less than \$25,000 per year.<sup>1</sup>

For these adults and their families, the opportunity to earn a HSE diploma means a six-point drop in their unemployment rate, an increase in average salary of 26%, and entry to college and training programs that would generate living wage employment. The impact of this investment ripples beyond families and into our local economy: better-educated parents are able to assist their children in developing their own literacy skills. Not only does every high school credential earned generate \$324,000 in net benefits for the City, but setting adults on pathway to higher wage jobs can also, over time, tighten the labor market to help drive improvements in traditionally low wage work.

The residents of our community recognize the value of this investment in their own futures. Three years ago, with the expansion of funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we were able to offer adult education services to more than 2,000 students, with no trouble filling our classes. We conduct our classes on a trimester basis and hold enrollment sessions three times each year, and each registration period is flooded with applicants. For example, last September alone, more than 350 people visited our office for

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<sup>1</sup> Citizens Commission on Children, *Keeping Track Database*, citing U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year Estimates (2011), Summary Table S2301.

information about enrolling in adult education classes. And the inquiries don't stop once registration has passed; throughout the school year, our Office Manager and Case Manager see at least 20 people a day and field non-stop phone calls from prospective students seeking classes. In anticipation of our enrollment period in September, we had at least 100 phone calls and gave out more than 200 flyers about registration in July alone. At the beginning of September, when we held our enrollment session, three hundred potential students arrived between 10am and 12pm on the first day, 75 more came in the afternoon, and the Adult Education department's voicemail had 42 messages from interested potential students. We were able to register only 218 of these students, filling all available slots for free classes (GED, Spanish GED, and ESL). The reality is that many of these applicants will be forced to defer their education because we and other providers do not have enough spaces in which to enroll them.

As a member of the New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL), we are asking the Council to increase the City's investment in Adult Education with an enhancement of \$3 million, with \$2 million allocated to increase the number of classes offered across the adult education spectrum, from ESOL to basic education to high school equivalency preparation. An additional \$1 million would support capacity-building for non-profit community-based organizations to provide the computers, textbooks, other materials and teacher professional development that are necessitated by the new TASC exam.

### **Universal Free School Lunch**

Finally, as a member of the Lunch for Learning Campaign, we are grateful for the support of the Speaker, her colleagues on the Council, and the Public Advocate to institute a universal free and healthy school lunch policy for all New York City public school students.

Since 1895, Union Settlement has provided education, wellness and community building programs for residents of all ages in our East Harlem neighborhood. Providing both appetizing, healthy food and nutrition education is a priority across our programs, from Early Childhood Education to Senior Services. This work is especially critical in our community because East

Harlem, like many low income neighborhoods, is marked by pervasive food insecurity and associated indicators of poor health:

- more than 64% of East Harlem residents receive food stamps;
- 85% of school age children are eligible for free or reduced price lunch;
- East Harlem has among the city's highest rates of diabetes, asthma, and obesity; and
- more than 40% of children in elementary schools in East and Central Harlem are overweight or obese.

We launched the Lunch for Learning project in our *Bridges* afterschool program for middle school students to pursue systemic reforms that would directly address these challenges. Since January of this year, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in our program at Isaac Newton Middle School have been participating in a civic engagement and leadership development course considered through the lens of the school lunch program, and how it affects their school and community. As part of their engagement in the Lunch for Learning Campaign, the B.R.I.D.G.E.S. students developed and administered a brief survey (attached) to ascertain their peers' attitudes toward school lunch and the dynamics at work in the cafeteria. A copy of the survey and the aggregated results are attached to my testimony.

The survey illustrates the critical role that citywide universal free lunch would play in reducing student hunger and improving students' health and educational performance. They reveal that students who likely qualify for free school lunch are not eating it, that too many are going without eating for the duration of the school day as a result, and that the stigma associated with school lunch is both perceived and real. Notably:

- Only 20% of students reported "always" eating school lunch (i.e. five times per week), in a neighborhood where 85% of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch;
- 42% of students said that they *wait to eat* until they get home at the end of the school day when they don't eat school lunch;

- 37% of students agreed that students *think they will get teased* if they eat school lunch, and the same number also agreed that students *do get teased* for eating school lunch.

These findings suggest that students are going hungry during the school day, families are losing out on what could be a significant source of support and, as research has shown, students' ability to focus in class and perform academically are likely being negatively impacted by skipping school meals, all because the existing policy of distinguishing between those who are eligible for free lunch and those who are not is itself a barrier to participation. When asked to predict the outcome of making school lunch free, the students' responses were self-evident: more students would eat the school lunch, they would be more focused in class, they would feel healthier, and it would lessen the expenses borne by their parents.

We have shared the results of the survey with the Chancellor and her staff, and the students have been advocating in support of the Lunch for Learning campaign, talking with parents and other children in our program about the campaign and collecting hundreds of signatures on petitions calling for universal free school lunch. We hope that the Council will continue to prioritize this issue in the final budget.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the FY 2015 Budget. We would be happy to answer any questions or provide you with any additional information that would be helpful.

Comparison certified teacher salaries under Department of Education, Child Care and Head Start union contracts

	BA	BA + 5 years	BA + 10	BA + 13	BA + 15	BA + 20	MA	MA + 5 years	MA + 10	MA + 13	MA + 15	MA + 20
Department of Education	45,530	51,812	67,095	69,197	73,636	83,412	51,425	57,707	72,990	75,092	79,531	89,307
Head Start	44,033	45,233	45,733	45,733	45,733	45,733	48,509	49,709	50,209	50,209	50,209	50,209
Child Care	36,542	39,665	40,565	41,065	41,265	41,265	39,350	40,750	41,550	42,150	42,350	42,350
DOE as a percentage of Head Start Salary	103%	115%	147%	151%	161%	182%	106%	116%	145%	150%	158%	178%
DOE as a percentage of Child Care Salary	125%	131%	165%	169%	178%	202%	131%	142%	176%	178%	188%	211%

Sources: UFT, Teachers Salary Schedule Effective May 19 2008 <http://www.uft.org/our-rights/salary-schedules/teachers>  
 LIC 1707, Local 25 and Local 95 Member Contracts

**TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD**

**New York City Council Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget  
Committee on Finance**

**Honorable Julissa Ferreras  
Finance Committee Chair**



**Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**The Council of School Supervisors and Administrators  
Ernest Logan, President  
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I would like to thank the City Council for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the nearly 16,000 members of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA). In many respects, we have already made significant strides towards improving our investment in public education. Mayor de Blasio's budget – particularly through its emphasis on Universal Pre-K and middle school afterschool programs – reflects a focus on investing in all of New York City's children.

We are thankful that the City Council and so many other policy makers have overwhelmingly recognized the value of early education and quality after-school programs for middle school youngsters. Let us now turn to unfinished business related to these programs and other matters.

#### High-Quality UPK

CSA continues to champion the expansion of high-quality, universal, full-day pre-Kindergarten (UPK). We are thrilled to see that Mayor de Blasio has recognized the importance of UPK. His initiative will allow 4 year-olds to be set up for long-term success over the next few years. With \$300 million for 53,000 seats in FY 2015 and \$340 million for 73,000 seats in FY 2016, the budget clearly acknowledges that UPK is the first step toward preparing all students in New York City for college and careers.

However, CSA would like to sound one note of caution: It is essential that these classrooms open up where they are needed most and that all of these classrooms meet public safety codes. Challenging though this goal is, we must make sure every child in every community has access to a strong early childhood education program and a safe environment.

#### Middle School After-School Programs

The executive budget includes an unprecedented investment of \$145 million in FY 2015 to fund 34,000 new seats to serve nearly 100,000 middle school children. This extraordinary investment gives us reason to rejoice. Right now, almost 4 million middle school children are unsupervised after the school day ends, and the mayor's initiative is going to go a long way toward alleviating this situation.

The middle school years are a crucial time when children are emotionally vulnerable and go through important developmental changes that have a direct impact on their future. Even with this substantial infusion of new funding, the supply of these beneficial programs won't meet the demand.

CSA hopes after-school programming will be expanded so that it is available to every child who needs it, especially those who are at the particularly vulnerable middle school age.

#### Overcrowding

More than 8,000 students across New York City are attending classes in trailers; many of these trailers are dilapidated. With a surge in student enrollment and early childhood education, we need to direct your focus to these urgent space conditions. I am one of the many educators who have repeatedly called for an end to using trailers as classrooms. In his 5-year capital budget, the mayor allotted \$405 million to eliminating those temporary classrooms, but that sum will not solve the whole problem. We urge you to keep your eye on this situation and ensure that the trailers do not survive the next generation of school children.

#### Professional Development

As school budgets dwindled over the last few years, school leaders tried to deal with an increase in education standards and demands. The difficulty of trying to balance student needs with shrinking budgets places a tremendous amount of stress on school leaders. These issues hinder their ability to serve as the instructional leaders of school buildings. Through workshops at the Executive Leadership Institute, school leaders build on the necessary skills to meet the challenges of operating a school.

No one recognizes more than Chancellor Fariña that professional development is crucial to success. We ask for your support in helping her and CSA meet this vital need. The city must provide principals, assistant principals and supervisors with access to ongoing training. The research-based literature has long acknowledged the critical role principals play in providing leadership that supports a highly complex human organization, one that is a cohesive and collaborative community of learners.

For more than 10 years, CSA's Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) has delivered practical and essential professional development to school leaders. The not-for-profit organization provides standards-based, results-driven leadership training to school leaders. We need more investment in this kind of high-level training and support. ELI's programs give school leaders the tools to create true learning communities. CSA hopes the City Council will provide \$750,000 in funding for ELI.

#### Universal Free Meals

CSA believes school lunch should be free for all students, rather than offered only to those who are from low-income families. We have partnered with the "Lunch 4 Learning" campaign and have started to use social media to highlight the importance of having universal free lunch in schools this fall. We understand that the mayor and chancellor are hesitant to provide universal free lunch for fear of jeopardizing Title I funds; however, we hope and trust that they can resolve this concern. CSA believes there is a way to provide universal free meals and maintain appropriate federal funding.

#### Flat Budget for Principals

I would be remiss if I did not mention the recent surprise and disappointment that so many CSA members felt when they learned that the mayor's proposed education budget keeps school budgets flat once again. The flat budgets that have been handed down to principals have been and continue to be insufficient. Since 2008, the underwhelming budgets have required principals to find ways to fund the gaps. The gaps have made it difficult or impossible to keep up with advancements in technology, to provide arts education, supply sports equipment and activities, to offer sufficient professional development in multiple areas, etc. CSA urges the DOE to find the resources to allow principals to adequately provide a full range of programs and services for their students. There is no need for the budgets to be flat this year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of CSA and our members. We remain committed to working with our elected officials in City government to ensure that New York City schools are the best they can be.

Ernest A. Logan



**FOR THE RECORD**

**New York City Council Hearing  
FY15 Executive Budget  
June 6, 2014**

**Funding for Greenmarket's SNAP Program and  
the New Farmer Development Project**

Good afternoon. I am Cheryl Huber, the Assistant Director of Greenmarket, a Program of GrowNYC that operates 51 farmers markets throughout the five boroughs, including more than 40% in communities with below average median household income levels. GrowNYC respectfully requests that the New York City Council continue funding our SNAP and New Farmer Development projects. Both projects provide crucial resources to improve the physical and financial health of New Yorkers, whether that means access to fresh food or to technical assistance for aspiring NYC farmers seeking to grow that food.

Greenmarket was founded in 1976 with a two-fold mission: to promote regional agriculture by providing small family farms the opportunity to sell their locally grown products directly to consumers, and to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the freshest, most nutritious locally grown food the region has to offer.

In 2001 Food Stamps were changed from a paper-based to an electronic platform. Because our open-air markets lack access to electricity and phone lines, tens of thousands of New Yorkers that shopped at our farmers markets could no longer use their food benefits to purchase the most healthful foods available to them. GrowNYC's Greenmarket program piloted our EBT in Farmers Markets Project in 2005, providing wireless terminals to conduct transactions at three Greenmarkets. Since then, the New York City Council has provided crucial funding to our SNAP programming, with the current level of support totaling 2/3 of our SNAP budget.

In 2013, 19,241 New Yorkers made 55,017 SNAP transactions at 51 Greenmarkets, totaling \$931,000 in total sales. This represents a 15% increase in customers from 2012. In total, from 2005- 2013, \$4.3 million in healthy, fresh, locally-produced foods have been purchased by customers using SNAP benefits and Health Bucks at participating Greenmarkets. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, this spending has a regional economic impact of \$7,697,000.

It is well documented that individuals that shop at farmers markets have increased daily consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, and the NYC Department of Health's Bronx District Public Health Office reports that Bronx residents shop at our markets to get the

best quality food for the best value. However, EBT sales happen in high volumes even in neighborhoods that are not considered low-income. For example, Union Square processed \$270,000 in EBT sales in 2013 – nearly 1/3 of the total at all markets – and Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn was one of the top five EBT markets, with \$58,000 in sales. We are urging the New York City Council to maintain our programmatic funding for FY15 to ensure that all New Yorkers continue to have access to the most healthful foods.

Greenmarket is also seeking continued funding for our New Farmer Development Project. Through green jobs training and ongoing technical assistance GrowNYC's New Farmer Development Project (NFDP) provides city residents with the skills needed to launch agricultural businesses. Participants include recent immigrants, traditionally socially disadvantaged groups and urban gardeners seeking to transition their plots to commercial vegetable operations. Our staff empowers these entrepreneurs with the training needed to successfully operate farm businesses that enhance access to fresh produce to diverse neighborhoods within the five boroughs. Recently we have helped participants adapt the production of specialty ethnic produce to the New York area, identify vacant land available for farm production within the city, and have offered translation of agricultural legal guides from English to Spanish and interpretation at business planning courses.

Each year up to 30 students complete Farm Beginnings, a nationally-recognized eight week farm business planning course offered at GrowNYC's offices. Last year's graduates included immigrants from the Middle East, South Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe along with members of the Black Urban Growers (BUGs) and Green Guerrillas. Moreover, this project provides the only Spanish language technical assistance available to these farmers in the New York City region. Our staff distributes a monthly newsletter in Spanish that includes upcoming events, grant opportunities, farm business management resources and updates on successful marketing.

A significant number of NFDP graduates conduct a majority of their sales, at times up to 60% per week, through SNAP purchases in outer borough Greenmarkets. Over 1,100 Community Supported Agriculture shares and Fresh Food Box subscriptions are fulfilled by NFDP farmers. Our staff provides marketing and production support in order to organize these food access opportunities in diverse neighborhoods. In the past year, new wholesale accounts to bodegas, institutions and restaurants have been created as a result of our facilitation between buyers and NFDP farmers. Through ongoing technical assistance, all participants receive support to access resources to launch successful businesses, including season-long mentorships with established farmers, management employment opportunities on Greenmarket farms, access to capital and land resources, and direct placement into our retail Greenmarkets.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this afternoon and for the past support of these crucial programs working to enhance the health and wellness of New York families through healthy food access and job creation. We deeply appreciate your consideration of continued funding.

If there are any questions or additional information sought, please contact me at [chuber@grownyc.org](mailto:chuber@grownyc.org) or 212-341-2327.



## **Testimony of Commissioner Jacques Jiha**

### **City Council Hearing Regarding Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget Briefing**

**June 6, 2014**

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Ferreras and members of the City Council Committee on Finance. I am Jacques Jiha, Commissioner of the Department of Finance. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on our Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget.

I have been at Finance for a little less than a month, and I am quickly immersing myself in all of the agency's processes and programs.

Finance is a great institution, with great people. There are, however, areas that need improvement, and I will use my private and public sector experience to make changes. My objective is to align the agency's resources with the Mayor's vision: to make the Department of Finance "a fair, transparent, balanced, efficient, and customer-friendly revenue-collection agency." We will enforce the City's tax and revenue laws in that manner – with integrity. New Yorkers and those who do business in our city should be able to understand the decisions we make. They should also have assistance available to them – if they need it. When people walk away from an interaction with us, they should feel that they were treated fairly and with compassion.

There are a number of areas that we are focusing on to promote equity, efficiency, and transparency. The first of these that I will discuss is the City's property tax system. Next, I will talk about the opportunity to make New York City more business friendly through business tax conformity and utility tax reform.

I will talk about our efforts to update how we administer these taxes to reflect technology advances and new economic realities. I will also discuss two important enforcement tools – booting and the lien sale. Lastly, I will outline our plans to expand the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program, or SCRIE.

Before discussing these topics in detail, I would like to give you a brief overview of Finance’s budget: Our Fiscal Year 2015 budget is approximately \$248 million. Our headcount is forecast to be 1,892 employees, with the core function of collecting revenue for the City. We collect more than \$32 billion in revenue each year. Property taxes are the City’s largest source of tax revenues. We value over 1 million properties each year. We bill and collect property taxes in excess of \$20 billion. And we administer \$6.2 billion in property tax exemption and abatement programs. In addition, we administer the City’s business income and excise taxes, adjudicate and collect parking tickets, and manage the City’s Treasury. We also record property-related documents, enforce civil law through our Sheriff’s Office, provide citywide payment services, and advise the administration on pension issues through the Mayor’s Office of Pensions and Investments.

Given Finance’s broad mandate, it is important that we create and improve systems that ensure equity, integrity, and transparency. Let’s start with the property tax system: Our goal is to ensure that all City property owners are treated fairly under the law. Last week, we released the final assessment roll for Fiscal Year 2015. I am well aware that there could be inequities in the roll because they are embedded in the current laws that govern the City’s property valuation and assessments. The current laws require some changes. I am pleased that the City Council shares this vision as demonstrated by its recent call for the creation of a Property Tax Reform

Commission. I embrace the opportunity to engage in a concerted effort to improve our complicated property tax system.

At Finance we are doing our best to minimize these inequities. The Fiscal Year 2015 roll reflects recent improvements to our internal processes as we work toward greater fairness among property owners. For example, we have expanded the use of statistical modeling to standardize the methodologies used to value properties and provide more parity among similar properties. Our property assessors have been trained to review the statistical data and to use this data to enhance the valuation process. We are enhancing our models so that we can make corrections and improvements among like properties early on – before the roll is released. Another improvement is the new property tax administration system we are implementing, which is scheduled to go live in 2016. Our current property databases and IT infrastructure are outdated, yet we rely on these systems to bill, process, and collect taxes. This new system will provide state-of-the-art technology, and will allow us to be more nimble in implementing law and policy changes.

The first property tax bill of Fiscal Year 2015 will be mailed next week. This bill represents the culmination of the assessment process used to determine City property taxes for the upcoming fiscal year. One item of note in the bill is the abatement for properties that have been rebuilt or repaired since being damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The fact an abatement is needed highlights some of the inefficiencies in the property tax laws; the laws do not permit us to provide relief otherwise. We thank you for your leadership as we worked together to enact legislation to provide much needed relief to property owners who were impacted by the storm.

The property tax is one of a number of taxes that we collect. We also bill and collect City business income and excise taxes. While there have been some updates to New York City's

business income tax laws, they remain outdated. Certain corporate tax provisions date back to the 1940s; utility tax law dates back to the 1930s, and key provisions of the Unincorporated Business Tax laws do not reflect the current business environment. We must reform these taxes to have a business-friendly City. A key component of business tax reform, however, is that it must remain revenue neutral.

The State has reformed its business tax laws by merging the State's general and banking corporate taxes. We must do the same. The lack of conformity between the City and the State will create compliance issues for businesses, as well as a burdensome administrative process for taxpayers. Along with business taxes, we must update our utility tax regime, which has not kept pace with regulatory and economic developments. With the advent of telecommunication and energy deregulation in recent years, it is time for us to consider how to restructure the tax regime that affects these sectors.

Finance is consistently looking to use new technologies and processes to improve the way we do business and how we interact with the public. An example of this is our booting program that was launched in 2013. Booting is an enforcement tool to collect outstanding parking debt from vehicle owners who have more than \$350 in parking tickets that are in judgment. The self-release boot we use in this program enables us to enforce the parking laws in a more customer-friendly way, instead of towing vehicles. This program has been very successful, and we will be looking into ways to improve and expand it.

Another successful enforcement tool we use is the lien sale. While 98% of property owners pay their property taxes in full and on time, a small number of owners do not pay their taxes on time. Two weeks ago, we completed our most recent lien sale. I would like to thank you, and all of the City Council and Finance staff who worked hard during the lien sale to

provide outreach to properties at risk of being sold so that owners had the choice of paying, entering into payment agreements, or – if qualified – applying for one of the exemptions that enabled them to be removed from the sale. In this year’s sale, we started with approximately 25,000 properties at risk; only 24% had liens sold. The rest either paid their tax bill or entered into a payment plan. The local law that governs the lien sale expires at the end of this year, and I look forward to working with the City Council to strengthen and renew this law for the coming years.

As with the lien sale, we count on your support and outreach for another of our programs, the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program, or SCRIE. We share your commitment to SCRIE, and care deeply about this program. We are committed to providing SCRIE to every qualified household in New York City and have set a goal to significantly increase the number of SCRIE recipients over the next four years. We will use data analysis to identify the size of the eligible population and where they live. We are also planning a marketing outreach campaign to target those qualified who are not already enrolled in the program and to clearly communicate SCRIE benefits to the senior community. Last month, Assistant Commissioner for Tax and Parking Program Operations, Sara Meyers, testified in front of the City Council about the recently enacted law that expands the SCRIE program by increasing the qualifying income threshold from \$29,000 to \$50,000. Assistant Commissioner Meyers spoke extensively about the improvements we have made to SCRIE since we took it over in 2009. This fall, we will present to you the specifics of our research and marketing plan.

Of course, our main focus for SCRIE at the moment is gearing up for the expansion of the program. Our approach here is two-fold: making sure that staffing and processes are in place to efficiently manage the increased volume of applications, and reaching the population of

households that qualifies for the program. In a few weeks, letters explaining the income increase will be sent to all applicants who were denied the benefit over the last several years because their income was too high. Included in the mailing will be a SCRIE application. We have new materials prepared to address the increase to the income threshold, which we have shared with elected officials, senior centers, community groups, and advocacy organizations. We look forward to working closely with the City Council as we expand SCRIE. Please contact our Outreach team if you would like to schedule events. The law goes into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and the summer is a great time to hold events to educate seniors about the program and to help them file their applications.

I hope that my testimony today has given you some insight into my priorities. The New York City Department of Finance will be the most efficient revenue collection agency in the country, and we are developing a solid plan to get there. I also cannot emphasize enough the importance of aligning increased efficiency with solid customer service, fairness, and transparency. We will be making changes to our Business Centers so that they are more clearly focused on customer service. We will also issue strict and transparent guidelines to communicate with taxpayers. Even if taxpayers do not agree with us, they should be clear on why we do what we do, and our responses should always be transparent. People should have positive interactions with us, and walk away feeling satisfied that they were heard, treated fairly and with respect.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I look forward to us building a strong relationship and working together to reach our shared goals. At this time, I am happy to take any questions that you may have.



## TESTIMONY

JUNE 6, 2014

CITY COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY

Anne Dennin, Co-Chair, New York City Arts Coalition

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the subject of the proposed funding for the Dept. of Cultural Affairs in fiscal year 2015 from the Mayor's executive budget.

The New York City Arts Coalition is a membership organization comprised of cultural groups from all five boroughs from the smallest to the largest, working in all disciplines. For more than twenty years the Coalition has served as an advocate for funding and policies that impact our shared community. Particularly focused on the City and State arenas, the Coalition does not solicit or take any government funding for its own efforts.

Since the Mayor's proposed budget was announced in March leadership from the Coalition, One Percent for Culture, the Center for Arts Education, the CIG's and other arts advocacy groups have been in conversation to make sure we were on the same page in making our request to you. We are! To wit, we maintain that the CIG's play an important role in community development and laud their efforts along with the many organizations working in communities across the city; we agree that new funding is needed to create cultural partnerships with schools that do not have any, and finally we support One Percent for Culture's advocacy in securing stronger, sustainable funding for the cultural sector.

To begin, I want to thank Council Members and their staff for meeting with Coalition members these last weeks, to listen to our requests, patiently answer questions and offer guidance.

And let me join my colleagues in thanking the City Council for its many years of restoring proposed cuts to the DCA budget. I speak for many cultural groups in expressing our appreciation to Mayor de Blasio for including the City Council's restorations from last year in providing us with an opportunity to move forward.

### **Cultural Development Fund**

In the interests of time and because others are here to testify on other portions of the DCLA budget **I am going to primarily address the Cultural Development Fund**, which as you all know is part of the Program Category. That should not be seen as a lack of concern for other aspects of the City's cultural sector.

**The Cultural Development Fund's (CDF) proposed budget for the upcoming year is \$28.4 million.** As the Council Members know, there are well over 1000 groups applying to the CDF pool and 888 grantees in FY13. This category of the cultural sector is significantly underfunded despite much effort from the City Council over the past years.

**We are asking for an additional \$6 million, allocated specifically to the CDF grant pool, which would increase that funding to \$34.4, still a very modest level for over 1000 groups from all over the City.**

It has been 7 years since FY2008, when the CDF was created with a \$30 million allocation and the prior line item process for non-CIGs was ended. In today's dollars, that would be \$33M. During those 7 years, we have had decreases almost every year, some of which were restored by the Council, some not. This request accommodates the inflationary impact of the past few years, and generates a small increase of less than a half percent. Again, this is not an extravagant increase.

An increase to \$34.4 million offers an opportunity for newer groups to receive funding, or those that are seriously underfunded now to receive greater funding. It could also provide the basis for more innovative approaches at DCA to expand the types of arts activities they will fund from those groups.

### **Cultural Exigency Fund**

Secondly, we would like to bring to your attention a small, but very serious need within the cultural groups, mostly I think, the Program Category, but it may well be an issue for some of

the smaller CIGs. Capital items under \$35,000 cannot be funded by DCA. There appears to be a guideline established, as we understand it, by the Comptrollers office that prevents needs below that level. Yet, there are serious Capital needs for the smaller and mid-sized groups that regularly fall under that level, and there are probably emergency needs for larger groups that fit into that level of funding. Examples, such as a theatre that presents musical theatre and needs a new piano; it costs \$33,000. A set of security gates that frequently mal-function and must be replaced, but the several thousand dollars are not an item a private funder will even consider. A boiler or AC repair or replacement that is \$20-25,000. We hear about these needs regularly.

We would like the City Council to address this problem in cooperation with DCA to establish a modest expense fund of **\$1 million** for the capital needs under \$35,000. We have to also say very clearly that such a fund cannot be part of the established capital program of DCLA. The paperwork and slowness of that process would defeat the purpose of having such funding. So if this is to be done, it must be clearly set up without the miles of red tape common to capital projects. We would be pleased to be of assistance with more details should you be interested. I welcome any questions you may have, and look forward to working closely with all of you on both the budget and cultural issues.

Testimony from the NYC Arts Coalition

Co-Chair, Anne Dennin, June 6, 2014

Email: [anne.dennin@gmail.com](mailto:anne.dennin@gmail.com)

212-866-6082

Footnotes:

1. All numbers are from OMB documents except as follows:

\*Finance Division Briefing Paper, Hearing on FY 14 Preliminary Budget, Dept. of Cultural Affairs, March 8, 2013

Good afternoon and greetings from the Brooklyn West District Council of Presidents, I am TYree Stanback, Vice Chair of the District and President of the Resident Association of Lafayette Gardens Houses but most importantly, I am a resident representing 13 of the proposed center closings across central Brooklyn.

We are asking you to consider three important factors as you prepare to deliberate and decide on critical funding for The New York City Housing Authority and most importantly assistance that will mean life and death for some of our city's most vulnerable.

Firstly, quality of life. Closing and cutting nutritional, social and child care services will have a profound impact on working families who rely on safe, clean and engaging affordable centers to provide peace of mind for their children to finish their day while safely waiting for them to get home from work. Such closures could lead to a shift back to the days of "latch key kids" and some of our families will have no choice but to quit working because they cannot afford to pay for quality child care in or near their homes.

These centers provide the only hot, nutritious and quality meal many disabled and elderly residents have access to on a daily basis. Not only are they well feed – taking a trip to the centers ensures that these vulnerable residents' physical, mental and social health.

Our centers serve as the gathering points for our neighbors to commune together, socialize and engage each other, the centers act as support systems, mentoring and families that many of our teens are lacking in their critical adolescent lives.

Secondly, Security will be so profoundly impacted. Residents rely upon the centers to be safe havens during storms and emergencies. Residents who fear leaving their homes, parents who are afraid to allow their children to play outside on the playgrounds and teens learning how to communicate their feelings and engage a police presence that is only seen or felt after something has taken place are but a few of the subtle impacts that closing 13 centers in Brooklyn will create.

The Chairwoman and Chief of Police for Housing spoke on Tuesday about services, initiatives and impact. As a resident who represents residents I am questioning the authenticity, facts and reality of their presentation as an end user. The Council members with Public Housing in your Districts are well aware of the enormous amounts of funding you have allocated for security enhancements such as cameras but what you may not be aware of is the lack of resident participation and engagement when it comes to the placement of the enhancements. We are not consulted regarding placement in the areas "we KNOW" to be the most dangerous. NYCHA insensitively places the cameras and layered access doors where they feel it will be the most visible and garner the most publicity for NYCHA, and residents pay the price when they ultimately make the front pages of the press as fatalities because of it. We were here at this same time, in this same room last year making the same arguments when the honorable Rosie Mendez asked then Chairman Rhea how much it would take to save all the centers from closure and the council moved to provide those funds but NYCHA still even with the funding, discontinued the best programs, removed the best staff and moved ahead with their plan to close and get rid of the 57 centers we are talking about today. We the residents are pleading with you, if you are able to provide funding please attach a clause that residents must have significant input into the programs, staffing and operation of our centers. The best idea would be to provide the funding to operate the centers directly to the resident associations that are qualified 501c3 entities and cleared the by the City.

Finally, please consider the financial impact. To close centers and eliminate needed resources and opportunities in the midst of the 2014 Appropriations bill that will raise the rents of all Public Housing residents EXCEPT those whose rent is paid by public assistance, is a reckless business decision. To

request NYCHA residents to bear the burden of eliminating Homelessness in the city, meaning even fewer dollars for the crumbling infrastructure and ask us in the same breath to roll out the red carpet to returning felons is socially discriminatory. We would ask The Council to follow the money, require an audit of NYCHA and how it uses the funding, all we have is their questionable word that they are appropriately using the funds. If other communities have a right to say "not in my backyard so do Public Residents" because contrary to public perception we too pay taxes. We will be creating slums, ghettos and crime havens if we eliminate critical services and concentrate the most needy only into Public Housing Communities.

In closing, the centers are the gateway to the best of our communities and residents. They serve a vital and critical role in the lives of our residents. They are the spindle that weaves the fabric, that is the heartbeat of public housing developments. Please fund our Senior and Community Centers and demand The New York City Housing Authority be better custodians of the funds and actively include residents in the preservation of our communities!

TYree Stanback, Vice Chair  
Brooklyn West District Council of President's

United we stand because divided we are Homeless!



Testimony before the New York City Council Finance Committee  
Hearing on the Executive Budget

June 6, 2014

My name is Liz Accles and I am the Executive Director of Community Food Advocates. This past fall we launched the coalition based **Lunch 4 Learning Campaign** to call on our new Mayor to institute a policy of citywide universal free and healthy school lunch for all NYC public school students. Madame Chair and members of the committee we are greatly appreciative the Council's steadfast and passionate leadership on this issue. We are confident that because of your leadership and that of Public Advocate Letitia James, universal free school lunch will be included in the adopted budget and all students will be able to eat school lunch without fear of the stigma of poverty in the upcoming school year.

Please know that you are standing with the campaign's broad, diverse coalition, with many other elected officials and of over 120 organizations -- including educators/education advocates, parent organizations, student/youth groups, public health organizations, unions, community based organizations, immigrant groups, child advocacy, academic and professional organizations, and food justice organizations.

**Problem to be Addressed**

Hundreds of thousands of students in NYC public schools do not participate in federally funded school lunch due to the program's poverty stigma, not for a lack of need. An astonishing 75 percent of NYC's 1.1 million public school children are eligible for free or reduced priced school lunch, which means that their annual family income is less than \$36,000 for family of three. Despite this, many students go without eating school lunch for fear of being labeled poor by their peers, which can have long-lasting health and educational consequences. In 2013, **250,000 out of**

**780,000 students eligible for free or reduced price meals did not participate in the school lunch program.** Many more students are above income eligibility for free or reduced priced lunch, yet are in families that are struggling to make ends meet.

Changing the current system – by de-linking school food to family income – will get rid of the poverty stigma that greatly impacts participation, especially as children get older. Currently 81% of elementary school students eat school lunch; it drops to 61% in middle school; and 38% in high school.

This situation can be most effectively remedied by implementing universal free school lunch citywide and improving food quality and appeal. Universal school lunch works! In schools that took up the long-standing federal option to offer a limited form of universal free school lunch (called Provision 2), participation rates increased significantly – with particular impact on New York City’s middle and high school students. Alternatively, in schools where the program ended, participation dropped. This proves true in other cities and localities where universal school lunch is the policy.

Many other cities have successfully implemented, or will be implementing universal free school lunch citywide. Implementation has had great beneficial impacts on student participation. Cities include – Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Rochester, Poughkeepsie, Buffalo, Syracuse, Hempstead, Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy, and Utica. Chicago is offering universal free school lunch citywide this coming school year.

There are several ways the administration can approach this, but most immediately New York City should opt-in citywide to Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), the federal incentive program that eliminates school food income forms, increases federal reimbursements, ends the collection of student fees for lunch, and provides lunch free to all students, regardless of income.

The Mayor and Chancellor have raised concerns about the impact CEP could have on the distribution of Title I funds between schools. We believe that accomplishing universal free school lunch, and having minimal impact on Title I distribution among schools, can be done by using an alternative income form -- until another measure is identified. Although form collection

may take increased effort and creative strategies in the months of September and October, schools will be relieved for the entire year of the very labor intensive practices of collecting lunch fees and doing the daily categorical accountability of meals.

With citywide universal school lunch, we project 120,000 additional students eating every school day, a 20% increase in participation by the end of the school year 2015-16, the second year of the campaign.

School lunch costs are primarily paid for by the federal and state governments. A 20% increase in participation (or 120,000 more meals per day) would bring an additional \$59 million in federal and state funds into NYC. The city covers the difference between the federal and state reimbursement and the cost of providing the meal. A 20% increase in participation would require limited additional NYC investment of \$20 million, or \$20/student per year.

This \$20 million represents a small fraction of the NYC Department of Education budget. This is a small investment with a big return: a 20% increase in school lunch participation will create the equivalent of 1,000 SchoolFood jobs financed primarily by federal funds. The additional 21 million meals served each year will also have a significant impact on the local and regional economies.

We thank you Madame Chair, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and members of the Council for your prioritization of free school lunch for all New York City public school students in the adopted budget.

It is WIN-WIN-WIN! It benefits students and families, schools, and the local economy.

Once implemented students will be better nourished and ready to learn and families will be better able to make ends meet. Schools will be able to direct time and resources toward educational activities that are now used for the collection of school food application forms and fees, and the daily identification of students.

Thank you again for your leadership and the opportunity to testify today.



Office of the Chair  
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June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014,

To: New York City Council, Committee on Finance

From: Muhammad Arshad, CUNY University Student Senate Chairperson

Re: Testimony

Good afternoon Chairwoman Ferreras, Chairwoman Barron and other committee members,

My name is Muhammad Arshad, and I am the Chairperson of the CUNY University Student Senate (USS). I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on behalf of our CUNY students. As Chairperson of USS, it is my duty and obligation to represent the interest of CUNY students, at every level, in every instance, and I hope to do so today.

I would like to begin my testimony by posing a question: where would New York City be without the City University of New York? For decades now, CUNY has served as a vital organ of our city, providing immigrants, working class people, the young, the old, those who are college ready to those who were not so much, with an opportunity to earn a college degree and move their families into a steady middle class life. And let's not forget that the vast majority of our CUNY graduates stay right here in New York, continuing to contribute to our rich and diverse culture, history, and economy. CUNY is at the center of all that makes New York City dynamic. And I wanted to start by saying this, because some of us sometimes forget how important this institution is to our city, but I'm here to remind you that we cannot forget. It is in this spirit that I come to you today, seeking to draw attention to the CUNY Academic Achievement Award which is also known as the AAA Scholarship.

The AAA Scholarship would award a scholarship to all New York City Public High School student who graduates with a grade point average B and above and is entering CUNY as a full-time student. Upon entry, the student must maintain at least a B average to continue to receive the scholarship. This is an opportunity for us to provide an incentive as well reward our students for being successful in high school and for continuing that success in college.

According to CUNY's 2012 statistics, over 13,000 students would have been eligible for the proposed AAA scholarship. Of the eligible Full-time, First-time freshmen students of Fall 2012, approximately two-thirds had an annual household income of less than \$50,000. Furthermore, one-third had an annual household income of less than \$20,000. There is data that shows that previous merit scholarships initiated by the City Council has helped CUNY students stay in college and graduate. Previously, the City Council Merit Scholarship covered almost the entire tuition of CUNY community college students. USS would like help city council build AAA for the future. When we consider the time and money our students save when they attain a degree in

a timely fashion, the benefits of the dividends that the AAA Scholarship yields become quite clear. This is a win win for our students.

This scholarship would also help aid the success of two demographics that are key to the future of our city: young women and undocumented students. According to the same statistics of 2012, over 61% of first-time freshman scholarship recipients would be female. A large number of eligible recipients would be from minority groups, females, and undocumented students. These figures tell me that we need to take action and reward some of our underprivileged and clearly qualified young people.

Last week, I completed my third degree at the City University of New York. I worked on my Associates Degree in Mechanical Engineering at LaGuardia Community College, obtained my Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering from City College, and I received my Masters in Public Administration from City College last week. All of this would not have been possible without the hard work and sacrifices of my parents, both of whom are blue collar workers. Since coming to this country, they have worked extremely hard and sacrificed beyond measure to put me and my siblings through college. I have been blessed and fortunate in this regard, but I've met many friends and colleagues at CUNY who are struggling to get by. The rising cost of tuition, coupled with the rising cost of living in New York City, is the source of a lot of physical, financial, and emotional insecurity. I am hoping we can make a small contribution in alleviating some of that anxiety.

Next week, on June 12th, many of my peers will come before you to testify and to share their stories and urge you to seriously consider the importance of the AAA Scholarship.

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**New York City Council Finance Committee  
Executive Budget Hearing Testimony  
Friday June 6, 2014 4 PM**

I am David Johnston, Executive Director of Exploring the Metropolis, Inc. Since 1982, EtM has focused on solving the workspace needs of New York's **performing artists**. Currently, we administer the EtM Con Edison Composers' Residency, now starting its sixth year. And we will soon be releasing the findings of our performing artists workspace needs assessment for the borough of Queens, the **Queens Workspace Initiative**. Both of these programs are supported in part through the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

**We do not believe that the arts are a privilege. We believe that they are the right of every New Yorker.**

First, we want to thank the Mayor and the City Council for recognizing the value of culture by baselining funding and ending the budget dance. This vital step continues to demonstrate that you understand that a sustainable funding model for culture allows cultural organizations to better serve our great city. Cultural organizations and artists are essential to our economy, they provide supplemental education to our children, and they contribute to our city's cultural vibrancy which serves our citizens. It is vital that the city continue to support the full scope of nonprofit culture which includes organizations of all sizes, all disciplines, and in all neighborhoods whose collective work support and serve communities throughout our city. That is why a diverse range of cultural organizations are joining together and taking the first steps toward developing common language and shared goals.

The Cultural Institution Groups (CIGs) are essential to our communities playing a distinct and important role in community development. We particularly saw this in our work in Queens – seeing up close the work of CIGs who are so rooted in their communities, and serving such unique and indispensable functions.

We ask that you continue to baseline the funding for both the CIGs and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) which supports the Program Category. The importance of this stability in public funding cannot be overemphasized for these cultural organizations. We also ask that you support the \$6 million increase to the CDF which the New York City Arts Coalition requested in the Preliminary Budget Hearing in order to provide an opportunity to fund newer groups and increase funding for those which are underfunded.

As you know the Mayor's Executive Budget includes \$23 million dollars in new funding for Arts Education in the Department of Education's budget. We commend the Mayor and the City Council for creating this new funding pool. A recent report from Comptroller Stringer's office identified that 244 of our schools do not have a partnership with a cultural organization. We in the cultural community want to ensure that this number decreases because all NYC students deserve the opportunities that cultural partnerships provide. We are therefore

asking that additional new funding be added to the Department of Cultural Affairs budget to help cultural organizations create partnerships with these schools.

Finally, as we look forward to the budget cycles of 2016 and beyond, we want you to be our partners in creating a sustainable funding model for New York City culture and move closer to the goal of increasing funding for culture to one percent of the municipal expense budget, which 75% of City Council Members have indicated they support. We recognize that this kind of increase cannot happen rapidly, but in order for culture to continue serve our city's communities, we must make steps toward this goal.

We thank you for your time in listening to us today and in the many meetings you have had with us individually. We look forward to continuing to build partnerships and collaborations between city government and the cultural community in order to better serve all New Yorkers.

David Johnston  
Executive Director,  
Exploring the Metropolis



Contact: Stan Williams: T4swillia3@gmail.com

Thank you Ms. Chairwoman and members of the Committee. My name is Stan Williams, and I am part of the Justice for Cecily McMillan team and the Occupy Wall Street Movement.

I am here today in support of DRUM, FIERCE, and the NLG, who are bringing testimony on continuances disproportionately affected by New York City Police policy.

My testimony is an argument against the wasteful use of NYPD for over policing non-violent assembly, which I will do by way of narrative about my friend and co-worker Cecily McMillan. On the night of March 17, about 500 activists assembled to celebrate the six-month anniversary of Occupier's beginning. The assembly caused little or no disruption to public enjoyment of the park, and this assembly caused no unrest or social disturbance. Regardless of this, more than 200 officers were sent to Zuccotti Park to clear the park of non-violent assembly. The group was barricaded into the park and then forcibly removed from the park, cursed at and mocked by officers, and 73 people were arrested.

At the park that night my friend Cecily McMillan was on being escorted out of the park. In the course of this escort the male officer grabbed her breast so hard she was later bruised. When she tried to defend herself, she was beaten by police, dragged into a holding pen, and refused medical treatment while she lay in seizure. The officer responsible for this assault, has known cases of assault on other innocent people while on duty, and had assaulted another activist the same evening. The judge in Cecily's case refused admission of this evidence, and the officer was not penalized. We cannot let this happen to women, activists, or anyone on the streets, again.

This NYPD response that night was a clear violation of the people's right to assemble, and a frivolous use of 200 on-duty officers who should be working on patrol for violent crime, but instead were pulled to downtown Manhattan and paid overtime. As mentioned, the officer who assaulted Cecily is the defendant on another open criminal case of officer misconduct from this evening, although there could be many more. If the victim of this episode of NYPD excessive force wins this suit, he will join those who have been rewarded \$1 billion between 2002 and 2012 for police misconduct. This is both a serious budget issue and a serious human rights problem.

Because many occupiers found solidarity with the working class members of the NYPD, we would often talk with officers assigned to these frivolous patrols, which would laugh and say, "I don't mind doing this – it's the best overtime." While we have sympathy with a worker's desire for safe work that helps them feed their families in a city of vast income inequality and profiteering on the backs of the working class, we feel strongly that over policing non-violent assemblies was a large waste of our tax dollars and misdirection of police priorities.

I join Daphne and members of the other continuances in asking for change to these policies, including the end of "strategic incapacitation" techniques that preemptively constrain people assembled to practice political speech. I ask for an end to kettling and "free speech zone," tactics. I ask for publicly available, written policy on the use of "less lethal" weaponry, a full inventory of current police weapons, and written and public justification from an officer whenever a "less lethal"

weapon is deployed. I ask written public policy on tactics used to monitor and police first amendment assemblies. I ask for an automatic review of officer numbers, tactics, and resulting arrests related to the deployment of six or more officers to the location of a first amendment related assembly. I ask for serious consequences -- suspension without pay, a dismissal probation, or termination from the NYPD-- for officers who are found guilty of using excessive force, abusing authority, being discourteous, or using offensive language to those who non-violently assemble.

And in the case of Cecily McMillan, I add one specific item: I call upon the Civilian Complaint Review Board to incorporate specific metrics for the collection of data on gender, sexuality, and other identity characteristics as they contribute to the victimization of a person by the NYPD. I ask for a change in policy so that complaints will be judged with specific, refined categories for offenses such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence perpetrated by the NYPD against New Yorkers. The current evaluative criteria are too vague and thus do not offer a chance for us to understand the scope and depth of the problem.

While these measurements cannot help Cecily, they can help future women in their quest for justice, and send a clear message to the policing community that gender and sexuality-based harassment and assault will not be tolerated within the force or society. I add this to my demands about the end of over-policing of non-violent assembly and excessive use of force on non-violent people as a general call for the restoration the NYPD's role to uphold and protect the civil rights of all New Yorkers.

I thank you for your consideration on these issues, and will be happy to speak with members of the council and officers of the NYPD about these points in the future.

Thank you Ms. Chairwoman and members of the Committee. My name is Daphne Carr, and I am part of the Occupy Wall Street Movement.

I am here today in support of DRUM, FIERCE, Justice 4 Cecily, and the NLG, who are bringing testimony on continuances disproportionately affected by New York City Police policy.

As an activist, I am a member of such a community that has been disproportionately targeted by the police. I am here today to make suggestions that will increase the ability for New Yorkers to exercise their rights while reducing the NYPD budget, specifically in terms of overtime used for minor offenses and policing public assembly, and money used in settlement for \$180 million annual rewards in civil rights lawsuits against officer misconduct.

At non-violent assemblies in this city, there is a disproportionate police response in terms of numbers of officers, number of response vehicles, use of militarized tactics, and with the mass use of frivolous arrests.

These tactics violate our civil rights and erode the idea of a free democracy. In Occupy Wall Street demonstrations between September 2011 and September 2013 alone there were more than 2,000 arrests. There were no large-scale violent actions or other credible threats that would justify such mass police action and large number of arrests.

The overwhelming use of militarized police force intimidates people as they attempt to assert their rights, and aggressive policing tactics escalate the mood of peaceful assemblies. These tactics including kettling of people into pens through netting or barricades, use of full body armor when no credible threat presents itself, and illegal use of "less-lethal" weaponry - such as pepper spray in the eyes of peacefully assembled, non-violent people. All of these tactics have been called "strategic incapacitation" in the recently published scholarly text *Crisis and Control*, by Lesley Wood, a socialist who mapped police response to non-violent protest in the wake of 9/11. The frequent employment of such pre-emptive, inhumane, and illegal tactics, as well as the discriminatory policies such as stop and frisk, are a major contributor to the public's perception of the NYPD as being lawless, violent, and out of control.

I am here today to demand change in these tactics, understanding that their change will also reflect positively on the budget as they would mean less overtime and fewer civil rights lawsuits against the NYPD.

I ask for change to the NYPD policy of "strategic incapacitation" of people assembled to practice political speech. I ask for an end to kettling and "free speech zone," tactics, which are unsafe, humiliating, and vastly, preemptively curtail right to assemble and free movement.

I ask for publicly available, written policy on the use of "less lethal" weaponry, a full inventory of current police weapons, and written and public justification from an officer whenever a "less lethal" weapon is deployed. I ask that every instance of such a weapon be automatically reviewed by the CCRB.

I ask written public policy on tactics used to monitor and police first amendment assemblies. I ask for an automatic review of officer numbers, tactics, and resulting arrests related to the deployment of six or more officers to the location of a first amendment related assembly. The review should include justification for the number, duration, and tactics, as well as explanation of any arrests or summons.

I ask that each instance of such use of police time for monitoring public assembly be automatically reviewed by the CCRB.

I ask for serious consequences -- suspension without pay, a dismissal probation, or termination from the NYPD-- for officers who are found guilty of using excessive force, abusing authority, being discourteous, or using offensive language to those who non-violently assemble. Doing so sends a message to the police community that they are consequences for abuse of power and would prevent future misconduct, thus bringing down the frequency of lawsuits against the force.

My last recommendation is about public's right to know the officer's name and badge number, which is something that is often obscured or removed during first amendment assembly situations, and is difficult to see under even the brightest daylight. I ask for large print, reflective badge numbers to appear on the front and back of an officer's uniform, numbers that should be clearly visible from 30 feet. All officers should be required to respond with their name and badge number when asked, so as to allow visually impaired people or those unable to use their eyesight due to chemical weapons deployment to acquire information about their situations. I call upon an independent compliance board to monitor this through plainclothes checks.

I thank you for your consideration on these issues, and will be happy to speak with members of the council and officers of the NYPD about these points in the future.

Daphne Carr  
fixmynypd@gmail.com

# PUSH THE PAUSE BUTTON ON THE 2006 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP)

## The 2006 SWMP is Over Budget: Costing Taxpayers Billions

- ✦ Capital **costs** of the four MTSs have **increased** an astounding **265%** from **\$194 million to \$708 million** and are **still growing**.
- ✦ Cost for **transporting trash** will increase from **\$90/ton to \$240/ton** costing taxpayers **3x the amount today**.
- ✦ Sandy-like superstorms will drive costs even higher because of needed retrofitting.

## The 2006 SWMP Does NOT Achieve Borough Equity or Address Environmental Justice

- ✦ The 2006 SWMP will not improve air quality in overburdened communities and will place new burdens on New Yorkers – including thousands of children, seniors and public housing residents.
- ✦ The East 91<sup>st</sup> Street MTS puts **34,000 children** at risk and is located directly adjacent to two **NYCHA** public housing projects - home to **5,700 residents**.

## East 91<sup>st</sup> Street and South West Brooklyn MTSs Will Not Divert Enough Waste to Provide Relief or Improve Conditions Overburdened Communities Currently Face

- ✦ **80% of NYC waste removal is unchanged** by the 2006 SWMP.
- ✦ **East 91<sup>st</sup> Street** will only **divert** only **1.6%** commercial waste from other boroughs to Manhattan and only **3%** of the **City's total waste**.
- ✦ **Southwest Brooklyn** will only **divert 2.4%** of City's commercial waste and **4% of City's total waste**.
- ✦ Neither East 91<sup>st</sup> Street nor Southwest Brooklyn will provide relief or improve conditions overburdened communities currently face.

## The 2006 SWMP Increases Pollution in Already High-Risk Areas

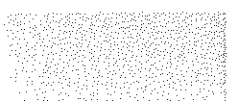
- ✦ **90%** of the private trucks that carry commercial waste do not use the latest pollution control technologies. **These trucks account for 93% of the pollution from waste collection and export.**
- ✦ The diesel exhaust released by **MTS tugboats** are **6x to 11x more polluting than DSNY collection trucks** - significantly affecting residents living near transfer stations, putting children and seniors at an increased risk of developing severe asthma, respiratory ailments and cancer.
- ✦ The garbage station-reliant system will transfer waste by barge and expose coastal areas of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island to new rates of pollution.

## P2P Recommends that the City Refocus the SWMP on Reusing, Recycling and Reducing Waste Tonnage

- ✦ **Our City's decision makers must PUSH THE PAUSE BUTTON on the 2006 SWMP to re-evaluate its ballooning costs, lack of progress, and changed conditions** and take steps to adopt a progressive plan that is environmentally sound, cost-effective and sustainable by future generations.
- ✦ **New York City must lead by example and reduce the amount of garbage we produce:** launch an aggressive recycling and composting program for all City schools and public agencies and take advantage of emerging, sustainable waste-to-energy technologies. **Reducing tonnage will reduce the need for transfer stations across the city.**

Please Join Us in Asking the City to **PUSH THE PAUSE BUTTON** on the SWMP!

**ABOUT PLEDGE 2 PROTECT:** Over 30,000 individuals and 26 educational, recreational, healthcare and community organizations are part of the Pledge 2 Protect coalition.



**TAKE THE PLEDGE 2 PROTECT BY VISITING [P2PNYC.ORG](http://P2PNYC.ORG)**



[/PLEDGE2PROTECT](https://www.facebook.com/pledge2protect)

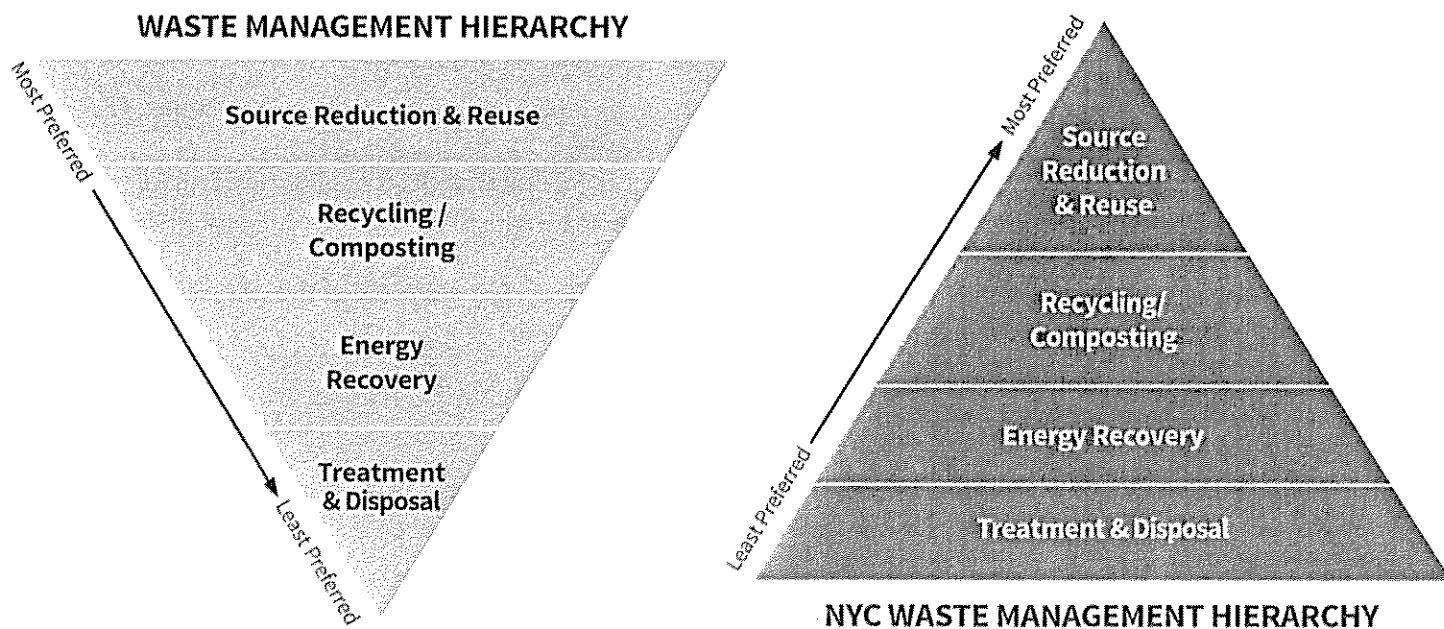


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	CURRENT SCENARIO IN NEW YORK CITY <sup>32</sup>	SCENARIO USING THE NATIONAL AVERAGE <sup>33</sup>	SCENARIO USING LOS ANGELES'S RECYCLING RATE <sup>34</sup>
Current Recycling Rate	15%	35%	45%
DSNY - Managed Recycling (tons per day)	1,728.1	4,017.4	5,165.2
DSNY - Managed Waste (tons per day)	9,750.1	7,460.8	6,313.0
Annual Cost of Waste Management <sup>35</sup>	\$265 Million	\$203 Million	\$172 Million
Potential Annual Cost Savings	None	\$62 Million	\$93 Million

**TABLE 2:** MSW Recycling Rates Comparison between New York, U.S. National Average, and Los Angeles



**FIGURE 1:** Comparison of the Preferred Waste Management Hierarchy (shown on left) versus P2P's representation of NYC's Waste Management Hierarchy.



TAKE THE PLEDGE 2 PROTECT BY VISITING [P2PNYC.ORG](http://P2PNYC.ORG)

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TESTIMONY  
ON  
**THE STABILIZING NYC INITIATIVE:  
FIGHTING PREDATORY EQUITY  
AND TENANT HARASSMENT**

PRESENTED BEFORE:

THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
&  
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

PRESENTED BY:

Cathy Dang  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CAAAY: ORGANIZING ASIAN COMMUNITIES  
On behalf of the  
STABILIZING NYC COALITION

JUNE 6, 2014

Good afternoon. My name is Cathy Dang and I am the Executive Director of CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities, a member of a new citywide coalition that has come together to fight the depletion of affordable housing in NYC at the hands of predatory equity. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon.

Our predatory equity coalition is made up of twelve community organizations, a legal services provider and a housing advocacy organization — CAAAV, the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, UHAB, Asian Americans for Equality, Chhaya CDC, Community Action for Safe Apartments at New Settlement Apartments, Fifth Avenue Committee/Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Flatbush Tenant Coalition, GOLES, Mirabal Sisters Cultural and community Center, Mothers on the Move, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, Pratt Area Community Council and Woodside on the Move.

Over the past seven years, New York City's affordable housing market has been severely destabilized by private (predatory) equity companies that purchase large number of rent-stabilized buildings at inflated prices and then push out the rent-stabilized tenants so that they can charge market rates, using a wide range of harassing techniques from frivolous lawsuits to failing to provide heat or conduct necessary repairs. As a result, the city has lost thousands of units of affordable housing over the last few years at the hands of megacorporations such as Vantage, Pinnacle, Dawney Day, Chestnut Holdings, Urban American and Ocelot.

As the crisis continues, organizers and lawyers have begun working with tenants in all five boroughs, fighting back against these landlords' aggressive and illegal tactics. The strategies we use include: organizing tenants in predatory equity buildings and educating them about their rights; bringing lawsuits against negligent and abusive landlords to compel them to make repairs, restore essential services and cease harassment; and intervening in foreclosure proceedings to urge the court to sell foreclosed buildings to responsible owners who respect tenants' rights. We have had some success with these methods, but for every tenant that we are able to help, dozens more are losing their affordable housing at the hands of predatory equity, and the result is that thousands of rent regulated tenants are forced out of their homes each year.

A recent example of predatory equity's impact on affordable housing in our city is the Three Borough Pool, a portfolio of 44 rent-regulated buildings in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx that were owned by predatory equity companies and have fallen into foreclosure. As a result, the owners have stopped maintaining the buildings, which have

more than 2700 violations combined, and are seeking refinancing in hopes of converting the buildings to market-rate housing. If they succeed, New York City will lose more than 1500 units of affordable, rent-stabilized housing.

CAAAV currently is organizing over 100 tenants residing in 7 buildings owned by a predatory equity company in Chinatown. If the Stabilizing NYC initiative is funded, we will have more resources and greater chances to win systemic changes for the 2,000 residents who live in buildings owned by this same company - setting a precedent and sending a message to all other big landlords whose practices impact the 200,000 residents in Chinatown. The other eleven community organizations in the Stabilizing NYC coalition have similar stories to tell, as predatory equity is forcing out low-income tenants in neighborhoods all over our city.

There are many other predatory equity companies with similar citywide portfolios of rent-stabilized buildings, and we are concerned about the impact that their practices will have on long-term affordability in our city at a time when affordable housing is already scarce. The members of Stabilizing NYC have mobilized against these practices to try and protect affordable, rent-stabilized housing in our communities, but these companies own buildings all over the city, so our response to them must be city-wide as well.

Because predatory equity companies have far more resources than community organizations, the preservation of rent-stabilized units depends on the assistance of the New York City Council. We ask the Council to step in and fund the Stabilizing NYC initiative to stop the loss of these vital rent regulated apartments. With additional resources, community organizers, supported by attorneys and advocates, can powerfully defend tenants against dangerous predatory equity landlords, tenants can begin to fight back, and we can make sure that private investment corporations don't rob the city of its precious affordable housing.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

6/5/14

My name is Robin. I'm a youth organizer apart of FIERCE, an organization for LGBTQ youth of color dedicated to community empowerment. I'd like to thank the Committee on Finance, and the chair Julissa Ferreras for allowing me to testify.

The budget plan to spend \$94.3 million on hiring a thousand new NYPD officers relies on the fallacy that more cops equals more safety. There is no genuine data showing a correlation between the increase of police officers and community safety, or between the decrease of frisks and increase of gun violence. If anything, the NYPD is complicit in rising numbers of assault and murders against civilians. Need we be reminded of Ramarley Graham, the unarmed Bronx teenager who was shot and killed in his own home in front of his family by Richard Haste, and still has not received justice. We are never told how the police was protecting us when 14-year-old Javier Payne had his head smashed through a storefront window by a cop and nearly died. If one looks back on the history of the Christopher Street Pier, for decades corpses, some of them belonging to our own comrades and our social justice leaders, have piled up and been neglected by investigators or law enforcement. What's done now by police in that area is enforcing the curfew and limiting our access to public space, instead of deterring actual violence. I understand that this proposal comes out of a spike in gun violence and a very real desire to stop more lives from being lost, but adding to the NYPD's numbers when they already have adequate resources is not the way to address it. Instead of allocating more guns and capital to a police force that has failed time and time again to be accountable to the communities they supposedly serve, we can invest in some organizations like the Anti-Violence Project, or the Audre Lorde Project, that work towards developing

community responses to violence. Strategies like training business owners to identify and de-escalate potentially violent situations allows communities to have sustainable plans for safety on their own terms.

The reality is that an increasing police presence has done more to antagonize communities of color, queer communities, youth, and folks like me who lie at the intersections of these identities, than it has done to protect us.

**Robin Mann, FIERCE Youth Organizer**

**[fierceandfeistycurry@gmail.com](mailto:fierceandfeistycurry@gmail.com)**

**Center for Court Innovation Testimony**  
**New York City Council**  
**Executive Budget Hearing**  
**June 6, 2014**

Good Afternoon Speaker Mark-Viverito and Members of the Council. My name is Courtney Bryan and I am the Director of Criminal Justice Operations at the Center for Court Innovation. As you know, the Center is a public/private partnership, an independent not-for-profit organization that works with the courts, government and communities to reduce crime, assist victims, and increase public confidence in justice. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

I am here today to urge the Council to support continuing funding for the Center for Court Innovation and its groundbreaking efforts to tackle chronic challenges like domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, homelessness, truancy and juvenile delinquency. Through our demonstration projects located throughout the five boroughs, our provision of technical assistance, and our research, the Center has helped propel New York City to the forefront of the national movement for problem-solving justice. The Center's projects have reduced crime, improved the quality of life in our city's neighborhoods and, most importantly in these very difficult economic times, saved money. Our demonstration projects are nationally and internationally-renowned, serving as models for replication throughout the world. An investment in the Center for Court Innovation is an investment in a more effective – and more cost-effective – way to administer justice.

Many of the most challenging problems facing the residents of our city find their way into the court system each year. New York City criminal and family courts are overwhelmed by high caseloads, many driven, in large part, by drugs, mental illness, homelessness, and family matters. Conventional courts typically approach cases by tackling only the legal issues, failing to adequately address the underlying problems that lead people into the court system in the first place. As a consequence, many of the persons committed to our juvenile correctional facilities, adult jails, and prisons are more likely

than not to return home far worse-off than when they were initially confined. The recidivism rates of those coming out of residential confinement are startlingly high. Courts and justice system stakeholders must identify safer, less costly, and more effective approaches to address the challenges presented by the people caught up in the justice system.

The Center for Court Innovation believes that courts, governments, and communities can work together to solve the problems I've just described, to reduce both crime and incarceration, and do so while saving taxpayer dollars. Since the opening of the Midtown Community Court in 1993, the Center has effectively functioned as the court system's independent research and development arm, creating innovative projects like community courts, reentry courts, drug courts, domestic violence courts, and mental health courts. The aim of each of our problem-solving justice initiatives is to combine accountability with help: by using meaningful alternatives to incarceration and linking offenders to social services such as drug treatment and job training, these courts simultaneously hold offenders accountable for their crimes while ensuring that they have the tools necessary to escape the revolving door of the justice system.

Beginning with the award-winning Midtown Community Court, the Center has created more than 20 demonstration projects in all 5 boroughs. Researchers have documented that our projects have reduced recidivism, increased public safety, and enhanced public trust in the justice system. For instance, participants in the Brooklyn Treatment Court re-offend at a rate that is 27 percent lower than offenders who go through conventional courts. Our Bronx Community Solutions project has cut the use of jail by a third and doubled the use of community-based alternatives to detention, increasing compliance by more than 40 percent. Major crime in Southwest Brooklyn has declined by nearly 50 percent since the opening of our Red Hook Community Justice Center. And our Harlem Reentry Court has reduced reoffending among participants by 19 percent over a three year period. The Center has received numerous awards for its efforts, including the Peter F. Drucker Award for Non-Profit Innovation, the Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard University and the Ford Foundation, and the Prize for Public Sector Innovation from the Citizens Budget Commission.

By sentencing low-level offenders to pay back the neighborhood through community service, our Midtown Community Court saves the city over \$500,000 each year in jail costs. But Midtown and our other jail diversion programs are not only cost-effective, they also promote public safety. These

projects offer help to offenders to address problems that often underlie criminal behavior and work in partnership with local residents, businesses and social service agencies to organize community service projects and provide on-site social services, including drug treatment, mental health counseling, and job training. Independent studies have documented that Midtown's compliance rate of 87 percent for community service is the highest in the city. In conjunction with aggressive law enforcement and economic development efforts, the Court has had an impact on neighborhood crime: prostitution arrests have dropped 56 percent and illegal vending is down 24 percent.

Another Center project, the Red Hook Community Justice Center, seeks to reduce crime and juvenile delinquency and improve the quality of life in southwest Brooklyn. Red Hook, once infamous for drugs and crime, is now home to one of the safest police precincts in Brooklyn. Instead of jail, the Justice Center sentences low-level offenders to perform visible community service and to receive social services (drug treatment, job training, counseling). This common sense approach – combining punishment and help – has made a tangible difference. Independent evaluators from the National Center for State Courts have just completed a three-year evaluation of the Justice Center. Among other things, they found that the Justice Center reduced the use of jail by 35 percent and reduced re-offending – by 10 percent among adult defendants and 20 percent among juveniles. The research team also found that the benefits of the Justice Center -- including reduced crime and victimization-- far outweigh the costs of operation.

We are bringing this same approach to another community that has been hit hard by crime: Brownsville, Brooklyn. In Brownsville, we are developing a new justice center with the help of capital funding provided by the City Council, the Brooklyn Borough President, and the Mayor's Office. Even as we begin the design process, we are already putting programs in place on the ground. This includes efforts to reduce gun and gang violence in the neighborhood through monthly meetings that seek to deter parolees with a violent history from continued violence. Known as "call ins," these meetings take place at the local branch of the public library in Brownsville, where parolees returning to the neighborhood meet with representatives of law enforcement, social service providers, and ex-offenders who have gotten their lives back on track. In 2013, 193 parolees attended the call-ins, and of them, only three have been re-arrested for gun-related offenses and none have been involved in shootings.

In general, we have been devoting an increasing amount of energy to the problem of gun violence. This includes operating Save Our Streets Crown Heights, which trains “violence interrupters” to intervene in street conflicts before the cycle of retaliatory violence escalates. A recent evaluation of the program found that Save Our Streets had a statistically significant impact on gun violence trends in Crown Heights when compared with three similar precincts in Brooklyn. At a moment when so much public attention is focused on the question of how to reduce gun violence and the challenges of legislative solutions, the success of SOS Crown Heights suggests that ground-level prevention efforts can be an effective complement to enforcement strategies. In 2013 we worked with the City Council to replicate the Save Our Streets model in the South Bronx. In the coming months we will launch additional replications of the project in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and another catchment area in the South Bronx.

The Center’s QUEST (Queens Engagement Strategies for Teens) and READY (Richmond Engagement Activities for Determined Youth) projects are alternative-to-detention programs in Queens and Staten Island which combine social services and youth development programming with supervision and court monitoring for young people with cases pending in Family Court. These projects also save taxpayer dollars: the average cost of detention is \$651 per youth, per day, while the Center’s ATD programs operate at a fraction of that cost and produce much better results. In Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx, projects also provide a comprehensive, coordinated response to young people with mental illness in the juvenile justice system. Too often young people are removed from their homes for mental health concerns because judges do not have access to effective community-based services, only to learn to their dismay that such services are also unavailable in placement facilities. These projects aims to stop this alarming trend and to provide punishment with help for young people caught in the justice system. This successful mental health initiative will be replicated in Staten Island this spring.

City Council funding in the last year helped the Center sustain existing projects throughout the five boroughs and introduce new programs. Among the Center’s newest initiatives are the following:

- A new approach to human trafficking cases. In 2013, New York State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman announced the launch of the New York court system’s Human Trafficking Intervention Initiative. This trailblazing program, which the Center for Court Innovation has

helped develop and implement, seeks to identify and assist sex trafficking victims, opening the door for thousands across the state to escape a life of abuse and torture.

- A new approach to misdemeanor cases. Three out of four cases that make it to criminal court in New York City are misdemeanors – a total of more than 235,000 cases in 2012. With Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, launched in 2013, the Center provides an expanded array of options for judges in Kings County Criminal Court in Brooklyn. In its initial year, Brooklyn Justice Initiatives will work with 620 defendants and help pilot several of Judge Lippman's priorities – the adolescent diversion courtroom, the human trafficking courtroom and bail reform.
- Court-Based Intervention and Resources Teams (CIRTs). The new CIRTs are designed to reduce the number of individuals with mental illnesses at Rikers Island by identifying those who are at low risk of re-offending or failing to appear in court; expediting assessments, treatment planning, and linkages to community-based services; and monitoring their progress in the community to help ensure public safety. The Center will be the lead agency in operating the Brooklyn CIRT and a collaborating partner in the Bronx CIRT.
- Enhancing the relationship between justice agencies and New Yorkers. Research tells us that people are more likely to obey the law when they feel that the justice system (not just police, but prosecutors, probation officers, judges and others as well) has treated them with dignity and respect – and given them an opportunity to voice their opinions. We will tackle this issue on multiple fronts in places like Harlem, Brownsville, Crown Heights, Red Hook, Jamaica, and the South Bronx. This includes offering training in procedural justice to front-line justice professionals, improving signage at criminal justice projects to incorporate respectful language, and providing numerous opportunities for local residents to work directly with criminal justice officials on collaborative crime prevention activities.

We request Council funding in the amount of \$925,000 to continue working to reduce crime, assist victims, and increase public confidence in justice. Thank you.



Testimony before  
The New York City Council

**FOR THE RECORD**

Kimberleigh J. Smith, MPA  
Vice President, Policy & Advocacy

June 6, 2014

Thank you Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and to the New York City Council. My name is Kimberleigh J. Smith, and I am the Vice President for Policy and Advocacy at Harlem United Community AIDS Center.

Harlem United is a community-based health organization and has been at the forefront of addressing health disparities by providing progressive prevention services, stable housing and ongoing quality, community-based health to people living with, and affected by, HIV and AIDS for more than 25 years.

We are thrilled to partner with the City's new progressive administration and leadership. Specifically, we applaud your work with Mayor Bill de Blasio to create 30% rent cap affordable housing protection for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS in HASA's rental assistance program. This long awaited policy change will prevent homelessness for over 10,000 New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS and enable hundreds more to move out of the shelter system. At Harlem United, we know firsthand the importance of this policy.

Today, we want to urge you to continue to build on this powerful initiative and work with the Mayor to improve the health of people living with, and impacted by HIV and AIDS, moving us closer to an 'end to AIDS.' Our full agenda will be made available to the Council, but today I want to focus on four areas:

- Restore funding for **broker's fee payments and security deposits** at the Human Resources Administration.
- Renew funding for the **Injection Drug Users Health Alliance (IDUHA)** at \$1,000,000.
- Invest in a citywide initiative on pre-exposure prophylaxis, or **PrEP**.
- Support with adequate funding the establishment of an **LGBT Youth Division** in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

**First, Broker's Fees & Security Deposits:**

This issue is not a new. Beginning in March 2011, HRA cut broker's fee payments for homeless clients (including those enrolled in HASA) seeking apartments by 50 percent to no more than half the cost of the first month's rent. The \$4,793 million PEG included the cut for broker's fee payments for all HRA clients, not just those in HASA. In a survey of 44 different community-based organizations by Shubert Botein Policy Associates shortly after the policy went into effect, half of the case managers' survey reported the new broker's fee policy prevented a housing placement for one or more HASA clients. Survey respondents also said that realtors were asking clients to pay the other half of the broker's fee payment out of their pockets. Harlem United has been absorbing these costs for three years. We estimate that we have incurred close to \$85,000. We are deeply concerned about the future impact these counterproductive policies will have on our clients. The greatest impact will be on those clients leaving transitional housing and entering in to an independent living situation. We implore you to work with Commissioner Banks to correct this policy.

Around the same time as the broker's fee payment policy change went into effect, HASA began replacing security deposits for landlords with vouchers that can be only redeemed through a cumbersome process, again frustrating brokers and landlords.

With regard to the security deposits:

- None of our landlords will take the voucher
- Voucher is only good for us anyway as the lease is in Harlem United's name
- Clients living independently are at a disadvantage
- Harlem United is thus far covering the security deposit costs

In order to secure apartments, HU has paid more than \$100,000 in three years for the security deposits.

**Secondly, renew IDUHA Funding at \$1 million**

Harlem United/FROST'D is a member of the Injection Drug User Health Alliance (IDUHA), a coalition of community-based syringe access providers that provides health services for people who inject drugs in all five New York City boroughs. IDUHA provides an entry point for the estimate 80,000 drug injectors in New York City who experience a range of health issues but frequently have poor access to the healthcare system. City funding for the IDUHA initiative has been cut by 550% since 2008, triggering the loss of more than \$4.5 million in NYS matching funds through 2013. Recently, the pose-cut funding level of \$1 million was baselined in the Mayor's budget. We are requesting renewal of Council Initiative funding at the \$1 million level in order to restore IDUHA funding to a total of \$2 million per year. IDUHA support's a mobile-based program at Harlem United that is able to meet client in their own neighborhoods through Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan. It allows us to provide a couple thousand health education encounters, distribute thousands of clean syringes and provide critical Hep C and HIV care and education. But more than just the sum of these outputs, IDUHA funding improves health and save lives. Please renew at \$1 million.

**Third, invest in a Citywide PrEP Initiative.**

PrEP is a daily pill that can be taken to prevent HIV in an HIV negative individual. Truvada was approved as PrEP by the FDA in July 2012. New York State released clinical guidelines on PrEP earlier the year and the CDC issued its guidelines just a few weeks ago. It is not a magic bullet, and is not for everyone; but any plan to End AIDS in New York State must include an evidence-based, combination HIV prevention strategy for both HIV-negative and HIV positive persons. Let's make full use of this, and other biomedical prevention interventions. Like PEP, with dedicated funding to ramp up PrEP and PEP with provider and consumer education.

**Finally, create a division with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that addresses the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth up to ages 24.**

In 2009, young men who have sex with men accounted for 27% of new HIV infections in the US and make up the bulk on new infections in New York City. We have failed our young, Black and Hispanic men who have sex with men and transgender women. We need to address the root causes of HIV. We need to aggressively employ a combination approach to HIV prevention: Routine testing, connection to care and mental health services, and promote newer prevention technologies, like post-exposure and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PEP and PrEP). This division, if adequately funded and supported, would yield far more than its initial investment, save lives and end AIDS.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today.



# **Brown Community Development Corporation**

***In Faith. With Action. Through Service.***

June 5, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Marjona Jones and I am the Organizing Coordinator for Brown Community Development Corporation (Brown CD). In 2009, Rev. Clinton M. Miller, Pastor of Brown Memorial Baptist Church, organized leaders of his congregation and local community leaders to create the Brown CDC. The vision of our organization is to eliminate inequities in housing, education, economic opportunities, health and wellness. We serve our community by delivering vital services and organizing campaigns to address issues that impact our community. Since 2012, we have participated in the New York Caring Across Generations coalition of over 40 organizations representing over 200,000 New Yorkers—we're part of a national effort to ensure dignity, respect, and a good quality of life for caregivers and people who receive care.

The issue of home care and senior issues is paramount to our organization and congregation. Again and again we hear of dire circumstances that some of our aging congregation is facing. These circumstances our seniors face range from 4 year waiting list for senior housing to inadequate and inaccessible home care. Unfortunately these circumstances are not unique to our seniors. The number of New York City seniors is growing rapidly, but the City has been steadily cutting funding for senior services. More than 1 million seniors will likely need home care in the next decade. Right now, tens of thousands of New York City's seniors are unable to access the home care they need to live with dignity.

For low-income seniors, these budget cuts hit even harder. A Department for the Aging program called the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) provides hope to low-income seniors who need home care. EISEP helps non-Medicaid-eligible low-income seniors 60 years and older—including those who are undocumented—pay for part-time home care services. The program is a lifeline to almost 3,000 seniors, offers respite to family caregivers, and provides living wage jobs to home care workers. It should be expanded. Unfortunately this important program carries a waiting list of xxx seniors.

I am here today to urge all members of the City Council to support New York City's seniors, and strengthen the programs that provide them with the services that allow them to thrive as they age. New York Caring Across Generations urges the City to allocate an additional \$1.8 million to clear the waiting list for EISEP. New York Caring Across Generations would like to extend thanks and appreciation to all members of City Council who have already signed a letter of support requesting the same or have included this issue as part of their list of priorities.

Current EISEP recipients like Keith Luke call the program a blessing. Keith was the primary caregiver for his mother, who was able to access professional home care services through EISEP as her health declined and Keith needed additional help. He remembered how valuable the program was, and applied himself years later after hip replacement surgery left him in pain and with limited mobility. He says, "If I had to pay, it would kill me."

*Unfortunately, City funding for EISEP has been cut in recent years. Because EISEP is underfunded, the program is unable to adequately meet the needs of the nearly 80,000 low-income seniors who could benefit from the program.*



# **Brown Community Development Corporation**

***In Faith. With Action. Through Service.***

*There are almost 80,000 New York City near-poverty seniors (seniors between 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) with care needs who do not meet income eligibility requirements for Medicaid and are unable to afford the out-of-pocket cost of home care.*

*Increasing funding for home care would represent an important first step in addressing unmet home care needs for low-income seniors. Furthermore, a commitment by the Department for the Aging to comprehensively assess unmet care needs by geography, race, language, and income, will enable targeted service provision to populations in greatest need.*

Home care is less expensive than nursing home care, has proven health benefits for recipients, and can reduce the overall cost of care to taxpayers by reducing hospitalization. In choosing to invest more adequately in cost-effective EISEP home care services, New York City can be an example to cities around the state and the nation looking for innovative ways to support seniors, their families and home care workers. At a time when the need for home care services is growing quickly, and when the need for good jobs is growing, the City must do more to support smart programs like EISEP that benefit many people in our communities.

# STATE WIDE

**New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.**

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**www.nysenior.org Helpline 1-800-333-4374**

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## NYC COUNCIL/AGING COMMITTEE FY 2015 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2014

Chairperson Margaret Chin, members of the Aging Committee and other City Council members, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am Lani Sanjek, President of the NYC Chapter of NY StateWide Senior Action Council (**StateWide**), a non-profit grassroots organization of individuals and organizations committed to improving the lives of seniors throughout New York State, founded in 1972. Members in our NYC Chapter are from all five boroughs, activists on issues affecting older New Yorkers, many representing neighborhood and community groups and retiree organizations.

We thank the Council for its strong advocacy for funding for aging services and programs. We applaud the now baselined funding in the Executive Budget for aging, but we all know it still falls far short of the needs. New funding is essential to rebuild and invest in community-based services just to keep up with the aging demographics throughout the City. And, the continued support for aging programs that Council Members provide with discretionary funds is vital.

Today, StateWide is here as a member of the New York Caring Across Generations coalition, part of a national effort to ensure dignity, respect, and a good quality of life for caregivers and people who receive care. **Specifically, we urge the City to include an additional \$1.8m in DFTA's budget now to reduce the existing waiting list of 240 seniors already assessed to be in need of part-time home care services provided by the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP).**

Since its creation in the mid-1980s, EISEP has demonstrated its effectiveness in providing strategic non-medical support services. EISEP helps to protect against financial devastation (inc. the hardships of Medicaid spend-down) by providing affordable, cost-effective home care, and giving respite and support for family caregivers. It was designed to address the gap, clearly recognized back then nearly 30 years ago, for those elderly at greatest risk of needing institutional care and/or substantial community supports but unable to access Medicaid.

With the steeply escalating costs of living in NYC, including unaffordable housing, and inadequate incomes (see attached charts on "Elder Index" and "Benchmarking"

*From the Elder Economic Security Initiative [www.wowonline.org](http://www.wowonline.org) ), there are now many more elderly in all parts of the City facing these risks! And, as summarized in DFTA's Annual Plan, the 85+ age group will continue to grow dramatically through the mid-century with the addition of the Boomers. A commitment for a multi-year investment of additional resources is urgently required if we are to have any hope of providing the quality of services and the human dignity for vulnerable New Yorkers and their family and worker caregivers.*

Severe budget cuts in recent years drastically reduced the EISEP funded service hours available to seniors and families in need whose numbers are only increasing (we hear about a de facto cap of 10 hours a week, average hours dropping). While we appreciate the additional funding to reduce crushing caseloads for case managers – an absolute priority – this will still not provide enough in resources to enable case managers to significantly intensify on-going assessments and coordination as the population of older New Yorkers becomes more diverse and their needs more complex. This requires more and better trained case managers and adjustments to the caseload standards. Building on the flexible EISEP model of services provides opportunities for innovation that should be seized now.

Having been an advocate for EISEP since its beginning, StateWide has deep concerns as we witness EISEP services withering away due to drastic funding reductions, leaving vast numbers of older New Yorkers under- and unserved. In the current environment, this leads to more inappropriate and more costly medicalization of home care services, in part driven by Medicaid funding and more corporatized medical models of care. New York City must establish a more effective balance by strengthening and expanding the community-based, social service care sector. City Council leadership on this is vital. We look forward to working together and joining our efforts at the state and federal levels as well.

Thank you very much.

Attachment

# NY State – Elder Index Result 2013

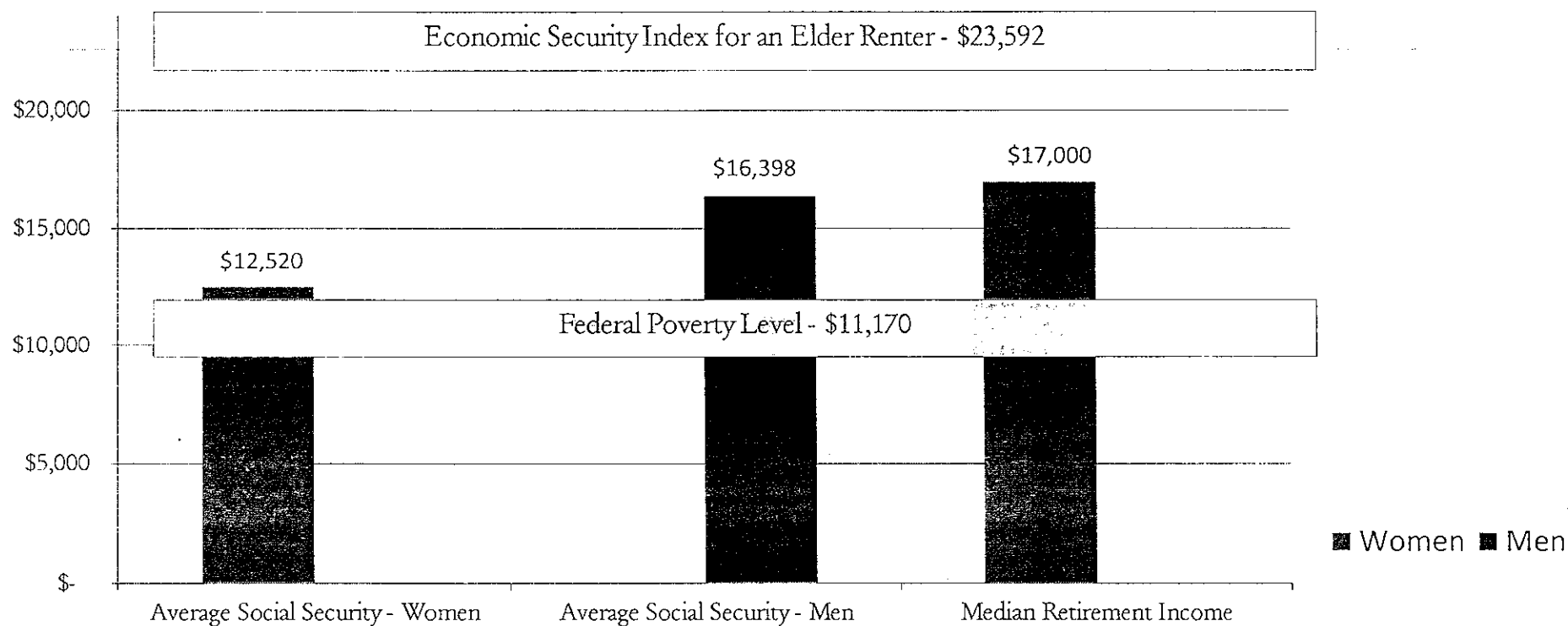
Monthly Costs	Elder Person (age 65+)			Elder Couple (both age 65+)		
	Owner, no mortgage	Renter, 1 bedroom	Owner with mortgage	Owner, no mortgage	Renter, 1 bedroom	Owner with mortgage
Housing*	\$730	\$1,088	\$1,808	\$730	\$1,088	\$1,808
Food	\$251	\$251	\$251	\$461	\$461	\$461
Transportation	\$211	\$211	\$211	\$327	\$327	\$327
Health Care (Good)	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$780	\$780	\$780
Miscellaneous	\$316	\$316	\$316	\$460	\$460	\$460
Elder Index per month	\$1,898	\$2,256	\$2,976	\$2,758	\$3,116	\$3,836
Elder Index per year	\$22,776	\$27,072	\$35,712	\$33,096	\$37,392	\$46,032

\*includes utilities, taxes and insurance

Source: WOW Economic Security Database



## Benchmarking Economic Security Against Common Sources of Retirement Income, U.S. 2013



The Elder Economic Security Initiative, [www.wowonline.org](http://www.wowonline.org)

## Testimony of OMB Director Dean Fuleihan before the Finance Committee and the City Council

June 6, 2014

Thank you, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair Ferreras, and Public Advocate James. I appreciate the opportunity to again appear before you and the members of the Committee and the City Council on the Mayor's Executive Budget.

Our dialogue has been and remains very positive and, on a personal note, I am very appreciative of your assistance and patience in my transition into the role of Budget Director.

I am honored to be part of this effort - a change in policy direction for the City and a change in the interaction between the Administration and the Council. Working together to change priorities and the way government operates, including the relationship between the Administration and our employees.

I am joined by Bob Linn, our Commissioner of the Office of Labor Relations. Bob and I will both address your question on the UFT contract, the health care agreement with the Municipal Labor Committee, and the labor pattern in the Executive Budget. I am also supported by a very talented staff from the Office of Management and Budget. Later, I will be joined by Lisette Camilo, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services.

The Mayor established core principles that guide this Administration and our entire budget process:

- **Fiscally Responsible:** at every step, from the Preliminary Budget through the Executive Budget, this has been the foundation of our approach.
- **Progressive:** the programmatic initiatives that will improve the health and vitality of our City, that begin to address income inequality through programs that can be initiated, sustained, and are affordable.
- **Honest:** the honest presentation of the financial plan and a positive, respectful process with the members of the Council.

We know that you share these core principles and that they will continue to guide our partnership through the Adopted Budget.

With that foundation and your permission, I will focus on the financial framework and the related major issues in the Mayor's Executive Budget.

### **The Budget is Fiscally Responsible.**

The Financial Plan for 2014 and 2015 is balanced. Our revenue forecast and our debt service projections are cautious and recognize that even slight declines in the economy or events out of our control can quickly change the economic and revenue outlook. We all witnessed the recent financial crisis, dramatic decline in revenues, the harsh results and continuing ongoing problems with the recovery. And this past month, we've seen the negative consequences of overestimating personal income tax revenues in most of the states in the northeast.

Neighboring states like New Jersey, which have over-projected revenue and now face huge deficits, make clear the importance of caution.

The out-year gaps, in Fiscal Years 2016-2018, increased from the Preliminary Budget, as this Administration presented the first honest and accurate estimates of labor costs since the contracts were first left unresolved in 2009. The prior labor reserve was clearly inadequate, and did not even reflect the pattern established by the prior administration.

The out-year gaps in the Executive Budget are both lower on average and on an annual comparison lower than most gaps projected over the prior 12 years. They are lower regardless of whether we use the actual values or calculate them as a percentage of city revenues. They are lower than the understated gaps presented by the prior Administration after 2009, which were lacking an accurate estimate of the costs of a labor settlement.

We will have to address these out-year gaps together, not increase these gaps with our current actions or assume that a positive economic picture is guaranteed.

The City Comptroller on Wednesday affirmed the financial strength of the Executive Budget and the affordability of the labor pattern. The Comptroller also raised concerns about the economy.

All three rating agencies on Thursday affirmed the strong financial position of the City, our AA rating with stable outlook.

Fitch highlighted as among the key positive rating drivers:

- solid economic underpinnings;
- highly effective budget management;
- and the fact that the labor settlement reduces uncertainty.

On budget management, Fitch stated, "The city's sound approach to budget development features reasonable revenue and expenditure forecasting, proactive budget monitoring, and effective actions to eliminate projected deficits." On the labor settlement, Fitch stated that it "...reduces uncertainty about the resolution of long-expired labor agreements. Fitch believes that the overall package represents a sizable but manageable funding need."

S&P highlighted as credit positives:

- a strong, broad and diverse economy;
- adequate budgetary flexibility and performance;
- very strong liquidity;
- and very strong management conditions.

Moody's highlighted as credit strengths:

- an exceptionally large and diverse economy;

- strong governance and financial best practices;
- and strong liquidity.

At the same time, all three agencies cautioned us about cyclical revenues and long-term liabilities. Concerns that we clearly must recognize and continue to address. And, again, these concerns are another reason why we are cautious in our projections.

Of course each of the rating agencies intend for these rating reports to be read in their entirety. We believe, after your review, that these three reports represent an important acknowledgement of the steps we are taking to ensure true fiscal responsibility.

Achieving this fiscal responsibility, clearly recognized by all three major raters yesterday, required that we address the major risks confronting the City.

This administration was confronted with the unprecedented situation of 152 collective bargaining units and 350,000 employees without a contract, including 150,000 employees who have been without a contract since 2009. Again, a pattern was established by the prior administration of two 4 percent increases – but that pattern was not recognized in the labor reserve.

In the first four months of this administration, we settled with the UFT and its 110,000 employees, restructured the first pattern, and established a second pattern of 10 percent over seven years with significant work rule changes. We also achieved major health care savings with the entire Municipal Labor Committee.

When I testified after the release of the Preliminary Budget, I repeated the Mayor's statement that we would treat our employees with respect and achieve a contract that would be fair and affordable to taxpayers. And it would, by necessity and to the benefit of the City and our employees, include significant health care savings.

We achieved a historic agreement with the Municipal Labor Committee on significant and annually guaranteed health care savings. For the first time in years, the City, working with our employees, will reform the procurement and the delivery of health care. This will achieve at a minimum \$3.4 billion in savings through 2018, with \$1.3 billion in 2018 that will continue beyond the contract. This agreement with the Municipal Labor Committee eliminates substantial risks to the future financial health and effective management of the City. The result will be a reduction in health care costs, actually bending the health care curve rather than simply shifting costs.

The agreement with the UFT also achieves meaningful professional development, time for parent-teacher engagement, improvements in the operations of our schools, and greater flexibility that will be responsive to the needs of the students and parents.

We achieved all three goals the Mayor outlined -- an affordable labor pattern, significant health care savings, and work rule changes – while restoring a constructive and respectful labor-management relationship.

In our capital commitments and debt service, we have established a more realistic timeframe for accomplishing our goals and maintained debt service at under 15 percent of City tax revenues, consistent with prior administrations, all while accomplishing our goals of affordable housing. And at the Mayor's instructions, we are undertaking a citywide review of all capital spending and prioritizing needs ahead of the Ten Year Capital Plan due in January 2015.

### **The Budget is Progressive.**

As the Mayor outlined in the Executive Budget presentation, we are beginning to implement an agenda that invests in our children, creates economic opportunity, dramatically expands affordable housing, protects the most vulnerable, and makes New York City safer. Over the past three weeks, you have held numerous hearings with City officials reviewing these initiatives, so I won't repeat each of them but, rather, focus on some highlights.

The Mayor made it clear that budgets are about choices, and choices reflect values – and these are values that we share with the Speaker, the Chair, and Council members. From reducing overcrowding and the use of trailers in our schools and implementing Vision Zero, to reducing arbitrary and overly punitive small business fines and investing in our infrastructure, it is clear that the Executive Budget moves forward these shared values.

With the presentation of the Preliminary Budget, the Mayor also identified three major risks: the unsettled labor agreements and the status of management-employee relations; the state budget; and federal government inaction. I addressed the labor agreement and how it removes a major budgetary risk while ensuring productive labor-management relations.

On the state budget, together we successfully achieved major investments for our children that are funded through an unprecedented five-year commitment by the State. We are investing \$300 million in 2015 and \$340 million in 2016 to provide 73,000 four-year-olds and their families with high-quality, full-day universal pre-K. The program will be completely up and running within two years, providing six hours and 20 minutes a day that is free for families and that gives our kids a solid foundation of skills and knowledge.

The Executive Budget invests \$145 million to fund 34,000 new after school seats to serve nearly 100,000 middle school children in FY 2015, with an expanded summer program providing over 17,000 new seats serving 33,000 children this summer. And again, this major initiative is financed through state funds.

And we are actively pursuing with the State new efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness.

On the federal front, the federal government took several actions to stabilize its budget. Additionally, this Administration has improved the City's interactions with the federal government when it comes to critical Sandy funding and, just the other week, we announced a significant third tranche of funding from HUD that will cover resiliency measures and ensure that every homeowner in the Build It Back program gets the support they need. The Mayor has also significantly overhauled Sandy recovery efforts to cut red tape and streamline the process, and we're starting to see the results with the dramatic increase in construction starts and reimbursement checks.

Risks clearly remain, including continued unequal growth across income groups and across industries to a repeat of federal inaction. Even a slowdown in national economic activity would place serious future constraints on our achievements if we are not careful.

**The Budget is Honest.**

Lastly, as discussed earlier, this budget process has restored a positive and respectful dynamic between the Administration and the Council, ending the “budget dance” and allowing us to move forward shared priorities.

In particular, there are a number of key investments we’re moving forward together, including Summer Youth Employment, anti-gun violence initiatives, an expansion of senior case management, HPD Alternative Enforcement, NYPD infrastructure, fire companies, the HASA rent cap, crisis shelter beds, arts education, our roads and bridges, and municipal IDs, in addition to baselining funding to ensure continuity of community services and continuing to relieve NYCHA of payments to the NYPD in FY15. The Mayor working with the Council included these priorities in the Executive Budget.

If we conclude the budget process with the same principles I’ve outlined, I am certain that the Adopted Budget will reflect our shared values in a manner that is affordable and responsible.

One final point: we have, in these first five months, continually looked for efficiencies and better management. It is at the core of the labor settlement, the DOE work rules changes, and the health care savings. It is also reflected in the approach to Vision Zero, child protective services, homelessness prevention, and numerous contract reviews. But it is a continuing process that again will require our joint effort.

We look forward to successfully concluding this budget process and continuing to work with you on the most effective, equitable, and fair delivery of government services.

# **Testimony before the New York City Council Aging Committee on the New York City Fiscal 2015 Executive Budget**

**Presented on June 6, 2014**

Hello. My name is Melba Adams. I am 73 years old and I live in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. A number of years ago I was in a car accident and injured my leg. As my condition worsened, I decided to take early retirement from my job as a teacher. I have gone from needing to use a cane, to a walker.

More and more, I have been relying on friends and neighbors. I'm doing the best I can with the housework, but I can no longer vacuum. I need help going to the store and to the post office. I don't go out alone anymore—not even to walk a block—because I have trouble getting around and I don't feel safe.

I would like to receive home care services. Before my neighbor died, he had a lady who would come and take care of him. As a kindness to me, she would pick up my things from the pharmacy if she was going for him. When I learned about the cost for home care services, I knew I could not afford it. I am in a bind. Although I am on a fixed income, it is not low enough for me to receive home care paid for by Medicaid either.

I recently learned about the EISEP program. It is too bad that there is a long waiting list to receive home care services, because I really need help now. I believe the City should increase funding for EISEP so that more seniors like me are able to access the care they need to make them feel safe and supported in their homes and communities.

Thank you.

**TESTIMONY OF SANTOS CRESPO, JR., PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 372, D.C. 37  
AFSCME, BEFORE THE JOINT HEARING OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FINANCE  
AND CONTRACTS COMMITTEES**

**HON. JULISSA FERRERAS, CHAIRPERSON FINANCE**

**HON. HELEN ROSENTHAL, CHAIRPERSON, CONTRACTS**

**JUNE 6, 2014**

GOOD AFTERNOON, I FIRST WANT TO THANK THE CHAIRPERSONS, COUNCIL MEMBERS FERRERAS AND ROSENTHAL, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE AND CONTRACTS COMMITTEES FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD HERE TODAY.

WE LIVE IN A WONDERFUL AND DIVERSE CITY WHICH MEANS OUR GOVERNMENT MUST FIND A WAY TO ADDRESS THE EQUALLY DIVERSE SERVICE, PROTECTION, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF ALL NEW YORKERS.

AS WE DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF MAYOR DE BLASIO'S FIRST BUDGET IT IS CLEAR OUR NEW MAYOR HAS RECOGNIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION TO MEET THOSE DIVERSE NEEDS. THE PROPOSED BUDGET ALSO RECOGNIZES THE FACT THAT RESOURCES ARE LIMITED AND DIFFICULT DECISIONS MUST BE MADE IN JUST HOW AND WHERE WE WILL SPEND OUR DOLLARS.

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, PROVIDING THE FUNDING FOR UNIVERSAL PRE-K IS CLEARLY THE RIGHT DECISION FOR OUR FAMILIES, OUR CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY.

IN ADDITION, I KNOW THAT I, AND MANY OTHERS WILL CONTINUE TO ARGUE THAT UNIVERSAL FREE LUNCH IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE ALL OUR CHILDREN ARE WELL FEED, FUELED AND PREPARED FOR THE DAILY RIGORS OF THE CLASSROOM. BUT AS WE KNOW TOUGH DECISIONS MUST BE MADE.

A NEW ADMINISTRATION AND FRESH PERSPECTIVE ALSO PROVIDES US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND ADDRESS PAST DECISIONS WHICH MAY HAVE SAVED A FEW DOLLARS IN A BUDGET CYCLE, BUT HAVE COST US FAR MORE -- BOTH IN DOLLARS AND HUMAN DAMAGE -- IN THE LONG RUN.

NO WHERE HAVE THOSE SHORT TERM SAVINGS LED TO MORE COSTLY AND DAMAGING EFFECTS THAN THE ONGOING AND CONSISTANT REDUCTIONS IN FUNDING AND STAFF OF THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SPECIALIST (SAPIS) PROGRAM WITHIN OUR SCHOOLS.

WHEN SAPIS WAS LAUNCHED MORE THAN 30 YEARS AGO THERE WERE 1,400 PROFESSIONALS ON HAND TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE ABUSE 'PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION' AND ASSIST AT-RISK STUDENTS IN OUR SCHOOLS.

BY 2010, EVEN AS REPORTS OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE STEADILY SPREAD THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITIES THE NUMBER OF SAPIS PROFESSIONALS HAD BEEN REDUCED BY NEARLY 70%. BY THE START OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WE FIND THE FY15 BUDGET CALLS FOR THE FUNDING OF A MERE 252 SAPIS PROFESSIONALS!

IN A SYSTEM OF NEARLY ONE MILLION STUDENTS AND ONLY 252 SAPIS PROFESSIONALS, I HAVE TWO SIMPLE BUT IMPORTANT QUESTIONS: WHO EXACTLY ARE WE HELPING? AND HOW MANY DOLLARS HAVE WE REALLY SAVED?

ACCORDING TO A 2011 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STUDY, THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COST OF ILLICIT DRUG USE IN THE UNITED STATES WAS \$193 BILLION! THOSE COSTS INCLUDE THE IMPACT ON CRIME, INCARCERATION, HEALTH CARE, PRODUCTIVITY AND TREATMENT.

IT'S TIME WE LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE. HOW MUCH DO WE REALLY SAVE WHEN AN AT-RISK STUDENT CHOOSES THE WRONG PATH? WHAT DOES IT COST WHEN HE OR SHE CAN'T FIND A DECENT JOB, A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE, OR TURNS TO VIOLENCE AND CRIME?

WITH A LITTLE MORE THAN 250 Sapis PROFESSIONALS HOW MANY STUDENTS WHO MAY NEED THE HELP, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE OF A Sapis PROFESSIONAL ARE WE GOING TO REACH?

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TAUGHT US THAT "AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE." THAT LESSON WAS ECHOED IN THE SAME JUSTICE REPORT I REFERRED TO EARLIER: "IF ILLICIT DRUG USE IS INITIATED, THEN THE EARLIER IN THE DRUG-USE CAREER THAT INTERVENTION TAKES PLACE, THE BETTER SOCIETY IS SERVED."

I AM HERE TODAY TO ECHO THE LESSONS OF BEN FRANKLIN AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT: AS THE PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 372, D.C. 37, AFSCME, I ASK YOU TO FUND AN ADDITIONAL \$6 –MILLION TO FUND THE HIRING OF AN ADDITIONAL 100 Sapis PROFESSIONALS.

LET US CONSIDER THIS FACT: WE ARE NOW ABOUT TO SPEND MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO PROVIDE NEARLY 20,000 POLICE OFFICERS WITH A HEROIN ANTIDOTE IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE LIVES OF DRUG USERS FROM DYING ON THE STREET.

UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES I WOULD SUBMIT THAT SIX MILLION DOLLARS FOR PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION IS A BARGAIN.

THANK YOU.

Hello, My Name is John Brown.  
I'm here today to speak with you  
about the Investigating procedures  
of the Civilian Complaint Review Board  
(CCRB) and the lack of investigation by  
the Internal Affairs Bureau.



**Jews for Racial &  
Economic Justice**

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**FOR THE RECORD**

Testimony before the New York City Council Aging Committee on the New York City Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget

Presented on June 6, 2014

Chairperson Chin and members of the Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today. My name is Rachel McCullough and I am the Community Organizer at Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, a steering committee member in the New York Caring Across Generations campaign. New York Caring Across Generations is a coalition of over 40 organizations representing over 200,000 New Yorkers—we're part of a national movement to transform long-term care in this country to ensure dignity and respect for caregivers and care-recipients alike.

Do not cast me away at the time of old age; when my strength fails, do not forsake me.

- Psalm 71:9

JFREJ lends our voice to the call for greater support for New York City's seniors. As a city, we must strengthen the programs that provide seniors with the services that allow them to thrive as they age. As part of the New York Caring Across Generations Campaign, we urge the City to allocate an additional \$1.8 million for EISEP home care to clear the 240-person home care waiting list. This program is a lifeline to almost 3,000 seniors. It offers much-needed respite to family caregivers and provides living wage jobs to home care workers. JFREJ's membership includes hundreds of low and middle-income seniors who stand with EISEP not only because it can ensure their dignity but also because of the dignified jobs it creates for care workers.

Thank you.

Testimony  
New York City Council  
Finance and Contracts Committees 2015 Budget Hearing  
June 6, 2014

By Ralph Palladino  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President DC 37 Local 1549 Clerical-Administrative Employees

Local 1549 represents over 16,000 tax payers and employees of the City of New York. We work in nearly all city agencies, the NYPD and the Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) including the Metro Plus-HMO. Our members are 911 operators, 311 Call Center Representatives, HRA Eligibility Specialist for Medicaid and Food Stamps among other job descriptions and titles. In HHC we also perform billing and Financial Counseling duties.

**Civilianization Saves Tax Dollars**

We thank the City Council for supporting Civilianization of the NYPD and Department of Corrections (DRC). We ask that you to proactively encourage the new city administration to follow through on its promise to civilianize.

Able bodied uniformed personnel including *police officers, Traffic Enforcement Agents* and *School Safety Aides* are currently performing the jobs of clerical employees performing routine task such as answering phone, inquiries, filing, roll call and payroll among others. (See attached clerical job description for Principal Administrative Associate and other clerical titles used in the NYPD.) These uniformed personnel can be better utilized in community policing, protecting pedestrians from accidents and in making schools safer.

The same is true of Correction Officers in the DRC. The DRC has seen an marked increase in violence perpetuated on inmates and personnel. More uniformed personnel can better be utilized to protect inmates and employees.

In the Department of Sanitation there are 63 uniformed personnel assigned to clerical functions. This is true in garages and borough command offices. Their names were provided the City Council.

Local 1549 and DC 37 won three NYPD arbitrations on Civilianization including judgments against the appeals by the city. The former administration just ignored the ruling ignoring the law.

This is a waste of taxpayers' dollars. It is estimated by various sources including former City Comptrollers, Public Advocates, Citizens Budget Commission and the Independent Budget Office that **NYPD Civilianization could save the taxpayers anywhere between \$17 and \$127 million dollars** (See attached fiscal note), and allow the city to divert funding to more needed programs.

**Civilianization saves tax dollars, enhances public safety and health, and creates jobs for New Yorkers. It is good public policy!**

**NYPD 911 System Staffing**

Our 911 personnel already testified at the hearings on the 911 NYPD/FDNY contract hearings on the need to maintain adequate staffing of these officially designated first responders working in the NYPD 911 center. The staffing levels always fluctuate due to constant attrition and some of the new hires failing the training program. Staffing must constantly be monitored.

### **Contracting Wastes City's Tax Dollars**

We thank the City Council for including requests to cut the contracting out to private vendors who pay their employees low wages. This is certainly true of clerical contracting with the city. Civil service employees must take a test, be vetted and finger printed in order to get their jobs. The contracting system has diverted millions of dollars to private contracting company owners. Their employees mostly receive a minimum wage and must rely on taxpayer funded Medicaid and Food Stamps in order to live. This city is basically aiding and abetting the perpetuation of poverty.

### **311 Call Center King Contract**

The existing contract with King Teleservices for 311 at a cost of \$50 million is a good example of wasting tax dollars. King employees largely perform Call Center Representative duties as a back up to our members at 311.

King has failed in its submission renewal to provide information on the number of calls they handle. They haven't explained their employee training program if one exists. They also have more employees (paid a poverty wage of around \$10 an hour with little or no benefits) than there are city employees at 311 yet are a *back-up* system.

It would be less expensive for the city to double the existing staff at 311 to handle the overflow (additional calls) than to have the King contract.

### **Human Resources Administration (HRA)**

HRA needs to fortify staffing in order to meet the demands of the public for Medicaid and Food Stamp (SNAP) services. Any support or help the City Council can give to Commissioner Banks and HRA is appreciated. HRA needs the proper resources in order to help the poor and working people receive the benefits they paid taxes for and deserve.

### **Agency for Children's Services (ACS)**

Local 1549 applauds the City Administration and Council for proposing to add more personnel to this vital agency. This includes the valuable clerical-administrative staff that supports the professional staff. There currently are more Welfare Experience Program (WEP) workers, students and temporary service workers performing clerical duties than there are Civil Servants who take a test and are trained for their jobs.

### **City's Interpreter Services Contracting**

The civil service city title of Interpreter is not being utilized by the city. In the Health and Hospitals Corporation the title responsible for interpreter services is Client Navigator. This title is being underutilized. As with other city services the use of these private contractors rather than civil servants could compromise clients' confidentiality.

We estimate that the city is currently contracting out interpreter services at a cost of roughly \$12.5 million. This does not include HHC contracting. These are phone services. It is a fact that interpreter servicing is best carried out in a face to face manner. It is easier for the clients to understand when they also have a visual to work with. Nowhere is this more critical than in health care. It can be a matter of life and death when interpretation is not available or mistakes are made. The HHC prefers to use the phone lines rather than the Client Navigators.

### **NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC)**

The City Council was right to call for providing additional funding for HHC. The cost of providing quality services needed by the public continue to outpace this public system's cost of care and income. This is despite HHC's low administrative overhead. *HHC is the key to the making healthcare more accessible especially in areas where the disparities of healthcare exist.* Certainly the recent New York Post article that spoke about the excessive tax dollars received by large hospitals with high paid CEO's who do not service anywhere near the amount of poor patients that HHC does speaks to the need to support HHC and its mission to treat all those who come to its' doors.

### **Increased Revenues**

Fiscal watchdogs have been saying recently that the city is on target to take in more revenue this year than first anticipated. In addition the city estimates a large surplus. What better time to do enhance services than now? What better time to institute and aggressive Civilianization Program that is a long term tax dollar saver?

### **Tax Fairness**

If there is not enough money then a tax on the very richest 1% of the population should be pushed for. This 1% has increased their income since 1994 from 23% to 36% of the city's total income. They also pay at least a full 1% lower tax rate than they did 20 years ago.

THANK YOU

Please see attached Fiscal Note for NYPD Civilianization savings and official NYC NYPD Clerical-Administrative Job Descriptions.

EDDIE RODRIGUEZ, *PRESIDENT*  
 ALMA ROPER, *EXECUTIVE V.P.*  
 RALPH PALLADINO, *2<sup>ND</sup> V.P.*  
 ALVIN WILLIAMS, *3<sup>RD</sup> V.P.*  
 GERALD JOHNSON, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*  
 CARMEN FLORES, *RECORDING SECRETARY*



*Sergeant-At-Arms*  
 DERRICK DAVIS      EFRAIN PEREZ  
 NELLY RODRIGUEZ      EUGENE WILLIAMS  
*Officer-At-Large*  
 LINDA A. BULLOCK      JANICE HALEY  
 NATASHA ISMA      GENE JOHNSON  
 LISA JOHNSON

NYC Clerical-Administrative Employees Local 1549, District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

### Local 1549 Fiscal Note:

On Projected Budget Savings of IBO's Option to Replace 500 NYPD Police Officer Positions with Less Costly Civilian Personnel, Saving \$34.9 million Annually in Salary.

Approximate Salary of uniformed NYPD Officers after 5 Years.....\$73,546  
 Approximate Benefit<sup>1</sup> Costs [63% of Salary].....\$46,334  
 City's Total Compensation Costs for 5-yr PO.....\$119,880

Approximate Salary of NYPD Police Administrative Aide (PAA).....\$37,000  
 Approximate Benefit<sup>1</sup> Costs [35% of Salary].....\$12,950  
 City's Total Compensation Costs for PAA.....\$49,950

### **CONCLUSION:**

The IBO's 2012 Option generates estimated Budget savings for each Police Administrative Aide hired to replace a Police Officer with 5-years of service based on City's Total Compensation Costs:  $[\$119,880 - \$49,950] = \$69,930$ .

Estimated Annual Total Budget Savings [500 Civilian hires x \$69,930 in Total Compensation Savings] = \$34,965,000.

**500 Civilians x \$69,930 = \$34,965,000.**

Notes:<sup>1</sup> Costs associated with health and welfare and retirement benefits and <sup>2</sup> IBO's savings represents the salary difference between 5-year PO and the average PAA. However when one takes the difference in the Total Compensation for these titles very large budget savings are generated.

**POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE**

**General Statement of Duties and Responsibilities**

In the Police Department, under supervision, with some latitude for independent action, initiative or decision, performs responsible and difficult clerical, typing, word processing and data entry tasks or performs administrative work of moderate difficulty involving the handling of confidential and other information and material; utilizes manual and automated office systems; may perform cashier duties; performs related work.

Incumbents will be required to work varied tours or shifts including nights, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays depending upon the needs of the department.

**Examples of Typical Tasks**

Performs responsible clerical and/or typing work in a police station or other department unit, command or office.

Refers members of the public who ask for assistance to appropriate City agencies.

Keeps records; files, shelves, stores and retrieves correspondence, records, reports, manuals, or other material.

Types records, reports, communications, stencils, forms and schedules.

Reviews and verifies written information.

Completes department forms.

Obtains from and transmits information to the public or members of the police department either in person, or by using telephone, telephone switchboard, radio, computer terminal, or other equipment.

Receives, sends, separates and distributes mail.

Writes reports and communications.

Performs occasional messenger duties as required.

**POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE** (continued)

**Qualification Requirements**

1. A four-year high school diploma or its educational equivalent; plus
  - a. One year of satisfactory full-time experience performing clerical duties; or
  - b. One year of satisfactory full-time experience in public contact work requiring the obtaining and recording of information from persons; or
  - c. Completion of 30 semester credits from an accredited college; or
  - d. Two years of active military duty; or
2. A satisfactory combination of education and/or experience equivalent to "1a", "1b", "1c", or "1d" above. However, all candidates must possess a four-year high school diploma or its educational equivalent.

**Skills Requirement**

Ability to type a minimum of 35 words per minute.

**Selective Certification**

Certain positions will be filled by selective certification of eligibles, or by selection of applicants, who possess the above qualification requirements and who, in addition, have been tested for and have been found to possess the ability to speak and understand both English and another language.

**Direct Lines of Promotion**

**From:** None

**To:** Senior Police Administrative Aide  
(10147)

SENIOR POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE

Employees will be required to work rotating shifts around the clock, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, depending upon the needs of the service.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under general supervision, with some latitude for independent action, initiative, or decision, performs difficult and responsible clerical work which will involve the handling of classified information and materials and include the preparation of reports and answers to communications; assists in the performance of administrative work; may supervise operation of multiple position switchboards or the dispatching or relaying of messages; be responsible for tasks performed by subordinates under his supervision; performs related tasks.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL TASKS

Under general supervision, performs and directs difficult and responsible clerical work including the preparation of reports, and is generally responsible for the satisfactory completion of work performed by subordinates he may supervise.

Assists and relieves subordinates on a switchboard.

Prepares, maintains and assigns work and time schedules and keeps related records and statistics.

Supervise subordinates in the dispatching or relaying of messages and the operation of other electronic equipment such as tele-writers, etc., and business machines.

May supervise the fingerprinting of persons applying for various licenses on authorized forms.

May supervise the operation of single or multiple position switchboards and arrange for adequate coverage of boards during normal operations, absences, relief periods or in emergencies.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Must have six (6) months of satisfactory performance in the title of Police Administrative Aide prior to last filing date for the examination for Senior Police Administrative Aide.

Must have two (2) years of satisfactory performance in the title of Police Administrative Aide upon appointment to Senior Police Administrative Aide.

DIRECT LINE OF PROMOTION

From: Police Administrative Aide

To: Senior Police  
Administrative Aide.

- Qualification Requirements
- c. The successful completion of 30 college credits in an accredited college or university; or
  - d. Two years of active military duty; or
  - e. Education or experience equivalent to a, b, c, or d above. However, high school graduation or its equivalent as described above, is required of all candidates.

SELECTIVE CERTIFICATION

MOST POSITIONS WILL BE FILLED BY SELECTIVE CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLES, OR BY SELECTION OF APPLICANTS, WHO POSSESS THE ABOVE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND WHO, IN ADDITION, HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR AND HAVE BEEN FOUND TO POSSESS EITHER OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING SKILLS:

1. Typing at the rate of 35 words per minute.
2. Ability to speak and understand both English and another language.

Direct Lines of Promotion

From: None

To: Senior Police Administrative Aide  
(10147)

C - XI

CODE NO. 10251

CLERICAL - ADMINISTRATIVE  
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP [131]

CLERICAL ASSOCIATE

Duties and Responsibilities

This class of positions encompasses clerical and related office activities utilizing manual and automated office systems; duties may include supervision of employees performing routine tasks appropriate to each assignment level. There are four Assignment Levels within this class of positions. Assignment Level IVA is for the exclusive use of the Health and Hospitals Corporation. The following are typical assignments within this class of positions. All personnel perform related work.

Assignment Level I

Under supervision, performs clerical and related work with limited latitude for independent judgment.

Performs clerical work in relation to records, files, invoices and reports using alphabetical and numerical procedures including data/control coding.

Performs ordinary mathematical computations.

Operates a telephone call directory or switchboard.

Performs clerical operations in an assigned area, such as the filing of material and the searching of files for material difficult to locate.

Prepares reports requiring the selection of data from simple records or statistics.

CLERICAL - ADMINISTRATIVE  
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP [131]

CODE NO. 10251

CLERICAL ASSOCIATE (continued)

Assignment Level I (continued)

Checks records for accuracy of information and for conformity with established policy and procedures.

Performs data entry and retrieval using a video display terminal or other automated office systems; maintains related library files.

May perform incidental typing.

## Assignment Level II

Under supervision, performs responsible clerical and related work with some latitude for independent judgment. In addition to performing duties of Assignment Level I at a responsible level, also performs duties as follows:

Performs responsible clerical work in various administrative and operational areas by processing, recording, checking, and maintaining records, furnishing information, and preparing reports.

Performs routine data processing functions in the area of production control.

May supervise and instruct a small group engaged in the performance of data entry and retrieval operations.

In the temporary absence of the supervisor, may perform his/her supervisory duties not in excess of 30 work days or 210 hours in a calendar year.

C - XI  
CLERICAL - ADMINISTRATIVE  
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP [131]

CODE NO. 10251

CLERICAL ASSOCIATE (continued)

Assignment Level II (continued)

In the Health and Hospitals Corporation, in addition to performing the duties as described above, may also perform duties as follows:

Compiles and maintains central file of hospital and clinic patient medical records; compiles medical care and census data for statistical reports; maintains indexes on patient, disease, operation, and other categories.

Assignment Level III

Under supervision, with latitude for independent judgment, performs supervisory and/or moderately difficult clerical duties. In addition to performing duties of Assignment Level II at a more responsible level, also performs duties as follows:

Supervises and instructs a small unit or group(s) engaged in clerical activities.

Plans, assigns, and reviews the work of subordinates, and is generally responsible for the satisfactory completion of the work performed in the unit or group(s).

Serves as principal assistant to a supervisor of a large section, or unit.

Performs moderately difficult and responsible clerical work in maintaining and checking various kinds of records.

Assists in preparing and arranging for services and activities in connection with receptions and other public functions.

CLERICAL - ADMINISTRATIVE  
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP [131]

CODE NO. 10251

CLERICAL ASSOCIATE (continued)

Assignment Level III (continued)

Supervises the operation of one or more multiple switchboards.

Performs moderately difficult data entry and retrieval using a video display terminal or other automated office systems and/or supervises and instructs staff in such routine functions.

Performs responsible clerical work in areas such as personnel administration, payroll, accounts, budgeting, methods and organization, employee benefits administration, and other administrative and operational areas by processing, recording, checking, and maintaining records; receiving and processing payments from the public in the form of cash and non-cash remittances; furnishing information, and preparing reports.

In a shop or field setting, assists in the performance of administrative duties or performs difficult and responsible clerical tasks related to shop and field operations such as: receiving and transmitting radio and telephone messages; maintaining all time and personnel records of shop or field location; preparing other required shop or field reports; requisitioning supplies and maintaining shop inventory control of stock; typing and operating other automated office equipment.

May perform incidental typing using a standard office typewriter, word processing equipment or other automated office systems.

SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 371

NYC Council Testimony regarding NYCHA

June 6, 2014

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Julissa Ferreras, Chairman Richard Torres , all the members of the committees of Finance, Public Housing and all other members of the City Council.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Rose Lovaglio-Miller, Vice President of Negotiations and Research for the Social Services Employees Union Local 371. We represent over 18,000 social services workers in every mayoral agency including NYCHA, The Health and Hospital Corporation and various other city agencies.

I appear before this Council to discuss the proposed closing of the remaining community and senior centers that are NYCHA operated. As this Council is very much aware, we were here last year at this time fighting to save one hundred and six (106) NYCHA operated centers, sixty-nine (69) of which were community centers and thirty-seven (37) senior centers. These centers employ approximately three hundred and seventy-eight (378) of our members. Unfortunately, forty-five (45) of the sixty-nine (69) community centers and four (4) of the senior centers were closed; however, we were successful in saving our members. Now, we are here again because of the remaining twenty four (24) community centers and 33 senior centers that are at risk of closing as of June 30, 2014.

This means, there are approximately one-hundred (100) of our members at risk of losing their job.

In the testimony of Chairwoman Shola Olatoye of NYCHA, she spoke about residents being safe in their homes and working with NYPD and other City and State agencies to deal with safety and security issues. However, there was no mention of the social service component of NYCHA. We submit to you that the safety of the residents and increasing crime in the housing developments is very important, although their quality of life needs to be a priority as well.

Many of our members who work at NYCHA also live in NYCHA apartments. To lay any one of them off would be counter-productive. Even if monies were to be allocated to the Department of Youth and Community Development as well as the Department of Aging, all of the centers will not be operational. In addition, both of these agencies do oversight to provider agencies. They have no direct run centers. In other words, this means that the community centers and senior centers will be contracted out.

We understand the NYCHA Chairwoman testified that it would require the City Council to contribute \$17.7 million dollars to mitigate the impact of sequestration and continue operating community and senior centers. The operating cost for the existing fifty-seven (57) centers would be \$17.1 million dollars annually.

We are here to submit to you that NYCHA is more than brick and mortar. Our members have developed a lasting relationship with the seniors and the youth alike throughout the NYCHA community, who are dependent on these vital services. For

instance, many of the seniors in the community depend on the safe and social interactions with our members, whom many regard as family and rely on the meals that are served daily. The consolidation of the senior centers would cause the inconvenience of traveling primarily for the disabled. As for the youth, the community centers provide a safe and constructive environment as an alternative to street life. The closing of the centers would cause the youth centers to be consolidated bringing together individuals from different housing developments heightening the possibility of conflicts.

### **The Staff Certification Process**

As previously mentioned, DYCD and DFTA are not direct providers. Therefore, they would contract out to provider entities that would employ non-union members who lack the certification that our members are required to have in order to operate NYCHA community centers.

Currently, NYCHA remains the largest public housing authority in North America. Adequate funding is imperative for its survival and to maintain the senior and community centers which many depend on. NYCHA's website boasts that they are "More than just a place to live", in which we fully agree. That is why we are willing to work with NYCHA, the City Council and others to ensure that the centers remain open and our members remain employed.

**Executive Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2015  
Committee on Finance**

**Joint Testimony of Brooklyn Public Library Guild, Local 1482  
New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930  
New York Public Library Quasi-Public Employees, Local 374  
Queens Public Library Guild, Local 1321**

**June 6, 2014**

On behalf of Locals 1482, 1930, 374, and 1321, I thank City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Committee on Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras, and the members of the Committee on Finance for holding this hearing.

The union members of Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, and Queens Borough Public Library want to thank Mayor Bill de Blasio for providing a responsible budget for the Libraries, a budget that does not force the Library systems to waste valuable resources fighting for our very survival. This proposed budget is a positive first step toward ensuring New York City's library staff can provide the services our patrons deserve.

We say that this is the first step, because our public libraries need more funds. We are severely short-staffed, causing considerable stress for employees and the public alike throughout the three systems.

Most of our branches do not have the staff to provide necessary services. We have staff members who spend part of their day traveling from branch to branch to ensure it has proper coverage. We have staff that are performing multiple jobs. At these staffing levels we cannot provide the six-day service the public needs and deserves. Allow me to relate some examples from the front lines.

Short-staffing is placing severe stress on the hard-working Children's and Young Adult Librarians at Brooklyn Public Library's Central Youth Wing. This location is open from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm four days per week, with hundreds of young people and their caretakers coming in for school visits and regular programming on a daily basis. Providing such service is very difficult at the current level of service, and the situation is made even worse when staff members are absent because of illness or personal emergencies. It is not uncommon for four staff members to cover a full twelve hours of service. In addition to the burdens placed on staff, this situation often results in canceled programs and other inconveniences for the public.

While New York Public Library has managed to continue a semblance of hiring, the staggering staff reductions continue. In recent years NYPL has reduced its frontline workforce by 37%. The "Careers" section of nypl.org may look robust, but on closer inspection the job postings are not for full-time, frontline branch staff but for interns, tutors, and other hourly employees. NYPL continues to push new initiatives and expand services, forcing staff to work multiple jobs. Staff are routinely canceling vacations

or getting them denied. Often, staff are instructed to open sites with just two staff members, creating serious safety issues for themselves and the public. As a result morale is at an all-time low.

At the Queens Public Library, the South Hollis Branch is a prime example of the cost of short-staffing. Only three full-time employees and one part-time employee have staffed the branch for over three years. In addition to providing regular library services, they are inundated with unruly teenagers every day after school. This branch has had a number of security issues, including a recent gun violence threat. The staff valiantly tries to maintain order and provide library services, but a branch of this size should have seven full-time public service staff members – including a security guard.

Earlier this week, representatives from the three public library systems asked the City Council for an additional \$65 million to fund six-day service throughout the five boroughs; hire hundreds of new staff members; and purchase new books and other materials. We echo their call, and stress the need to hire full-time, bargaining unit staff making decent wages and benefits. By ensuring access to information and services for all, public libraries play a crucial role in promoting opportunity and reducing inequality. But in order to truly fulfill their promise, our libraries must raise up the people who work in them as well as the communities they serve.

To provide the services the public expects, we need the City Council and Mayor to increase our budgets. But we're not asking for a blank check without conditions. We are asking for more money that comes with more transparency, accountability, and control. If the Libraries are receiving the bulk of their funding from the City, we need accurate and thorough reports on how the money is being spent and how major expenditures are approved. We need periodic and consistent documentation of how much money is spent on salaries and benefits by title, materials by format and type, utilities, capital projects – everything the Libraries spend City funds on. We need the City to institute more oversight concerning the Libraries' expenditures. The taxpayers deserve to know whether the Libraries are responsible stewards of the public's money and trust.

Mayor de Blasio's budget is a welcome change from previous years' budgets. Our members are encouraged that we have funding stability this year. However, the library systems are still severely understaffed. The unions representing the workers at the three libraries are asking the City Council and Mayor to provide additional funding that also comes with enhanced accountability and oversight. We also call on the City Council and Mayor to pass Intro 0114-2014, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer's bill to baseline Library funding now and into the future.

Eileen Muller, President, Brooklyn Public Library Guild, Local 1482

Val Colon, President, New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930

Cuthbert Dickinson, President, Quasi-Public Employees, Local 374

John Hyslop, President, Queens Library Guild, Local 1321

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER JULISSA FERRERAS

*Chairperson of the Finance Committee*

JUNE 6, 2014

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TESTIMONY BY

**JANICE DARDEN**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE CLERICAL CHAPTER  
OF

NYC CLERICAL ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES

LOCAL 1549

DC37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

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My name is Janice Darden and I am the Chairperson of the Police Administrative Clerical Chapter of Local 1549. I am a Senior Police Administrative Aide and work in a roll call office. I am responsible for scheduling and directing assignments of all precinct personnel, on a daily basis. The members of my chapter perform numerous duties, such as roll call, timekeeping, and taking reports in the precinct complaint rooms. These are the assignments for which my members are well trained. They perform their duties efficiently and professionally.

Police officers are trained to serve and protect the public by doing what they do best – performing patrol and enforcement duties. Despite three arbitration decisions ordering the Police Department to cease and desist, there are hundreds of full-duty, able-bodied uniformed officers of all ranks performing clerical duties. Clerical employees should not have to compete with police officers to do the jobs for which they were hired. The Department's action hurts the morale of the civilian employees, in addition to wasting resources and taxpayer dollars. The fact of the matter is that you don't need a gun to sit at a computer. Officers performing clerical duties should be redeployed to enforcement duties, which would make the city safer while increasing patrol strength and reducing police officer overtime.

We call on the Mayor and New York City Police Department to follow the City Council's lead and do the right thing. Allocate money to hire civilians and assign full-duty, able-bodied police officers to the duties for which they were trained. Uniforms in the street, civilians in the seats is a matter of public safety and good fiscal policy.

**Testimony before the New York City Council Aging Committee on the New York City Fiscal 2015 Executive Budget**

**Presented on June 6, 2014**

My name is Nicole Wynaar and I am a home care worker. I currently have EISEP clients.

I began working in home care in 2009 when I was laid off from my job as a chef. I've been at Personal Touch ever since. I am a Field Supervisor—I make house calls to ensure that seniors are being well taken care of and their care plan is followed.

I take care of lots of "mamas." My oldest mama is 102 and a half years old. She has no children and no family, so I became like her daughter.

I enjoy helping people. I like cooking for them and seeing them smile. I enjoy hearing their stories about when they were young. They spent their lives caring for other people, and now they deserve to be taken care of. Being independent is the most important thing to them.

We know that home care services are much less expensive than the alternatives, and allow clients to remain in their homes with dignity, respect and independence. New York City should expand cost effective programs like EISEP.

The fact that home care work funded by EISEP provides a living wage is a start. However, as a home care worker with EISEP cases, I do not receive the same level of benefits as other home care workers. Even though we do the same job, my employer receives a lower reimbursement rate than employers with home care workers with Medicaid cases.

NYC should make sure that all home care workers are treated the same—and receive the same decent wages and benefits—whether they serve Medicaid clients or EISEP clients.

Doing home care is a lot of work. I had a bedridden patient that passed away last year. That was very difficult. But you do it, because you care. You make your client comfortable and take care of people with your whole heart.

Thank you.

**New York City Council**  
**Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget**

**June 6, 2014**

**Testimony of Keyla Jimenez**  
**Bridges Afterschool Program**  
**Union Settlement Association**

Thank you to the members of the City Council, students, parents and community members for letting us testify today. My name is Keyla Jimenez and I'm part of Union Settlement's Lunch for Learning campaign. This campaign is entirely for our benefit. Not only will families not have to worry about paying for students' lunches, but it will eliminate classism.

In January 2014, Union Settlement Association's afterschool program Bridges created a leadership program at Isaac Newton Middle School that I have been participating in. A bunch of students and I developed a survey of how students felt about school lunch. We received results from more than 300 students.

Only 20% of students reported "always" eating school lunch, even though 98% of students at our school qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

42% of students said that they wait to eat until they get home at the end of the school day when they don't eat school lunch.

37% of students agreed that students think they will get teased if they eat school lunch, and the same number also agreed that students do get teased for eating school lunch.

I have a younger brother and sister, and I truly want to make a difference so when they are in middle school my mom doesn't have to worry about paying for school lunch. I am asking the Mayor, Bill deBlasio, and the City Council to please consider making universal free school lunch a part of our city budget. A child should never have to go hungry in school because of financial difficulties. Thank you.

# **Testimony before the New York City Council Aging Committee on the New York City Fiscal 2015 Executive Budget**

**Presented on June 6, 2014**

Hello. My name is Solange de la Paz, and I have been receiving part-time home care services through EISEP since last fall.

I've been diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). My breathing capacity has declined over time and has become more labored. Approximately seven years ago, I had lung reduction surgery performed where the upper left lobe of my lung was removed. I am currently oxygen-dependent 24/7 and being considered for a lung transplant.

I would like to be at the hearing today in person, but it is difficult for me to get around. I had two other appointments this week, and the humidity makes it difficult to catch my breath.

I feel strongly that EISEP home care services to seniors are an invaluable service for many. The additional assistance means that you are more likely to stay in your own house versus having no other option than to be placed in a nursing home. I want to remain in my home. I have lived in my apartment on the Upper East Side for 25 years. It's a good neighborhood. I have a small one bedroom, but I have all the amenities that I need right here. Moving anywhere else would be devastating.

Right now, I have a small but reliable network that helps me live independently in my home. My best friend is nearby, and a volunteer medical student has been helping me with a couple of projects. My home care worker is an invaluable member of my support network. If it wasn't for these services, I would be in trouble. What would I have done with dirty clothes and everything else? It would have been really bad.

Right now, I receive four hours of home care once a week to help with housecleaning, laundry, shopping and other errands. I'm so thankful for the 4 hours I get, but I wish I had more hours. There are always little things to do. My breathing is so labored that any chore, like preparing a simple meal, has become very difficult.

My hope is that by increasing funding for EISEP, seniors like me could receive all the hours they need to live independently. Growing older is not always what you expect. I was always an active person. I had a career and raised two kids. I didn't think at age 66 I would be like this.

I don't think a lot of seniors realize that they can access high-quality and affordable home care services, even with a lower income. I don't think they realize that the EISEP program exists or that with a little help sometimes—you can be more independent. My hope is that the funding for EISEP is increased, so that all seniors who need it will be able to access it now and in the future.

Thank you.

**New York City Council**  
**Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget**  
**June 6, 2014**

**Testimony of Gloria Cruz**  
**Bridges Afterschool Program**  
**Union Settlement Association**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Gloria Cruz and I am a student at Isaac Newton Middle School. I am in the Bridges afterschool program run by Union Settlement Association, and am working on the Lunch for Learning Campaign.

Universal free lunch should be adopted because it would eliminate hunger and students feeling left out and like odd balls for eating school lunch. They think that if their friends won't eat it, that they shouldn't eat the school lunch, either. When students don't eat lunch, they feel tired and don't have enough energy and nutrition.

I am in the free lunch program, and sometimes I don't eat lunch because I don't want to be teased. I wait until I go home to eat dinner. When I don't eat lunch, I'm hungry and my stomach is rumbling and I can't focus.

Please consider funding Universal Free School lunch, because my mom can't afford to pay for my lunch and I don't want to feel different. Thank you very much.

Judith Kahan  
Center Against Domestic Violence  
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony to the  
Finance Committee  
New York City Council  
June 6, 2014

Good Afternoon -

My name is Judith Kahan and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Center Against Domestic Violence.

Since 1976, the Center has been working toward a society free from violence by transforming the lives of victims and raising awareness in our communities.

The Center, the largest of the City's Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program – or RAPP - providers, offers this program to nearly 30,000 students on fifteen high school and intermediate school campuses in all five boroughs of New York City. In every school, RAPP delivers workshops about healthy relationships, one-on-one counseling and support groups, peer leadership activities, staff education, parent education and community workshops. Often the master's level social worker who coordinates RAPP is the only adult a teen can turn to.

For ten years, HRA and the Mayor supported RAPP; since 2010, those of us who provide the program and those who benefit from this groundbreaking program, have come to you, the City Council to save this citywide social work program that serves fifty eight schools on thirty campuses with almost 50,000 students. And you have saved this program! We thank you for your faith in what we do and your dedication to the youth of New York City. Without the Council's support the past five years, there would be no citywide RAPP for me to talk about today. Thank you for making the hard budget decision to continue this valuable program.

This year is a very different story. This year Mayor has included RAPP in the budget, and HRA will make it whole. But the program they are restoring is the 2006 RAPP program. It is great to reach and help as many students as we have, but there are so many more students in New York City. RAPP at its current level is only a drop in the bucket - changing the school culture to one of respect in a comparative handful of schools. Expanding RAPP will transform and save even more lives.

RAPP is recognized throughout the country as a model program to stop teen relationship abuse. RAPP saves teen's lives by providing the tools to successfully struggles with coming of age – the tools to reduce all kinds of violence, stop bullying, prevent pregnancy, prevent suicide . . . the list goes on. This proven program helps young people stay in school and develop the tools for self-sufficiency. RAPP Coordinators not only teach students about healthy relationships and how to avoid or end abusive relationships, they assist them to graduate, to go on to college, and to believe in

themselves. Students who might otherwise have dropped out of school because of the abuse and violence in their lives can now graduate and go on to two or four year colleges – because of RAPP.

The Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program - started under the Giuliani administration and expanded under the Bloomberg administration - can become a hallmark of the De Blasio administration. It is a program that works toward the “One City” Mayor De Blasio espouses – and the equality for New York City’s women and LGBT New Yorkers that he supports. The Mayors’ school platform - for quality schools in every neighborhood, involving and engaging parents and families, focusing on college and career readiness, sex ed for all schools, and strengthening school safety - are all the results RAPP brings to schools from the tip of Staten Island to the top of the Bronx.

Every time I meet RAPP graduates, their stories touch my heart. They have overcome the odds to become heroes, sharing their experiences so that others will not have to live through them. Please support an expansion of this valuable program and give more teens hope for a better future.

Thank you.

Judith Kahan

Center Against Domestic Violence

25 Chapel Street, Suite 904

New York, NY 11201

**HEARING COMMENTS**  
**CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING**

6/6/14

TO: CHAIRWOMAN JULISSA FERRAS, CHAIRMAN RITCHIE TORRES AND  
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE AND PUBLIC HOUSING:

I am sorry I cannot be there in person today to make my comments. I want to thank the Social Action coordinator of The Church Of The Open Door, Shirese Casanave for being there to represent the Church and I.

While the City Council is to be congratulated for its fiscal support of NYCHA, as Chairwoman Olatoye mentioned in her comments on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 the Council should also be alarmed and ashamed that the past 8 years have included policy decisions which transformed public housing developments into second class housing communities in NYC. Even the fact that NYCHA is forced to operate with a 44 million dollar deficit in the first quarter demonstrates this status.

Nowhere is the second class status of public housing communities more evident than in Downtown Brooklyn. City policies of the last eight years have aided private developers through tax abatement, rezoning, the sale of undervalued land and by subsidies of what is dubiously called "affordable housing."

Demographic analysts predict that 60,000 new residents per year, will enter downtown Brooklyn throughout the next decade. Long time residents have witnessed a number of changes in their neighborhoods: new lights, new bike lanes, new bikes and bike racks, street changes and of course, new housing. None of these changes were implemented before the current rush of new residents entered these communities. Needless to say most of the new residents are whites and most of the long term residents are Black and Latino.

According to the 2010 Census the Black population in Brooklyn overall decreased by 49,517 or 5.8%. Fort Green declined by 32%, Clinton Hill by 29% and Bed Stuy by 15%.

While new residents rush in old residents have left in droves, moving to overcrowded neighborhoods in other parts of the city, to the south or to enclaves in upstate New York.

While the prior administration supported the building of the Barclays Arena thru its support of the dirt cheap sale of the land and the use of eminent domain, all without a legally enforceable community benefit agreement, the 140, 000 people on NYCHA'S waiting list received no such help and support to have their housing needs met.

As a pastor of a congregation located in the midst of 16,000 public housing residents, I have seen the uneven development of this two tiered housing system firsthand. I have seen the affluent move into downtown Brooklyn, with the aid of the City administration, while witnessing the exile of the working poor and the poor, due to the City's neglect and oversight.

During hurricane Sandy some of the NYCHA developments near the waterfront had their power turned off in the midst of the storm. Can you imagine this??? Seniors with no light in the upper floors of their buildings during a hurricane! I called city officials to protest this and I was told the power was cut off because that made it easier to turn it back on if it did go out. **If it went out!!!** No other municipal dwelling received such niggardly treatment. But this is typical of a two tiered, economically segregated, housing pattern which has been created in NYC.

II. The Chair and CEO of NYCHA, Ms. Olatoye has requested the Council's financial help in two areas: 1. Keeping NYCHA's senior centers open and 2. Providing more money for security measures in NYCHA developments.

I agree with the identification of those two issues as central but I would urge both the Chair and the Council to rethink these issues more carefully.

Specifically, I would urge the Council to focus on Seniors by not only finding more funding to keep their centers open but also to **exempt seniors from the downsizing policy about to be implemented in NYCHA developments.**

Recently I buried Ms. Mary Wilks from 237 Sands Street in the Farragut Houses. She was one of my members who was a NYCHA resident. Her family told me that her health began to fail rapidly after she received a letter from NYCHA telling her she would have to leave her apartment of over 30 years. She literally worried herself to death over this issue. She was only 71.

What good is it to keep senior centers open if seniors are worried to death about where they will move after 30, 40 or 50 years of living in one apartment? Why is NYCHA pursuing such a policy when they have unused apartments, as is the case with the Ingersoll developments in Downtown Brooklyn?

Secondly, yes we need more dollars for security. But does anyone really think that cameras and cops alone will totally deter crime? If we intend to pull up weeds, why not go to the root?

Chairwoman Olatoye invoked the memory of Mayor LaGuardia and his understanding of the importance of public housing. But as regards safety let us also remember the Great Society programs of Lyndon Baines Johnson. These programs attacked crime and youth delinquency by providing jobs and training to

urban youth. One of the major reasons that the Chicago of Johnson's day was different from Chicago today was the investment in job opportunities and job opportunities. I know. I was there.

The issue of crime in public housing developments is linked to the lack of job opportunities and job pathways in life. The issue of crime in public housing developments is linked to the existence of opportunities, possibilities and hope. If we want to deter crime in NYC we must put more money into workforce development that actually reaches people where they are. This is especially true for the unskilled and uneducated. We must put more money into workforce development if we want our communities and neighborhoods to be safer.

NYC has always been the premier leader of the nation in dealing with urban issues. It has always had the best public housing developments in the country. Hopefully this Council and this Administration will find more dollars and more courage and creativity to cure the errors and ills mentioned here previously. NYC is only as great as it treats its most vulnerable citizens: chief among these are the residents of public housing. Thank you and God bless you.

My name is Paula Glatzer. I'm an editor and an independent scholar. I am testifying about the New York Public Library because I use it. Or used to.

Please, do not rush to judgment.

Miraculously, we have saved the Mid-Manhattan Library from being sold to developers. At 42nd Street, the bookstacks that support the Reading Room will not be demolished, at least for now.

But there is still 151 million dollars in the budget from the previous administration, and we are asking you to take your time, so you can spend that money wisely.

At Tuesday's hearing, one member said he was so pleased with the Library's plan for a four-year capital budget, that he was almost ready to vote for it.

With all due respect, that would be a rush to judgment. The uncovering of the Central Library Plan took six years, and we still don't know everything. The Library has never released details of the cost analysis or the independent audit, requested by candidate de Blasio, among others.

From this administration, we hope for genuine oversight and transparency.

First, we ask you to really listen to both sides before spending taxpayer money. Three-minute soundbites, late on a Friday afternoon, do not constitute a fair hearing. It's time for you to talk to the architects, librarians, scholars and citizens who brought the CLP to the light of day. Some of you have heard us. But others have been hard to talk to.

We all want to give libraries more money: for operations, like rehiring librarians and increasing hours, and for capital improvements to the many branches that have been allowed to deteriorate.

But please don't write a blank check for capital expenditures.

For the \$151 million, you can begin by holding public hearings.

Two. The Council, via the Speaker, gets to appoint a representative to the NYPL Board of Trustees. Make this a real position, not patronage. Choose an independent voice, with an obligation to report to the Council. The Library has made crucial decisions in closed sessions. Open the process to a genuine public-private partnership.

Three. Ask the NYPL to disclose the details of their cost estimates and independent audit. How can you make good choices, if they're not open to public scrutiny?

We wanted to Save the Stacks because they are the best way to deliver books. NYPL was once the most democratic research library in the world. Anyone could walk in and use a book. No more, with the books out of the building and most of the reference librarians gone. A person must have Internet access and an e-mail account to search for books and pre-order them, then wait several days for delivery.

The Library wants to save the stacks but not use them. This is incomprehensible to readers. So one example of what we need is a cost comparison: of upgrading the stacks vs. additional off-site storage and transportation. The Library says \$46 million to save the stacks. Let's see the details, get competitive bids, and do the right thing.

**Student Testimony before the  
New York City Council Committee on Finance**

**In support of Universal Free School Lunch**

**Executive Budget Hearing  
June 6, 2014**



A Campaign for Free and  
Healthy School Lunch for All



## **Testimony of Nafestia Caleb**

Good afternoon. My name is Nafestia Caleb. I am 16 years old. I go to Brooklyn School for Math and Research which is part of the Bushwick campus. I'm here to represent the Lunch 4 Learning campaign and the Youth Food Council. I am here to talk about universal free school lunch for all students.

We live in a city where choices are made for students based on their family income. Not only are choices made, but students get judged for how much money their family makes. Where I go to school there are kids who are eligible for free or reduced lunch and others who pay for their lunch. I've noticed that the kids who are eligible for free or reduced lunch get bullied because other students consider them to be poor. Some kids don't care, but many kids stop eating because they don't want to be seen as a kid who gets free lunch. 75% of New York City public school students come from families that make less than \$36,000 a year, making them eligible for free school meals. For the other 25%, they have to pay for school lunch, but what happens when their parents can't or don't give them money for lunch? This means that they can go a whole day without eating which affects how they conduct themselves in class, how much they can pay attention, and how they learn. As you can see because these students don't eat they're too focused on how hungry they are than on what is going on in class. If lunch becomes universal it would lead to less empty stomachs and more full minds.

Food is a basic right. Everyone, especially students, needs food to focus, learn and grow. All students should have access to food and this should not depend on what their parents' income is. Mayor de Blasio, I hope you will support the minds and health of all students and include universal free school lunch in the budget.

## **Testimony of Aminata Abdouramane**

Hello, my name is Aminata Abdouramane and I am a student at Academy for Urban Planning. I want to express my support for the Lunch 4 Learning Campaign for universal free school lunch for all NYC public school students.

Bullying, name calling, threatening, oppressing and the oppressed. The lunch food and those who receive it are the leading causes of bullying at my school. In most schools, kids often get bullied because they eat the food which, state-wide, is nicknamed "free-free." This name is uncomfortable to most. Just last week, I witnessed a boy getting bullied over getting in line for "free-free." The bully was yelling over the entire cafeteria, "You got free free. Yo!" This causes depression, feeling left out, and encourages students not eat the lunch even if it is their only meal of the day. More often than not, the lunch food is the thing that determined who gets bullied or not. There are many issues with the school lunch including the portion size, freshness, undercooked food and not enough fresh fruits and veggies. However, I believe that one important first step we can make is to make all school lunches universally free and get rid of the bullying and teasing that happens because of it. I am asking you Mr. Mayor to make universal free lunch a priority. We need to stop the stigma and get better food in our schools. Thank you for your time and your support for this important issue.

## **Testimony of Angel Velasco**

My name is Angel Velasco. I am a student at BSSJ. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here to speak about the Lunch 4 Learning campaign for universal free and healthy school lunch for all NYC public school students.

The lunch at my school is bad because the food is never hot, the food is very greasy, and it's not healthy. I think we need to change the food in my cafeteria through universal free lunch so students can eat without having to pay. I plan on going to college and becoming an immigration lawyer. But college is expensive and my family is trying to save, and we cannot afford the 35 dollars a month for the school lunch. Luckily, I don't have to pay for lunch but there are many families not much different than mine who do.

I don't like the food at my school and it does not support the people and affects their health badly. The students don't eat, and their grades are bad because of it. This also affect the self and body. I am an American. I am against the discrimination against poor people. America has a lot of food, not one should be hungry. This is my testimony. I want to change the lives of the students of New York City through free lunch for all.

Mayor de Blasio I ask you to provide food for all students through universal free school lunch. As an American immigrant, food is a basic need and as our mayor you have the power to say yes or no to students.



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**Testimony on the 2015 Executive Budget**  
**Presented by Heather Woodfield on behalf of One Percent for Culture**

I am Heather Woodfield, Executive Director of One Percent for Culture and a practicing Long Island City based artist. I want to thank the Council for the opportunity to testify on behalf of One Percent for Culture and our over 550 Coalition Partners which include cultural organizations, small businesses, and civic and social service organizations throughout the five boroughs and in all 51 City Council districts.

First, we want to thank the Mayor and the City Council for recognizing the value of culture by baselining funding and ending the budget dance. This vital step continues to demonstrate that you understand that a sustainable funding model for culture allows cultural organizations to better serve our great city. Cultural organizations and artists are essential to our economy, they provide supplemental education to our children, and they contribute to our city's cultural vibrancy which serves our citizens. It is vital that the city continue to support the full scope of nonprofit culture which includes organizations of all sizes, all disciplines, and in all neighborhoods whose collective work support and serve communities throughout our city. That is why a diverse range of cultural organizations are joining together and taking the first steps toward developing common language and shared goals.

The Cultural Institution Groups (CIGs) are essential to our communities playing a distinct and important role in community development. We ask that you continue to baseline the funding for both the CIGs and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) which supports the Program Category. We also ask that you support the \$6 million increase to the CDF which the New York City Arts Coalition requested in the Preliminary Budget Hearing in order to provide an opportunity to fund newer groups and increase funding for those which are underfunded.

As you know the Mayor's Executive Budget includes \$23 million dollars in new funding for Arts Education in the Department of Education's budget. We commend the Mayor and the City Council for creating this new funding pool. A recent report from Comptroller Stringer's office identified that 244 of our schools do not have a partnership with a cultural organization. We in the cultural community want to ensure that this number decreases because all NYC students deserve the opportunities that cultural partnerships provide. We are therefore asking that additional new funding be added to the Department of Cultural Affairs budget to help cultural organizations create partnerships with these schools.

Finally, as we look forward to the budget cycles of 2016 and beyond, we want you to be our partners in creating a sustainable funding model for New York City culture and move closer to the goal of increasing funding for culture to one percent of the municipal expense budget, which 75% of City Council Members have indicated they support. We recognize that this kind of increase cannot happen rapidly, but in order for culture to continue serve our city's communities, we must make steps toward this goal.

We thank you for your time in listening to us today and in the many meetings you have had with us individually. We look forward to continuing to build partnerships and collaborations between city government and the cultural community in order to better serve all New Yorkers.



Testimony of David Zelamsky, LCSW  
Assistant Program Manager, Teen RAPP Program  
CAMBA, Inc.

**Testimony before the New York City Council Finance Committee**  
June 6, 2014

**RE: The FY 2015 Preliminary Budget and Its Impact on  
Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (Teen RAPP) in New York City**

Good afternoon. My name is David Zelamsky. I am the Assistant Program Manager and Social Work Supervisor for the Teen RAPP program at CAMBA. I am here today to testify on behalf of our agency with regard to funding for the Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program, also known as Teen RAAP. CAMBA recommends that the City maintain Teen RAAP funding and CAMBA thanks the City Council for their continued support.

CAMBA was founded in 1977 and is one of Brooklyn's largest community-based organizations. We serve 45,000 individuals and families each year, including nearly 9,000 youth, in six program areas – Economic Development, Education and Youth Development, Family Support, Health, Housing and Legal Services. The agency operates with a diverse and dedicated staff numbering more than 1,300 and located at nearly 70 sites citywide.

The need for Teen RAPP has never been more dire. Today, one in seven New York City high school students is physically or sexually assaulted by a dating partner. Nearly 80% of teen girls in New York City who experience relationship abuse continue to date their abusers. Shockingly, 67% of teens in abusive relationships never tell anyone about their suffering.

Teen RAPP is a school-based domestic violence prevention, anti-bullying, youth development program that reaches over 47,000 students in 58 New York City middle and high schools. Since 1999, Teen RAPP providers have taught tens of thousands of students how to have healthy relationships and how to recognize bullying and abuse. Each Teen RAPP school has a dedicated, full-time social worker who provides educational workshops; counseling services; ongoing training for school staff, parents, and community members; and an intensive Peer Leadership training program. Teen RAPP saves the City millions of dollars in averted costs such as medical treatment, juvenile detention, teen pregnancy, shelter placement and other social services.

In my years with the CAMBA Teen RAPP program I have seen up close the impact that Teen RAPP has in the transformation of even our most troubled youths. For example, a recent Teen RAPP participant before entering RAPP was constantly fighting, disrespecting staff, and acting out, with weekly disciplinary trips to the Dean's office. Working with one of our RAPP social workers in intensive weekly counseling sessions, including psycho-education and safety

planning, this brave young participant decided to end an unhealthy relationship and gain control of the concomitant anger issues. The participant made the honor roll this year.

This is just one example. I have seen many others like it in my years with CAMBA and the Teen RAPP program.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of CAMBA and the Teen RAPP program. I look forward to working with the City Council to maintain adequate funding for an effective Teen RAPP program in the coming year, and for continued and growing support in the coming years.



## **Testimony of the Commission on the Public's Health System**

**Anthony Feliciano, Director**

**Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget June 6, 2014**

Good Afternoon, my name is Anthony Feliciano, and I am the Director for the Commission on the Public's Health System (CPHS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The CPHS, along with the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA), have been facilitators of the People's Budget Coalition for Public Health, an alliance of 20+ community and labor organizations united around preserving and expanding our city's public health programs and services.

The heart of PBC's advocacy efforts are expressed in two central beliefs.

1. We need to increase local control over and participation in the decisions around health care resources and public health issues.
2. We need to develop a collaborative effort that can address the multiple factors causing health disparities-including causes that extend well beyond the health care system.

While the health outcomes for New Yorkers may have improved in recent years, substantial inequalities remain among New Yorkers of various economic status, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, and racial/ethnic groups. In recent years, a number of initiatives have been created to address health disparities. However, there is increasing concerns regarding the effectiveness of these programs. Some factors contributing to the lack of scalability and outcomes include:

- That many initiatives do not embody the voices of community and health care workforce, and lack effective mechanism to engage workers and build support among them, which is necessary for sustainable long-term results.
- That many initiatives are disconnected from other significant community development strategies that have the potential to influence the known determinants of health disparities (e.g. housing, safety, and education).
- That many initiatives are not built on a platform of responsive policy-making, accountable governance, management, and adequate stable financing that assures a continuity of response from prevention, to early detection, to treatment, to evaluation.

It is now time to move from documenting the problem, to taking action. The challenges of knowing what to do—what actions to take—are significant. How are we to choose among such a wide array of potential strategies?

We are enthusiastic about DOHMH's proposal to create a Center for Health Equity. We understand that details are still being discussed and are hopeful that its creation will help to address concerns we have expressed in the beginning of our testimony.

I would like to take bring to your attention new initiatives endorsed by the PBC. One of our biggest priorities is to address disparities in health care access and coverage.

**Access Health NYC (AH-NYC):** \$5 million for this new initiative would fund culturally-and linguistically-competent non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) in all 5 boroughs to do outreach and public education in their communities about options for health care access and coverage, particularly for the uninsured. The initiative would target Immigrants, people with disabilities, LGBTQ communities, medically-underserved populations, the uninsured, and non-English/limited English proficient communities throughout the city. Grants (in a range of approximately \$75,000) would be awarded through a competitive bidding/RFP process, and could be multi-year. We also developed a formula and criteria. See attachment.

Clearly, not having insurance is only one problem contributing to health disparities. We are strongly advocating support for two other public health initiatives that would scale up efforts and build on successes in making a healthier New York.

**Healthy Women, Healthy Futures:** \$3 Million for this initiative would expand efforts and effectiveness from programs like the Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (IMRI), to reduce dramatic and persistent health disparities in maternal and infant health. This initiative could close existing gaps in services and improve maternal health outcomes by adding support for women during periods currently not covered by the IMRI.

**Workforce Improvements:** \$1 million can be invested in increasing diversity in the health professions and creating a well-trained culturally competent workforce by funding the existing NY Metro Area Health Education Centers (AHEC). Investment in the NYC AHECs leverages funds at the state and federal levels. The NYC AHECs are a part of the New York State AHEC System, and the National AHEC Organization which extends options for local students to pursue

health professions on a statewide and national level. City Council support of this initiative would provide funding to support education in health careers, academic support and community health program development for NYC students from the high school level through graduate education. This would include career ladder and employment opportunities available in allied health and other entry level positions.

We believe that improving health status, insurance coverage, and access to services can best be accomplished through a community health planning approach with more local control of our resources. For example, the State of New York has primary jurisdiction over hospital closures and the allocation of hospital resources. The people of the City of New York have no direct say in these matters. The state has failed many times to protect the public's safety when decisions are made that impact access and quality of health care.

**We need to win some Health Home Rule in the City!** The City Council can be one of the leaders in making this reorientation happen by allocating **\$1 million for Community Health Planning** by the creating a special commission to address the impact of hospital closings, cuts to health care services, health disparities and other related public health issues.

With all the changes occurring in the health care system, what is needed now is not a crisis-oriented response, but, rather, long range plans with ongoing involvement of communities to address health needs and public health issues.

In addition, the PBC strongly supports funding restorations and enhancement requests for a number of community-based and public health programs. Please refer to our full agenda attached to this testimony.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present this testimony. We look forward to continue working with the City Council and the de Blasio's Administration on building a robust public health system.

TESTIMONY

*New York City Council*  
**Finance Committee**  
**Re: Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget**  
**June 6, 2014**



Making Health Equality a Reality

Charmaine Ruddock, MS  
**Project Director**  
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**Partnership for a Healthier Bronx**  
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Good afternoon Chairperson Ferreras and members of the City Council.

First let me thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony at today's hearing on the Executive Budget for FY 2015.

My name is Charmaine Ruddock. I am from the Institute for Family Health and I run our community health initiative to eliminate health disparities- Bronx Health REACH. The Bronx Health REACH Coalition, led by the Institute for Family Health, was formed in 1999 to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes in diabetes and heart disease in African American and Latino communities in the Bronx. We work with community organizations, residents, and leaders to improve access to affordable, healthy food, increase opportunities for active living and recreation, and reduce underage and excessive drinking and exposure to secondhand smoke in the Bronx and as of 2012 we became the Bronx Borough lead for the Partnership for a Healthier New York City.

On behalf of our coalition, and as one of five borough lead organizations working with the Partnership for a Healthier New York City we are asking the Council to support the budget request of \$2.3 million for the Partnership. The Partnership began through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the city's Health Department. And as of September 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 which is the end of the third year of what was a five year grant, the funding goes away because the January 2014 budget passed by Congress eliminated it.

The Partnership is a citywide, multi-sectorial coalition of over 450 community-based organizations working to make it easier for New Yorkers to be healthy. The Partnership's purpose is to help New Yorkers avoid the onset of chronic diseases like type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart disease, emphysema, etc., by making it easier for people to make healthy choices in their communities. We work in four very specific areas: Healthy Eating, Active Living, Tobacco-free Living and reduced underage and excessive alcohol use. These are the top 4 "actual causes of death" in New York City. We work collaboratively with community based organizations to make healthy foods available in neighborhoods; increase opportunities for people to be physically active; help people avoid tobacco smoke and educate the public about the harms of underage and excessive drinking. What makes us unique and effective is that our work is done in collaboration with community based organizations that work in the neighborhoods with the highest need. We work from the grassroots up, bringing resources, technical assistance, training and knowledge to the table, making sure that the strategies and interventions used are evidence based and culturally relevant.

In a little over 2 years, we've achieved significant results. Through our work with 33 small stores citywide, we've been able to improve the availability of healthy foods in neighborhoods, impacting over 319,000 shoppers and their families. Because 74 organizations have agreed to make healthy foods available at meetings and events, almost 37,100 people are impacted. Due to the 25 active design projects we are supporting, more than 507,000 people are being impacted. Our work to get residential buildings to voluntarily prohibit smoking is resulting in 5,413 units going smoke-free, impacting over 12,400 New Yorkers. Almost 100,000 people are now being positively impacted because 14 organizations and businesses have adopted outdoor smoke-free

policies. Finally, because of our work, over 2,250 people are now aware of the harms of underage and excessive alcohol use.

According to the CDC, about 75% or \$75 out of every \$100 spent on healthcare in the United States is spent treating people with preventable chronic diseases. These diseases stem from obesity that could be avoided if we all ate better and were more physically active and lung diseases that could be avoided if we weren't exposed to first or second hand tobacco smoke. The Partnership's mission is to make the healthy choice the easy choice in communities across New York City. We can help prevent people from getting chronically ill by making it easy for them to choose and live a healthier lifestyle. A healthier population is more productive, more successful and less subject to the inequities that plague certain communities in our city.

This City Council funding request is necessary to keep this important and successful work alive. Please vote to support this effort which is effectively transforming many of our highest need communities across the city.

Thank you.

**Testimony of Agnes M. Abraham, Chairperson  
Kings County Hospital Center Community Advisory Board  
And HHC's Council of Community Advisory Boards  
FY 2015 City Budget**

- **Good afternoon members of the City Council. My name is Agnes M. Abraham and I am the Chairperson of the Kings County Hospital Community Advisory Board. I am also the Chairperson of the Council of Municipal Hospitals' Community Advisory Boards of the Health and Hospitals Corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the proposed FY 2015 Executive Budget.**
- **First, let me commend the Council for their support of Kings County Hospital and the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. On behalf of the Community Advisory Board, thank you for generous appropriations for medical equipment and programmatic support.**
- **For example, the Council appropriated significant funding in prior years to create an Integrated Cancer Care Center at the hospital. This funding has directly benefitted thousands of patients, their families and the community as a whole.**
- **Currently, the hospital needs \$1.8 million in capital**

**funding for a new PET/CT scanner. That new PET/CT scanner will produce more detailed images and lead to more accurate diagnosis.**

- **We also need \$2.1 million in funding for a Nurse Call Station replacement. The new Nurse Call Station will allow nurses to view real time patient information and perform certain patient care activities directly from the station.**
- **Our sister 5 star Long Term Care facility Dr. Susan Smith McKinney is in dire need of housing for patients. There are approximately 20 patients that have exhausted their medical and rehab needs, but for the lack of suitable housing continues to occupy beds that can be better utilized for patients and thereby increase their revenue stream. In addition, the dentistry department is antiquated and in serious need of upgrade and expansion.**
- **The Council has also provided programmatic funding to support HHC's child health clinics, expanded HIV testing program, behavioral health programs and for ongoing operational costs that they have no other source of funding for.**
- **In this year's preliminary budget response, the Council proposed increasing the unrestricted subsidy for HHC by \$2 million. I support this**

**increase and ask that you consider increasing this amount to \$100 million. HHC has a \$200 million gap to close this year. Council funding has been vital to the operation of many HHC programs and for this we are eternally grateful.**

- **Thank you for allowing me to testify. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.**



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEARING - FY 2015  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY  
BY ALICE B. OWENS, PRESIDENT  
COLONY-SOUTH BROOKLYN HOUSES, INC.  
JUNE 6, 2014

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Chairperson Ferreras, Members of the Council,

My name is Alice Owens. I am the President of Colony-South Brooklyn Houses, a social service agency operating in Brooklyn since 1904.

Colony has six Child Care Centers. For the past two years, through the heroic efforts of the Council and in recognition of their community importance, these Centers have been funded by Discretionary Funds. This year again, through the Council's efforts, we understand that these monies - which have now been baselined - will once again be apportioned to our Centers and included in the forthcoming budget. We are enormously grateful for that and to the Council for its steadfastness.

Colony is also fortunate to operate Universal Prekindergarten programs at its sites. It fully supports the Council and the Mayor for their emphasis on UPK.

I would like to let you know again how important Colony's Centers are to the children and families in our neighborhoods. Without the funding, our programs would have to close, parents would be without reliable child care which will affect their ability to hold jobs and go to school, vulnerable children will be without quality programming and credentialed, caring staff will be unemployed.

The Centers Colony operates, funded through the Council, are located in East New York, Williamsburg and Sunset Park - all communities that have a high concentration of need as defined by the Administration for Children's Services. Private day care is not an option and informal child care arrangements do not have the reliability or provide the learning experiences that these families require. No one disputes the positive impact that early childhood programs have. Children learn to relate to other children, to settle disputes in a safe and practical way, to play and to exercise their fine and gross motor skills, to respect other people, to practice tolerance and to learn that conflicts can be settled without violence.

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Without Colony's Centers or Provider Mother Homes, parents can easily become unemployed. Whatever economic improvements have occurred, they are not robust; jobs are scarce. Our parents, no matter how hardworking, are economically fragile. They are sometimes only a paycheck away from being homeless or unable to put food on the table. Our Centers are solid, reliable presences in the community.

Our Pine Street Center has a bus service which each day transports youngsters to and from the City transitional housing sites in which they live to Pine Street, where they participate in a full day child care or UPK program. We have had an excellent experience with a supportive private landlord.

Our experiences as Discretionary Centers have been overwhelmingly positive. We meet all Health Department requirements. We have worked closely with the Professional Development Institute at CUNY to strengthen our programs and plan for a sustainable future.

I want to make very clear that our Centers are learning experiences; they use nationally recognized curriculums and have Universal Prekindergarten classes. Staff is appropriately credentialed. Meals meet the strict nutrition standards of the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Thank you on behalf of Colony, the children, parents and staff for the Discretionary Funding. We ask that it be continued.

## **DRUM – SOUTH ASIAN ORGANIZING CENTER**

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June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

New York City Council – Finance Committee

Greetings to the Esteemed City Council,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of DRUM-South Asian Organizing Center. DRUM fights for low-wage workers, South Asian immigrants, and issues such as unfair policing of our communities.

We join many other New Yorkers in being concerned about the proposal to add 1000 police officers to the NYPD. However, this issue presents an opportunity to raise broader questions about our city, its budget allocations, and subsequently its priorities.

New York City spends \$227 million a year on school policing. NYC public schools have 5,200 School Safety Agents, which is larger than entire police forces of some cities. This proposal to add 1,000 NYPD officers, who may be added to police our public schools, is not a good use of our city's resources nor is it in line with the direction that school districts around the country are taking with the new federal Department of Justice and Department of Education guidance on improving school climate. It is also alarming at a time when we don't have enough money for education, and many schools remain under resourced even for basic supplies, teachers, and maintenance.

NYC is the largest public school system in the country and has a responsibility to be a leader in education and in ending the school to prison pipeline. NYPD should not spend such an extravagant amount of money for school policing, instead this money should stay in education and be used for effective programs that promote community and harmonious school climate such as restorative justice. Restorative Justice would hold all parties accountable in a conflict and increase greater sense of community and therefore a more preventative measure that would not require the involvement of law enforcement.

Policing, in the streets or in schools, cannot be the answer to all of our social problems. How we allocate our city's budget reflects on our priorities and our expectations of our communities. Are we investing in the building of education, employment, and harmony of our communities, or are we investing in the criminalization of our communities?

Testimony presented by:

**DRUM –South Asian Organizing Center**

**Questions For Library Administration Officials**  
(For Tuesday June 3, 2014 City Council hearing)

**BREAKING STORY NYPL FED NEW YORK TIMES DAY BEFORE BUDGET HEARING**

1. **Mr. Marx- You finally released information just in time to appear in yesterdays' New York Times that, according to the independent estimates the NYPL commissioned last June, the Central Library Plan would have cost an estimated \$500 million, \$200 million more than was being previously estimated. When did library officials knew this information and why it wasn't made public earlier? Did the library have these numbers even as it went ahead with emptying the stacks, and trying to drum up or lobby into being support for the plan?**
  - a. At the same time you released information that your brand new plans, not yet public released or discussed, will cost \$300 million which the New York Times noting in its coverage just happens to 'match' what you previous wanted the city to participate in spending with you, supplying \$150 million in taxpayer dollars. Where is the transparency in this process? Why should we be trusting in figures that are released in this way?

**ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM- SCHWARZMAN \$100 MILLION & CLP PLAN**

2. **Mr. Marx, Stephen A. Schwarzman said on Charlie Rose that he transferred \$100 million to the NYPL upon being assured that it was for the Central Library Plan. Was there ever (or is there now) a quid pro quo or document that gave Stephen A. Schwarzman the right to ask for his \$100 million back if the CLP does not proceed?**
  - a. If there is such a document- Does that now mean that because of that conditionality money might be sent back to Schwarzman (and is it possible his name would come off the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Central Reference Library)
  - b. If there is no specification- Then shouldn't the alternative plans to the Central Library Plan and better use of the money been considered far earlier?

**ISSUES RESPECTING NAMING RIGHTS AND PRIVATE MONEY AS SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS**

3. **Mr. Marx, institutions, charitable and for profit, sometimes think about "naming rights" as a potential source of additional funds- I suppose that the library systems have looked at such opportunities? Yes.**
  - a. In a way the Schwarzman on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street building is sort of an example of that, correct? I suppose.
  - b. But if something is mostly paid for by the taxpayers, putting somebody else's name on what the taxpayers mostly paid for, may not be such a good bargain, partly because it gives the taxpayers a misimpression or lack of information about the importance of what their taxpayer dollars pay for, right. [Yes, such policy matters bear consideration.]

- c. That would be especially true when funds for naming rights close only a very small gap, one that perhaps, under those circumstances, it would be better for the Mayor and the City Council to close with a few more additional dollars. [We'd love it if you'd always do that.]
- d. In addition to what the taxpayers pay for and what any *new* prospective donors may pay for, there is also the consideration of what *past* donors have paid for, like Andrew Carnegie. Yes.
- e. And in the case of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Central Reference Library that, in the past, was largely established through the generosity of *Astor, Tilden and Lennox gifts*- Isn't it true that in their time, for that time, those gifts far exceeded funds Mr. Schwarzman may have recently transferred to the libraries. [Absolutely true, but will this be admitted.]
- f. When it comes to naming libraries there can be policy questions involved such as whether the name is the name of an individual or a corporation, whether the individual is alive or dead, whether the naming is more a record of generosity of spirit or a form of advertising. [Yes, there is much to consider.]
- g. We might not want to '*advertise*' the name of a corporation that doesn't have a good public reputation? [We might not.]
- h. And instead of Mr. Schwarzman's name now on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street library it might have been the Blackstone Group of which he is head and the source of his wealth? Yes.
- i. To a certain extent you might even now view Blackstone's name as being implicitly on the building along where Mr. Schwarzman's name appears? [That's not exactly what the NYPL did.]
- j. And without getting into it too thoroughly, Blackstone, a very large company, is involved with many enterprises and their promotion, which many New Yorkers might find highly objectionable [hydro-fracking, privatization of prisons, making political contributions to get local pension fund investments placed with them, etc.], correct? [Different people will always have and be entitled to their views.]
- k. Should the city, through the mayor and the city council, be involved if publicly paid for assets are going to be the subject of naming rights? [That's certainly worth discussing.]

#### **FUND-RAISING & IMPLICIT PROMISES TO KEEP ASSETS FUNDED**

- 4. **Mr. Marx, as noted, Stephen A. Schwarzman's name is on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Library correct?- Yes.**
  - a. When you are building a new library or constructing new space to substantially improve a library substantial government money is frequently involved, correct? Yes.
  - b. Like the CLP and SIBL (Science, industry and Business Library)? Yes.
  - c. And is it also typical to solicit contributions from private benefactors? Yes.
  - d. Who often get their contributions recognized with their names appearing in

- certain places on the new buildings. Yes.
- e. Like SIBL. Yes.
- f. Isn't there then an expectation or trust that new building or asset will be maintained? Yes.
- g. And when contributions are received doesn't that also extend many times to legal obligations? Yes.
- h. Implications and promises that the building won't be sold, and even if the building is sold aren't there often obligations that follow those sale proceeds requiring that the original purpose for which those funds were donated be observed? Yes.
- i. Isn't it therefore problematic and present hurdles when buildings are sold, especially recently completed buildings like SIBL?- Have you had to negotiate with those who donated to build libraries (including governments funders and private philanthropists), SIBL included, in order to sell them?
- j. Doesn't it make it more difficult to solicit for the building of libraries if these assets and their maintenance is viewed as so insecure and temporary?

#### **TRANSPARENCY AND NEED FOR ASSURANCE OF OBTAINING VALUE IF LIBRARIES ARE SOLD**

5. **SIBL was completed not all that long ago, in 1996, correct? [That's coming up twenty years in a world that is changing fast.]**
  - a. SIBL was considered a success and an achievement when it was opened, cost about \$100 million correct?- yes.
  - b. And it is at 34<sup>th</sup> Street between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue not far at all from the Empire State building?
  - c. Would you say that real estate has been doing well in this city and Manhattan, going up in value?- yes?
  - d. And it's been doing very well in this neighborhood?
  - e. Much of SIBL has been sold? Correct.
  - f. About 87% - Yes.
  - g. It was sold in 2012 for just \$60.8 million, correct? Yes.
  - h. Does that seem like a fair amount? (They will probably say that what remains is the most valuable part of SIBL because it is at street level and can be used commercially)
  - i. That much of SIBL was sold with very little fanfare? Yes.
  - j. Secretively? [I wouldn't say that.]
  - k. But it was a major public assets for which the public had paid a lot of money and there was virtually no discussion beforehand about its being sold or about who it would be sold to or the process that would be used to ensure a fair price. [Answer: selling it was envisioned as part of the Central Library Plan.]
  - l. The Central Library Plan that was abandoned and is not now funded because it was deemed unwise and never finalized? Yes.
  - m. So wasn't it premature to sell SIBL and unwise to do that without public input?-

Perhaps.

- n. The NYPL board approved that sale?- [Presumably?- When]
- o. SIBL is in the same building as CUNY, correct? Yes.
- p. And wasn't that, in part, because that co-location was intended to benefit CUNY and perhaps provide other synergistic benefit? Yes.
- q. Doesn't the sale of SIBL leave CUNY high and dry? [Things change?]
- r. The portion of SIBL that was sold was sold to a church pension fund? Yes.
- s. Was that church pension fund was in leased space in 445 Fifth Avenue, the building right next to the Mid-Manhattan Library on Fifth Avenue? Correct.
- t. So the pension fund moved out of that space- And did the NYPL take over that leased space in 445 Fifth Avenue from the pension fund? Yes.
- u. It's a twenty year lease? Yes.
- v. Is that the 39<sup>th</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue subleased space that NYPL board voted to buy the lease of at the last NYPL board meeting? Yes.
- w. The NYPL board meetings are subject to the New York State open meetings law a sunshine law for the purposes of public disclosure? Yes.
- x. Is it correct that at the last board meeting at which the board vote was taken to purchase the lease from the pension fund, it was not mentioned that the pension fund was the one selling the lease? [Not sure I remember?]
- y. The lease was purchased right after the abandonment of the Central Library Plan was announced: Was the sale of SIBL connected to the purchase of this lease? [Maybe?]
- z. Was that fact discussed or disclosed to the board members in connection with the meeting at which purchase of the lease was voted upon? [Maybe?]
- aa. What about the public and the press? [Maybe?]

## **ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF BOOKS, THE MOST CORE ASSETS OF THE LIBRARY**

- 6. **Are books still at the core of a library's function and is it important to have books in the libraries and on the premises in Manhattan?** Yes.
  - a. Physical books are still an important part of libraries mission so that having the physical infrastructure to hold books is still important? Yes.
  - b. Is the library encouraging the public to switch to digital books because, from what I read, the public still prefers physical books. Yes/No.
  - c. What percent of the libraries circulation is *physical* books? [Should be about 93%]
  - d. What percent of the library's reference collection has been digitalized? [Not much.]
  - e. What percent does the library have a right to digitize and redistribute digitally? [Very few]
  - f. A digitalized book is often not a complete or acceptable substitute for a physical book, correct? Correct.

- g. Does the NYPL digitize books before it “weeds” them? [No.]
- h. Are books considered substantial assets fo the library? Of course.
- i. Does the NYPL/BPL keep a careful record of all books that it “weeds.” [??]
- j. The architect who appeared before community Board 5 in Manhattan to present plans for the “replacement” Donnell said that the NYPL had given the architectural firm doing the designs no specifications about the number of books the space would hold or the NYPL’s goals in this regard. If books are still vitally important and respected why would this be so? [???
- k. After SIBL opened in 1996 there were a number of central libraries and facilities in the mid-Manhattan holding books, correct?: To wit- SIBL, The 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Central Reference Library, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Annex, the Mid-Manhattan Library, the Donnell Library and the Lincoln Center Performing arts Library- There is also the Schomberg Center library uptown. Yes.
- l. Do you have a conception and do you have sets of figures for all the books and materials that those libraries held back at that time (1996/1997) and a few years later, say 2002/2003 before Donnell was sold and then again after the Donnell sale? [A conception, not exact figures.]
- m. What is your general understanding of how many books and materials there were and can you also follow up with specific data, broken down library by library, after this? [??]
- n. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Street annex which used to hold materials (and where researchers could go to read them) has been sold, correct? Yes.
- o. And Donnell was sold- How many books and others items were in that 97,000 square foot library? [Not sure]
- p. And Donnell’s materials and collections where supposed to go to Mid-Manhattan and the Lincoln Center library?
- q. Was there room for those materials that went to the Lincoln Center Library? [Yes/maybe?]
- r. Room without “weeding”? What if the Lincoln Center Librarians say there wasn’t so much room? [Don’t know.]
- s. And the Donnell materials that went to Mid-Manhattan would have been consolidated as part of the Central Library Plan, correct? Yes.
- t. And the books and materials from SIBL? Yes.
- u. The stacks under the Rose Reading room formerly held and are supposed to hold about *three million books*, correct? Yes.
- v. And the space under Bryant park was built at considerable public expense and inconvenience as Bryant Park was excavated- The first phase of that Bryant Park expansion of the library was supposed to open and in short order hold about 1.8 million books and items, correct? Yes.
- w. Wasn’t the Central Reference Library, as expanded by the work done at public expense in Bryant Park, supposed to hold a total of about *6.2 million books*? Yes.
- x. But NYPL President Tony Marx in his March 11, 2014 City council hearing said that with the recently abandoned CLP the NYPL was working toward a goal of

new Central Library the *CAPACITY* for ONLY 4.2 million books."Capacity," NOT actual books and even that *hadn't yet been achieved* and wasn't promised. Where are all the books going? How can it even have been conceivable that ALL the books from SIBL, from Mid-Manhattan including the books that were transferred from Donnell to Mid-Manhattan, from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Annex would reduce to *fewer than* 4.2 million?

- y. Didn't SIBL have well over a million books and items, 1.3 million or more? Yes.
- z. Didn't just the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Central Reference library collection at one point hold well over seven or eight million books, not even counting its government books and law books?

#### **RELEASE OF NYPL CLP FINANCIAL REVIEW & RELEVANCE TO BUDGET ANALYSIS AND FUNDING**

- 7. **When will the NYPL release and furnish the City Council with the independent financial review of the Central Library Plan that partially formed the basis for abandoning the Central Library Plan? Do you have a copy here today? [??].**
  - a. The City Counsel is right now trying to review and advocate for what would be appropriate funding for the city's libraries. Would that independent financial analysis have numbers and information in it that would be extremely relevant to the job the city council is attempting to do right now? [Yes, whether or not they admit it.]
  - b. In what ways might it be informative and relevant?

#### **NEED FOR TRANSPARENT ALLOCATION OF CITY FUNDS AMONGST THREE SYSTEMS**

- 8. **Linda Johnson, I understand that at a recent trustees meeting in April you explained the city budgeting process for capital expenditures to your trustees saying that the three library systems negotiate collectively with the city for the capital funds to be received and that the money is then allocated between the three systems, is that correct? [Answer should be yes.]**
  - a. Is it transparent to you what the capital needs of the other two systems, the NYPL and the Queens systems are? [Who knows]
  - b. If it was transparent to you then are you suggesting that you had a clear understanding of how the Central Library Plan was absorbing funds in what now appears to have been a very costly plan to sell and shrink library space? [No.]
  - c. If the other two system's needs are not actually transparent to you, (or yours to them), then what is the basis for dividing up and allocating those capital funds among the three systems? [We talk- negotiate?]
  - d. Are all the libraries in all the three systems subject to the same city engineer reviews and assessments and common standards (say reviews by the City Department of Design and Construction) and building practices as each other?

No.

- e. Then how can the relative capital needs of those three systems be compared and assessed and compared by you or the City Council? [It might not be perfectly easy but we do our best.]
- f. The demise of the Central Library Plan frees up many millions of dollars, perhaps \$350 million altogether with about \$150 million that was supposed to come from new taxpayer dollars- Do you have a sense or statement about how much of that money should perhaps be reallocated to Brooklyn libraries? [??]
- g. You and your administrators have said that the Brooklyn Heights Library needs to be sold due to inadequate funds. When asked about funds that might now be available from the Central Library plan as an alternative solution BPL spokesperson Josh Nachowitz said in a recent interview,: *"the Brooklyn Public Library institutionally would no more publicly request that money for us than NYPL or the Queens Library would make a request that any money that's appropriated to the Brooklyn Library be re-appropriated to them"* - If such requests are not made and publicly discussed then how can the City Council review and evaluate relative need? Should the allocation of these funds just be a private affair between the presidents of three systems? [I am not sure what to say.]
- h. While the city contributes substantial funds to the library system's capital program private contributions are also taken in, correct? Yes.
- i. Is that taken into account, do the library systems respectively get credit for raising capital funds this way so as to benefit from the funds they receive? [probably yes]
  - i. If not, could that a problem for your private donors, knowing that their contributions will likely be cancelled out by money getting redistributed to other systems?
  - ii. If so, doesn't that mean that libraries in wealthy areas with wealthier more attentive donors are likely to do better as a result?

#### **SO-CALLED "FRIENDS" GROUPS AS PROBLEMATIC SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS, SUPPORT, TRANSPARENCY :**

- 9. **Ms. Johnson, I know that the lion's share of funding for the libraries come from the city, but are contributions from members of the public also important? [They are important.]**
  - a. For instance, contributions can come in through what are known as "Friends" groups- Are they important? [Yes- waxing enthusiastic- and they build up the community of support for the libraries!!]
  - b. Do you find that it is a problem to solicit funds in such ways, if people understand that you are selling and shrinking their libraries? [It can be a factor.- I have testified in that past that insufficient city funding can discourage private donations.]
  - c. Is it true that "Friends" groups involved with the BPL's libraries must support any decisions of the BPL, including decisions made by the BPL to sell and shrink

libraries?- I am told that both you and the people from the 'friends' groups have said this and that it was a topic at a meeting held by the Brooklyn Borough President about funding libraries. Yes.

- d. At a hearing here this past September 30<sup>th</sup> you described a "Community Advisory Committee" process as being an open and transparent process *"to get a sense from the community about what the library should be, how it should function, how it should play a role in the community, and ultimately, when we get there, what the library should look like."* - But how can that process work and be transparent if that committee is co-chaired by a "Friends" group to represent the public that has agreed to support the BPL's agenda? Are you really then going to be able to find out what the community wants in terms of a library, whether it truly wants it sold and shrunk? [Err. . . ]
- e. If Friends groups raising funds for the libraries must support the selling and shrinking of libraries won't they be in danger of losing membership and funding as result? For example, didn't the Friends groups supporting your proposed sale and shrinkage of the Brooklyn Heights Library suffer a huge drop off in membership- going from being over 400 members strong to fewer than 200 members? [Err....]
- f. Isn't there an inherent problem with using Friends groups for support (beyond the fact that they may be constrained to support the BPL agenda and not the communities) that money and actual support from such Friends groups is likely to disproportionately benefit wealthier neighborhoods with far fewer groups forming in neighborhoods straining for resources?

#### **INVESTIGATION & OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNANCE, SALES BY STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL + NEW WHISTLEBLOWER LAW**

- 10. **Mr. Marx, I believe you and your NYPL general counsel, Michele Coleman Mayes met with the New York State Attorney General the week of May 12, 2013 for a discussion about NYPL governance, is that correct? Yes.**
  - a. Who else was at that meeting?
  - b. I understands NYPL counsel Mayes assured the NYPL at the last NYPL trustees (based on the meeting with the AG) that *is was "safe to say"* that the NYPL falls into the category of an organization that is *"doing the right thing"* with whom Mr. Schneiderman is looking to *"work collaboratively with."* Did the Attorney General, in fact, offer you any assurance that he considers that the NYPL is *"doing the right thing"* and that the Attorney General would be working *"collaboratively"* with the NYPL?
  - c. Was there any indication from the A.G.'s office that they have concluded that they will NOT be looking into the real estate dealings of the NYPL, including the sale of the Donnell Library and Science, Industry and Business Library properties or into other issues of NYPL governance?
  - d. Are you aware of any legal doctrines whereby funds can be recaptured for the

- e. charity's benefit if there was undue private benefit, or if a charitable organization's assets were not properly stewarded? [Don't know?- but there are.] But if there were a possibility of recapturing funds for the libraries, then it might even be beneficial for the Attorney General to investigate such matters?
- f. Was that discussed?
- g. Pursuant to the a new law (the New York Nonprofit Revitalization Act), the NYPL just had to adopt a new (its first?) whistleblower policy, correct? Yes.
- h. And the NYPL has also in recent years been requiring librarians sign "non-disparagement" agreements if they are departing and sometimes loyalty statements if they are not, correct? Yes.
- i. Would the whistleblower policy supercede those agreements if NYPL employees wanted to bring to light or otherwise criticize things they deem improper, for instance, the library real estate deals, or treatment of the books and collection, or any use of city funding or donations? [I don't know, but to the extent that the law must supercede, I suppose it must.]
- j. Are you notifying your staff and retired employees to this effect? If not, you will you consider doing so?

#### **HIGH COMPENSATION OF LIBRARY PRESIDENT- NYPL'S MARX THE HIGHEST**

11. **Mr. Marx, you are compensated as NYPL president at a level considerably less than your predecessor was when your predecessor left office (whose all-in compensation was \$1.4 million the year of his departure)? That's correct.**
  - a. The form 990 just filed for 2012, your first year in office, reports that your total annual compensation for that year was \$781,000, correct? Yes.
  - b. Does that figure include your expense account? [Not sure.]
  - c. Does it include the value of the automobile with which you are furnished?
  - d. You administer public assets that are largely funded by the city and yet your compensation far exceeds the mayor's and probably that of any city or public official reporting to him. Same thing with the state. Does that make sense, and, if so, why?
  - e. Of the three library heads I believe you are the most highly compensated, why is that?
  - f. Your library system has also had the largest real estate transactions going on- the sale of Donnell, SIBL, the proposed sale of Mid-Manhattan- does that have anything to do with it?
  - g. The New York Times article about your salary says that you are compensated with "*private funds*"- Is that true? [Yes?]
  - h. How would we know that is true? [?]
  - i. Money is fungible and the city pays the lion's share of the library budget- why should we think of you as being paid *privately*?
  - j. If the city pays the lions' share of he library funding and you are thought of as being paid for by the *private* funds then who are you accountable to?- Do you

- know the expression: "*He who pays the piper calls the tune?*"
- k. Where are the *private* funds paying you coming from?
  - l. Mr. Marx, can you specify whether your compensation includes an apartment and/or a housing allowance? When Vartan Gregorian moved to New York the NYPL purchased an apartment for him to live in, so that he could entertain donors in the lavish style to which they were accustomed, according to the memoirs of Andrew Heiskell. Do you occupy that apartment or a similar apartment? What is the zip code? How many rooms? How is this accommodation valued for tax purposes? How is the valuation updated to account for escalating real estate prices?

## SELLING CAPITAL ASSETS TO FILL SHORT TERM FUNDING NEEDS

- 12. **Linda Johnson, I understand that in the Brooklyn press your BPL spokespersons have now been saying that one of the reasons to sell the Brooklyn Heights Library is to buy "new furniture" Isn't furniture, by comparison, a relatively short term asset and do you consider it good practice to sell a long-term capital asset in order to pay for something short-term, maybe just a fashion item, close to decorating and almost a minor maintenance item? [Furniture lasts a long time?]**
  - a. Doesn't the creation of capital asset items like libraries take years to put in place, involving a lot to achieve, and are they consequently expected to last a long time and be protected? [That's relatively true.]
  - b. It is my understanding the Grand Army Plaza library took almost sixty years to put in place and complete, from 1898 until 1955, is that correct? [I don't know.]
  - c. If the Brooklyn Heights Library is sold, is it correct that you are planning to remove a substantial part of that large library, the Business and Career Library to the Grand Army Plaza building? Yes.
  - d. But you are *not* building any new space there to house what would be moved there, essentially half the Brooklyn Heights Library, correct? [No, we are not.]
  - e. But you think there is plenty of room to move the the Business and Career Library there in order to shrink the Brooklyn Heights Library. [There is a lot of space we don't need in the Grand Army Plaza building that could be put to better use.]
  - f. Do you have plans to substantially shrink the book collection now available to patrons in the Grand Army Plaza branch? For instance, do you plan to substantially shrink the Biography, History and Religion room and collection now on site and replace it with other space? [They do, if they will admit it.]
  - g. I understand that sheet music that was readily available in the Grand Army Plaza library will be relocated to become available only upon request. In the last few months, a decision was made to empty over 120 shelves worth of music scores, sheet music, and pedagogical materials, in the Arts and Music room of the Central Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. Is this related to the reduction of space devoted to the Biography, History and Religion room books, a combination or consolidation of that space or something like that?

- h. If you have to do this, or are banishing books from such important sections of the library, doesn't that mean that your space is at a premium and is inadequate and that you should not be moving the Business and Career library there for that very reason alone?
- i. Are you aware that while library shelves are empty at the Brooklyn Heights Library, library books that appear to be in good condition have been found discarded outside of several branches? Are you keeping records of all books that are decommissioned or discarded? Are you aware that there are book rescuers working to collect the books you are discarding and send to libraries other countries.

### **SELLING LIBRARIES TO DEAL WITH SUSPICIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF BOOKS**

- 13. **Ms. Johnson, I understand that another reason the BPL's spokesmen have been saying the Brooklyn Heights library should be sold is to buy new books for that library, correct? Yes.**
  - a. If this is the way you propose to pay for book collections, does this mean that only libraries that can be sold will have books?
  - b. Don't books get moved around? Didn't this Brooklyn Heights library previously have books, and if so, where have they gone? Why is it that they are not there on the shelves now?
  - c. Do you think that some members of the public find it suspicious that the offer of putting books on the shelves is being used as an enticement to sell this library not long after the books have disappeared from it?

### **LACK OF TRANSPARENCY- SELLING LIBRARIES & LONG TERM CAPITAL PLANS**

- 14. **Ms. Johnson, the BPL published a strategic plan calling for ALL of its real estate assets to be leveraged- What does that mean in terms of how many of your real estate assets you eventually plan to sell, shrink or in otherwise modify? I believe you have 60 libraries all together. [We only plan to sell the Brooklyn Heights and possibly Pacific branch right now.]**
  - a. That's what the public has actually been told about right now, but isn't there usually a substantial gap in time before the public finds out about the BPL wanting to sell a library? [I don't think so.]
  - b. Wasn't the decision to move the Business and Career library out of Brooklyn Heights, i.e. shrink and sell the Brooklyn Heights Library, made back in 2008 or before? [They should admit this]
  - c. But that decision was not announced to the public until the beginning of 2013, correct? Perhaps five years later? Yes.
  - d. When was the City Council first told about these sales and how approve a budget without being fully informed?

- e. Weren't developers looking at a number of library sites for 'redevelopment' back in 2007? [Don't know if they will admit this]
- f. The public was told that the air conditioning in the Brooklyn Heights Library had broken down and that it couldn't be repaired in the summer of 2012, just about a half year before it was finally revealed to the public that there were plans to sell the library, correct? Yes.
- g. But when the public was told that the air conditioning wasn't going to be fixed, the public still wasn't told that there were long-standing plans unfolding to sell the library, correct? [No the public wasn't told.]
- h. Doesn't that reflect a lack of transparency about these sales? [Maybe.]

#### **SUSPICIONS, MISSING DOCUMENTATION, REGARDING CAPITAL NEEDS FOR BROOKLYN HEIGHTS LIBRARY**

- 15. **Ms. Johnson, this past summer you used the failure to repair the air conditioning at the Brooklyn Heights library, a library you want to sell, as a reason to cut the hours that library was open by about half, made the library's hours unpredictable, similarly cut the staff and you relocated programs from it. Why didn't you supply that library with temporary air conditioning instead? [I don't think that was possible.]**
  - a. But how can that be when you are using temporary units to air condition the Clinton Hill library?
  - b. The Clinton Hill Library's air condition system is being replaced at an estimated \$700,000 and estimates for such air conditioning in many other Brooklyn Libraries are similarly in that range- Doesn't it therefore seem that you estimate to fix the air conditioning in Brooklyn Heights library, now in the \$4.5 million range might be excessive? [No.]
  - c. Isn't it true that only a portion of the Brooklyn Heights Library air conditioning system is currently broken? Yes.
  - d. But, your very high estimate involves replacing everything, nevertheless? Yes.
  - e. Over the years the NYC department of Design and Construction has assessed the air conditioning status and needs at the Brooklyn Heights library- Why have you not released those previous assessments?

#### **SPENDING MONEY ON HIGH-PRICED LOBBYISTS AND CONSULTANTS TO MAKE BAD PLANS AND POLICY LOOK GOOD**

- 16. **Mr. Galante, at the March 11th hearing City Council member Elizabeth Crowley asked "Are we using city dollars, tax-levied dollars, to pay for private attorneys and these P.R. firms to make the library look better?" Do you have figures for what you are spending for this?**
  - a. Can you get back to us with that information?

17. **Mr. Marx, how much does the NYPL spend on consultants and lobbyists? [Don't know.]**
  - a. Can you get back to us with that information?
  - b. Reportedly \$18 million was spent on the failed Central Library Plan. About half of that was spent on the architect. Wasn't a lot of that money spent on consultants to provide reports assuring (incorrectly) that the Central Library Plan was a good plan and on lobbyists to sell the public on the idea that the Central Library Plan was a good idea. [This was the case with millions being spent.]
18. **Ms. Johnson, how much does the BPL spend on consultants and lobbyists?**
  - a. Can you get back to us with that information?
  - b. One of the lobbyists you are using to represent you in connection with presenting the proposed library sales to the public is Jodi Yoswein, the same lobbyist who is representing the Walentas firm, the developers building the BAM South project. You have proposed that you wanted the BAM South Library to replace the Pacific Branch Library and that the sale of the Pacific Branch Library would help pay for the BAM South library. Isn't that a conflict of interest and I would like to know how much you pay the Yoswein firm? [Err.- We don't really believe so because. .]
  - c. You also hired BerlinRosen a public relation firm specializing in crisis management- That firm has issued statements on behalf of both you and that developer respecting the BAM South project. How much have you paid BerlinRosen?

#### **UNCERTAINTIES AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SELLING LIBRARIES AS MECHANISM TO FUND CAPITAL BUDGET NEEDS**

19. **Ms. Johnson, you haven't released information about how much money you would bring in from a sale of the Brooklyn Heights Library, either the estimated gross amount or the estimated net amount.- Doesn't that make any capital funding plan based on such a sale unpredictable, unreliable and hard to evaluate? [We won't know until we know.]**
  - a. Will you also be releasing information about how much other private parties will be comparatively benefitting from this sale?- The public won't make as much from the sale because about 50% of the development rights were transferred out to Forest City Ratner (which still holds some of those rights unused) in 1986 and some of the tower replacing the library would be done with rights transferred in from other private parties who want to participate in the transaction.
  - b. In terms of funds generated for the city, any gross proceeds collected by the city and the BPL upon a sale would have to have netted out against it the cost of reconstructing and furnishing a replacement library together with the social and other costs of all the disruption, demolition, rent and refurbishing for a temporary library. Looking at the example of what the NYPL is spending to "replace"

Donnell, to put back a Brooklyn Heights Library of the same size as now, just the construction and refurbishing, would cost on the order of \$40 million. Do you have an over all estimate of ALL of these costs that would have to be netted out from the gross price the city would receive for any sale of that library? Because if you don't or if the estimated net is too low for a sale to be credible (or for a smaller library) the City Council should be planning a library budget that would be based on *keeping* the library, not *selling* it.

- c. Library use is up significantly, 40% programmatically and 59% in terms of circulation. Why then do you want to sell and shrink libraries? [Err.]
- d. Since a BPL library like the Brooklyn Heights Library is owned by the city, proceeds from the sale would go to the city and would constitute a small fraction of the money the city annually funds the library with. Isn't it true that there is absolutely no way to assure that if a library is sold any of that money would ever come back to the library, that the city would not in the end still decide how much money overall would go to the library in any given year, freely deciding whether it should be more or less? [Whether admitted or not, there is no way to assure sale proceeds would benefit the library in the form of increased funds.]

#### **BPL NOT USING FUNDS FOR LIBRARIANS**

- 20. **Ms. Johnson, at the last March 11<sup>th</sup> hearing you said that if the funding cuts that had caused you to fire librarians were restored in the new city library budget you would not necessarily rehire those librarians. Are you aware of the recent PEW study that says that having librarians in the libraries is among the highest priorities of the public and library patrons? If so, why wouldn't you be hiring librarians back?**

#### **TRUSTING THE TRUSTEES?**

- 21. **Mr. Marx, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Galante- This may not be a fair question to ask you here because you report to them, but the question lurks whether we have the right trustees running our systems. Without asking you to comment further here it must be noted:**
  - a. Questions have been raised about whether the Queens system trustees were too lenient in dealing with issues that have come up with respect to Mr. Galante and his employment.
  - b. The BPL trustees now in place by virtue of the Bloomberg administration era have been busy appointing new trustees, some involved in real estate, not necessarily reflective of what the public, the mayor or the borough president might prefer- And Ms. Johnson has spoken of seeking trustees like the head of Goldman Sachs who speaks derisively about the public's undue sense of entitlement when it comes to benefits coming through government.
  - c. The head of the NYPL nominating committee for selecting new NYPL trustees,

an elite group selected with virtually no input from the public, is Stephen Schwarzman.

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Kwai Kin (David) Ho  
Todd Hobler  
Antonio Howell  
Anne Jacobs-Moultrie  
Keith Joseph  
Maria Kercado  
Tyrek Lee  
Rosa Lomuscio  
Winslow Luna  
Coraminita Mahr  
Dalton Mayfield  
Rhina Molina  
Robert Moore\*  
Gerard Nordenberg  
Isaac Nortey  
Elsie Otero  
Vasper Phillips  
Rhadames Rivera  
Victor Rivera  
Rene R. Ruiz  
Claunce St. Hilaire  
Helen Schaub\*  
James Scordato  
John Seales  
Rona Shapiro  
Allan Sherman  
Berta Silva\*  
Patricia Smith  
Greg Speller  
Katherine Taylor  
Clare Thompson  
Kathy Tucker  
Antoinette Turner  
Nelson Valdez  
Ana Vazquez\*  
Lisa Wallace\*  
Margaret West-Allen\*  
Mary Whitten  
Fernando Wilson  
Daine Williams  
Cynthia Wolff  
Gladys Wrenick

**GENERAL COUNSEL**  
Daniel J. Ratner

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER &  
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Michael Cooperman

\* Acting

## TESTIMONY OF GEORGE GRESHAM, PRESIDENT 1199 SEIU UNITED HEALTH CARE WORKERS EAST

### NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FY2015 EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEARING AGING COMMITTEE JUNE 6, 2014

Good morning and thank you Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito, Council Member Margaret Chin, Chair of the Committee on Aging, Council Member Julissa Ferreras, Chair of the Finance Committee, and all Committee members for this opportunity speak on behalf of the 220,000 1199 SEIU-UHWE members residing in New York City.

1199 represents health care workers, including over 70,000 Home Health Aides who provide much affection, respect and dignity with great professional care to their clients. As the aging population grows, the home care industry has become a crucial necessity for those who wish to remain in their homes and avoid institutionalization.

Albany enacted and funded the Wage Parity Law that increases salaries for about 100,000 Home Health Aides to \$14.09 per hour, including cost of benefits. However, the Wage Parity Law only covers Medicaid recipients. An estimated 80,000 older New Yorkers are not eligible for Medicaid. Those individuals rely on Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), which is administered through DFTA. We have approximately 800 to 1,000 members who are under DFTA EISEP contracts, and will only earn \$11.50, including benefits, under the City's living wage law. The EISEP program is not adequately funded by any means. With the vast majority of cases in New York City at the wage parity rates, it will become increasingly difficult to recruit and retain workers at the lower EISEP wages and reduced benefits.

We urge the City to require DFTA contractors to match the wage parity levels adopted by the state, and to provide an hourly reimbursement rate of at least \$19.50 so that the agencies can cover their costs and match wage parity cases. We estimate that \$2.5 million will achieve that. We also support expansion of EISEP programs to ensure that all persons in need of services, not just Medicaid recipients, are able to receive them and that workers earn a more decent wage and receive the benefits they deserve.

Thank you.

#### NEW YORK CITY PRINCIPAL HEADQUARTERS

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**WHITE PLAINS**  
99 Church St.  
White Plains, NY 10601  
(914) 993-6700

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Testimony for June 6, 2014 hearing  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:38:24 AM

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**From:** Alicia Grullon [becomingmyth@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 3:35 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Public Testimony for June 6, 2014 hearing

Dear Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chair on Parks and Recreation Mark Levine and City Council Members:

Thank you very much for increasing the Parks Department budget by \$27 million. I am submitting a written testimony via email to urge the City Council to continue to work with the Mayor to bring that increase back to the budget.

Our parks have been underfunded for so long and while the City has been adding parkland over the years they have not been increasing the budget.

New York City Parks are the heart of the city. They clearly distinguish us from many other American cities. They boost the local economy and civic pride of our city and neighborhoods. New York City parks were conceived as special places where all sections of society could enter free of charge to relax, unwind, and exercise. In our parks we are neither rich nor poor: We are New Yorkers.

We are living in an increasingly build-up environment. Today, our need for parks has come full circle. Our parks create playgrounds, fresh air and provide opportunities for sport, art, culture, ecology, and the necessary biodiversity future cities need to survive climatic changes. They are just as important today as they were in the 19th century.

Please bring back that increase to the budget. We should aspire to continue this timeless heritage for our future generations.

Respectfully yours,  
Alicia Grullon  
Bronx, NY 10463  
[347-523-3053](tel:347-523-3053)

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NYPL  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:31:19 AM

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**From:** alison stones [mastones@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 8:06 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** NYPL

The future of the NYPL is a matter of deep concern to scholars all over the world and to the general public. A thorough investigation is needed, with critical input from users, before any irrevocable measures are implemented without consultation. Those on the spot have done a terrific job of alerting the public to the issues of conservation, access and are well aware of the needs of the public. We should all be listened to and have a say in the future of this unique resource.

Professor Emerita M. Alison Stones, Ph.D., F.S.A.  
Department of History of Art and Architecture, University of Pittsburgh  
255 W 95th St # 5A, New York, NY 10025 tel 646 678 3671  
French address: Chauzanaud, Savignac-les-Églises, 24420  
tel (33) 553 07 81 03 mobile (33) 607 437385

**From:** [financetestimony](mailto:financetestimony)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](mailto:Anderson.Nicole)  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony for City Council hearing about libraries  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:31:10 AM

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**From:** Art Bailey [curiousart@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 8:17 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for City Council hearing about libraries

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like the following questions submitted as testimony for last week's City Council hearing on libraries and NYC budget. Thank you.

*At some point over the last few months, a decision was made to empty over 120 shelves worth of music scores, sheet music, and pedagogical materials, in the Arts and Music room of the Central Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.*

*Q: Are you intending to entirely liquidate the sheet music and score collection?*

*Q: Can you tell me the standards by which you'll be reorganizing and deciding what comes back and what gets discarded, or put into storage?*

*Q: Oftentimes, volumes of high cultural value aren't checked out often, but it's important that they remain in the stacks for research, or because of their rarity. Isn't the purpose of a major library to house books of high cultural importance and rarity, and if that library only contains volumes that are easily obtained elsewhere, isn't that at cross purposes with the mission of a library that considers itself to be an important custodian of culture and knowledge, as it is inscribed on the very front of the building?*

*(inscription: "The Brooklyn Public Library through the joining of municipal enterprise and private generosity offers to all the people perpetual and free access to knowledge and the thought of all the ages.")*

Sincerely,  
Art Bailey  
550 E 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11218

Testimony of

Josef Szende  
Executive Director for  
Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District

Before the New York City Council

Re: Atlantic Avenue Gateway

FY2015 Capital Budget Request

June 6, 2014



**ATLANTIC AVE BID**

340 Atlantic Ave • Brooklyn, NY 11201 • P 718-734-4219 • E [info@atlanticavebid.org](mailto:info@atlanticavebid.org)

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PIER 6 GATEWAY PROJECT  
ATLANTIC AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (AABID)

Good afternoon. My name is Josef Szende, and I am the Executive Director for the Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District (AABID) in Brooklyn. AABID is a 2-year old BID that is dedicated to promoting the Avenue's long-term economic development thereby creating a thriving boulevard that attracts both residents and visitors to its vast array of services, shops and dining, while preserving the Avenue's rich history and diverse character. I would like to thank, Speaker Mark-Viverito, our local representatives Council Members Levin and Lander, and all of the members of City Council for the opportunity to provide this testimony on the FY2015 Capital Budget.

**The AABID Pier 6 Gateway Project is imagined as a precedent setting endeavor for re-making underpasses as vital connections for neighborhoods and businesses.** Underpasses all over the City act as barriers dividing neighborhoods and create unsafe spaces. The Pier 6 Gateway Project (located in the area of Atlantic at Pier 6 - Brooklyn Bridge Park and continuing east to Hicks Street) has already begun to turn around the idea of the underpass to provide a sense of welcoming for arriving pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and bus riders. We view it as a precedent-setting endeavor for remaking unsightly underpasses, transforming them as vital connections for neighborhoods and businesses. Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6 attracts over 15,000 visitors each weekend, all of whom can be potential customers for our small businesses.

Families, tourists, school groups all travel through this underpass. The current state is not welcoming and does not give a feeling of care and safety. For pedestrians, cars, trucks, buses it still feels more like a highway on-ramp than a Gateway to and from one of our city's most important parks. Last summer, as part of the NYC Small Business Services Challenge Grant and the DOT and Groundswell Summer Leadership Institute, we completed a mural on the north side of the BQE underpass. As part of that effort, we also hired Interboro Partners, who completed a redesign to transform the entire area.

**The AABID is requesting support and multiyear funding to implement three components to provide distinct landscape experiences:**

1. Enhanced plantings on the western berm providing seasonal interest (expense funding)
2. Enhanced plantings on the eastern berm (expense funding)
3. New streetscape and lighting along Atlantic Avenue between Furman Street and the BQE ramp. This includes new sidewalk paving to enhance pedestrian safety, bioswales and additional street furniture. Color treatment of the underpass walls and flood lights to match. All of these improvements are safety enhancements for the sake of parents and children who need to cross



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this underpass to get to the Pier 6 playground, which truly is a destination playground. This would be accomplished through three annual investments of \$800,000 during the coming three fiscal years.<sup>1</sup>

The Gateway Project is important beyond its limited scope because it is prototypical for many sites in NYC as former waterfronts are increasingly turned into waterfront parks. Access is often blocked by rail, highway or other infrastructure that runs between the waterfront and adjoining neighborhoods. Finding ways to make the crossings over and under infrastructure barriers more pleasant and to stitch the two entities together is key design task. The NYC DOT therefore is looking at this project as part of its effort “Under the Elevated” across NYC.

**Stakeholders:** These are complex urban sites with different stakeholders, agencies, rules and regulations but the BID has developed contacts at all of them: NYC & NYS DOT, the Adopt-A-Highway program, Berm adopters: Granite International Management and the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, NYC Dept of Small Business Services, Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corp., the Willoughton Association, and One Brooklyn Bridge Park residents/board.

**Support:** AABID has worked to rally support for its proposal by having it listed as a capital project on Council Member Stephen Levin’s Participatory Budget that garnered more than 500 votes. Community Board Two voted to include the Project in its list of FY 2015 budget priorities. The AABID held a workshop in 2013 to elicit community ideas to remediate the many problems of the Gateway area.

**The accomplishments of the AABID** (Atlantic Avenue from Furman to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue) have been:

- Receiving a \$75,000 grant by the NYC Small Business Services agency to hire an architecture firm (Interboro) to design the aforementioned elements;
- Working with DOT, removal of the pigeon infestation and cleaning of the walls and sidewalk
- Working with Groundswell, DOT and community supporters to design and paint a mural on the north wall of the underpass culminating in a public celebration.
- Coordinating with multiple stakeholders to design and prepare a doable plan going forward.

On behalf of the Atlantic Avenue BID, I would like to ask for your support for this project and we are looking forward to working with Council Members to make this a reality.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed DOT Capital program estimates for this project have projected a cost of \$2.4 million over 3 years.



#### ATLANTIC AVE BID

340 Atlantic Ave • Brooklyn, NY 11201 • P 718-734-4219 • E [info@atlanticavebid.org](mailto:info@atlanticavebid.org)

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**PIER 6 GATEWAY PROJECT  
ATLANTIC AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (AABID)**

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Capital/Expense</b>	<b>Government Agency Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>AABID Role/funding</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Streetscape Sidewalk Extension that includes a Bioswale and Wayfinding signs</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>NYC DOT capital project</b>	<b>NYC DOT estimates \$2.4 million</b>	<b>Pedestrian Safety; Rainwater retention and environmental education; local and international tourism econ dev't through wayfinding</b>	<b>Participating in the City Capital Budget Process</b>	<b>City Council; Borough President; Mayor/EDC?</b>
<b>Flood Lights for underdeck and over the sidewalk</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>NYC DOT approval</b>	<b>\$200,000 (parts + labor)</b>	<b>Enhanced and decorative lighting using a distinctive color scheme</b>	<b>DOT willing to install lights as part of Under the Elevated city-wide underpass project</b>	<b>DOT Borough Commissioner; DOT Art and Design; DOT Lighting; permission needed from DOT Bridges</b>
<b>Walls of the underpass Painting (south side)</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>NYC DOT bridges approval</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>Wash and paint south walls of the under-pass to unify with painted north side</b>	<b>BID will fund this as soon as permission is granted</b>	<b>NYC DOT Bridges Dept</b>
<b>East and West Berms Plantings</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>NYC DOT Adopt-A-Highway program</b>	<b>Estimated Betw. \$124,00 and \$178,000</b>	<b>Beautification; Seasonal interest; Economic development connection btw BK Bridge Park and AABID</b>	<b>Partial funding and maintenance coordination with partners</b>	<b>Brooklyn Greenway Initiative (west) + Granite Intern. Management (east)</b>
<b>Benches</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>NYC DOT</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Immediate benefit for park goers + community</b>	<b>AABID is maintenance partner</b>	<b>Bklyn Bridge Park Corp</b>

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Text of Testimony by C. M. Pyle for New York City Council Finance Committee June 3 & 6, 2014  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:33:34 AM

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**From:** C M Pyle [c.m.pyle@nyu.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 09, 2014 10:32 AM  
**To:** Ferreras, Julissa; financetestimony; Edwards, Tanisha; Van Bramer, James; Costa Constantinides; Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito; Public Advocate Letitia James  
**Cc:** Rosenthal, Helen; King, Andy; Crowley, Elizabeth; District35 Brooklyn; Koo, Peter; Levin, Stephen; Meah, Tai; District3; District27; M35; District7; Cornegy, Robert; Gibson, Vanessa; Council Member Vincent Ignizio; Council Member Ydanis A. Rodriguez; Chin  
**Subject:** Text of Testimony by C. M. Pyle for New York City Council Finance Committee June 3 & 6, 2014

**Testimony at the Hearing held by the New York City Council Committee on Finance Jointly with the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and the Select Committee on Libraries Tuesday, June 3, 2014 and Friday, June 6, 2014 (Public Comment)**

Cynthia M. Pyle, New York City (Active Independent Scholar; Fellow of the American Academy in Rome; Co-Chair, Columbia University Seminar in the Renaissance; Life-long user of the Main Research Branch of the New York Public Library) <[c.m.pyle@nyu.edu](mailto:c.m.pyle@nyu.edu)>

Chairwoman Julissa Ferreras, Chaiman Van Bramer, Chairman Constantinides, Members of the City Council:

Having testified in the past on the importance of our formerly great and inspiring Public Research Library, I have only questions today -- questions relevant to the funding of the Library's Main Research Branch in the Budget of the City of New York.

---Why is an individual with no scholarly or research interests -- who was quoted in *The New York Times* (June 1 & 2, 2014) as saying he "never felt a reason to come into this building" as a young person -- why is such a person now presiding over the management of a cultural institution which, when it functioned properly, attracted millions of people, young and old, from our City, and from around the World, to bathe in its inspiration and resources?

I myself was first deeply inspired by the Library as a high school student, when the Library employed binders to bind paperbacks and conservators to repair damaged books, when it employed erudite curators of its great collections, when it employed armies of dedicated reference librarians -- when it held at least 4 million books for ready access.

---Why are the books -- the essential core of a humanities research library -- being neglected, left unbound, unrepaired when they are falling apart? Yet the budgets requested are never for those fundamental books, but only for capital projects?

---Why are curators of collections and expert librarians of the Main Research Branch excluded from Board Meetings -- i.e. the "Executive Sessions" when the general public is asked to leave?

---Why has the staff of expert curators and librarians and technical binders and conservators

been cut?

---Why has a person who let 250 people go from the Harvard University Libraries been hired by the New York Public Library's Main Research Branch?

---Why are people in Real Estate and Finance making decisions about professional resources they never use, in a professional area foreign to their own?

---Why are those on the Board of Directors with some intellectual pretensions -- editors of important journals of opinion, for example -- so silent?

---Why are not at least one-half of the members of that Board appointed by the New York City Government, since the Government pays 50% of the Library's Budget?

And, closely related: Should the NYPL be allowed to raise private monies, when such independence makes it ever less responsible to the Citizens of New York for whose benefit it was founded?

---Why is there so little New York City Oversight (by the Department of Design and Construction, for example, a thoroughly qualified body), of this institution, which was founded for the good of the Citizens of New York?

---What happened to the 1999 Architectural Plans to rebuild the Mid-Manhattan Branch, including high-rental income spaces which would support the Mid-Manhattan and the Main Research Branches of the NYPL?

---The Stacks in the Main Research Branch are in perfect condition, were upgraded in the 1980s and 1990s, and would cost a pittance of what is being requested for capital improvements (largely cosmetic) to return to perfectly functioning order, with re-renewed air conditioning and sprinkler systems. Why is this easily affordable solution, which could restore this great research library to its full and proper function, with 7 million books on site, not the plan?

---Why did a chunk of ceiling fall (after hours, so no one was hurt) just days before this budget hearing? Who has seen or photographed this chunk? Did it make a noise when it fell (like the hypothetical tree in the forest of the well-known philosophical conundrum)?

If it did indeed fall, one recalls other documented instances of non-maintenance in order to enable begging for money.

---Who exactly is conducting the inspection during these weeks of closure of the Main Reading Rooms and the Catalog Room? (Where apparently another chunk fell 10 years ago - - also after its restoration -- and has still not been repaired.)

The City should and must withhold monies for any capital projects at the NYPL -- especially at the Main Research Branch -- until all questions about the use of funds, including Operational Funds, by this Board have been satisfactorily answered, and until City Governance has been put in place on the Board to perform the City's Oversight responsibilities.

Thank you.

--

C. M. Pyle  
Intellectual and Cultural Historian  
Co-Chair, Columbia University Seminar in the Renaissance  
(Ph.D. Columbia University;  
Fellow, American Academy in Rome 1978;  
NSF Individual Grant 1988-89;  
Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts iii-iv2001;  
Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study 2002-3)  
<http://sites.google.com/site/cynthiampyle/>

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Funding of the NYPL  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:38:57 AM

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**From:** Carlalord@aol.com [Carlalord@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 1:19 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Funding of the NYPL

Dear Member of the NYC Council,

Re: Allocation of funds for the NYPL system

I hope that the clout of the City Council and all subcommittees of relevance will be there to offer and supervise the many millions that are necessary to restore the NYPL system to what it was and could be.

- 1) Restore first please the historic stacks at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street library. Underground storage at Bryant Park may have to be considered later. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Street library is of international importance.
- 2) Of significance perhaps only to the five boroughs that constitute New York City is the Mid-Manhattan branch, becoming decrepit since 1972. That could be restored and expanded skywards, and should be the main circulating library of the city, rather than the one at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

After the infrastructure is perfected, perhaps one could hire some librarians and buy a few books.

Sincerely yours,  
Carla Lord

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NY Public Library funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:41:25 AM

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**From:** Carol H Krinsky [chk1@nyu.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 1:45 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** NY Public Library funding

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The request for funding by the New York Public Library requires clarification. The following questions are separate from any funding that will be needed to investigate and repair the recent matter of falling plaster in the most essential area of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street building.

1. What percentage of funds given by the City will be used for the popular Mid-Manhattan Branch? What percentage of the funds will go to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Research Library? Will any funds be available for other branches, and if so, what percentage?
2. What is the cost of storage offsite? Apparently, two storage sites are being used. What is the cost of transportation and insurance for books shuttled between the storage areas and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street? Has any assessment been made of the damage to books in transit? One might guess that improving the climate control and fire safety mechanisms at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street would save money in the long run, i.e. over the next hundred years. Incidentally, fire safety has not been a problem in the past century. Cellulose in books was regarded as a fire retardant, and some insulation from heat was required for steel structures.
3. Whom will the City appoint as Ex-Officio Trustee to the NY Public Library Board of Trustees? The City should require continuous and complete accountability for public funds.
4. Has the Department of Design and Construction evaluated the figures for constructing storage space under Bryant Park, and for improvement of current air-conditioning and fire safety? It should do so, or the City should employ a fully independent cost assessor to do so.  
Exactly what number of books can be stored under Bryant Park? How many books does the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street building own? (These figures will help you to see how economical the Bryant Park storage proposal is.)
5. Please require the Library to disclose details of the Library's cost estimates so that both your Council colleagues and ordinary citizens can see that City money is going to be spent prudently.
6. In view of the proximity of Mid-Manhattan to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street building, will lending services at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street unnecessarily to duplicate services at Mid-Manhattan? To draw the public into 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, that building can continue to house exhibitions and welcome tourists to the major rooms.

7. Does it make budgetary sense to increase youth and children's facilities at 42 Street rather than in residential neighborhoods? We all want young people to feel welcome at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, but few actually live nearby. I have seen many teenagers using the research facilities and computers at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, so they do seem to know already about what's available to them there.

.  
Even if lending services remain at Mid-Manhattan only, the formal school-centered pupil and teacher educational services could be offered in the lowest floor at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, as recently proposed.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol H. Krinsky

370 First Avenue, NY NY 10010  
212 475 1482



**The Center for Arts Education Testimony for the  
New York City Council Hearing on FY15 Executive Budget  
Delivered by Doug Israel, Director of Research and Policy  
June 6, 2014**

Good afternoon. I am Doug Israel, Director of Research and Policy for The Center for Arts Education. On behalf of the board and staff of The Center for Arts Education I would like to thank the Council for the opportunity to testify today on the Mayor's Executive Budget proposal. I will be sharing comments today on the budgets for the Education Department and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Department of Education

We would like to thank the City Council for recognizing the value of arts education for our public school students by proposing \$26 million for arts education in the Council's preliminary budget response. A special thank you goes to Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and Chairs Jimmy Van Bramer and Daniel Dromm for their leadership on this issue.

As you are aware, this important step, and Comptroller Scott Stringer's reporting and dedicated advocacy, have resulted in the Mayor's inclusion of a new \$23 million funding line for arts education in the Department of Education's budget for each of the next four years. We are thankful to the mayor for making this a priority in his budget and for his administration. The funding commitment will help begin to address many of the educational inequities that exist in the delivery of arts education and benefit tens of thousands of students citywide.

To that end, we believe it is essential that this new funding be strategically focused on building strong and lasting school-day arts programming and that it be targeted to help expand access and equity citywide. We urge the City to focus on the three funding priorities to bring about this lasting change:

1. **The lion's share of the funding should be directed towards incentivizing the hiring of arts teachers at city schools.** This funding should prioritize schools that have no arts staff or not enough to meet the state instructional requirements for the arts. According to recent reporting by New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer 28 percent, or 419 schools, do not have a full-time arts teacher on staff. As the presence of an arts teacher on staff is the single most important commitment to arts education that a school could make, incentivizing the hiring of licensed teachers would expand arts education opportunities and address the persistent inequities outlined in Comptroller Stinger's report. Arts teachers are the seed from which great arts programming grows and the anchor that creates sustainability and longevity.

More so than any other fix, hiring an arts teacher will help ensure that the arts become an integral part of a school's infrastructure and culture and ensure the arts fulfill their potential to enliven schools with an engaging and dynamic curricula, helping to prepare students for success in college, career and citizenship. Licensed arts teachers on staff safeguards the arts, ensuring they are part of the school-day curriculum, that students receive the coursework outlined in state law, that the arts are represented at faculty meetings, and at parent-teacher conferences, and that students are able to build sustained relationships with their instructors over time.

To make this happen, the city should provide an incentive for principals to bring an arts teacher on staff, along the lines of a program recently implemented in Chicago. Funds should cover a set percentage of new teacher salary each year over a three-year period, (i.e. 75% first year; 50% second year; 25% third year). This

will help ensure buy-in from the principals and the budgetary incentive to motivate them to take this step. The three-year model also provides a runway for the teacher to become acclimated to the school culture, for the principal and school community to come to understand the value an arts teacher brings, and the will to ensure this position continues into the future.

2. The city should also **dedicate a portion of this funding to incentivize partnerships between schools and the city's rich array of arts and cultural organizations**. Comptroller Stringer's recent report found that 244 city schools, or 16 percent, do not have a partnership with a cultural organization. Partnerships between schools and outside arts and cultural organizations deepen not only arts learning opportunities for participating students but learning across the curriculum. When such partnerships become an integral part of a school's vision, learning through experiences with these arts and cultural institutions becomes an energizing force in the school community. Successful partnerships also echo beyond the school walls as students and staff are connected to community resources and introduced to cultural organizations and experiences in new and engaging ways. We know from experience that these partnerships work best when coordinated with a school-based licensed arts teacher.
3. Finally, to provide schools with the necessary support to build sustainable arts education programs the city should allocate resources, either from this budget line or from the Department of Education's existing professional development budget to **expand professional development and leadership training in the arts**, specifically for those schools taking on new arts teachers or partnerships.

#### Department of Cultural Affairs

We would also like to thank the Mayor and the City Council for recognizing the value of arts and culture more generally to the City of New York by baselining funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs and ending the yearly budget dance. This vital step presents a more sustainable funding model that will allow cultural organizations and artists to better serve our great city. Cultural organizations and artists are essential to our economy, they provide education to our children, and they contribute to our city's cultural vibrancy, making it an attractive place to live and visit. This includes our Cultural Institution Groups (CIGs) and cultural organizations across all five boroughs, all of which play a distinct and important role in community development.

We ask that you continue to baseline the funding for both the CIGs and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) which supports the Program Category. **We support the \$6 million increase to the CDF which the New York City Arts Coalition requested** in the Preliminary Budget Hearing in order to provide an opportunity to fund newer groups and increase funding for those which are underfunded.

We also ask that you **support the creation of a new and distinct \$5 million funding line—above and beyond the proposed DCA budget—that would be directed towards fostering partnerships between our city's great arts and cultural organizations and our public schools**. The creation of this line outside of the Department of Education's budget will allow the Department of Cultural Affairs to more deeply fulfill its mission by expanding access to arts and culture to a broader array of city residents and more deeply engaging our cultural organizations in our schools and communities. We believe a significant portion of these funds should be targeted towards those school communities that are most in need and have been identified, through the City Comptroller's report or otherwise, as underserved in the arts. Program funds should be awarded on a multi-year basis in a competitive process to organizations and artists that partner with those schools.

Finally, as we look forward to the budget cycles of 2016 and beyond, we want you to be our partners in creating a sustainable funding model for New York City culture and move closer to the goal of **increasing funding for culture to one percent of the municipal expense budget** which 75% of City Council Members have indicated they support. We recognize that this kind of increase cannot happen overnight but in order for culture to continue to serve our city's communities, we must make steps toward this goal.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to continuing dialogue and an opportunity to help the city improve educational opportunities and achievement for students and support a diverse and vibrant arts and cultural sector and economy.



Testimony of

Stephanie Gendell  
Associate Executive Director  
Policy and Government Relations

Before the  
New York City Council Finance Committee

Regarding the  
New York City  
Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget

June 6, 2014

Good afternoon. My name is Stephanie Gendell, and I am the Associate Executive Director for Policy and Government Relations at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC). CCC is a 70-year old independent child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.

I would like to thank Chair Ferreras and the members of the Finance Committee for seeking public testimony on the City's FY15 Executive Budget. CCC's testimony focuses on the impact of the proposed budget on children, as well as our additional budget priorities.

CCC is grateful to the de Blasio Administration and the City Council for making the welfare of New York City's children and families central to developing a Fiscal Year 2015 budget. It is true that a budget reflects an administration's values and we believe that this proposed budget takes critical steps towards improving the lives of the City's nearly 2 million children. Our new Mayor, the City's new Commissioners and the City Council have all embraced addressing income inequality and compassionately helping the City's most vulnerable.

In addition, after years of advocating for the restoration of the same funding and child care and after-school slots, we are now here to testify about how we can strengthen and expand social services in New York City. We are extremely grateful that millions of dollars for ACS, DHS, HRA, DYCD, and DOHMH have been baselined, including the funding for thousands of slots in child care centers and family child care networks, after-school programs, Teen RAPP, emergency food programs, mental health services for children under 5, and initiatives such as asthma, autism and obesity prevention. We were thrilled when Mayor de Blasio declared the budget dance to be over and this Budget takes some critical steps to towards expanding and strengthening the social service network for children and families.

CCC looks forward to working with the new Administration and the City Council to reach our shared goals—to protect the safety of New York City's children, to lift New Yorkers out of poverty, to ensure all New Yorkers have a safe and stable home in which to live, to ensure all families have access to high quality, affordable child care in their communities, and to markedly enhance the well-being of children in every NYC neighborhood.

While we have a long way to go to meet these goals, this Executive Budget starts us on the right track. Notably, this budget includes funding for full day pre-k for all 4-year olds, after-school programs for all middle school students, funding for a new housing subsidy program for working families, funding for the Center for Health Equity, which will target chronic health issues in the neighborhoods with the highest premature mortality rates and funding to expand, and funding to expand maternal, infant and reproductive health services in schools and homes.

We are also pleased to learn that the City Council is reviewing all of the agency deficits and former Council initiatives, as well as developing new Council Initiatives to address the needs of young New Yorkers. CCC looks forward to learning more about the new initiatives and advocating for those that will impact the lives of children and families.

As discussed in more detail in this testimony, CCC is supportive of the Executive Budget proposals and respectfully submits additional budget proposals and priorities to help strengthen the plans underway.

### **Early Childhood Education**

Every New York City child should have access to a high-quality, affordable early childhood education. CCC is extremely grateful that the administration has taken an historic and tremendous step towards achieving this goal with its plan and funding for full-day pre-school for all 4-year olds. The \$300 million in FY15 (and \$340 million in FY16) will ensure full-day pre-k for 53,604 children in September 2014 and then 73,250 by January 2016. This is an incredible, life-altering program for thousands of young New Yorkers.

In addition, CCC supports the Executive Budget proposal to add \$900,000 for more staff at DOHMH to license and inspect the centers. These additional staff are critical to ensuring programs can be licensed by their start date in September and will provide valuable ongoing oversight to ensure quality programming for young children.

While our appreciation for the administration's commitment to UPK and early childhood education cannot be overstated, it is important that this initiative be implemented effectively. Notably, it is critical to avoid the unintended consequence of reducing programs for 3-year olds as we expand programs for 4-year olds.

The plan for UPK expansion includes higher rates for programs and higher salaries for lead teachers for 4-year olds. Specifically, the funding for the new UPK program in CBOs includes a salary adjustment of \$44,000-\$50,000 for 4-year old lead teachers (based on whether they are certified teachers).

While we appreciate the salary adjustment, we believe that to preserve the stability of a very fragile system and to keep quality teachers in CBOs, serving 4-year olds as well as younger children, requires the following additional adjustments:

- Ensure equal salary parity for 3-year old lead teachers (\$12 million to bring these teachers to the planned \$44,000-\$50,000 for 4-year old teachers).
- Adjust the salaries for the other staff serving 3 and 4-year olds.
- Adjust the salaries for teachers and other staff serving infants and toddlers.
- Create true salary parity by paying teachers and staff in CBOs the same salaries as those providing the exact same program in DOE schools.

In addition, early childhood education is much more than six hours and twenty minutes of pre-kindergarten for 4-year olds during the school year. For many 4-year olds, particularly those served by the Administration for Children's Services, it includes an 8-10 hour day and summer programming for a total of 261 days (compared to 181 days). We believe that is important for CBOs serving ACS children to be able to offer this full array of services to all of its 4-year olds.

Furthermore, we must stake steps to strengthen the subsidized child care system. CCC was very pleased to see included in the Executive Budget a plan to create a task force of key stakeholders,

led by the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, to deliver a strategic plan for reforming the child care delivery system.

Historically, for more years that one can bear to count, testifying at City Council Budget hearings has meant pleading with the Administration and the City Council to restore millions of dollars and thousands of slots for child care. It is therefore refreshing to be testifying today about how to incorporate almost \$63 million in baselined funding as well as expand full-day UPK to every 4-year old. CCC is incredibly grateful to the Administration for its commitment to early childhood education.

After many years of budget cuts and the disruption caused by the EarlyLearn RFP, the expansion of full day pre-k gives us an opportunity to stabilize and strengthen ACS's subsidized child care and Head Start system. We must seize this opportunity in a manner that ensures ACS no longer carries a structural budget deficit, expands early childhood access for children 0-3, improves the quality of the programming available for all young children, compensates and supports the workforce appropriately, and ensures programs are fiscally solvent and able to thrive.

While the Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget does not have any cuts to the child care system, ACS still has a structural deficit in its child care budget. We believe that stabilizing the child care system requires the Administration to permanently resolve ACS's structural deficit and ensure providers and their staff are adequately compensated. For years, we have seen that ACS's child care budget is unable to sustain both its contracted system and the increasingly costly voucher system. Typically, the voucher system is for the "mandated" population, meaning families on or transitioning off of public assistance, for whom federal law requires they receive child care. Families use the vouchers for center-based care, family child care or informal family, friend or neighbor care. While families can choose to enroll their children in the EarlyLearn system rather than use a voucher, they often choose vouchers—perhaps due to their choice about the setting of their care, because of the limited time they have to secure care and move forward with their public assistance case, or because HRA and ACS need to work on a better system to ensure these families know where EarlyLearn vacancies are located.

ACS historically reduced their voucher expenses by eliminating priority codes for vouchers, such as those for special needs children or parents and other populations not mandated to receive care. When the costs associated with the mandated system (i.e. the vouchers) increased and the other priorities eliminated, ACS also handled the squeeze by cutting (or proposing to cut) the non-mandated portion of their system, which is now the system of contracted care. Recently, it has meant reducing the size of the EarlyLearn system. The children in the contracted system typically come from low-income working families—exactly the families we would want to have child care so they can remain in the workforce.

CCC believes that this issue should be resolved by ensuring ACS is funded to meet the fiscal obligations of its voucher system. Other services that are mandatory to provide to those who are eligible result in budget re-estimates for the agency mandated to provide the service. For example, when the shelter system increases or decreases, there is a budget re-estimate for DHS. The same happens for HRA with regard to public assistance and for ACS with foster care. Since child care for those on or transitioning off of public assistance is also a mandated service, OMB

should be conducting budget re-estimates that fund ACS for the number and type (i.e. cost) of mandated vouchers they are providing. This would go a long way towards resolving ACS's structural deficit.

We believe that in light of the positive changes being implemented at HRA, more families may be on or transitioning off of public assistance—and thus entitled to child care. Without implementing a system that adjusts ACS's budget based on the number of families on or transitioning off of public assistance, ACS's budget deficit will increase further. We respectfully request that the City Council urge the Administration take this step to protect the child care system from future cuts.

CCC is pleased that the \$63 million of funding that is currently funding thousands of center-based and family child care network slots and school-aged child care vouchers has been baselined and that the ACS is entering into negotiated acquisitions with the programs for FY15. Ultimately, it is critical that agencies do not have separate systems—their system and a Council system. This will require adjusting the rate for the programs that were previously funded by the City Council. We look forward to working with the City Council and the Administration to more permanently resolve this issue in the FY16 budget.

### **After-school Programs**

New York City's after-school programming includes a mix of academic supports, sports, youth development, and recreation. After-school programs keep elementary, middle and high school students engaged in a wide array of enriching and positive activities during after-school, holiday and summer hours. Youth are at greatest risk for delinquency between the hours of 3-6pm<sup>1</sup> and every \$1 invested in youth services saves \$3 in savings for participants and taxpayers.<sup>2</sup> After-school programs enable parents to work while their children are both safe and receiving stimulating, nurturing and developmentally appropriate care. These programs have clearly demonstrated their benefits for children, families, and communities.

We are extremely grateful to the de Blasio administration for its unwavering support for expanding the after-school system, particularly for middle school students. The Executive Budget includes an additional \$145 million in FY15 for the middle school after-school expansion (\$190 million in FY16). Starting in September, 43,000 additional middle school students will be served and by September 2105, the expansion will reach 51,000 both during the academic year and the summer.

While this expansion is historic for middle school students, there are some critical steps for elementary students that must be taken in the short term. First, over 22,000 elementary school children are in OST programs previously funded by the City Council and these programs do not have the funding (\$17.6 million) for the upcoming summer 2014. In addition, while the middle

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<sup>1</sup> Fight Crime Invest in Kids. *New York City's Out-of-School Time Choice: The Prime Time for Crime or Youth Enrichment and Achievement*, 2008. Available online: <http://www.fightcrime.org/reports/NYCAS2pager.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Lattimore, C. B., Mihalic, S. F., Grotspeter, J. K., & Taggart, R. (1998); "The Quantum Opportunities Program"; In D.S. Elliot (Series Ed.), *Blueprints for violence prevention: Book four*; Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence.

school after-school plan equalizes the rate paid to all middle school OST programs, this is not the case for elementary programs where those previously funded by the City Council receive a lower rate than other OST programs. We respectfully request that the City Council negotiate a budget with the administration that provides summer elementary funding (\$17.6 million) and \$7.97 million to ensure rate parity for elementary school after-school programs.

As we complete the middle school expansion, the next step must be to work to expand the system for elementary and high school students and ensure the stability of the Beacon and Cornerstone programs.

With regard to Cornerstone, there is \$19.4 million in the FY2015 budget (for 45 programs), but this money is not baselined. We respectfully request that the funding be baselined in the adopted budget. In addition, we believe that the future of after-school will require strengthening the Beacon programs. Since their creation in 1991, the average funding per Beacon is \$346,000. This is not sufficient for a program playing such a critical role in so many communities. We believe that there is an opportunity to begin to address this through the expansion of community schools.

### **Helping Homeless Families**

With the number of homeless families and children continuing to increase, we are especially grateful for the administration's multi-prong plan to addressing homelessness included in the Executive Budget. There are now over 11,000 families with over 23,000 children sleeping in DHS homeless shelters each night.

While the Administration's plan includes components that still need state approval and/or state resources and will not eliminate homelessness, we think that it is a significant step forward in addressing this crisis.

Specifically, CCC supports the following Executive Budget proposals that we believe will help reduce family homelessness:

- In collaboration with DHS and the State develop a strategy to reinvest \$60.1 million in savings from the DHS shelter system to provide targeted rental assistance to families in shelter. This savings will come from a rental cap on shelter (\$1500) and requires state approval.
- Add \$3 million CTL in FY 15 (\$40 million over 4 years with \$8.2 million in FY16, \$12.95 million in FY17 and \$15.8 million in FY18) for the Working Families Rental Assistance Pilot (to help homeless families). Plan includes equal contributions from the state and state commitment is still pending.
- Add \$2.2 million city funds (\$12.2 million total funds) for homeless prevention expansion (Homebase).
- Consolidate \$15.1 million of legal service contracts (in HRA) for families at risk of being evicted.
- Work with the state to expand the Family Eviction Prevention Supplement (FEPS) program to provide more at risk families with financial assistance to remain in their homes.
- Reinstate the homeless priority for public housing to ensure that affordable apartments are reserved for the neediest families.

Additionally, CCC supports the following Executive Budget proposals aimed at improving the safety and conditions of family shelters:

- Add \$135,000 for Catherine Street security until all families move out by November 2014.
- Add \$2.8 million for directly-operated shelter security.
- Add \$889,000 for contracted shelter security (\$2.4 million in total funds) (for FY15 only as the families will transition out of these shelters).
- Restore \$9.1 million to restore funding for an initiative that would have housed families with small children in shared apartment style units.

CCC is grateful to the administration that the Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposes to address the current homelessness crisis by increasing recourses to prevent homelessness; caring for the homeless in a shelter system that is safe, clean and service-rich; helping the homeless leave shelter to permanent housing through the creation of two rental assistance programs; expanding affordable housing and supportive housing; enabling homeless families to have the highest priority access to Section 8 and NYCHA facilities; and ensuring supports and services are available when families leave the shelter system.

That all said, it is still unclear how many homeless families and children will be able to benefit from the new rental assistance programs, how much funding the State will commit for the new programs, and what the timeline is to move these new initiatives forward. Additionally, we are concerned that the rental subsidy programs are not robust enough in scale to combat the homelessness crisis and help families prepare, transition, and connect to long-term independence.

Furthermore, while we are grateful that the Administration has recognized the poor conditions in two of the City's shelters for children and families, more needs to be done to ensure that all homeless children are provided safe, decent shelter accommodations and that their basic needs are met. While Auburn and Catherine Street are likely the most egregious, we hope that this is the beginning of DHS's review of conditions at all of its Tier 2 shelters, as well as the cluster sites, and that additional closures, renovations and resources will be sought for other facilities unsafe for children.

Therefore, CCC renews its request for DHS to do a full review of all shelters for children and their families—both Tier 2 and cluster sites and then make the findings publicly available. Additionally, CCC urges the Administration to include resources to not only examine current conditions in shelters, but also to address additional concerns if they exist.

In addition to shelters being safe for children and families, we believe that the best way to help homeless families is to also ensure they receive necessary services on-site, such as health and mental health services, child abuse and neglect prevention services, domestic violence counseling, STD prevention services, and employment training services. We hope the Council and the Administration can work together to ensure these types of on-site services return to the shelter system so that they are readily available to these families in crisis.

Finally, addressing homelessness will also require increasing affordable housing and supportive housing. CCC supports the Mayor's plan to expand affordable housing. CCC is a member of

the Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing proposal, which calls on the State and the City to create a NY/NY 4, which could be an agreement to create 30,000 units of supportive housing over the next 10 years.

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth**

CCC is grateful to the City Council for its long-standing commitment to the City's runaway and homeless youth. After years of advocating for the same City Council funding that supported over half of the City's system, this funding is now baselined and the City is proposing to add \$3.4 million for 100 additional shelter beds. CCC supports this proposal.

We believe that the 100 new beds is a critical first step to better meeting the needs of the City's runaway and homeless youth. The system likely needs well more than 100 beds, in addition to a breadth of services to better meet the needs of these young people (including health, mental health, education, counseling and family mediation services). In addition, we believe that additional funding is needed to address the needs of sexually exploited girls and boys. We look forward to working with the administration and the City Council to enhance the service continuum currently available for these very vulnerable youth.

### **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**

SYEP is a win-win for youth, their families, communities and the NYC economy. SYEP is an invaluable program that provides youth ages 14-24 with a six-week summer work experience, training, income, and lessons in financial literacy. The program provides a youth with up to six-weeks of paid employment, as well as an educational component. Wages earned help to supplement family income, youth learn about budgeting and saving, and much of the earned income is spent in the local economy.

CCC is grateful that the State Budget and the City Executive Budget add funding for SYEP to address the January 2014 minimum wage increase so that there is no reduction in services.

This past summer 135,388 youth submitted applications and only 35,947 youth were able to enroll (27%). This trend is typical, with annual applications ranging from the 120,000-140,000 and participation ranging from 28,000-50,000. Given the demand for SYEP and the incredible benefits it offers, CCC supports a 5-year plan to reach 100,000 youth through SYEP.

As the first step in this 5-year plan, CCC supports the City Council's request for an additional \$14.2m for an additional 10,000 additional SYEP slots.

### **Health and Mental Health Services for Children**

CCC is extremely grateful that millions of dollars for health programs and services for children and families have been baselined. After years of advocating for the restoration of the same funding and slots for the same programs—such as dental vans, obesity prevention programs, asthma initiatives and the infant mortality initiative—the budget dance is essentially over. This leaves the City Council and the Administration poised to strengthen the health services infrastructure in New York City—to better ensure children and youth are able to access high quality services in their communities in a timely fashion.

CCC supports the Executive Budget proposals to strengthen the health care delivery system, particularly for children, through the creation of the Center for Health Equity; a new investment of \$2.1 million CTL (\$3.3 million total funds) for maternal, infant and reproductive health services in schools and homes; and the addition of \$1.5 million into ACS's budget to expand health and mental health services for youth in the city's detention facilities.

Over the past decade, we have seen many improvements in key child health indicators, including reductions in infant mortality and child lead poisoning; however, stark disparities in health outcomes continue to exist among racial and ethnic groups, as well as geographically. The goal of the new Center for Health Equity is to target chronic health issues in the neighborhoods with the highest premature mortality rates. The Center will focus on three key areas: leveraging policy changes to better integrate primary care and public health to serve the health needs of communities; building interagency collaboration to implement a multi-sectorial approach to addressing the root causes of health disparities; and increasing access to care by making services more accessible in neighborhoods with the worst health outcomes. We believe the Center for Health Equity has the potential to address health disparities and we are pleased to support its creation.

CCC is also pleased to support the \$2.1 million in city funds (\$3.3 million total funds) to increase funding for maternal and infant health programs. Specifically, this funding expands the City's home visiting program and the CATCH (Connecting Adolescents to Comprehensive Health) program.

The home visiting expansion will include the hiring of 15 new staff to allow for an additional 1,000 visits in Harlem and Brooklyn. The CATCH expansion includes hiring 6 additional staff to expand the program to 14 new schools (bringing the total number of schools to 28). The CATCH expansion will bring reproductive health counseling, testing and contraception to 28,000 additional students in schools that do not have a school based health center.

CCC is extremely grateful that the Executive Budget proposes to restore funding for the two immunization clinics that the previous administration had planned to close. CCC, many of our colleagues and the City Council had strongly objected to these closures planned by the Bloomberg Administration. The City's three immunization clinics are vital to the vulnerable families who depend on them for access to free and affordable immunization services that may not otherwise be readily available in and around their communities. These clinics, located in Fort Greene Brooklyn, the Tremont section of the Bronx and Corona in Queens currently ensure that thousands of children and families receive flu shots and critical immunizations, including measles, mumps, rubella, Hepatitis B, tetanus and many more.

Unfortunately, DOHMH is now reporting that the two immunization clinics in Tremont and Crotona Park are once again slated for closure—this time because of a \$4.38 million federal cut to the clinics. In 2012 alone, the Tremont and Corona clinics served 10,000 children combined, administering nearly 15,000 vaccines. Aside from the clear health-related benefits to ensuring children and families receive immunizations and flu shots, a new study found that there is an economic incentive as well, as every \$1 spent on vaccinations results in \$10 of health-related

cost savings.<sup>3</sup> CCC urges the City Council to negotiate a budget with the Administration that addresses this federal cut so that these invaluable immunization clinics can remain open.

We were also thrilled when Mayor Bloomberg baselined \$1.25 million in funding for mental health services for children under five in the November budget modifications. Since Fiscal Year 2006, the NYC Council has shown visionary leadership in supporting this initiative, which provides psychological trauma services to children under the age of five and their families. This has been the only dedicated funding in New York City to provide this level and type of expertise to children and families in need.

Even with the baselined funding for the mental health contracts and services for children under five, most outpatient mental health care providers are still operating under-resourced and overcapacity. Waitlists for mental health services are a common occurrence, with providers reporting their average wait times for appointments spanning four to six weeks and sometimes as long as twelve weeks. Given that most appointments for these services are made when acute symptoms emerge, such prolonged wait times can encourage drop off. Consequently, postponing care at the earlier stages of need can require more intensive (and expensive) care later on. We respectfully request that the City Council negotiate a budget with the Administration that adds \$500,000 for mental health services for children under 5, to bring funding back to the FY08 level.

CCC shares the Council's concern for the growing numbers of City youth who are contemplating suicide. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among NYC youth ages of 10 and 24. According to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, about 30% of NYC public high school students experience depression annually, 10% report a suicide attempt and 3% require medical care for this attempt. Having a mental health disorder, such as depression or alcohol dependency, is the greatest risk factor for suicide; however, despite this known association, national estimates have shown that only one in five children diagnosed with mental health needs actually receives treatment. In addition to self-destructive behaviors, unmet mental health needs also heighten a young person's risk for an array of negative outcomes such as school failure, victimization, family discord, violence and substance abuse.

Fortunately, these negative outcomes can largely be prevented. To do so, it is critical that young people know where to turn for help when they are in a crisis situation. CCC's 2013 report, "A Prescription for Expanding School-Based Mental Health Services," reveals how schools are uniquely situated to respond to children's' mental health needs, both during emergencies and for ongoing treatment. Schools are home to a captive audience of an often hard-to-reach and at times at-risk population of children and adolescents. They offer a familiar environment that enables more productive conversations and reduces stigma that youth might associate with traditional clinic settings. In addition to reducing self-destructive behaviors, the availability of mental health services in schools has been linked to higher test scores, fewer discipline referrals, fewer absences and improved graduation rates. Benefits extend beyond students who receive on site services and have been shown to improve the school environment and provide teachers, other school staff and parents with needed resources for children.

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<sup>3</sup> Zhou, Shefer, Wenger, et al. "Economic Evaluation of the Routine Childhood Immunization Program in the United States, 2009." *Pediatrics* (April 2014) Vol. 133, No. 4

While the benefits of school-based clinics to students and their surrounding communities are numerous, unfortunately a fragile business model threatens their long-term sustainability. These satellite clinics operate under the auspices of independent, licensed, not-for-profit health care institutions. They are required to serve all students seeking service irrespective of the student insurance coverage and are not allowed to receive a co-payment for services on school grounds. While school-based clinics claim payments from insurers (including Medicaid) for the delivery of care, they usually are only able to recoup a fraction of the total cost of care provided even after all efforts to maximize claims have been exhausted. These recurring insufficient payments inhibit their ability to be self-sustaining, and consequently jeopardize their long-term financial viability.

As New York State's Medicaid Redesign is implemented and these programs shift from a fee-for-service reimbursement model to Medicaid Managed Care, it is critical that the services rendered on school grounds be taken into consideration and that reimbursement methods ensure that payment is made for all services rendered – both to ensure students can access needed care, and to ensure that clinics are financially viable. CCC will be working with our colleagues at the state level to urge the State to create a special designation for both school-based health and mental health centers within the managed care system to simplify and streamline the billing system, and make certain that the services rendered on school grounds are part of established health homes and networks so that these school-based clinics can remain fiscally viable. We respectfully request that the City Council include this request as part of your state advocacy.

At the local level, the Council can encourage DOHMH to collaborate with the Department of Education and Office of School Health to overcome regulatory barriers contributing to school-based clinic operating deficits such as fees levied on clinics operating during times when school is closed (such as evenings, weekends and summer). The City Council could also work with DOHMH to protect and enhance dedicated supports for school-based clinical services until the aforementioned barriers to clinic solvency are remedied. We hope that the City Council and the administration can work together to preserve the current on-site SBHCs and SBMH clinics, and ultimately to expand these services.

### **Operation SAFE**

The children and families of New York City are fortunate to have a Mayor who cares so deeply about children touched by the child welfare system, as well as a new Commissioner who could not be any more well-versed in child welfare and juvenile justice issues. In addition, both systems have made tremendous progress over the past decade—significantly decreasing the number of children in foster care (now to under 12,000), decreasing the number of children in detention (currently 223), decreasing the number of children placed in facilities post-disposition, and increasing the number of children receiving the preventive services that keep them out of foster care and the juvenile justice system.

While there has been much progress, there are still challenges. Child welfare still faces the challenge of ensuring that child protective services is able to identify which children are at the most risk and need to be in foster care, which children are safe in their homes, and which families need services to allay the risks to children. This is no easy feat. In addition, children in

New York City still face very long lengths of stay in foster care and too many youth age out of the system with no family and poor outcomes.

CCC appreciates the attention currently being paid to court ordered supervision cases. We have often expressed our concerns that these are the highest risk cases—cases where court-intervention is warranted, the children remain in the home, and the family is often referred to services by a child protective worker rather than a preventive service program. Furthermore, the services in these cases are no longer voluntary, significantly changing the dynamic and the model for prevention.

Thus, CCC supports the Executive Budget proposal for Operation SAFE, which includes \$10.2 million CTL (starting in FY16), to enable ACS to hire 362 new positions. CCC urges the administration to ensure that sufficient funding for staffing exists in FY2015, since this money is actually slated for FY16.

### **SNAP and Emergency Food Programs**

While many City Council initiatives have been baselined, several programs that enable New Yorkers to use their SNAP benefits to purchase healthy foods were not. We are particularly concerned that the Preliminary Budget fails to fund farmers' markets and the use of EBT in farmers' markets. Specific items that were not baselined include: \$335,000 for SNAP (food stamps)/EBTs at Farmers' markets; \$61,000 for the expansion of the New Amsterdam Market and \$60,000 to expand low income farmers' markets.

While SNAP benefits are a critical component of ensuring the food security of New Yorkers, there are many hungry New Yorkers who are not eligible, eligible New Yorkers who are not enrolled, and the federal government has cut SNAP benefits. Effective November 1, 2013, SNAP recipients had their benefits decreased due to federal cuts to the SNAP program. Specifically, for example, a household of three has lost approximately \$29 per month – more than 20 meals.<sup>4</sup> Thus, unfortunately, many New Yorkers need to turn to emergency food programs (EFPs), such as food pantries and soup kitchens.

Since the federal SNAP cuts went into effect in November, EFPs have experienced a marked increase in the demand for food. EFPs also saw a substantial growth in visitors preceding the SNAP cuts, as a result of both the recession and Hurricane Sandy. Given these circumstances, EFPs need more funding so that they can attempt to serve the 1.4 million New Yorkers who seek their help.

While we appreciate that \$1.5 million for EFPs was baselined in the November modifications, this funding does not address the new needs EFPs are facing. To meet the increased demand and cost of food, CCC will be urging the Administration to increase funding for EFPs by \$8.1 million (from \$11.7 to \$19.8 million) in the Executive Budget. We respectfully request the Council make the same request.

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<sup>4</sup> The Farm Bill that passed in 2014 included even more cuts to SNAP, which would have caused greater food hardship among New Yorkers who participate in the program. However, Governor Cuomo recently announced that he is devoting state funding to make up for these benefit losses that New York State SNAP recipients would have experienced.

### **School Lunch and Breakfast**

CCC was disappointed that the Executive Budget did not propose making school lunch universal in New York City and we are deeply grateful for the commitment of the Speaker, Public Advocate, and City Council to ensuring New York City's public school children eat. As you know, many eligible students skip school meals because of the poverty stigma.

Implementing universal school lunch will only cost NYC \$20 million, will increase federal and state funding for food, and will not cause NYC to lose critical Title I funding for schools. The United States Department of Education has issued guidance to school districts wishing to make school lunch universally free. Included in the US DOE's guidance is a recommendation that school districts can simply replace the current school lunch form with an alternate income eligibility form.

It is important to emphasize that regardless of how NYC implements universal lunch, the amount of Title I funding is not impacted- the only potential change would be to the distribution of the funding. That said, many other school districts and cities, including here in New York, have implemented citywide universal school lunch without negative ramifications. The cities include Buffalo, Hempstead, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy and Utica in NYS, as well as Boston, Chicago, Dallas and Detroit. Chicago plans to implement a citywide universal lunch program this coming fall.

CCC urges the administration and the City Council to work together to ensure NYC's public school children have access to universal lunch by the 2014-2015 school year. In addition, CCC supports the expansion of Breakfast in the Classroom/Breakfast After the Bell and encourages the administration to expand this program as well.

### **City Council Funding and Initiatives**

CCC is extremely grateful that millions of dollars for programs and services for children have been baselined in the November modifications or proposed to be baselined in the Preliminary Budget or Executive Budget. Baselined funds were for programs including dental vans, mental health services for children under 5, obesity prevention programs, asthma initiatives, immunization clinics, the Teen RAPP program, and over \$140 million for child care and after-school programs.

The contracts, with the programs previously funded by the City Council, end on June 30, 2014. We are extremely pleased that the Administration is entering into negotiated acquisitions for one year with the programs previously funded by the City Council. As many of these programs have provided high quality services throughout the City for a very long time, this extension prevents system disruption for families, communities and providers, and incorporates the Council programs into the relevant city agencies. When the FY15 budget is complete, CCC looks forward to working with the City Council and the administration to discuss the next steps for these programs for the FY2016 budget and beyond.

While the majority of Council Funded programs and restorations have been restored and funding baselined, there are still programs and services for children and families that did not benefit from

baselining. These programs and initiatives, year in and year out, have also provided essential supports for children and families – improving access to healthy foods, helping to prevent abuse and neglect, improve education outcomes, or reduce the risk of homelessness, or incarceration. We respectfully request that the City Council negotiate a budget with the administration that restores and baselines the following initiatives that impact children, youth and families:

#### Social Services

- Food Stamps/EBTs at farmers markets- \$335,000
- Expansion of New Amsterdam Market- 61,000
- Expand low income farmers markets- \$60,000
- EITC assistance program- \$150,000

#### Child Welfare

- Child advocacy centers- \$500,000
- Project CONNECT- \$600,000

#### Education

- CHAMPS- \$125,000
- Chess in Schools- \$200,000
- Child Mind Institute- \$250,000
- Community schools- \$150,000
- Creative arts- \$200,000
- Dropout prevention- \$2.25 million
- Teacher's Choice- \$4.585 million
- Urban Advantage- \$2.5 million

#### Housing and Homelessness:

- Citywide task force on housing court- \$500,000
- Community consultants (HPD)- \$415,000
- Anti-eviction services- \$2 million
- Citywide homeless prevention fund- \$250,000
- Mortgage foreclosure program- \$750,000
- Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development- \$100,000

#### Juvenile Justice

- Alternatives to Incarceration- \$3.35 million
- Center for Court Innovation- \$400,000
- Vera- \$250,000

#### Legal Services

- Citywide legal services- \$1.5 million
- LIFT- \$485,000
- Legal services for the working poor- \$1.05 million
- SSI-UI Legal Advocacy Program- \$1 million

#### Department of Youth and Community Development

- TASC- \$3 million

- New York Junior Tennis League-\$800,000
- YMCA- \$350,000
- Sports and Arts- \$1 million

CCC's full list of City FY 2015 Budget Priorities is attached to this testimony. We look forward to being a partner with the Administration, ACS, the City Council and our colleagues as we build a better New York City for our children. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



### **CCC City Fiscal Year 2015 Priorities to Make New York City a Better Place to be a Child**

CCC is a 70-year old, independent multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe. The Executive Budget for FY 2015 includes many proposals that will improve the lives of the City's 1.1 million children. CCC respectfully submits the following additional priorities:

#### **Early Childhood Education:**

- Add \$12 million for comparable salaries for the lead teachers of 3-year olds in CBOs (to be the same salary as 4-year old teachers)
- Add funding to achieve salary parity for other preschool staff, infant and toddler staff (lead teacher and other staff) and to ensure parity with DOE school staff.
- Add funding to provide full- year, full day care for 4-year olds in UPK in CBOs.

#### **Education:**

- Add funding for audible alarms on side doors of all elementary and District 75 Schools.
- Add \$20 million and make school lunch universal.
- Make Breakfast in the Classroom/Breakfast After the Bell universal.

#### **Food and Economic Security**

- Add \$8.1 million for Emergency Food Programs.

#### **Health and Mental Health**

- Add \$500,000 for Mental Health Services for Children Under 5 (which would restore the capacity of this program to its FY2008 level).
- Add \$4.38 million to address federal cut to immunization clinics and enable 2 clinics to remain open.

#### **Housing and Homelessness**

- Add funding to the DHS budget to ensure DHS staff can assess the safety of all family shelter placements (Tier 2 and cluster site) and then address safety concerns.

#### **Youth Services:**

- Add \$17.6 million for summer 2015 programming for 22,000 elementary school children in OST programs previously funded by the City Council.
- Add \$7.97 million to pay all elementary school OST providers the same rate for the same program.
- Add \$14.2 million to begin a 5-year expansion of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to serve 100,000 youth. (10,000 more youth in FY 15).
- Add \$19.4 million in the outyears to baseline funding for NYCHA Cornerstone (funding only in for FY15).
- Add \$5 million for the Opportunity Youth initiative, which includes education, training and internships.

#### **Restore and Baseline:**

While the November 2013 Budget Modifications, Preliminary Budget and Executive Budget restored numerous critical initiatives and PEG restorations, the following items have not been restored and/or baselined. CCC respectfully urges the City Council and the Administration to adopt a budget that restores and baselines the following:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • Child advocacy centers- \$500,000               | • Anti-eviction- \$2 million                                      | • SSI-UI Legal Advocacy Program- \$1 million     |
| • Project CONNECT- \$600,000                      | • Citywide homeless prevention fund- \$250,000                    | • Food Stamps/EBTs at farmers markets- \$335,000 |
| • CHAMPS- \$125,000                               | • Mortgage foreclosure program- \$750,000                         | • Expansion of New Amsterdam Market- 61,000      |
| • Chess in Schools- \$200,000                     | • Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development- \$100,000 | • Expand low income farmers markets- \$60,000    |
| • Child Mind Institute- \$250,000                 | • ATI- \$3.35 million   | • EITC assistance program- \$150,000             |
| • Community schools- \$150,000                    | • CCI- \$400,000  | • TASC- \$3 million                              |
| • Creative arts- \$200,000                        | • Vera- \$250,000   | • New York Junior Tennis League- \$800,000       |
| • Dropout prevention- \$2.25 million              | • Citywide legal services- \$1.5 million                          | • YMCA- \$350,000                                |
| • Teacher's Choice- \$4.585 million               | • LIFT- \$485,000   | • Sports and Arts- \$1 million                   |
| • Urban Advantage- \$2.5 million                  | • Legal services for the working poor- \$1.05 million             |  |
| • Citywide task force on housing court- \$500,000 |   |  |
| • Community consultants (HPD)- \$415,000          |   |  |



## **CCC Supports FY 2015 Executive Budget Proposals that Make NYC a better place to be a child:**

### **Administration for Children's Services**

- Add \$1.5 million for juvenile detention health and mental health services.
- Add \$780,000 for juvenile detention facility repairs.
- Add \$10.2 million (starting in FY 2016) for Operation SAFE, a child protective reform plan that includes the hiring of 362 new positions.
- Add \$15.8 million capital for the development of new information technology systems to improve eligibility determinations, program monitoring, payment, and claiming processes for ACS's Juvenile Justice and Early Care and Education programs.
- Add \$10.7 million capital to support the renovation of child care centers, including correction of code violations and providing handicapped accessibility.
- Create a task force of key stakeholders, led by the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, to deliver a strategic plan for reforming the child care delivery system.

### **Human Resources Administration:**

- Add \$3 million in FY 15 (\$40 million over 4 years with \$8.2 million in FY16, \$12.95 million in FY17 and \$15.8 million in FY18) for the Working Families Rental Assistance Pilot (to help homeless families).
- In collaboration with DHS and the State develop a strategy to reinvest \$60.1 million in savings from the DHS shelter system to provide targeted rental assistance to families in shelter.
- Add \$1 million to expand public outreach to increase participation in income and food assistance programs.
- Add \$300,000 for a training coordinator to coordinate staff training on policies governing income and food assistance programs.

### **Department of Homeless Services**

- Add \$135,000 for Catherine Street security until all families move out by November 2014.
- Add \$2.2 million city funds (\$12.2 million total funds) for homeless prevention expansion.
- Add \$2.8 million for directly-operated shelter security.
- Add \$889,000 for contracted shelter security (\$2.4 million in total funds) (for FY15 only as the families will transition out of these shelters).
- Restore \$9.1 million to restore funding for an initiative that would have housed families with small children in shared apartment style units.
- Consolidate \$15.1 million of legal service contracts (in HRA) for families at risk of being evicted.
- Work with the state to expand the Family Eviction Prevention Supplement (FEPS) program to provide more at risk families with financial assistance to remain in their homes.
- Reinstate the homeless priority for public housing to ensure that affordable apartments are reserved for the neediest families.

### **Department of Youth and Community Development**

- Add \$3.4 million for an additional 100 shelter beds for runaway and homeless youth.
- Add \$8.5 million to the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to maintain current service levels and implement the January 2014 minimum wage increase.
- Add \$145 million state funding in FY15 (and \$190 million state funding in FY16) to make quality after-school programming available to all middle school students (for the school year and summer).

### **Department of Education**

- Add \$23 million for expanded arts instruction.
- Add \$1.3 million for school nurses.
- Add \$13.3 million for English Language Learners (ELL).
- Add \$4.2 million for Close to Home (education for youth in juvenile placement facilities).
- Restore \$347,000 for training opportunities for parent volunteers.
- Add \$300 million state funds in FY 2015 (\$340 million state funds in FY 2016) for full day pre-K at public schools, CBOs and ACS programs. Raises 4-year old lead teacher salaries at CBOs, provides start-up costs and funds quality through professional development, ELL support and other targeted programs.

### **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

- Add \$900,000 for child care inspectors to facilitate the UPK expansion.
- Add \$2.1 million city funds (\$3.3 million total funds) for the Center for Health Equity to target chronic health issues in the neighborhoods with the highest premature mortality rates.
- Add \$2.1 million city funds (\$3.3 million total funds) to expand maternal, infant and reproductive health services in schools and homes.
- Restore \$6 million for Anti-Gun Violence Initiative.
- Restore \$4.369 million for mental hygiene contracts.
- Restore \$491,000 for staff for the immunization clinics.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Add \$9.2 million for Family Court Contract Re-estimate
- Add \$500,000 for Task Force on Mental Health (FY 15 only).

### **Other Agencies:**

- Add \$13.3 million to the Police Department and \$21.2 million (\$15.7 million in the outyears) to the Department of Transportation for Vision Zero.
- Add \$7.5 million to the Department of Transportation for speed cameras.
- Add \$1.96 million to Probation for the CTL match of STSJP (alternative to detention services).

**Testimony of Alison Tocci  
President of City Parks Foundation  
Friday, June 6, 2014**

**NYC Council Finance Committee FY2015 Public Hearing on the Executive Budget**

I am requesting the Council's support for CPF's **\$200,000 City Council Leadership Expense Request** to assist us in providing our free education programs for youth, sports programs for youth and seniors, and community organizing initiatives, through Partnerships for Parks, in all five boroughs of New York City.

CPF is the only non-profit that offers free programs in parks in all five boroughs of New York City and has had a long history of providing free programs in parks. CPF focuses on offering its free programming in parks with the most need, in traditionally underserved communities, all over New York City. With the recent conversations around parks equity, we believe that there is a natural synergy between funding CPF and the Council and Mayor's desire to create equity among all parks. By supporting CPF and the work we do in providing free programs in parks, recreation centers, and schools and assisting in the creation and development of "Friends of" groups, the city will be one step closer to the goal of equity amongst parks throughout the city.

In addition, City Parks Foundation, through *Partnership for Parks*, its joint program with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, operates the *Catalyst for Waterfront Parks* program. This program has focused on three large waterfront parks for four years, providing an intense amount of resources and free programming. CPF had three full-time staff people working in each of these parks, creating a new "Friends of" group for Soundview Park and providing support to existing groups at Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks in Brooklyn and East River Park on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Beginning in fall 2014, *Catalyst for Waterfront Parks* will be at two new waterfront locations, Faber Park in Staten Island and East River Esplanade (from East 96th Street to East 135th Street) in Manhattan, and continuing at Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks in Brooklyn. CPF will be working in these communities until 2018.

Detailed descriptions of our free sports, education, and community building programs are included below. Attached to this testimony is a list of the parks, schools, and recreations where we offered our free programs in 2013 with the corresponding City Council Member. As a result of participating in our programs, youth have received college scholarships in sports, had their work featured during the Tribeca Film Festival, and participated in the US Open junior tournament.

*Partnerships* is consistently asked to provide "best practices" for sustainable community development to agency and organizational counterparts from locations around the world, most recently from Anchorage, Alaska, Berlin, and Tokyo.

City Parks Foundation's free programs are usually in sync with the City's plans and the Park Department's work. As a non-profit, City Parks Foundation is not directly funded by the City. In order for us to continue to be able to support your vision for parks in New York City, we need

your financial assistance. We understand that a new initiative intended to address inequity in services to parks has been proposed and we urge the Council to fund this new initiative in addition to requesting that the Council provide \$200,000 in citywide expense funding for our direct programming in FY15. Once again, thank you for receiving my testimony today and we look forward to working with you to continue to offer these free programs to the citizens of this great city.

## **SPORTS PROGRAMS**

CPF's youth sports programs reach 13,000 kids city-wide, with instruction in track and field, tennis, and golf, emphasizing sports for a lifetime of fitness. All of our sports programs address the needs of the whole child—physical, cognitive, emotional and social—in a supervised, structured and supportive environment. Our programs are offered free of charge and our sports program not only provide free lessons, but also free use of all equipment. With childhood obesity on the rise, our free, regularly scheduled sports programs provide kids with opportunities to stay active in their local parks.

- One of the largest municipal programs in the country, *CityParks Tennis* provides free equipment and instruction to more than 7,000 kids, ages 5-16, each year. This free program lets young people learn the sport and progress through three levels of instruction, with additional opportunities to build their knowledge and skills through tournaments, clinics, and an advanced training academy. Hundreds of graduates have won college scholarships, achieved regional and national rankings, and a talented handful has even played at the US Open.
- *CityParks Track & Field* offers free instruction and use of equipment in a variety of track and field events, including short distance running with hurdles, the javelin, and long jump, to more than 2,000 children ages 5-16 each summer. The program culminates with a citywide track meet held at Icahn Stadium, the world class sports complex on Randall's Island, where our young athletes compete individually and in teams representing their home park in six track and field events.
- *CityParks Golf* brings free instruction to over 3,500 children ages 5-16 each year. In addition to beginner and intermediate lessons, we offer an advanced training program for 25 talented youth under the direction of PGA professionals, supplemented by instructional clinics with professional players and advanced tournament play. By offering free instruction and access to equipment in communities across the five boroughs, CPF has been able to introduce thousands of kids to the game, who would not otherwise have the opportunity.
- The *CityParks Junior Golf Center* is a state-of-the-art facility in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn that provides free golf instruction to more than 2,000 kids each year, ages 7-17. Completely free of cost and only open to juniors, The *Junior Golf Center* is first comprehensive facility of its kind in the nation, and features a six-hole golf course, practice putting green, chipping green with sand trap, covered driving range, and a clubhouse with classroom space for learning.

- *CityParks Seniors Fitness* presents two sessions of classes (spring and fall) that introduce seniors to athletic activities in a supportive and social environment. In addition to promoting fitness and well-being, the program also encourages seniors to enjoy and utilize the community resource of their local park.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

City Parks Foundation's free and low-cost education programs help nearly 3,000 students meet state standards and connect teachers, students, and families with parks. CPF works in Title I schools that need educational support. Our education department works with teachers, providing development and training workshops, to equip educators with the skills to teach science and environmental classes in an outdoor setting. CPF works with special needs students, bi-lingual classes, and provides an alternative mechanism for children who may have difficulties learning in a traditional classroom setting.

- *Coastal Classroom* educates youth and adults about their waterfront and facilitates local action to improve it. The program uses the waterfront as an outdoor classroom with topics of instruction including the food chain; bioaccumulation; the impact of illegal dumping and sewage runoff; local habitats; invasive species; and restoration and preservation. *Coastal Classroom* fosters an increased awareness of the importance of the East River waterfront and local parks, and offers simple steps that everyone can take to protect and preserve them.
- *Seeds to Trees* introduces New York City elementary and middle school children to nature in the urban environment, and provides public school teachers with professional development workshops, empowering them to use city parks as an extension of the classroom. CPF asks partnering middle schools to implement projects linked to the themes of the in-class lessons and coastal ecology.
- *Learning Gardens* rehabilitates abandoned lots and turns them into vibrant community gardens, where we offer structured educational lessons to school children and community groups. CPF educators provide structured lessons during the academic year, a six-week summer program, a growing number of paid internships for high school students, and family days that are open to all community members. For elementary and middle school classes, the program offers a continuous series of interdisciplinary lessons in the classroom in the winter and in the garden in the warmer months. *Learning Gardens* also provides the teachers of participating classes with high-quality professional development workshops and sustained technical support, enabling them to effectively integrate garden lessons into their everyday teaching practice, thereby impacting students and classes for years to come. CPF currently maintains four Learning Gardens—at Grove Hill Community Playground in the South Bronx, Det. Keith L. Williams Park in Jamaica, Queens, Umoja Community Garden in Bushwick, Brooklyn, and Abib Newborn Garden in Brownsville, Brooklyn.
- *CityParks Youth Made Media*, an expansion of CPF's technology after-school program formerly known as CityParks Productions, now operates out of five recreation centers, one in each borough, two in Brooklyn, and Bronx International High School. The program combines video and sound production, media literacy, and creative writing activities with

academic support and life skills for middle and high school students. By providing free access to training in a variety of technological applications, *CityParks Youth Made Media* gives teens tools for academic success, as well as transferable skills for the workplace. Activities include: video production training (documentary and narrative); creative writing, storytelling, scriptwriting and poetry projects; photography and animation training; leadership development and internship training; and cultural field trips and workplace site visits. *Youth Made Media* operates out of the following locations: Hunts Point Recreation Center, Lost Battalion Hall Recreation Center, Red Hook Recreation Center, Brownsville Recreation Center, Faber Park Field House Recreation Center and Bronx International High School.

## **PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS**

CPF maintains a joint program with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation called *Partnerships for Parks* (PFP) that is specifically designed to address the needs of small neighborhood parks where resources are limited. Partnerships rallies people around park revitalization and stewardship, helping New Yorkers work together to make neighborhood parks thrive. Partnerships supports a growing network of 65,000 volunteers and 4,000 community groups. A joint public-private program in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, *Partnerships for Parks* operates on the belief that active, involved communities are essential to vibrant parks and a healthy city. *Partnerships for Parks* is a recognized model of success in bringing about concrete, lasting transformations in our parks and in changing the way various stakeholders work together to improve our city's public spaces. While these groups may not have the capacity of larger conservancies, Partnerships equips "Friends of" groups with all of the skills and resources they need to become stewards and advocates for their neighborhood parks.

- *Partnerships Academy* is a series of free workshops provided to groups that are working in parks and open spaces. These workshops teach groups how to work with their local elected officials, promote their groups on social media, advocate for capital funding for their parks, obtain 501c3 status, navigate the Parks Department, and assist in network, event planning and organizational development.
- *People Make Parks*, a joint initiative with the Hester Street Collaborative, is an online resource ([peoplemakeparks.org](http://peoplemakeparks.org)) that provides people with eight steps to effectively contribute to the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation's capital design process, with the final step being "caring for the park" once the capital improvements are complete. The process encourages a diverse group of participants to engage in the creation of meaningful public spaces.
- *Capacity Fund Grants* provides funding to community groups dedicated to parks with funding for projects to build their capacity. Grants focus on funding projects in any of the following five areas to help groups: events & programming, outreach and communications, group development, resources, and forming partnerships. Grants can range from \$200 to \$5,000. It is our hope that the grant will serve as a springboard for groups to learn about

fundraising. We expect that grantees will eventually outgrow Partnerships after receiving a Capacity Fund grant.

- *Catalyst: Reclaiming the Waterfront* is a four-year, multi-million dollar initiative to revive three significant waterfront parks across New York City. Each *Catalyst* site has one full-time staff person dedicated to working in the communities surrounding these parks. The staff person, if there is no pre-existing group, works with individuals in the surrounding community, bringing them together as a group, to become stewards of the park. Over the four year period, the dedicated full-time staff person will work with the "Friends of" group to bring CPF programs and Parks Department resources to the park. At the end of the four years, these "Friends of" groups have the skills and resources to continue to advocate for their local park on their own.



## 2013 Partnerships

1. 150th-155th Street Edgecombe Avenue Block Association
2. 1560 Grand Concourse Tenants Association
3. 500 Men Making A Difference
4. 82nd St Business Improvement District
5. 92 Street Y
6. A Better Jamaica
7. Achievement First Charter School
8. Aegis Media
9. Alley Pond Pet Lovers (APPL)
10. Alliance for Downtown New York, Inc.
11. Allied Rockaway Foundation for Animal Recreation and Fitness (ARF ARF)
12. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority DCC
13. American Express
14. American Littoral Society
15. American Littoral Society Coastal Reporter
16. American Martyrs
17. Andrew Davidson & Co., Inc.
18. Anheuser-Busch In Bev
19. Ardea Arts
20. Armani Exchange
21. Art Loisaída Foundation
22. Assembly Woman Barbara Clark
23. Astoria Park Alliance
24. Bank Street's Liberty LEADS
25. Bard High School
26. Bedford Mosholu Community Association
27. Belle Harbor Property Owners Association
28. Bennett Park Community Alliance
29. Beta Alpha Psi Baruch
30. Birch Family Services
31. Black Men Who Care, Inc.
32. Bloomberg
33. BNP Paribas
34. BNY Mellon
35. Bowne House Historical Society
36. Boy Scouts of America
37. Boy Scouts of America Troop 237
38. Boy Scouts of America Troop 309
39. Boys Hope Girls Hope
40. Briarwood Action Network
41. Brite Leadership Coalition
42. Broadway & Amsterdam West 148th Street Block Association
43. BROKEN Inc.
44. Bronx Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces
45. Bronx Community Board 10
46. Bronx Community Board 4
47. Bronx Community Board 6
48. Bronx Community Board 7
49. Bronx Community Board 8
50. Bronx Council for Environmental Quality
51. Bronx Documentary Association
52. Bronx Park East Community Association
53. Bronx River Alliance
54. Bronx Volunteer Coalition
55. Brookfield CAC
56. Brooklyn Arts Council
57. Brooklyn B.O.N.E.S.
58. Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy
59. Brooklyn Community Board 1
60. Brooklyn Community Board 1/ Parks Committee
61. Brooklyn Community Board 10
62. Brooklyn Community Board 16
63. Brooklyn Community Board 17
64. Brooklyn Community Board 7
65. Brooklyn Greenway Initiative
66. Brooklyn Heights Montessori School
67. Burberry
68. Bushwick Eco Acts Network (BEAN)
69. Cadman Plaza Conservancy
70. Carl Schurz Park Conservancy
71. Carroll Gardens Dog Owners Group
72. Centro Hispano Cuzcatlan
73. Changing the Odds
74. Charles Street Block Association
75. Charlton Street Block Association
76. Christopher Park Partnership
77. Citigroup Inc.
78. City of New York/Council District 37
79. City Parks Foundation
80. City View Church

81. Clarion Partners
82. Classical Theatre of Harlem
83. Coastal Preservation Network
84. College Avenue Community Garden
85. Columbia Community Outreach
86. Columbia University -Health Programs
87. Community Connections TimeBank
88. Community League of the Heights (formerly  
the Community League of West 159th Street,  
Inc.)
89. Concrete Safaris
90. Coney Island Generation Gap
91. Convent Garden Community Association
92. Corlears Cares-Corlears School PTA
93. Cornucopia Society
94. Creative Arts Workshops for Kids  
(CAW4KIDS)
95. Crossroads Christian Church
96. Daisy Troop 2397
97. Dalton School
98. Deloitte Consulting
99. Desis Lab
100. Digitas LLC
101. Disney
102. Dorrence Brooks Property Owners and  
Residents Association, Inc.
103. Douglaston Garden Club
104. East Bronx Academy for the Future
105. East River Park Track Club
106. Edmund Burke School
107. Egon Zehnder
108. El Centro
109. El Centro de Hospitalidad
110. El Puente
111. Empowering Youth in Excellence, Inc.
112. ESPN
113. Face My Abuse
114. Farragut Lions Club
115. Fashion Institute of Technology
116. FINRA
117. First Street Block Association
118. Flushing Meadows - Corona Park  
Conservancy
119. Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation
120. Forest Hills Civic Association
121. Fort Greene Park Conservancy
122. Fred Johnson Park Association
123. Friends & Neighbors of Owls Head Park
124. Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries
125. Friends of Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.  
Malls
126. Friends of Albano Park
127. Friends of Astoria Heights Playground
128. Friends of Astoria Park
129. Friends of Bleecker Playground
130. Friends of Brook Park
131. Friends of Brookville Park
132. Friends of Brower Park
133. Friends of Carroll Park
134. Friends of Cooper Triangle
135. Friends of Crispus Attucks Playground
136. Friends of Crotona Park
137. Friends of Cunningham Park
138. Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
139. Friends of Dean Street Playground
140. Friends of DeLury Square Park
141. Friends of Dome Playground
142. Friends of Douglass Greene Park
143. Friends of Ewen Park
144. Friends of Father Fagan Park
145. Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle
146. Friends of Graniteville Quarry
147. Friends of Haffen Park
148. Friends of Highbridge Park
149. Friends of Island Trails
150. Friends of J. Hood Wright Park
151. Friends of J.J.Walker Park
152. Friends of Kaiser Park
153. Friends of Lincoln Terrace Park
154. Friends of Luther Gulick Park
155. Friends of McGolrick Park
156. Friends of Memorial Circle
157. Friends of Morningside Park
158. Friends Of Parkside Playground
159. Friends of Peretz Square
160. Friends of Queensbridge Park Committee
161. Friends of Red Hook Recreation Center
162. Friends of Roy Wilkins Park Inc.
163. Friends of Seton Park
164. Friends of Sherman Creek
165. Friends of Sherry Park Dog Run
166. Friends of Soundview Park
167. Friends of South Oxford Park
168. Friends of Springfield Park
169. Friends of St. Nicholas Park
170. Friends of St. Vartan Park
171. Friends of Sunset Park
172. Friends of the Queens Way
173. Friends Of Transmitter Park
174. Friends of Travers Park
175. Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
176. Friends of Vesuvio Playground
177. Friends of Washington Market Park
178. Friends of Westerleigh Park

179. Friends of Williamsbridge Oval
180. Friends of Windmuller Park
181. Friends of Wingate Park
182. Friends of Winston Churchill Square Garden
183. G.I.V.E. Getting Involved in Virginia Ave Efforts
184. G.W.A.P.P. (Greenpoint Waterfront Association for Parks & Planning)
185. Global Tech Prep
186. Goldman Sachs & Company
187. GOLES - Good Old Lower East Side
188. Grace Church School
189. Gramercy Neighborhood Associates
190. Grand Street Settlement
191. Green Earth Urban Gardens
192. Green Guerillas
193. Green Map System
194. Green Shores NYC
195. Green Teens
196. Greenbelt Conservancy
197. Greenwich Street Greenstreet
198. GreenWorks Team
199. Groundswell Mural Project
200. Growing Up Green Charter School
201. Hamilton Heights - West Harlem Community Preservation Organization
202. Harlem Arts Festival
203. Harlem Children's Zone, Inc.
204. Harlem Community Development Corporation
205. Harlem Fifth Avenue Association
206. Harlem River Park Task Force
207. Harlem River Working Group
208. Harmony Park Homeowners Association, Inc.
209. Harris Community Garden
210. Harry S. Truman HS
211. Harvard Black Alumni Association
212. Health for Youths
213. Hells Kitchen Park Conservancy
214. Heritage Row Block Association
215. Hester Street Collaborative
216. High Bridge Coalition
217. Highbridge Community Life Center
218. Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership
219. Hollis Local Development Committee
220. Home Depot
221. HomeGrown
222. Homer's Run-Inwoof Dog Run
223. Human Impact Institute
224. ING
225. Inwood Academy
226. Inwood Green Team
227. IS 125
228. Isham Park Restoration Program
229. Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy
230. Jamaica Bay Greenway Coalition
231. JBFCS Kaplan House
232. JCC of Greater Coney Island-Habor Houses
233. John Dewey High School
234. Kissena Corridor Park Conservancy
235. Legg Mason
236. Letae Keep Raimonda Park Clean
237. Liberty Gardeners
238. LIM College
239. Lincoln Terrace Tennis Association
240. Literacy Inc
241. Literacy, Inc.
242. Little Red School House & Elisabeth Irwin High School
243. Local 79
244. Lower East Side Ecology Center
245. Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
246. Lycee School New York
247. M Finda Kalunga Community Garden / RPCC
248. M.Melnick & Co Building Construction
249. M.O.V.E Inc
250. MAIP Alumni Association
251. Manhattan Community Board 10
252. Manhattan Community Board 12 - Parks & Cultural Affairs
253. Manhattan Community Board 9
254. Marcus Garvey Dog Run Group
255. Marcus Garvey Park Alliance
256. Marine Park Alliance
257. Marine Park Civic Association
258. Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
259. Midwood Garden Association
260. MillionTreesNYC
261. Minetta Block Assssociation
262. Mizuho Foundation
263. Montefiore Medical Center
264. Montefiore Park Neighborhood Association
265. Morningside BARC (Build A Run Coalition)
266. Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association
267. Municipal Art Society
268. Murry Bergrtraum High School
269. National Park Service
270. Natural Resources Protective Association

271. New Settlement's Bronx Helpers
272. New York Cares
273. New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
274. New York City Economic Development Corporation NYCEDC
275. New York Life Insurance Company
276. New York- Presbyterian Hospital
277. New York Public Library
278. New York Restoration Project
279. New York Road Runner Club/Metropolitan Athletic Council
280. New York Rockits AIA
281. New York Strangers
282. New York University
283. New York Walkers Club
284. New Yorkers for Parks
285. Newtown Civic Association
286. Nixon Peabody LLP
287. No Longer Bound Ministries
288. Noom Inc
289. NYC Runs
290. NYPD
291. NYPD 25th Precinct
292. NYPD 26th Precinct
293. NYPD 71st Precinct
294. NYU College of Dentistry
295. Odyssey House
296. Omega Phi Beta - AB Chapter
297. On Your Mark, Inc.
298. Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn
299. Padre Plaza Success Community Garden
300. Pan-Hellenic Council of Greater New York
301. Parent Association of PS174Q
302. Parsons The New School for Design
303. Pi Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
304. Pickup Soccer, Inc.
305. Police Athletic League
306. Project East NY
307. Project Hospitality
308. PS 11
309. PS 30M
310. PS 48 The Joseph Rodman Drake School
311. PS 57
312. PS 94
313. Quanda NYC
314. Queens Branch Library
315. Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces
316. Queens Community Board 13
317. Queens Community House
318. Queens Economic Development Corporation
319. Queens United Program For Youth Development Corporation
320. Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association
321. Quidsi
322. Rabobank
323. Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies
324. Ralph Lauren
325. Randall Community Garden Association
326. Readers Digest
327. Recycle Bank
328. Recycle-A-Bicycle, Inc.
329. Red Hook Boaters
330. Red Hook Community Justice Center
331. Regional Plan Association of New York
332. Rego Park Green Alliance
333. Riverkeeper
334. Riverside Oval Association
335. Riverton Tenants Association
336. Rockaway Beach Civic Association
337. RockCorps
338. Rocking the Boat
339. Rocky Run Dog Run
340. Rodeph Sholom School
341. Rose Court Tenant Association
342. Row New York
343. Roza Promotions, Inc.
344. Rugby neighborhood alliance
345. SAALT
346. Salvation Army
347. Sara D. Roosevelt Park Coalition
348. Save a Park to Save a Child
349. Seeds in the Middle
350. Seton Falls Park Preservation Coalition
351. Seton Park Dog Run Community Group
352. Shape-up New York
353. Shorakapok Earthkeepers
354. Shore Road Parks Conservancy
355. Shorefront YM-YWHA
356. Singing Winds
357. SPDOG - Stuyvesant Park Dog Owners Group
358. Spectra Energy
359. SPRIG
360. St. Adalbert School
361. St. Ann School
362. St. David's School
363. St. Johns Recreation Center
364. St. John's University
365. St. Joseph Hill Academy

366. St. Mary's Recreation Center Youth Program
367. St. Raymond Community Outreach
368. Staten Island Community Board 3
369. Staten Island Rotary Relief
370. Stoked Mentoring
371. Stuyvesant Heights Parent Group
372. Stuyvesant Square Community Alliance
373. Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce
374. Sustainable South Bronx
375. Sutton Area Community, Inc.
376. Taylor PR
377. TD Bank
378. Team Sepulveda
379. Temple Shaaray Tefila
380. Temple University Alumni
381. The Alex House Project
382. The Berkeley Carroll School
383. The Bronx is Blooming
384. The Frederick Douglass Academy
385. The Friends Committee of the Fort Tryon Trust
386. The GYM Project
387. The Mandell School
388. The Point
389. The Ravens - Friends of Poe Park
390. Thomas J. McCann Woodside intermediate School 125
391. Timberland
392. TIMES UP!
393. Tompkins Square Park Neighborhood Coalition
394. Tom's Dog Run
395. Tonnie's Minis
396. Town Square, Inc.
397. Transportation Alternatives
398. Tree of Life Gardeners
399. Trees New York
400. Two Bridges Neighborhood Association
401. Udalls Cove Preservation Committee
402. Union Square Partnership
403. Upper Green Side
404. Uptown Reunion
405. Uptown Soccer Academy
406. Urban Park Rangers
407. Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance
408. Velo City
409. Vic Hanson Recreation Center
410. VNSNY \_ Visiting Nurse Services of New York
411. Volunteers for Isham Park
412. Volunteers of Springfield Park
413. Von King Park Conservancy
414. Walt Disney VoluntEars
415. Washington Heights Gardening Crew
416. Washington Heights Inwood Coalition Inc.
417. Washington Square Park volunteers
418. Webster University Alumni Group
419. West 132nd Street Block Association
420. West 181st Street Beautification Project
421. West 46th Street Block Association
422. West 47th/48th Block Association
423. West 88th Street Block Association
424. West 88th Street Tree Project
425. West Cunningham Park Civic Association
426. West Midwood Community Association
427. Winter Hill Alliance
428. Wolfe's Pond Pooches
429. Woodside Neighborhood Association
430. Wyckoff House & Association
431. YMCA
432. Young Life East New York



## 2013 Bronx Programming

<b>Park</b>	<b>CPF Program</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Council Member</b>
Macombs Dam Park	Track & Field	90	Mark-Viverito
Mill Pond Park	Tennis	27	Mark-Viverito
St. Mary's Park	Tennis, Kids, Music, Family Day, Dance, Theater	8,840	Mark-Viverito
Van Cortlandt Park	Tennis, Kids	1,494	Cohen
Williamsbridge Oval	Tennis	106	Cohen
Woodlawn Park	Tennis, Seniors Fitness	157	Cohen
Haffen Park	Tennis, Golf, Kids	1,044	King
Mount Hope Playground	Kids	600	Vacca
Pelham Bay Park	Tennis, Track & Field, Golf, Kids, Seniors Fitness	2,028	Vacca
St. James Park	Tennis	120	Cabrera
Ciccarone Park	Kids	250	Torres
Poe Park	Kids	510	Torres
River Park	Kids	400	Torres
Slattery Playground	Kids	347	Torres
Crotona Park	Kids, Music, Film	5,350	Arroyo
Grove Hill Community Garden	Learning Gardens	203	Arroyo
Hunt's Point Recreation Center	Youth Made Media	117	Arroyo
Soundview Park	Track & Field, Music, Seniors Fitness	1,294	Palma
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,977</b>	

## 2013 Brooklyn Programming

Park	CPF Program	Attendance	Council Member
McCarren Park	Tennis	79	Levin
Maria Hernandez Park	Kids	1,550	Reynoso
Fort Greene Park	Tennis	99	Cumbo
Jackie Robinson Playground	Tennis	74	Cumbo
Underwood Park	Kids	720	Cumbo
South Oxford Park	Seniors Fitness	39	Cumbo
Brower Park	Kids	200	Cornegy
Herbert Von King Park	Golf, Kids, Music, Dance, Family Day, Film, Theater	10,732	Cornegy
Highland Park	Tennis	84	Espinal
Coffey Park	Kids	405	Menchaca
Red Hook Park	Music	5,950	Menchaca
Red Hook Recreation Center	Youth Made Media	30	Menchaca
Sunset Park	Kids	740	Menchaca
Prospect Park	Tennis	208	Lander
Betsy Head Park	Track & Field, Music	2,598	Mealy
Umoja	Learning Gardens	327	Mealy
Abib Newborn	Learning Gardens	273	Barron
Brownsville Recreation Center	Youth Made Media	153	Barron
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park	Kids	765	Barron
Dyker Beach Golf Course	Junior Golf Center	2,364	Gentile
Leif Ericson Park	Tennis	91	Gentile
Calvert Vaux	Catalyst	n/a	Gentile
Lucille Ferrier Playground	Tennis	75	Gentile
McKinley Park	Tennis	188	Gentile
Marine Park	Tennis, Golf, Seniors Fitness	352	Maisel
Kaiser Park	Tennis, Track & Field, Coastal Classroom	440	Treyger
Kelly Playground	Tennis	134	Deutsch
<b>Total</b>		<b>28,670</b>	

## 2013 Manhattan Programming

<b>Park</b>	<b>CPF Program</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Council Member</b>
Al Smith Park	Kids	450	Chin
Columbus Park	Kids	2,500	Chin
Sarah D. Roosevelt Park	Kids	650	Chin
Seward Park	Kids	1,980	Chin
East River Park	Tennis, Track & Field, Dance, Theater, Music	16,554	Mendez
Hamilton Fish Recreation Center	Youth Made Media	87	Mendez
Tompkins Square Park	Charlie Parker Jazz Festival	5,000	Mendez
John Jay Park	Seniors Fitness	36	Kallos
Carl Schurz Park	Seniors Fitness	94	Kallos
Central Park	Tennis, Kids, SummerStage Mainstage, Seniors Fitness	172,870	Rosenthal
Riverside Park	Tennis	111	Levine
Morningside Park	Kids	900	Levine
Thomas Jefferson Park	Track & Field, Catalyst	148	Mark-Viverito
Courtney Callender	Kids	275	Dickens
Eugene McCabe Field	Golf	62	Dickens
Marcus Garvey Park	Kids, Music, Dance, Family Day, Film, Theater, Charlie Parker Jazz Festival	33,400	Dickens
Highbridge Park	Music	4,100	Rodriguez
Inwood Hill Park	Tennis	118	Rodriguez
<b>Total</b>		<b>239,335</b>	



## 2013 Queens Programming

Park	CPF Program	Attendance	Council Member
Flushing Memorial Field	Tennis	114	Vallone
Kissena Park	Tennis	213	Koo
Mario Fajardo Park, Field 10	Golf	108	Koo
Flushing Meadows Corona Park	Tennis, Golf, Seniors Fitness	1,020	Ferreras
Astoria Park	Tennis, Track & Field, Seniors Fitness	478	Constantinides
Hallet's Cove	Coastal Classroom	375	Constantinides
Alley Pond Park	Tennis, Golf	288	Weprin
Cunningham Park	Tennis, Seniors Fitness	382	Weprin
Rufus King Park	Kids	1,241	Lancman
Queensbridge Park	Kids, Music, Dance, Family Day, Film	5,225	Van Bramer
Det. Keith L. Williams	Track & Field, Learning Gardens	93	Miller
Roy Wilkins Park	Seniors Fitness	79	Miller
Baisley Pond Park	Tennis, Golf, Music	2,807	Wills
Rochdale Park	Kids	428	Wills
Lost Battalion Hall	Youth Made Media	67	Koslowitz
Forest Park	Tennis, Track & Field	538	Crowley
Juniper Valley Park	Tennis, Track & Field	569	Crowley
Brookville Park	Tennis	114	Richards
Springfield Park	Kids	300	Richards
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,439</b>	



## 2013 Staten Island Programming

Park	CPF Program	Attendance	Council Member
Corporal Thompson Park	Track & Field	125	Rose
Faber Park	Kids, Catalyst	190	Rose
Faber Park Field House	Youth Made Media	69	Rose
Silver Lake Park	Tennis, Golf	361	Rose
Tappen Park	Kids, Music	1,585	Rose
Walker Park	Tennis	231	Rose
Egbert Field, I.S. 2	Golf	95	Matteo
Willowbrook Park	Tennis	642	Matteo
Greenbelt Park	Seniors Fitness	122	Matteo
Conference House Park	Kids Fitness	110	Ignizio
Wolfe's Pond Park	Tennis	169	Ignizio
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,699</b>	



## 2013-2014 Education Partners

Education Program	Partner	Council Member
Learning Gardens	MS301 The Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School, Bronx	Gibson
Learning Gardens	PS 333 The Museum School, Bronx	Arroyo
Learning Gardens	Young Women's Leadership School, Brooklyn	Reynoso
Learning Gardens	Kappa V Middle School 518, Brooklyn	Barron
Seeds to Trees Middle & Green Girls	I.S. 204 Oliver W Holmes, Queens	Van Bramer
Seeds to Trees Middle	IS 229, Bronx	Gibson
Seeds to Trees Middle	Young Women's Leadership School, Bronx	Cabrera
Seeds to Trees Middle	K678, Brooklyn	Barron
Seeds to Trees Middle	MS 145, Bronx	Gibson
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS 161, Manhattan	Dickens
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS971, Brooklyn	Menchaca
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS106, Brooklyn	Espinal
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS111, Queens	Van Bramer
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS21, Staten Island	Rose
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS274, Brooklyn	Reynoso
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS 5, Bronx	Mark-Viverito
Youth Made Media	Bronx International High School, Bronx	Gibson



**THE COALITION FOR ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**New York City Council  
FY2015 Executive Budget  
June 6, 2014**

**Testimony of Marissa Martin  
Director of Government Affairs, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families**

My name is Marissa Martin, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF). We would like to thank Speaker Mark-Viverito, Chair Ferreras and members of the Finance Committee for holding this public hearing on the city fiscal year (FY) 2015 Executive Plan.

Since 1986, CACF is the nation's only pan-Asian children's advocacy organization, and works to improve the health and well-being of Asian Pacific American (APA) children and families in New York City in three key policy areas: education, health and child welfare. CACF challenges the stereotype of Asian Pacific Americans as a "model minority" and advocates on behalf of underserved families in our community, especially immigrants struggling with poverty and limited English skills. We work with our membership of over 40 community based organizations to promote better policies, funding, and services for East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander children, youth, and families.

**CACF also co-leads the 13% and Growing Coalition, a group of over 45 Asian led and serving organizations that work together to ensure that New York City's budget protects the most vulnerable Asian Pacific American New Yorkers.** Coalition members employ thousands of New Yorkers and serve hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. Currently, the Asian Pacific American community is by percentage the fastest growing group in New York City, nearly doubling every decade since 1970, and is nearly 14% of the population. Unfortunately, current levels of public funding for the Asian Pacific American community remain disproportionate to our community's needs.

**CHALLENGES**

Currently, the Asian Pacific American community is grossly underfunded with the City's health and human service dollars. While City Council discretionary funding provides us the opportunity to be flexible, innovative, and responsive to community needs, City agencies must keep reinventing their policies and approaches in contracting out health and human service funding.

Consider that APA led and serving organizations receive less than 1% in public social service contract dollars and City foundation grant dollars. And yet, while many CACF members have long relied on City Council discretionary dollars to bridge the gap and continue to provide vital services in APA ethnic enclaves in Council districts city-wide, our analysis of publicly available budget documents from the FY2014 Adopted Budget revealed that **APA led and serving organizations received only 2.5% of City Council discretionary dollars and 0.33%<sup>1</sup> of all initiative funding.**

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<sup>1</sup> 13% and Growing arrived at these percentages based on an analysis of publicly available information in Schedule C of the FY2014 Adopted Budget. Initiatives include both City Council sponsored-initiatives and agency programs.

Despite the “model minority” stereotype, the Asian Pacific American community must also overcome many challenges.

- 1 out of 2 APA children are born into poverty.
- 29.9% of APA live in poverty, the highest of all racial groups in NYC.
- APAs have the highest rate (42%) of linguistic isolation meaning that no one over the age of 14 in a household speaks English well.
- 75% of the APA senior population is linguistically isolated.
- 1 out of 5 APAs in NYC are uninsured.
- 83% of all uninsured individuals are immigrants.

Education and Youth services are especially important for immigrant youth who struggle with English language proficiency, the acculturation process, and inadequate academic preparation. Immigrant youth come from families that face high rates of poverty, live in linguistic isolation, and lack the knowledge of available systems and resources. As the fastest growing population, APA comprises of 14% of the student population in NYC public school but 1 out of 4 Asian Pacific American high school students does not graduate on time or at all. Additionally, 1 out of 5 Asian Pacific American students is an English Language Learner and according to the New York State Department of Education, only 50% of Asian Pacific American (APA) students<sup>2</sup> are considered prepared for college and career.<sup>3</sup> For APA students in high need urban-suburban areas, the rate drops to 35.2%.<sup>4</sup>

While we are happy to see that the administration and Council have restored many vital health and human service programs in the Executive Budget, there is still large unmet need throughout the five boroughs. **Below are recommendations for new and existing initiatives and programs that we urge the City Council to support.**

#### **NEW PROGRAMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

❖ **Establish and Support the \$5 million New York City Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (NSF) to support capacity building that targets our membership.** This request has the support of the premier federated community of color organizations in New York City, including the Asian American Federation, Black Agency Executives, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, the Hispanic Federation and New York Urban League along with their respective membership, whose numbers total more than 160 organizations in all five NYC boroughs and who serve millions of mostly low and moderate income children, youth and families.

People of color led nonprofit organizations are those that:

- 1) At least 51% of an organization’s board of directors identify as people of color;
- 2) The executive leadership identifies as a person of color; and
- 3) At least 51% of the populations served are people of color.

The Nonprofit Stabilization Fund will help secure the long-term viability of community-based human service organizations with majority minority leadership that serve clients in diverse and low-income New York City communities, by providing these nonprofits with resources to bolster back-office capacity and ensure sound infrastructure. The ultimate aim is to ensure long-term viability in service delivery and community development.

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<sup>2</sup> “Most New York Students Are Not College Ready,” New York Times, Feb. 7, 2011. Available online at: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/08/nyregion/08regents.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/08/nyregion/08regents.html?_r=1&hp).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. According to the New York State Department of Education College and Career Ready is defined as achieving a grade of 80 on the Math Regents, and a 75 on the English Regents. It is important to note that by their calculations, these grades merely predict a C grade for college level courses in these same subject areas.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

- ❖ **Support the \$5 million Access Health NYC Initiative.** Access Health NYC is a new proposal for a city-funded initiative to support community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve immigrants and other underserved populations. It will enable them to do outreach and public education in their communities about options for health care coverage and care, particularly for the uninsured.

New York State awarded federal funds to networks of CBOs statewide to serve as “Navigators” to assist with applications for New York State of Health, the state’s health insurance marketplace. Unfortunately, these funds cannot be used to conduct basic, public education and community outreach. In the Asian Pacific American community, 1 out of 5 individuals are uninsured, and NYSOH’s media campaign did not take into account the linguistic and cultural diversity of the APA community.

Access Health NYC can augment the state’s Navigator program by supporting outreach programs about health coverage and access to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, and connect them to Navigators and other experts to enroll in coverage. Although undocumented New Yorkers are not eligible for standard Medicaid and Qualified Health Plans, Access Health NYC can help them learn about and understand their options for free or low-cost health care services available through:

- “HHC Options”, a program of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation
- Federally Qualified Health Care Centers, and other safety net providers
- Pre-certification for Emergency Medicaid (good for one year) New York’s “Child Health Plus” program for all children and youth up through age 18

Five million dollars would allow 65 organizations to apply for grants of \$75,000 (average minimum) and can provide adequate additional resources for training and program oversight. Grants would be awarded through a competitive bidding/RFP process, which could be multi-year. Grants would be allocated based on the percentage of uninsured per community per borough.

- ❖ **Award 10 percent of points in the Request for Proposal (RFP) evaluation process for organizations that demonstrate their capacity to provide culturally competent and language accessible services.** It is important for New York City agencies to increase access to vital services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate. The Office of Minority Health proposed Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) as a means to correct inequities that currently exist in the provision of health services and to make the services more responsive to the individual needs of all consumers. These standards provide a common understanding and consistent definitions of culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS)<sup>5</sup> and can offer important guidance for New York City. Awarding 10% of points in the RFP process to culturally competent and language accessible services will ensure that diverse New Yorkers receive effective, quality services from both mainstream providers and people of color/immigrant led organizations. Mainstream providers will be incentivized to hire bicultural/bilingual staff and to serve communities of color and immigrant communities. People of color led organizations and immigrant led organizations will have a better opportunity to compete for social service contracts.

## **EXISTING PROGRAMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Out-of-School Time**

- ❖ We applaud the Administration for their commitment to expanding after-school programs for middle school students. In addition, we were so pleased to see the additional funding for the Out-of-School Time (OST) program that the City Council had been adding to the budget, has now been included in the baseline. However, it’s important to note that while the overall funding has been baselined, the programs have not. **We urge DYCD to make announcements as soon as possible for how that funding will be allocated so community organizations can begin to plan for the RFP process and how to proceed with programming.**

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<sup>5</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health-National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care, March 2001.

- ❖ We also urge the Administration to commit additional resources to **support summer programming**. With so many contracts due to expire in June 2014, it is critical that additional funds are allocated to support summer programs. The summer programs offered through after-school programs are critical to keeping young people engaged and safe while school is not in session and while parents work.

### Adult Literacy

- ❖ We are grateful to the Mayor for including the baselined funding for adult literacy programs in the FY 2015 preliminary budget. This includes the \$1.5 million Adult Literacy Initiative, the \$1 million ESOL portion of the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative, and the \$1 million DYCD RFP PEG restoration, for a starting point of \$3.5 million in the budget. These allocations fund community-based programs that provide ABE (Adult Basic Education), ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language), and HSE (High School Equivalency) classes for the 1.3 million New Yorkers who lack either an HSE, English proficiency, or both.
- ❖ **We urge the City Council to return to increase adult education funding by \$3 million.** This would support additional seats and an array of programs at a level of \$1,200 per slot to support quality instruction and holistic supports as well as include vital capacity building, professional development and materials for the programs.

### Immigrant Specific Programs

- ❖ We are also grateful to the Mayor for including the \$4.3 million baselined funding the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative. **Two-thirds of all New Yorkers are immigrants or children of immigrants.** The Immigrant Opportunities Initiative funds programs that help these New York immigrant families obtain citizenship and language skills necessary for decent jobs, and to protect their legal rights.
- ❖ In FY 2014 budget, the City Council allocated \$18 million over 2 years for DACA eligible youth. The implementation of DACA has resulted in an increase of youth and young adults enrolling in a variety of adult education classes, as one of the requirements of DACA is that a young person has a high school degree or be working towards one. In NYC, there are nearly 16,000 individuals who would be eligible to apply for the DACA program if they were able to enroll in an HSE preparation class. With the uncertainty of Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) in Congress, it is to the City's benefit to reach as many youth as possible who are eligible for DACA.
- ❖ **While these are only short term initiatives, we urge the Mayor and City Council to continue to invest in the growing immigrant populations of New York City.**

### Education

- ❖ **Provide more comprehensive guidance to New York City students.** As there is more emphasis on whole child development, and with the arrival of the Common Core, in addition to the focus on the academic enrichment side of education, we want to also address the support the youth get as they enter high school to be better prepared for post-high school life. CACF's city-wide youth program, ASAP (Asian Student Advocacy Project), consists of APA youth from all 5 boroughs and 10 different high schools, who have been working on a campaign to standardize guidance roles for every high school, in which they would provide comprehensive guidance and follow an individualized roadmap for each student starting from freshman year. For many youth, including APAs, having working class or immigrant parents who cannot help guide their children in navigating high school, this resource will be a major factor in providing the proper support that each student can get in their path to college and career readiness.
- ❖ **Provide adequate and culturally competent interpretation and translation services in order to increase the issues of parent engagement for many of the parents in our communities.** Many of the lack luster services now currently present wide ranging problems for many immigrant families to understand the education system and better support their children.
- ❖ **Ensure there are resources allocated to supporting English Language Learners (ELL's).** It is vital for the DOE to create additional bilingual general education and special education programs to serve ELLs as well as additional dual language programs and ensure that these programs are accessible to ELLs. It is also equally important to recognize and allocate resources to culturally competent, language accessible materials that are used to support ELL's.

## Health Programs

- ❖ **Support \$1M in Community Health Planning.** Community health planning is an important process in addressing health disparities and other related public health issues in various communities. A community's self-determination and knowledge of local needs, circumstances, and health assets are important driving forces for improved health planning processes. Health outcomes for New Yorkers may have improved in recent years but substantial inequalities remain among Asian Pacific American New Yorkers of various economic statuses. Input from the community on the allocation of health care resources can help address these health disparities.
- ❖ **Support and Implement Universal school lunch.** Universal free and healthy school lunch for all NYC public school students is a way to encourage greater participation in school meals by eliminating the poverty stigma associated with the program.

Participation in the school lunch program is low, but it is not due to a lack of need. 68% NYC public school students are eligible for free school lunch, while 75% are eligible for free or reduced school lunch. Meanwhile, many students whose family incomes are above the \$36,000 per year cut off for free or reduced priced lunch are struggling to meet basic needs. Students eating school lunch greatly reduce as they get older: 81% in elementary, 61% in middle school, and 38% in high school. 250,000 of the 780,000 students who are eligible for free or reduced priced meals do not participate.

The Mayor can institute universal free meals immediately by ending the collection of student fees for lunch since no state or federal permission is required. The city can maximize federal incentive programs that minimize paperwork and maximize federal reimbursements (Provision 2 & Community Eligibility Provision). To increase food appeal, menu flexibility should be reinstated.

NYC schools that provide free school lunch to all students through "Provision 2" had significant increases in the number of students eating, especially in middle and high schools. This applies to other locations that have universal free school lunch. Over time, an additional 120,000 children are eligible to eat no-cost school lunch.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony, we look forward to working with the City Council to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the services and support they need to thrive. Please feel free to contact me at [mmartin@cacf.org](mailto:mmartin@cacf.org) with any additional questions.



# The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.

110 William Street, Suite 1802, New York, NY 10038 T: 212-206-1090 F: 212-206-8093 [www.chcfinc.org](http://www.chcfinc.org)

## Testimony of Elba Montalvo

*President and CEO, The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.*

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Founder & President/CEO

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Michael Rodríguez  
Helen Steblecki  
José M. Toro

In Support of the Communities of Color CBO Platform  
Before the New York City Council Committee on Finance  
June 6, 2014

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. (CHCF) supports a \$10 million allocation by the NYC Council in FY 2015 for a fund to strengthen nonprofit human services providers led by communities of color. Supporting organizations whose compositions reflect the people they serve enhances the cultural competency of New York's service sector and increases social equity in our communities.

Since 1982, CHCF ([www.chcfinc.org](http://www.chcfinc.org)) has combined education and advocacy to expand opportunities for children and families and strengthen the voice of the Latino community. Believing that the most effective way to support Latino families is by building upon their existing strengths and fostering self-sufficiency, CHCF provides a number of services through Youth Development programs, an Early Care & Education Institute, and policy and advocacy initiatives. CHCF's model is innovative in its effective inclusion of cultural and linguistic competencies to effect change. CHCF's grassroots focus makes it one of the few Latino organizations in NYC that combines direct service with policy work that amplifies Latino voices at the local, state and national levels.

CHCF supports the Communities of Color CBO Platform recommendations to invest \$10 million toward a nonprofit Stabilization Fund to support CBOs' capacity building, improve the City's contracting process and support the practice of subcontracting to smaller communities of color CBOs. We also believe that awarding CBOs that demonstrate cultural and linguistic competence 10% of points in the RFP evaluation process will make NYC contracting and RFP processes better, fairer and more equitable.

As envisioned, the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund would make capacity-building grants available to organizations of color for infrastructural needs such as:

- Financial management;
- Board development;
- Fund development, including individual gift fundraising and event planning;
- Nonprofit management and leadership training in areas such as contract management,



organizational change, project planning and management, communication and advocacy, needs assessment and program development;

- Information technology;
- Facilitated collaborations and merger planning; and,
- Training for developing milestones and performance tracking tools, assessing deliverables and evaluating programs.

Why care about Communities of Color-Led Nonprofit Organizations, like CHCF?

- We are the front-line human service providers that our community first turns to because they trust us;
- We work to improve outcomes for vulnerable NYC children and families;
- We develop the next generation of nonprofit, civic and government leadership;
- We provide culturally-competent and linguistically-appropriate services;
- We face a growing demand due to the recession and continued immigration;
- We employ people from our communities, which often have high rates of unemployment and low rates of economic opportunity;<sup>1</sup>
- We have historically been ignored or under-resourced by government and foundations; and,
- Our staff composition is representative of the communities that we serve.

CHCF's Youth Development Programs provide out-of-school time workshops, mentoring, trips, educational supports and family engagement activities that help at-risk students make positive choices, stay in school and succeed long-term. Our Early Care and Education Institute administers trainings and workshops that teach Family Day Care Providers early education best practices and help them become small business owners. CHCF advocates for educational equity for Latino students and English Language Learners. All these programs form a continuum of empowerment, engagement and support among children and adults to create systemic change in NYC's Latino communities.

Because governments rely on nonprofits like CHCF to deliver needed services, government funding accounts for 27.4% of all funding for the nonprofit sector.<sup>2</sup> NYC Communities of Color-Led Nonprofit Organizations like CHCF are at the front lines in New York City's fight for equity and opportunity. A \$10 million investment in the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund will yield far greater returns than its dollar amount by contributing to the fiscal health of NYC's community nonprofits as well as improving services.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S0201; generated by Abraham Barranca; using American FactFinder; <http://factfinder2.census.gov>; (3 June 2014).

<sup>2</sup> National Council of Nonprofits. (October 7, 2010) Costs, Complexification, and Crisis: Government's Human Services Contracting "System" Hurts Everyone. <http://www.govtcontracting.org/sites/default/files/Costs%20Complexification%20and%20Crisis.pdf>

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Critical questions to address about the 42nd St Library -- and other libraries  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:30:20 AM

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**From:** Dennis V Geronimus [dennis.geronimus@nyu.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 9:31 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Critical questions to address about the 42nd St Library -- and other libraries

Dear Sir or Madam,

I pose the following questions to you, along with many of my faculty colleagues here at New

York University. They should be seriously addressed before any decisions are to be made about

the 42nd St. Library -- and, frankly, all New York libraries -- going forward.

-Why are the books -- the essential core of a humanities research library -- being neglected,

left unbound, unrepaired when they are falling apart? Yet the budgets requested are never for

those fundamental books, but only for capital projects?

---Why are curators of collections and expert librarians of the Main Research Branch excluded

from Board Meetings -- i.e. the "Executive Sessions" when the general public is asked to leave?

---Why has the staff of expert curators and librarians and technical binders and conservators

been cut?

---Why has a person who let 250 people go from the Harvard University Libraries been hired

by the New York Public Library's Main Research Branch?

---Why are people in Real Estate and Finance making decisions about professional resources

they never use, in a professional area foreign to their own?

---Why are those on the Board of Directors with some intellectual pretensions -- editors of important journals of opinion, for example -- so silent?

---Why are not at least one-half of the members of that Board appointed by the New York City Government, since the Government pays 50% of the Library's Budget?

And, closely related: Should the NYPL be allowed to raise private monies, when such independence makes it ever less responsible to the Citizens of New York for whose benefit it was founded?

---Why is there so little New York City oversight (by the Department of Design and Construction, for example, a thoroughly qualified body), of this institution, which was founded for the good of the Citizens of New York?

---What happened to the 1999 Architectural Plans to rebuild the Mid-Manhattan Branch, including high-rental income spaces which would support the Mid-Manhattan and the Main Research Branches of the NYPL?

---The Stacks in the Main Research Branch are in perfect condition, were upgraded in the 1980s and 1990s, and would cost a pittance of what is being requested for capital improvements (largely cosmetic) to return to perfectly functioning order, with re-renewed air conditioning and sprinkler systems. Why is this easily affordable solution, which could restore this great research library to its full and proper function, with 7 million books on site, not the plan?

---Why did a chunk of ceiling fall (after hours, so no one was hurt) just days before this

budget hearing? Who has seen or photographed this chunk? Did it make a noise when it fell

(like the hypothetical tree in the forest of the well-known philosophical conundrum)?

If it did indeed fall, one recalls other documented instances of non-maintenance in order to enable begging for money.

---Who exactly is conducting the inspection during these weeks of closure of the Main

Reading Rooms and the Catalog Room? (Where apparently another chunk fell 10 years ago --

also after its restoration -- and has still not been repaired.)

The City should and must withhold money for any capital projects at the NYPL -- especially

at the Main Research Branch -- until all questions about the use of funds, including Operational Funds, by this Board have been satisfactorily answered, and until City Governance has been put in place on the Board to perform the City's Oversight responsibilities.

With great concern,

Dennis Geronimus  
Associate Professor (on research leave, 2013-14)  
Department of Art History  
New York University  
100 Washington Square East  
Silver Center, Room 303  
New York, NY 10003-6688  
Tel: [\(212\) 992.9537](tel:(212)992.9537)  
Fax: [\(212\) 995.4182](tel:(212)995.4182)

**From:** [financetestimony](mailto:financetestimony)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](mailto:Anderson.Nicole)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:37:53 AM

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**From:** dpoggi@ferrypointpark.org [dpoggi@ferrypointpark.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:42 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:**

Dorothy Poggi President of Friends of Ferry Point Park and Water Ways writes:

Dear Finance Dept.

I am writing to ask you to increase the budget to 27 million for the NYC Parks for next year.

This is the figure that would fill the positions needed to help maintain and enhance of Parks.

We need jobs in NYC why not have some more offered in the care of our Parks?.

We need jobs in NYC why not offer some in Park security?.

Truly consider the calming affects that parks have on our residents,

The exercise offered to our adults and children and the benefit to our air quality at the same time.

Our Parks absorb much of the hurricanes rain water and keep it out of our combined sewers.

Any money spent on our Park System is returned to us in the work the Trees do for us....

--

917-741-2768

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony for Friday's Finance/Budget Hearing  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:39:35 AM

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**From:** malangbaba@gmail.com [malangbaba@gmail.com] on behalf of Fahd Ahmed [fahd@drumnyc.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 11:22 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Nicole; financetestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for Friday's Finance/Budget Hearing

Greetings Nicole,

I am submitting the following testimony on behalf of DRUM - South Asian Organizing Center, and our 2,400 low-income South Asian immigrants, workers, and youth, for the budget hearing.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

...

Fahd Ahmed  
Legal and Policy Director  
DRUM- South Asian Organizing Center  
72-18 Roosevelt Avenue  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372  
Tel (718) 205-3036 / Fax (718) 205-3037  
[www.drumnyc.org](http://www.drumnyc.org) / [fahd@drumnyc.org](mailto:fahd@drumnyc.org)

**From:** [financetestimony](mailto:financetestimony)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](mailto:Anderson.Nicole)  
**Subject:** FW: New York Public Library  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:31:40 AM

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**From:** Earbrown160@aol.com [Earbrown160@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 6:38 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Cc:** earbrown160@aol.com  
**Subject:** New York Public Library

The New York Public Library should be what its name declares it to be:

a PUBLIC Library, publicly used, publicly controlled, publicly accountable, whose activities are transparent to the public, and whose administrators are interested in and respond to the wishes and needs of the public.

Instead, the NYPL has become in the past decade an institution whose administrators and Board of Trustees, shockingly self-perpetuating, has embarked on a program that is threatening with destruction the finest and most democratic research institution in the world, the flagship branch at 42nd Street. They began by selling off in secret auction the gift of the painting Kindred Spirits, made to the library in 1905 (and soon afterwards authorized an unconscionable raise in salary for Paul LeClerc, head of the Library); they continued with the sale of the Donnell Library, now being "replaced" with a couple of basement rooms in the towering Baccarat Towers; they threatened the sale of the beloved Mid-Manhattan Library and continue to threaten that of the business-oriented SIBL, just a few years after having invested heavily in installing state-of-the-art computer equipment there.

These decisions were made IN SECRET by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, who seem to feel themselves accountable only to themselves.

NO MORE PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE NYPL UNTIL THEIR FINANCES AND THE BASES FOR THEIR DECISIONS ARE FULLY AND PUBLICLY DISCLOSED AND UNTIL TRULY REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISIONS.

A start can be made by having the Mayor, the Head of the City Council, and the Comptroller, who are ex officio Trustees, attend all meetings of the Trustees and fulfill their responsibility to the public by insisting on public disclosure of the expenditure of funds that are made available to the library from tax-payers money and from tax-deductible donations. The Library claims not to be accountable for "private" funds, but what can these be? Money private individuals donate to the Library is tax-deductible and hence publicly supported.

Sincerely yours, Elizabeth AR Brown, Professor Emeritus of History, The City University of New York

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: financetestimony@council.nyc.go  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:32:04 AM

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**From:** Elizabeth Seal [elizabeth@chatsby.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 6:11 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** financetestimony@council.nyc.go

to whom it may concern

,Having witnessed some of the ancient and recently aquired books held in the British Library,beautifully bound and repaired when neccessary ,I cannot understand how a prosperous city like New York ,would even think that research on the computer tho quick and helpful,was a substitute for actually holding the book turning the pages and very often finding some surprising fascinating information which at first seemed unrelated to the subect being researched.

Please rethink your funding and look after our Heritage .

Elizabeth Seal MA.

(and actress, Tony Award Winner1961)



**EPISCOPAL  
SOCIAL SERVICES**

*Transforming the Lives and Communities of New Yorkers in Need*

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## **Testimony of Episcopal Social Services**

**Executive Budget Public Hearing**

**Friday, June 6, 2014**

Episcopal Social Services (ESS) is a nonsectarian nonprofit that aims to transform the lives and communities of New Yorkers in need. Working in high-need areas of the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn, our efforts focus on helping low-income individuals and families break free from the cycle of poverty and lead positive, successful lives. We support the needs of our clients through early childhood education, after school programs, family preservation and foster care services, alternatives to detention for juveniles, and programs for developmentally disabled adults.

While ESS' diverse city-funded programs have various budget concerns, we would like to emphasize today the particular funding challenges faced by the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Early Learn programs. ***We strongly urge the City Council to increase the Early Learn rate***, in order to provide for competitive teacher salaries in all classrooms, additional qualified support staff, and other components necessary to meet required standards, support staff and families, and produce strong student results.

By meeting parents' needs for full day (8 a.m. – 6 p.m.) child care while also providing high quality educational programming including Pre-K, ***Early Learn is a crucial component of the city's approach to early childhood education***. ESS' eleven Early Learn centers offer comprehensive, research-based education that advances students' knowledge and skills to ensure school readiness. Our programs achieve impressive results: in the 2012-2013 school year, only 43 percent of children entered our programs in the fall meeting the Creative Curriculum's age standards in math, and only 59 percent met age standards in literacy. By spring, 88 percent met standards in math and 91 percent in literacy—and 1 in 4 children exceeded expectations in these areas. ***However, while the quality and rigor of our Pre-K classes matches those provided by the Department of Education (DOE), Early Learn Pre-K classes are currently funded at a far lower level.***

ESS applauds the Mayor's proposal to expand Early Learn Pre-K programs to full day and ensure that this portion of the day is funded to be free for all children, which will go far in leveling the playing field between ACS and Department of Education (DOE) programs in terms of attracting families. We also strongly support the proposal to increase salaries for Pre-K teachers in Early Learn programs. This move towards equity with other Pre-K programs will support Early Learn providers in recruiting and retaining talented, certified teachers, which is of vital importance for the success of the city's early childhood education system.

***While these enhancements are welcomed, the overall Early Learn rate structure still needs to be increased. Current funding does not align with the expected level of services and quality standards.*** The existing



**EPISCOPAL  
SOCIAL SERVICES**

*Transforming the Lives and Communities of New Yorkers in Need*

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contracts, including the required agency matches, do not cover the cost of providing high-quality, results-oriented services that meet federal Head Start and New York State Pre-K educational standards. Pay for certified teachers is lower than what they would receive in other settings, and the union rates for other teaching staff, all of whom are Bachelor's-level professionals, are more appropriate for custodial daycare than an education-focused program. Further, the current rate does not provide sufficient funds for staff development and training; administrative support (such as IT, HR obligations, Quality Improvement, marketing, insurances, etc); specialized staff required by contracts, such as social service, mental health, and educational support professionals; educational technology; or annual salary adjustments in line with what other workers in the education system receive.

ESS relies on extensive private fundraising, as well as a small annual endowment drawdown that goes almost exclusively to Early Learn, to fill these funding gaps. We pay out of pocket to increase staff salaries, create support positions, and fund other needed enhancements. Meeting the funding needs of our Early Learn programs creates a significant strain on the agency's resources, and we recognize that agencies without access to the same level of resources may struggle to meet the expected standards. The current funding structure is simply not sufficient or sustainable.

***ESS strongly urges the City Council to establish salary equity for all Early Learn teachers and staff and to increase the overall Early Learn rate in order to provide the necessary support for an early childhood education system that we are counting on to close the school readiness gap and break the cycle of poverty for low-income children.*** The City must fully support its historic investments in our children to ensure we realize the full potential of a city-wide focus on early education for all.



**FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES**

**TESTIMONY**

**of**

**The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies**

**Before the**

**New York City Council Aging Committee**

**Budget Hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

**May 22, 2014**

**Prepared by:**

**Kathy Fitzgibbons – Senior Policy Analyst for Elderly Welfare and Youth Services**

**Jennifer Jones Austin**

**CEO/Executive Director**

281 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10010  
Phone: (212) 777-4800  
Fax: (212) 414-1328

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) is an anti-poverty, policy and advocacy organization with a membership network of nearly 200 human services organizations and churches that operate over 1,200 programs throughout the New York City metro area. Together we serve over 1.5 million low-income New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities and denominations each year. Our members represent every level of New York City's social service system, providing FPWA with a comprehensive view of the complex social service problems that face human service organizations and the clients they serve every day.

FPWA would like to thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify on critical programs and policies that will strengthen the aging services delivery system throughout New York City. We were very pleased about the proposals for increased allocations in the Mayor's Executive, as the economic downturn and the city's restructuring efforts in recent years have led to budget cutbacks and shortage of core services. FPWA is committed in preserving and building upon NYC continuum of care for seniors through our **Campaign for Successful Aging**. Considering the city is estimated to see a 47% increase of adults age 60 and above by 2030, we recommend that the city undertake long-term planning efforts to look to expand the aging service delivery system with resources and services that are needed for the next five through thirty years. This testimony will highlight budget and program initiatives of our campaign that would enhance the city's capacity to serve older adults and provide better support to New Yorkers to age in place. We look forward to continuing to work with Council Member Chin, Council Member Vallone and the members of the Aging Committee and Senior Center Subcommittee to develop a robust senior services delivery system to address the increasing demand as a result of high poverty rate, as well as projected growth of the older adult population.

### **Further Reduce Caseload of Senior Case Management Programs**

While it is uplifting that an additional \$2.6 million has been allocated in the Executive Budget for senior case management to ease high caseloads, ***FPWA urges the Mayor and the City Council to continue re-building the case management programs by allocating an additional \$3.9 million to ensure caseloads are brought to more even more manageable levels of 60-65 clients per case manager and to provide services to over 1,400 seniors now on case management waiting lists.***

### **Implement Tiered Case Management for the Elderly**

Furthermore, FPWA believes that the current case management system is still not fully equipped to serve the growing number of frail seniors 75 and older so that they may age in place. This segment of the older adult population very frequently has complex needs that require more in-depth case management resources than are available.

FPWA recommends instituting an Intensive Case Management (ICM) model of care to allow for the creation of a tiered system of case management for older adults. The single tier would include general case management and the two tier model would include general case management and ICM. Seniors who surpass the first level of service but who need additional, tailored, individualized service to meet their needs would be assisted through a two-tiered approach. This level of sophistication in the system is needed to address critical needs and to enable seniors to move from

one tier to the next as their situation changes. Caseloads within the ICM program range from 30-50 seniors per case manager which allows workers to have sufficient time to address seniors' needs.

Based on our fiscal analysis, funding an ICM unit would serve on average 95 seniors in each of the 23 case management agencies and would cost up to \$280,000 per agency per year. This is compared to the average annual cost in a New York City nursing home at \$137,076 for one older adult. Through the ICM initiative it is estimated that up to an additional 2,200 seniors could be served each year. ***FPWA strongly recommends the Mayor and the City Council to allocate \$6.5 million for the expansion of the existing senior case management program through the implementation of ICM.***

### **Support \$2.3 million in funding for Social Adult Day Services (SADS)**

FPWA is pleased that \$400,000 in funding for SADS programs was baselined in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. However at a minimum, SADS resources need to be increased to the previous allocation of \$2.3 million to accommodate the growing elderly population. Without access to SADS programs, seniors who are not eligible for Medicaid but cannot afford to pay for SADS privately would be unable to access this service. Due to the high rate of poverty among seniors, cost-effective, community-based programs such as SADS are vital.

Social adult day services are a far more cost-effective way to care for frail elders than nursing homes. According to program data obtained from Riverstone Senior Life Services, an organization located in upper Manhattan that operates a social adult day program, the average costs per individual per year for participation in a social adult day care program is \$18,500 as compared to the average annual cost in a New York City nursing home, which is \$137,036.

SADS provide therapeutic programming that helps seniors, including those with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, to maintain their everyday functioning and are also an important source of respite for caregivers. Transportation remains a high need for SADS programs and transportation allocations should include funds to support SADS programs on a consistent basis. We support SADS programs receiving reimbursement for services for assisting caregivers in need of respite. ***FPWA urges the Mayor and the City Council to restore SADS funding to the previous allocation in the amount of \$2.3 million.***

### **Support \$2.0 million for the Geriatric Mental Health Initiative**

***FPWA also recommends the Mayor and the City Council to restore funding for Geriatric Mental Health programs.*** These funds will be used to enhance the capacity and strengthen the infrastructure of existing mental health services delivered in nontraditional settings. Funding will help to address the growing need as the number of those aged 65 and older suffering from mental illness are projected to rise from 180,000 to 300,000 by 2030.

### **Conclusion**

We thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify. We hope that you will strongly consider our budget and policy priorities for FY 2014-2015 during this year's budget negotiation process.



**FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES**

**TESTIMONY**

**of**

**The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies**

**Before the**

**New York City Council General Welfare Committee**

**Budget Hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

**May 19, 2014**

**Prepared By:**

**Esther W. Y. Lok – Assistant Director of Policy, Advocacy and Research**

**Noah Franklin – Senior Policy Analyst for Child Welfare and Workforce Development**

**Emily Miles – Senior Policy Analyst for Early Childhood Education and Income Security**

**Jennifer Jones Austin  
Executive Director/CEO**

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New York, New York 10010  
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Fax: (212) 414-1328

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) is an anti-poverty, policy and advocacy organization with a membership network of nearly 200 human services organizations and churches that operate over 1,200 programs throughout the New York City metro area. Together we serve over 1.5 million low-income New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities and denominations each year. Our members represent every level of New York's social service system, which gives us a comprehensive view of the complex social problems that face human service organizations today. This strengthens our work educating decision makers and making sure that the needs of our network are heard in the legislative process.

We believe in equal opportunity and are committed in advocating for policies and investments that would strengthen low-income individuals, children, families, and communities in need. FPWA applauds Mayor de Blasio for prioritizing critical steps to address economic inequity in his Executive Budget for FY 2014-2015. We are particularly grateful for his investment in early childhood education, afterschool programs, affordable housing, food pantry and soup kitchens, and shelter beds.

FPWA appreciates the opportunity to testify on policies and programs that will support children along the road to success, provide meaningful opportunities for individuals toward stability and prosperity, allow families to meet their basic needs and have greater opportunities, and empower communities to invest in their own well-being. We look forward to continuing to work with Councilman Levin and the members of the General Welfare Committee on our work to reduce poverty and advance upward mobility.

## **Administration for Children Services (ACS)**

### **Implementation of Universal Pre-kindergarten**

FPWA is strongly supportive of the Mayor's plan to provide full day, high quality universal prekindergarten across New York City. This \$300 million investment in FY2014 and \$340 million investment in FY2015 will go a long way in providing the opportunity for every four year old, regardless of his or her family's income, to succeed and is one of the strongest tools we have to fight inequality.

We applaud the allocation of \$44 million to ensure consistent quality standards and programmatic improvements across the UPK and EarlyLearn system, including comparable salaries and professional development opportunities for UPK lead teachers and increased supports for students whose primary language is not English. These improvements across both systems represent a large step forward for the city's early childhood sector. However, there are still several elements that need to be addressed in order to ensure the success of the UPK expansion.

Though we are extremely supportive of the increases in starting salaries for UPK lead teachers, the low levels of compensation for the remainder of the early childhood workforce remain unaddressed. The lack of salary parity between early childhood lead teachers is detrimental to the successful delivery of high quality early childhood education services. Establishing teacher salaries based only on the age of the children being taught creates an unequal system which will drive certified teachers toward higher paying positions, resulting in a decline in the availability of qualified teachers for younger children. ***FPWA urges the city to invest in salary parity for all teachers across the early childhood system in order to ensure the delivery of high quality services.***

Additionally, as UPK moves closer to implementation, it is essential to ensure that no child will lose hours of care as a result of participating in the program. The current EarlyLearn model provides year round quality care for ten hours per day. This wrap around model allows for extended educational

programming, while meeting the scheduling needs of working families. In contrast, UPK provides only 6.3 hours of instruction per day and follows the DOE calendar, with July and August off. This lack of wrap around services, combined with the shortened service year, places an unnecessary hardship on working families who need consistency in their child care placements. ***FPWA recommends that the city include funds in the FY2015 budget to ensure that community-based organizations can continue to provide wrap around services and summer programming for children enrolled in the UPK program.***

## **Address the Needs of the EarlyLearn System**

FPWA applauds the Mayor's commitment to create a task force of key stakeholders that will develop a strategic plan for better integrating the city's early childhood education system and expanding services to those enrolled in EarlyLearn NYC. As New York City moves to strengthen educational opportunities for all four-year-olds, there must be a greater and more stable commitment to investing in child care for children from birth to age three who are eligible for subsidized child care. Throughout the recession, zero to three programming has faced serious funding cuts, resulting in a lack of availability of infant and toddler spots, inadequate compensation for early childhood teachers and staff, and the destabilization of the early childhood system.

The EarlyLearn system provides a model for providing a publically funded comprehensive early child care and education system that has the potential to significantly improve the quality of childcare in New York City. Many aspects of this model have been long promoted by FPWA and other child advocates and were designed to strengthen a childcare system plagued with varying levels of quality. While FPWA supports these efforts to increase the quality of childcare in New York City, after a year of implementation, we find ourselves increasingly concerned regarding aspects of this model that have inadvertently created a negative impact on many EarlyLearn childcare providers and the quality of services they provide. A majority of these challenges revolve around the lack of financial support for EarlyLearn providers, especially in the areas of insufficient per child reimbursement rates and increased burden of health care and liability insurance coverage.

As it is currently constructed, the per-child reimbursement rate is insufficient to cover all the costs of a high quality early learning program. Our member agencies report a constant financial struggle to adequately provide compensation for staff, cover ever rising insurance costs, and afford operating and administrative expenses. They are struggling to maintain quality programs in a system that is continuously shifting more and more financial burden onto the provider. These financial struggles directly affect the quality of services provided to children, many of whom are from high need neighborhoods and require additional supports in order to ensure future academic and personal success.

Additional financial strain was placed upon our member agencies earlier this year when childcare employees lost access to the city funded Central Insurance system. Due to the insufficient level of reimbursement, providers were forced to ask employees to cover 15% of the cost of their coverage. With the average childcare teacher in New York City earning just over \$32,000, this 15% contribution was tantamount to a salary cut of approximately \$5,000. For many, the cost of coverage was too high and many chose to opt out of the program. A survey of our member agencies revealed that in any given program between 30-60% of employees opted out of health care coverage. ***FPWA urges ACS to work with advocates and providers to determine an appropriate rate that fully funds the cost of high quality programs and recommends the City Council to continue monitoring this issue.***

## **Reduce the Financial and Administrative Burden for Working Families**

In February 2011, former Mayor Bloomberg imposed a cut of \$13 million in funding annually for subsidized child care by raising parent fees from 12% to 17% of the adjusted family income and to triple the minimum co-payment from \$5 per week to \$15 per week. The fee had already been raised the prior year from 10% to 12%. Cumulatively, this amounts to a 7% increase over two years, causing a situation in which families with the lowest and most marginal incomes are being the hardest hit.

Since the increase of parent fees, some of our member agencies have reported that their programs have lost children whose parents can no longer afford the fee. Given the high cost of living in New York City, the increase of parent fee deepens the burden of many low-income parents, as they are already forced to make difficult choices between the most basic expenses such as food, rent, utilities, medicine, and clothing for growing children. ***FPWA strongly recommends the Mayor and the City Council to reverse the parent fee increase implemented in February 2011.***

## **Restore Priority 8 and 9 eligibility categories that were eliminated in FY 2009-2010 budget**

The Priority 8 eligibility category provides vouchers and access to center-based care to parents who are not able to provide care for their children during the day because they are either ill or incapacitated. Providing support for these parents would ensure young children receive the care they need, which is a low-cost preventive measure and an investment in the well-being of children, especially in vulnerable families.

The Priority 9 eligibility category provides vouchers and access to center-based care to low-income (non-public assistance) households for child care coverage while parents are looking for work. The funds eliminated in FY 2009-2010 totaled \$4.2 million. To be successful in their job search, parents need access to subsidies for child care services. Providing support for child care in the job seeking process is an essential piece of the puzzle that would enable parents to focus on looking for work and therefore, prevents families from falling deeper into crisis.

The elimination of these priority code eligibility categories has negatively impacted struggling families as they can no longer access vital care for their children. In addition, child care centers are also left with vacancies that can't be filled by children that need care because the elimination of these categories has made them ineligible for services. ***FPWA recommends the Mayor and the City Council to restore funding for these priorities.***

## **Improve NYC's Foster Care System by Providing Better Support to Youth Aging Out of Care**

While FPWA is pleased that the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) has been able to secure \$1.3 billion in federal funds for the next five year for the city budget through a Title IV-E Waiver to expand services in the foster care system, we hope that greater resources in the foster care system will go to improving family finding for children in care and outcomes for youth aging out of care. Even with increased efforts to achieve permanence for all children in care, the number of youth who age out of foster care in New York City has risen steadily over the past decade. For far too many youth in care, aging out of care results in homelessness, work instability, and a lack of stable, loving relationships with adults.

Youth aging out are an extremely overrepresented population among New York's homeless. In New York City, it is estimated that between 18-26% of foster care youth who age out become homeless and, on any night, many former foster youth can be found sleeping on the streets, park benches, couch-surfing, or in shelters. The urgency of this problem is compounded by the fact that while the

foster care census continues to decline in New York, the largest percent of children in foster care are over the age of twelve. Although youth may leave the foster care system when they turn 18 years old, an increasing number remain until they age out at 21. Below are four proposals for improving New York City's child welfare system and providing better support to youth aging out of care.

### **1) Create an inter-agency task force to improve coordination of care**

The common refrain from provider agencies and foster youth is that city agencies function inefficiently in regard to housing and in regard to communication surrounding housing policies. To alleviate this systemic strain, advocates have proposed that an inter-agency task force be formed between ACS, DYCD, DOE, CUNY, NYCHA, NY/NYIII, HRA, DOHMH, and DHS. Such an organizational centralization would be ripe for streamlining requirements for qualification to apply for services and assistance, and recognizing the circumstances and challenges for foster youth. This task force would have the power to improve coordination among city agencies to ensure better services to youth aging out of foster care. In particular, we recommend that this task force streamline the process of securing housing, ensure proper transition and supports for youth with mental health issues, and increase the accessibility of safe, permanent housing for youth leaving foster care.

### **2) Develop Aftercare capacity to support youth until age 25**

While housing and improved coordination of care are essential, youth need more than a place to reside to continue living independently. Developing aftercare with the capacity to support youth until age 25 could nurture that independence. Currently, the ACS lacks both funding allocation and clear guidelines for a support system for aged out youth. This leads to insufficient supervisory efforts not on par with much more needed investments such as family support and counseling. ***FPWA recommends that ACS develop after care capacity to support youth already aged out of foster care until age 25 by providing housing, health and mental health, education and vocational training assistance.*** In addition to support after aging out of care, foster youth require experience and supplemental aid to successfully transition to independent life.

### **3) Restore, create and/or increase funding for housing programs that aid both youth aging out and former foster youth**

Young adults need a chance to practice living independently before they are completely on their own. Experts say that young adults should have the opportunity to make and learn from mistakes as they become independent. Funding cuts over the past few years to crucial programs have reduced the ability of youth to attain affordable and sustainable housing after "aging out" of care.

FPWA commends the Mayor's "Housing New York" plan, particularly its support for the creation of a new supportive housing agreement between New York City and New York State as a follow up to the New York/New York III Supportive Housing Agreement that is ending next year.

***In addition, FPWA recommends the Mayor and the City Council to consider the following options:***

- Reinstitute discharge grants for youth aging out of care;
- Provide funding for trial discharges;
- Increase the ACS housing subsidy to reflect current rental rates for low-income housing;
- Increase funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth;
- Increase the number of NY/NY III supportive housing units for all youth aging out of the foster care system.

#### **4) Reduce barriers to accessing housing through NYCHA and improve its coordination with ACS**

A key and crucial resource to “aged out” foster youth is the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), which helps to place them in affordable housing situations once they reach independent living age. While NYCHA is a tremendous help on this step, there are many areas in dire need of improvement. One step would be reducing onerous requirements for receiving the presumptive budget letter that NYCHA requires youth aging out to get from the Human Resources Administration (HRA) to show proof of income if they are not employed. It is difficult to process and obtain these letters in time from ACS and HRA because of the age restrictions on when the youth can apply for the letter. Foster care agencies and foster youth should be able to apply earlier so they can get it approved in time to receive housing. Youth must also be given more viable choices in safe, clean apartments. Safety concerns and requests for security transfers must also be made a priority and addressed in a timely way. ***FPWA encourages the City Council to examine ways that would reduce barriers to accessing housing, fund programs that help youth transition to independent living, extend aftercare and improve coordination of care.***

#### **Ensure Preventive Services for Children and Families**

Reducing barriers to accessing housing, funding programs that help youth transition to independent living, extending aftercare and improving coordination of care are all means of improving NYC’s child welfare system and providing better support to youth aging out of care directly. However, youth will also benefit from program and service improvements. One such modification is the revision of performance-based funding.

The ACS has recently implemented a performance-based funding plan for preventive services providers, which requires that the contracted providers must open 25% of their cases within the specified timeframe or they will lose 10% of their yearly funding. Preventive services providers have concerns about performance-based funding because of the effort and energy that has to be spent pursuing new cases when utilization is low, which diverts providers from more meaningful program activities. Additionally, program budgets are very tight, so forfeiting 10% of their budgets may cripple providers that have to produce matching funds (up to 5% of budget) and often rely on fundraising to make up the difference.

FPWA believes that the performance-based funding plan should be revised to address these implementation concerns. Since preventive services providers have always successfully relied on the scorecard to monitor and propel system shifts, it is not necessary to use performance-based funding as an incentive to move providers towards a 12-month length of stay. The reality is that providers are willingly helping every family and child they can and working with ACS through the process. Many preventive services providers have turned the corner on this expectation and are closing more than 50% of their cases within 12 months. Small community based preventive services providers play a vital role and should not be forced to close due to lack of sufficient contract funding.

#### **Maintain investment in Preventive Services; Restore funding cuts for After-Care Services, Foster Boarding Home rates, and “One Year Home” Permanency Campaign**

Preventive services are a cost-effective component of the child welfare system – each slot costs about \$9,500 and serves an entire family; whereas foster care costs about \$36,000 per child. In order to provide appropriate services to families who need assistance, it is imperative to provide stability to the system and ensure sufficient capacity. ***FPWA encourages the Mayor and the City Council to continue fully supporting the wise investment of child welfare preventive services***

***by restoring the \$4.15 million cut from previous budgets in after-care support services to help support the reunification process.***

In addition, ***FPWA urges the Mayor and the City Council to restore the \$6.9 million delayed increase for foster care boarding home rates that were cut in previous budgets.*** As it is, foster care agencies are not adequately resourced and this delayed increase will force agencies to make significant cuts in staff and/or services. In these difficult economic times, agencies responsible for serving New York City's most vulnerable children and families deserve our support. ***FPWA also urges the Mayor to restore the \$9.9 million cut from previous budgets to support permanency for foster care youth.*** In order for agencies to implement permanency plans they must be financially supported in this difficult and challenging work.

## **Human Resources Administration (HRA)**

### **Invest in Anti-hunger Program**

FPWA applauds the Mayor for including an additional \$1.5 million that will support food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the city. This money will go far in strengthening an emergency food system that reports increased difficulty in meeting the needs of hungry New Yorkers. Additionally, FPWA was pleased to see that the city will accept the federal Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver. This change in policy will put the city in line with every other county in New York State and will ensure that unemployed New Yorkers will still have access to SNAP benefits.

### **Invest in Citywide Transitional Jobs Program**

With NYC's unemployment rate at 8.6% in February 2014, there are 350,000 unemployed people in New York City. Included in these unemployed are 33,000 adult Family Assistance recipients and 129,000 adult Safety Net Assistance recipients as of February 2014. The city also has about 140,000 more unemployed residents than it had six years ago, before the financial crisis struck. These numbers show that more must be done to aid those who have been unemployed for grueling long periods of time and have fallen in need of public assistance. A new and greatly expanded transitional jobs initiative could significantly decrease rates of unemployment in New York City, and provide a permanent boost to those that are trying to get back on their feet.

Transitional jobs are a particular form of publicly subsidized employment which can help the unemployed, including those who are "hard to employ"—long-term unemployed, TANF recipients, disconnected youth and people reentering from the criminal justice system—overcome employment barriers with paid, short-term employment that combines real work, skill development and supportive services. Participants are provided training in both necessary soft skills in the work force and in a specific industry/skill. Often, participants are retained for permanent employment in the jobs they had been placed into for the subsidized period. Even when they are not, these participants have a much higher chance of finding permanent employment afterward, and they are provided with help in their job search process.

In many parts of the country, transitional jobs have proven to lead to increased employment levels and wages for those that have participated in such programs. For example, with the Los Angeles Transitional Subsidized Employment Program, workers received wages of \$10 per hour; participated for 6-12 months; received supports including job coaching, child care, transportation costs; and the target population was mostly TANF recipients, with some dislocated workers. The number of people placed was 10,719 at 1,403 employers. The average time in subsidized employment was about 7 months and the average earnings were \$6,057.

In New York City, some existing programs within the Human Resources Administration (HRA) are already doing this work. However, they target rather small portions of the existing estimated 346,860 unemployed population as of August 2013. ***FPWA recommends the city to fund a large-scale transitional jobs program, especially given these programs' proven success based on previous and existing transitional jobs programs throughout the nation and in New York.***

New York City's program should look to serve the greatest number of the unemployed population possible. FPWA is working with the Urban Institute to develop a comprehensive cost-estimate that includes the total net costs for each Transitional Job participant. However, an estimate done by the Fiscal Policy Institute in 2008 found a \$705 net monthly cost per participant.

This TJ model assumes that:

- The TJ workers would be paid the city's living wage of \$11.50 per hour or the prevailing wage
- The TJ placement would last 6 months
- 30% of the TJ workers would receive vocational training of 20 hours/week in addition to working at their TJ for 15 hours/week

### **Need for Greater Efficiency and Efficacy in the city's Welfare-to-Work Structure**

New York City receives the majority of New York State's Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) and is currently allocated \$425 million in FFFS funding, which includes \$99 million of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding. The city currently spends approximately 73% (or \$72 million) of these TANF funds on welfare-to-work programs including Back to Work, The Work Experience Program (WEP), WeCare, and general employment services.

Yet, despite this funding emphasis, these programs consistently fail to achieve the goal of helping public assistance recipients find and secure steady and remunerative employment. For example, the city spends \$57 million a year on the Back to Work program which has very low job placement and retention outcomes—48% of clients didn't retain their jobs past 90 days and 75% didn't retain their jobs past 180 days. In addition, most WEP participants live well below the federal poverty level.

### **Reverse Mayor's 2011 Budget Action Reducing Broker's Fees and Vouchering Security Deposits**

Households receiving public assistance have had very few housing options due to below market rental payments and administrative barriers in retaining benefits. In the adopted budget of FY 2011-2012, the Bloomberg Administration imposed a policy to reduce broker's fees to half of a month's rent and vouchering security deposits. This funding reduction totals \$4.8 million.

According to an online survey conducted by Shubert Botein Policy Associates months after the implementation of the policy, survey respondents reported that these changes have significantly affected the HIV/AIDS Service Administration (HASA) clients they serve, with the change of brokers' fees being the most challenging.

Findings of the survey show:

- Over 95% of clients involved in a housing search have experienced one or both policy changes as a barrier to housing placement
- 79% of respondents report that the security deposit change poses a significant barrier to their clients
- 94% report that the brokers' fees change is a significant barrier, with 50% reporting that it has prevented placement for one or more clients

Since this policy went into effect, many brokers no longer work with households receiving cash assistance, which further limits an already extremely limited pool of available housing for these families, including people who receive HASA. We have also found that brokers are asking clients on a fixed income to pay the other half of the fee on their own. Some landlords refuse to lease apartments to applicants receiving cash assistance unless they are able to pay security deposits in cash. ***FPWA strongly recommends the Mayor and the City Council to restore funding for broker's fee and security deposits.***

### **Implementation of the 30% Rent Cap Bill**

FPWA applauds Mayor de Blasio for allocating \$7.2 million in city funds and \$9.5 million in total funds in 2014, and \$31.1million in city funds and \$40.5 million in total funds in 2015 to reduce the rent burden for 14,000 individuals receiving rental assistance through HIV/AIDS Service Administration (HASA) and residing in private market apartments. Since many HASA clients are not well informed about their budget and benefits received, FPWA recommends HASA to provide written notice to all HASA clients with information on their personal/household budget as well as the types of benefits eligible for and received through the division. FPWA also recommends the City Council to closely monitor the implementation of this policy change.

### **Conclusion**

We thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify. We hope that you will consider our budget priorities and recommendations on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for the FY 2014 budget during this year's budget negotiation process.



**FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES**

**Testimony prepared for**  
**The New York City Council Health Committee's Public Hearing**  
**on**  
**The Mayor's FY 2014-2015 Executive Budget**  
**May 2014**

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The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) is an anti-poverty, policy and advocacy organization with a membership network of nearly 200 human services organizations and churches that operate over 1,200 programs throughout the New York City metro area. Together we serve over 1.5 million low-income New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities and denominations each year. Our members represent every level of New York's social service system, which gives us a comprehensive view of the complex social problems that face human service organizations today. This strengthens our work educating decision makers and making sure that the needs of our network are heard in the legislative process.

We would like to thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify on needed investments that will strengthen programs serving vulnerable populations across New York City. In this testimony, we will focus on issues related to the city's efforts to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic as well as health disparities in low-income/disenfranchised communities.

### **Revitalizing the HIV Response to End the AIDS Epidemic in NYC**

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in New York continues to disproportionately impact low-income communities. There are more than 100,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in New York City, which is about 80% of the total HIV positive population in New York State. Within this population, 50% of them rely on Medicaid for their primary care, and about 10% are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare. In addition, more than 32,000 people receive enhanced rental assistance and other benefits through the HIV/AIDS Service Administration (HASA), a division of the Human Resource Administration/Department of Social Services.

In the past several years, the city has primarily focused its efforts on expanding HIV testing in high HIV prevalence neighborhoods and promptly getting those who are positive into care. While these efforts were important, they largely failed to address the core issues faced by many with and at-risk for HIV – housing instability, food insecurity, and poverty. To be successful in our fight against the epidemic, the city must take a comprehensive approach. **Now is the time to develop and implement an action plan to end AIDS in New York.** In fact, New York has the people, institutions, resources and political will to end AIDS in the City and throughout the State, and to become a model in the U.S. and beyond.

Progress will require renewed commitment, realignment of current efforts and strategic investment of new resources. Given that total federal HIV-specific resources, including funds from the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Ryan White Program, and Housing and Urban Development's Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program (HOPWA) available to New York City and State have been reduced by millions of dollars even as caseloads rise, **FPWA strongly recommends the Mayor and the City Council to increase/re-direct city tax levy funding to replace lost state and federal support.**

**Specifically, FPWA recommends the Mayor and the City Council to:**

- Allocate funds to replace loss of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Ryan White funds for nutrition programs, as food insecurity significantly undermines the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy (ART).
- Increase investment in building integrated services for women living with HIV that would include three major components: (1) HIV prevention, treatment and care; (2) sexual and reproductive health services; and (3) intimate partner violence prevention and counseling.

In addition, we urge the City Council **to support re-establishing the Citywide Office of AIDS Policy Coordination in the Office of the Mayor** to effectively coordinate all HIV, STI and hepatitis related policy among relevant city agencies including the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services, Department of Homeless Service, Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Department of Correction, New York City Police Department, Administration for Children Services and Department of Youth and Community Development among others. The coordinator would also serve as New York City's representative with relevant federal and New York State officials to guide and align city policy and resources with federal and state policy and efforts.

### **Address Health Disparities in Disenfranchised and Low-Income Communities**

As a member of the People's Budget Coalition for Public Health (PBC), an alliance of 20+ community and labor organizations united around preserving and expanding our city's public health programs and services, we believe it is particularly important to ensure resources are distributed equitably and that no community, particularly immigrants and disabled individuals, will be left un-served as New York City implements the changes and initiatives of the Affordable Care Act. We believe the City Council has a unique opportunity to eliminate health disparities in this process, by ensuring adequate resources are allocated to health promotion, disease prevention, health care cost reduction, and expansion of a culturally-competent healthcare workforce. FPWA recommends the City Council to support the following initiatives:

### **Allocate \$5 million to Launch the “Access Health NYC” Initiative**

We recommend the City Council to allocate \$5 million to launch the “Access Health NYC” initiative, a program that is created to address the fact that New York State did not explicitly fund general public outreach and education programs and activities through its own Navigator grant program. PBC envisions that funding for this program will be distributed through an RFP process to support culturally- and linguistically-competent non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) in all 5 boroughs, based on percentage of uninsured per borough. Preference will be given to CBOs that are able to reach hard-to-reach populations, and populations that experience health care access and coverage disparities based on race, ethnicity, primary language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender.

### **Allocate \$1 million for Commission on Community Health Planning**

Community Health Planning is essential to building a responsive Public Health System. Unfortunately, democracy is sorely lacking in the existing process of community health planning and there is a need to increase local control over and participation in the decisions around health care resources and public health issues. While the health outcomes for New Yorkers may have improved in recent years, substantial inequalities remain among New Yorkers of various economic status and racial/ethnic groups. We are also concerned that, in recent years, a number of closures of hospitals and vital health services occurred without taking into full account of the social, economic and health inequities in impacted neighborhoods.

PBC urges the Mayor and the City Council to ensure accountability in the public health planning process by allocating \$1 million to create a special commission to address health disparities and other related public health issues. A community’s right to self-determination, its knowledge of its local needs, its circumstances, and its health assets are all important driving forces for community health action and contribute to a better health planning process.

We thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify.



**FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES**

**TESTIMONY**

**of**

**The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies**

**Before the**

**New York City Council Youth Services Committee**

**Budget Hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

**May 16, 2014**

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The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) is an anti-poverty, policy and advocacy organization with a membership network of nearly 200 human services organizations and churches that operate over 1,200 programs throughout the New York City metro area. Together we serve over 1.5 million low-income New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities and denominations each year. Our members represent every level of New York City's social service system, providing FPWA with a comprehensive view of the complex social service problems that face human service organizations and the clients they serve every day.

We would like to thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify on policies and investments that will support the development of our youth throughout New York City. We were very pleased about the proposals for increased allocations that were included in the Mayor's Executive Budget that will provide supportive learning opportunities for our City's youth. In this testimony, we would like to highlight key priorities and programs that will contribute to the future success of our young people. We look forward to continuing to work with Council Member Eugene and members of the Youth Services Committee to ensure they have a consistent, supportive voice on matters of concern to them.

### **Recommendations on Policy/Program/Service Improvement**

#### **Invest \$1.2 million on Worker Cooperatives Business Initiative**

FPWA believes that worker cooperatives are an important way to employ a bottom-up approach that drives economic development in the communities that most need it while simultaneously bettering the larger economy. Fortunately, this is a goal shared by Mayor de Blasio, who has stated his desire to promote local control of wages, strengthen work standards and expand labor rights to fight issues that plague lower-income communities. As a matter of policy, Mayor de Blasio has also explicitly stated his desire to use sectorial strategies to diversify New York City's economic base and bring jobs to neighborhoods in all five boroughs and promote entrepreneurship training at economic development hubs at the local neighborhood level.

FPWA is supporting the development of worker cooperatives as an alternative economic model in which workers are also part-owners of their businesses. Such a model has been found to be more resilient to market shocks and more equitable for lower and middle-income communities than

traditional enterprises. Currently, there are approximately 40 worker cooperatives in the New York City, most notably Cooperative Home Care Associates which employs over 2000 home-care workers and is the largest worker cooperative in the City. Additionally, there are several organizations dedicated to the development of worker cooperatives such as the Center for Family Life and The Working World that provide legal and technical assistance. Much more can be done, however, to develop their presence.

The Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, aimed at the development of worker cooperative business in New York City, is designed to impact long-term unemployment and growing numbers of underemployed and discouraged workers in high-needs neighborhoods. It will reach 920 cooperative entrepreneurs, work with 28 start-up worker cooperative small businesses and assist another 20 existing cooperatives, which has the potential to create 234 jobs by coordinating education and training resources and by providing technical, legal and financial assistance.

In addition to making program investment, FPWA strongly recommend passing legislation that would create a reporting requirement on the part of the city with regard to the volume of business achieved with worker cooperative businesses, and to develop a budget initiative to found a transitional jobs program that connects disadvantaged workers with worker cooperatives.

### **Develop an inventory of afterschool programs**

New York City is fortunate to have an array of high quality afterschool programs. In order to gain a complete picture and understanding of the afterschool system throughout New York City, FPWA recommends developing an inventory of afterschool services providing detailed information on the supports available to young people. Specifically, FPWA proposes that the City create an online searchable database, which could be utilized by parents searching for a program for their child where they could compare various afterschool supports to see which program is the best option.

The proposed tool would also offer information such as available slots in any of the programs contained in the database. We recognize that some afterschool program search tools and databases already exist, but the resource we are proposing would be more comprehensive in that it

would include program information of all afterschool programs, regardless of their funding streams, that are available throughout New York City.

The repository will also educate administrators and policymakers so that they have a complete picture and understanding of the funding sources and programs that encompass the afterschool system as well as where the service gaps and availability exist. The database will also be very helpful for those schools that do not offer afterschool programs, so they know where to direct students. This online searchable database will serve as helpful information when planning for the needs and services of young people. It is recommended that the inventory include the following activities and elements:

- Mapping of the geographic locations of programs
- Ascertain the enrollment in programs where there are open slots and areas where there are waiting lists for service
- Determine where initiatives are needed in the communities and which schools might not have programs so coverage can be provided at all schools that desire a program
- Label the programs that are provided by the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), which will aid in the coordination and communication between departments

FPWA thanks Councilman Eugene for his support to the idea of creating of an afterschool inventory. We hope his legislative request LS 1782 will be introduced in the next stated meeting and be adopted soon so the project may be implemented in FY 2014-2015. We believe now is the opportune time to implement the database given that the expansion of Out of School Time (OST) middle school program will lead to more parents looking for sites to enroll their child.

### **Recommendations on the Budget**

#### **Invest and Expand Afterschool Programs for New York City's Youth**

As a steering committee member of the Campaign for Children, FPWA shares the vision of the

campaign that every child in New York City deserves access to safe, high-quality, and affordable early childhood education and after-school programs. We are grateful that \$56.7 million for Out of School Time (OST) was baselined and that \$19.4 million was allocated for new Beacon cornerstone programs in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for FY 2014-2015. This action gives the youth, as well as our member organizations, security in knowing the vital programs that they have relied on for so long will be preserved for future years.

FPWA recognizes and supports the provision of afterschool programs that include a holistic approach which foster social and emotional well-being, educational and academic achievements, and physical health and wellness. Afterschool programs provide a range of activities including assistance with school day lessons in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), literacy and the arts, homework help and tutoring, dance, martial arts and other sports.

We commend Mayor de Blasio for proposing new investments totaling \$145 million in FY 2015 and \$190 million in FY 2016 to provide quality afterschool programs for more middle school youth. This new allocation will support an additional 43,000 middle school youth in FY 2015 and 51,000 additional young people in FY 2016. The fact that summer programs have been expanded by over 17,000 new seats to serve 33,000 children for FY 2015 will provide consistency to youth so they may have access to year round programming. It is so uplifting that by FY 2016 there will be afterschool programs for 107,000 middle school students.

In addition, FPWA supports the Campaign for Children's proposals that rate parity must include current OST programs, as some provider organizations are administering after-school programs to the same age cohort but receiving very different rates per child. We recommend creating a unified, consistent salary scale for afterschool professionals based on qualifications, and ensuring salary parity for all equally credentialed staff in the afterschool service delivery system. We estimate that \$12.1 million will be needed to bring current middle school OST programs to the middle school expansion rate. We also support allocating \$7.9 million to bring the OST programs previously funded by the City Council to the same rates as comparable elementary and middle school OST programs.

Furthermore, we support that afterschool programs must be year round. As we strengthen and expand our afterschool system, new programs should not cover less time than existing ones and current programs must maintain full year programming. We are encouraged that the de Blasio Administration has included summer funding for new middle school afterschool slots, as well as middle school slots that were previously funded by City Council discretionary funds. The Administration should ensure for the future that discretionary-funded elementary school slots also receive summer funding.

### **Expand Beacon Program Funding**

FPWA is very pleased that funding for Beacon programs in the amount of \$4.4 million was baselined in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for FY 2014-2015. This is a step in the right direction for stability for Beacon programs. However, since the funding allocation has been eroded through the years, it needs to be increased to sustain the operation of these vital services. FPWA has learned that current allocations for these programs do not cover the total expenses needed to operate Beacons. For example, security fees are expensive and agencies have not received cost of living increases to run these services. FPWA recommends that the Mayor and the City Council allocate additional funds to Beacon Programs utilizing an inflationary rate.

### **Expand Cornerstone Programs by Reopening Closed Programs**

FPWA is pleased that funding was allocated for 45 new Cornerstone Programs in the amount of \$19.4 million in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for FY 2014-2015. We recommend re-opening the 24 programs in NYCHA facilities, which were closed due to budget cuts. In addition, we would like to expand the capacity of the existing Cornerstone Programs where possible. Cornerstone youth programs are designed to help participants acquire the skills and aptitudes they need to graduate from high school, attain success in their chosen career, and contribute to the community. Typical youth activities in cornerstone programs include sports, literacy and skill building tasks. Cornerstone adult programs are designed to enhance skills and promote social interaction, community engagement, and physical activity. Typical classes include adult basic education (ESOL and GED) and family relations related activities. Cornerstone programs are vital for our economically disadvantaged youth and their families.

### **Increase funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Programs**

FPWA is very pleased that \$7.2 million in funding for RHY services was baselined in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for FY 2014-2015. Additionally, we applaud Mayor de Blasio for allocating funds for an additional 100 crisis shelter beds for FY 2015 and the outyears. RHY programs are very cost effective. According to a report issued by New Avenues for Youth in Portland Oregon, for every \$1.00 invested in programs for runaway and homeless youth they saved on average \$4.12 in cost to the community by reducing utilization of the juvenile delinquency, homeless and mental health facilities<sup>1</sup>.

Due to the high poverty rates among youth, it is critical that supports be available for the runaway and homeless youth populations. It is estimated that on any given night there are over 3,800 youth homeless in the city. One New York City shelter reports turning away 300 youth seeking shelter each month. Surveys of runaway and homeless youth contacted from three major homeless shelters and drop-in crisis centers reveal there may be as many as 32,000 young people on the street in any given year. According to the report published by the Independent Budget Office, there were only 113 crisis beds and 122 transitional independent living beds (TIL) available to New York City's homeless youth in 2009.

While we appreciate the Mayor's support of RHY, there is more to be done. We recommend the increase of 100 shelter beds per year until every youth has a bed available on any given night. It is estimated this would necessitate an increase of \$3.5 million per year in additional federal, state and city funding. The \$3.5 million increase would be on top of the additional allocation that was proposed in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. Since funds for RHY services have been depleted since the Great Recession by 63%, we need to build RHY services as much as we can to support our young people long-term.

### **Funding for Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**

We strongly recommend that the Mayor and the City Council support funding for the SYEP so that 100,000 jobs can be provided to New York City youth this summer. For the summer of 2013, \$45.2 million in city, state and federal funds supported over 35,000 jobs. This represents an increase of

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<sup>1</sup> New Avenues for Youth, The Economic Benefits of Helping Homeless Youth, Page 3, available at [http://www.newavenues.org/files/NewAvenues\\_Cost\\_Benefit\\_Study.pdf](http://www.newavenues.org/files/NewAvenues_Cost_Benefit_Study.pdf)

\$2.1 million and 5,700 jobs for our youth over the summer of 2012. The increase in funding is due to additional private sector and Federal Community Services Block Grant funds. The summer of 2013 saw 135,388 New York City youth apply for a summer job.

Employment opportunities such as those offered by SYEP improves the economic conditions and upward mobility of our young people. Since 2003, employment remained weak for young adults, even during the period of economic growth in the middle of the decade. The recent recession saw unemployment among 16-24 years olds worsen further, from a rate of 15% in 2006 to 18% in 2012. There are 173,000 disconnected youth throughout New York City who are neither in school nor working.<sup>2</sup>

SYEP provides youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with summer employment and educational experiences that builds on their individual strengths and incorporates youth development principles. At a time when only 26% of the number of SYEP applicants are getting a placement into the program, we cannot afford to have the number of jobs available to our youth be reduced even further. Although New York State has increased the SYEP allocation from \$25 million to \$27.5 million for 2014-2015 and the Mayor has proposed an additional \$8.5 million to the program to maintain last year's service levels, the demand for the program goes far beyond what funding will support. Moving forward, we strongly believe that at least 100,000 jobs should be ultimately provided to meet the demand. It should also be noted that the wages that youth are earning are a boost to the economy as they are typically spending their earnings at local businesses within their neighborhoods.

### **Fund Community Based Adult Literacy Programs at \$10.1 Million**

In a city where 1.6 million out-of-school youth and adults 16 years of age and older do not have a high school diploma or GED, where 30% of high school students are dropping out, and where only 3% of the 1.23 million adults in the city who speak English "less than very well" are enrolled in English-language programs, an educated and skilled workforce is critical to sustain a thriving economy that can create jobs and generate the revenues needed to support New York City. For low-income adults in New York, education is the key to gain upward mobility and improve quality of

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<sup>2</sup> Treschan, Lazar, et al, *Missed Opportunity: How New York City Can Do a Better Job of Reconnecting Youth on Public Assistance to Education and Jobs*, The Community Service Society Reports, June 2011, page 5.  
[http://b3cdn.net/nycss/f763229f781980fb6a\\_5fm6y1dps.pdf](http://b3cdn.net/nycss/f763229f781980fb6a_5fm6y1dps.pdf).

life, as it helps to secure employment, provide support to their children to succeed in school, or acquire the language skills to navigate daily life.

Since its recent peak in FY 2010, annual allocations were reduced by almost 66% (\$6.5 million) from FY 2010 to FY 2014 representing a loss of close to 7,000 classroom seats for Adult Basic Education (ABE), High School Equivalency (HSE), English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), and Basic Education in Native Language (BENL) programs. Over the last four years, the city's investment in DYCD's Adult Literacy programs has fallen to just \$1 million in FY 2013, which was restored by the City Council for one year. In FY 2013-2014, the City Council allocated \$1 million to partially restore the Adult Literacy Services. This funding restoration enabled 11 adult literacy programs to provide basic literacy, ESOL and GED classes for adults. In addition, the City Council allocated \$1.5 million to its Adult Literacy Services Initiative to create additional basic literacy, ESOL and GED classes for adults.

Literacy program participants are hard-working contributors to New York City's economy: 72% of literacy students are working full- or part-time. Literacy services are keeping them in their jobs, helping them advance, and enabling them to contribute to our economy and tax base. New York City cannot afford to make cuts to adult literacy. As a direct result of these literacy programs, over 1,000 individuals obtained jobs last year. These jobs bring significant production and tax revenue to fuel New York's economy, and savings on public benefits.

In New York City, there are 1.3 million New Yorkers who lack either an HSE, English proficiency, or both. We urge the Mayor and the City Council to reverse recent trends, and increase investment to \$10.1 million in FY 2014-2015. This supports an array of programs at a level of \$1,200 per slot to support quality instruction and holistic supports. We believe that NYC's investment in adult education should grow by 50% each year to begin to meet the need and demand for services.

## **Conclusion**

We thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify. We hope that you will strongly consider our budget and policy priorities for FY 2014-2015 during this year's budget negotiation process.



Councilmember Julissa Ferreras  
New York City Council  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Re: Written Testimony for NYC Council Committee on Finance  
Executive Budget Hearing on Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Dear Councilmember Ferreras:

I am writing today in favor of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation's budget being increased by at least \$27 million. I am writing primarily on behalf of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park. The Friends is an independent community based organization which actively promotes the conservation and improvement of Van Cortlandt Park through environmental education and restoration and enhancement of the Park, its forests and trails. Last year, we served over 5,000 children and adults through our various environmental education and stewardship programs. FVCP was founded in 1992 by a Bronx resident in response to a *New York Times* article describing the impact of declining NYC Department of Parks and Recreation budgets for parks like Van Cortlandt that lacked wealthy benefactors. It is unfortunate, that over 20 years later, the Parks Department is still not adequately funded.

I am not only representing the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park but I am writing as a Board Member of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality and a co-chair of the Bronx Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces which has over 30 member organizations. The Bronx Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces is the organizer of the Bronx Parks Speak Up which annually brings together several hundred park users and advocates. Each year, at the Speak Up, participants express concern about the lack of funding for our parks.

First, I would like to thank the City Council for increasing the Parks Department budget by \$27 million in the Preliminary Budget. We all know that the NYC Parks Department has been underfunded for many many years now. And that they need much more than the additional \$27 million but it is a step in the right direction. I was very disappointed when I learned that the Mayor responded by greatly

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HON. ANDREW COHEN  
HON. JEFFREY DINOWITZ  
HON. ELIOT ENGEL  
HON. JEFFREY KLEIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CHRISTINA A. TAYLOR

slashing that increase. I am urging the City Council to continue to work with the Mayor to reach an agreement where Parks can receive the full \$27 million increase.

We strongly believe that the NYC Parks Department is not funded at a level needed for the agency to properly maintain and care for all of its parks. Each year, we see funding allocated for Capital Projects which vastly improve our parks through the building of new playgrounds, repairing of sports fields, installing bathrooms, etc.. But we don't see an increase in maintenance funding to keep the new facilities in good shape. Instead, after a few years, they fall into disrepair and need new capital funding to restore them. This can be avoided with ongoing maintenance but the Parks Department needs to be adequately staffed for this to happen.

With the largest NYC Park, Pelham Bay and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest park, Van Cortlandt, the Bronx has more parkland than any other borough. But we often wonder if we are getting our fair share of the budget to maintain these parks and keep them at the level that Bronxites deserve. If the Parks Department receives this additional funding, we hope that the Bronx will get its fair share to maintain the vast amounts of parkland we have.

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, and the Bronx Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces fully support the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and its efforts to maintain and improve all parks in NYC. It is important to the future of our City that we fund our Parks!

We hope you will join us in fighting for our Parks!

Sincerely,

*Christina A. Taylor*

Christina Taylor

Executive Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2015  
Committee on Finance

Testimony of Gregory Homatas  
avid library user of all three systems

June 6, 2014

Good afternoon and thank you for letting me speak. This is the first time I have spoken in front of this august body. My name is Gregory Homatas and I am a lifelong resident of Brooklyn and an avid user of all three library systems. I would like to address the Brooklyn Heights Project in my testimony.

I am appalled at the lack of transparency and lack of public participation in the process of this Project. The existing Citizens Advisory Committee in my opinion, does not reflect a representative cross section of different viewpoints on this Project.

Second, it appears that the Brooklyn Public Library is in the process of selling off the Brooklyn Heights Branch due to a Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system that does not work. Would you sell off your house or coop due to a broken HVAC system rather than fix it or replace it? Think about it.

Third, the Brooklyn Public Library should share the Request for Proposal responses and range of bids received for public vetting for the Brooklyn Heights Project. I urge the NYC Council to look into this Project, stop the process and investigate whether or not this is the proper approach given the fact that a petition of over 16,000 citizens signatures were delivered to former Mayor Bloomberg opposing the sale of this and all libraries. This petition was delivered on October 22, 2013 on the steps of City Hall.

Fourth, the Brooklyn Public Library should fix the currently installed HVAC system or provide temporary air conditioning units ("spot coolers") as the advent of hot weather is approaching which will cause the Brooklyn Heights Branch to be shut down again during the hot days of the coming summer months due to lack of cooling.

I urge the highly qualified New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) to renovate the Brooklyn Heights Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library and the New York City Council to appropriate monies to the DDC as they are qualified to do this task. This is preferable to a pass through project which would not be managed by DDC as they have less oversight on a day to day basis which would not be in the public interest. The fact is that DDC can do the job far cheaper than farming it out to an outside entity. This was testified by the current Deputy DDC Commissioner David Resnick in a City Council hearing on the Capital Budget of April 28, 2014.

I would like to urge you to investigate why Brooklyn Heights Branch various building services have not been maintained such as the public bathrooms to make this library a less desirable place to read and study so that an excuse can be made for the selloff by the Owners rather than doing their due diligence and maintaining these public assets so that they would be functional.

I would like to share a spread sheet that I developed from publicly available sources using the Google search engine (listed on the last three pages as items 1 through 51) as I understand you are interested in possible conflicts of interest regards public library trustees. This spreadsheet in particular is for the Brooklyn Public Library and the questions that I would like to raise are as follows:

- 1) Seated on the board of trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library is Lucille Cole who is immediate past president of the BPL and is currently a trustee. She has a library science degree and various awards as per my spreadsheet. Why is the only qualified librarian no longer the president? Why is the current CEO a fundraiser rather than a qualified librarian and shouldn't fundraising be left to a separate department? A library is a public good not a profit making company. It should be treated as such.
- 2) It appears that some trustees are involved with digital media. Libraries are appearing to be transitioning to digital media as per following quote in the Gowanus Lounge article about the current President. She states as follows in the below cited article:

*Any new library would not be a repository of books by any stretch. It's really about the programming. It's really about how to use the spaces we have to meet our patrons' needs.*

See the below weblink:

<http://www.gowanuslounge.com/brooklyn-public-library-linda-johnson/>

it appears that some of these trustees may make a killing off of digital media if the library system goes digital media wouldn't you think? Should they really be trustees and can we trust them? The fact of the matter is that statistics have shown that people want and love the feel of real paper books not e books.

- 3) One trustee's husband is a hedge fund manager and many others are involved in real estate and investments. What business do they have as trustees of our library systems?

As per my chart, 7 out of 23 BPL Trustees live in Brooklyn Heights. If they build a new tower in place of the existing Brooklyn Heights Branch of the BPL whose real estate value will go up? Is this not a possible conflict of interest to support such a venture?

In short, there are many questions regards the management of our public libraries that need asking that have not been asked by our New York City Council and I would like to urge you to ask these questions. Thank you very much for listening to me.

	First Name of Trustee	Last Name of Trustee	BPL Board Title	Employer of Trustee	Employment Position of Trustee	Affiliation of Trustee	Remarks	Residence	Ref. See sht 2
1	Peter	Aschkenasy	Treasurer	Concert Foods	Owner	BAC board member. member Mayor Kochs inner circle owner Gage and Tollners Restaurant	Wife Pamela Brier	Bklyn Hts	1,2,3
2	Cindi	Levie	Trustee	Conde Nast	Editor in Chief Glamour magazine	IWMF board of directors	Husband Howard Bernstein	Upper West Side	4
3	Kyle	Kimball	Trustee	NYCEDC	President NYCEDC	Former Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase	Has been endorsed by Mayor Bill Di Blasio to stay over in current position that he was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg	Midwood Bklyn	5,6
4	Jordan	Barowitz	Trustee	Durst Organization	Director External Affairs	Former 1st deputy press secretary to Mayor Bloomberg, Exec Director GROW NYC and Steering Committee Member ABNY, Mayor Di Blasios inaugural committee	Wife Elisa Beth Zuritsky	Bklyn Hts	7,8
5	Miriam	Katowitz	Former Trustee?	CUNY	Controller	CFO Safe Haven, Board member Alliance for Non Profit Governance	Husband Arthur Radin, House in East Hampton LI	Bklyn Hts	9,10,11
6	Jeff	Gennette	Trustee	Macys	President			Park Slope	12
7	Michael	Best	Trustee	Michael Bloomberg LP	Chief of Staff	Former NYC Dept of Ed General Counsel NYC Host Committee RNC	Wife Jenny Blascovich	Midwood Bklyn	13,14,23,24
8	Susan	Marcinek	Trustee	New Narratives	Founder	Member Board Berkeley Carroll School	Husband Dave Marcinek	Park Slope	15

9	Anthony	Crowell	Trustee	New York Law School	Dean	Appointed in 2013 to 6 year term to NYC Conflict of Interest Board, Board of Directors Citizens United, Former Counselor to Mayor Bloomberg, Commissioner NYC Charter Revision Committee	Former Chair BPL Board	Bklyn Hts	16
10	Nicholas	Gravante	Chair Board of Trustees	Boles, Schiller and Flexner	General Counsel Partner	Co hosted campaign event for Mayor Di Blasio , co chair 12/13/10 cocktail reception for Di Blasio at Waldorf Astoria. Wife Evelyn Kling.	Represents Bidens Son and brother who were accused of fraud in hedge fund that went sour.	Bay Ridge	17,18, 19,20, 21,22
11	Kwanza	Butler	Former Trustee?	Time Warner	Sr Counsel and Asst Corporate Secretary	Board of Directors NY Womens Foundation, Faculty Practicing Law Institute, City Bar Justice Center-Board of Directors		Lefferts Gdns	25
12	Nina	Collins	Trustee		Literary Agent	Recently bought a Bklyn Hts brownstone worth \$8.5M highest price paid at time of publication.	Husband is Marek Fludzinski Founder CEO Thales Fund Mgt. Hedge Fund Has PHD Theoretical Physics Princeton U	Bklyn Hts	26,27
13	Robin	Shanus	Secretary	Hudson River Park Trust		General Practice Lawyer, Board of Directors Brooklyn Bridge Park, Fair Elections for NY	Husband is Stephen Marcus Merkel	Bklyn Hts	28,29, 30
14	Christina	Tettoni	Trustee	Hellenic Classical Charter School	Principal	Helped organize save our shelves campaign/ Got award from Marty Golden	Husband is Mark	Bay Ridge	31,32, 33,34

15	Lucille	Cole Thomas	Trustee			First and only African American President of NY Library Assn, World Literacy and Role of Libraries paper in LIFA Journal, Has Library Science degree, Freedom to Read Foundation, ALA liaison, President St Marks Day School	Immediate past president BPL	Jamaica Queens	35,36
16	Antonia	Yuille Williams	Trustee	Con Edison	Director Public Affairs Bklyn Queens Customer service	1st Vice Chair Bed Stuy Restoration	Vice Chair of Bed Stuy Restoration is David Offensend	Bed Stuy	37
17	Sandra	Schubert	Trustee	Goldman Sachs	Vice President	Broker		Prospect Hts	38
18	Alice	Fisher Rubin	Trustee	NYC Civil Court	Judge	President Brooklyn Womens Bar Assn, Officer CUNY Tech Foundation,		Midwood Bklyn	39,40
19	Gino	Menchini	Trustee	NSI NYC	Managing director	Former Commissioner NYC DOITT under Mayor Bloomberg,		Wmsburgh, Bklyn	41
20	Joseph	Douek	Trustee	Willoughbys	Owner	Former Director NYCEDC	Chair CEO CFO and Principal Accounting Officer of Concept Digital. Article in Bloomberg.com that he sees strongest growth online	Kensington, Bklyn	42,43, 44
21	Michael	Liburd	Trustee	Griffin Ward LLC	Founder	Board of Directors BRIC	Griffin Ward is a marketing firm committed to growing proprietary products, managing live events and promotion marketing consulting.	Bronx	45

22	Hank	Gutman	Trustee	Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett LLP	Chair Intellectual Property Practice Group	Co Vice Chair NY League of Conservation Voters, Key player for initiating Brooklyn Bridge Park, Board Member Brooklyn Bridge Park and Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, Resigned from BHA over BBP dispute St Anns lawsuit. Contributed to campaign fund raising for di Blasio.	Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett represents Blackstone group involved in private equity, hedge funds and buyouts. Lecturer on intellectual property and computer litigation subjects	Bklyn Hts	46,47, 50,51
23	Kim	Thu Postnett	Trustee	Goldman Sachs	Managing director	Broker	Husband Michael Pastor?	Park Slope	48

- 1) [http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/02/kochs-lunch-mates-convene-without-him-and-hes-still-the-center-of-attention/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_r=0](http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/02/kochs-lunch-mates-convene-without-him-and-hes-still-the-center-of-attention/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0)
- 2) <http://www.nytimes.com/1988/11/06/nyregion/a-landmark-restaurant-in-brooklyn-is-sold.html>
- 3) <http://www.nytimes.com/1997/11/09/style/weddings-pamela-brier-and-peter-aschkenasy.html>
- 4) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cynthia\\_Leive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cynthia_Leive)
- 5) <http://observer.com/2013/12/de-blasio-says-no-contradiction-in-keeping-bloomberg-development-commissioner/>
- 6) <http://www.nycedc.com/about-nycedc/employee-profiles/kyle-kimball>
- 7) <http://www.durst.org/about/executives/jordan-barowitz>
- 8) <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/22/fashion/weddings/22zuritsky.html>
- 9) <https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/socialenterprise/alumni/alumniprofiles/katowitz>
- 10) [http://cophonebk.cuny.edu/scripts/t3cgi.exe/staffdir.taf?function=more&L\\_Name=Katowitz&F\\_Name=Miriam&record=2684](http://cophonebk.cuny.edu/scripts/t3cgi.exe/staffdir.taf?function=more&L_Name=Katowitz&F_Name=Miriam&record=2684)
- 11) <ht://bbrfoundation.org/stories-of-recovery/heartache-and-hard-won-progress>
- 12) <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20140331006414/en/Jeff-Gennette-Named-President-Macy%E2%80%99s>
- 13) [http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/menuitem.c0935b9a57bb4ef3daf2f1c701c789a0/index.jsp?pageID=mayor\\_press\\_release&catID=1194&doc\\_name=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nyc.gov%2Fhtml%2Fom%2Fhtml%2F2012a%2Fpr123-12.html&cc=unused1978&rc=1194&ndi=1](http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/menuitem.c0935b9a57bb4ef3daf2f1c701c789a0/index.jsp?pageID=mayor_press_release&catID=1194&doc_name=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nyc.gov%2Fhtml%2Fom%2Fhtml%2F2012a%2Fpr123-12.html&cc=unused1978&rc=1194&ndi=1)
- 14) [http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/17/fashion/weddings/17blas.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/17/fashion/weddings/17blas.html?_r=0)
- 15) <http://www.berkeleycarroll.org/aboutus/board-of-trustees/susan-marcinek/index.aspx>
- 16) [http://www.nyls.edu/faculty/faculty-profiles/faculty\\_profiles/anthony\\_w\\_crowell/](http://www.nyls.edu/faculty/faculty-profiles/faculty_profiles/anthony_w_crowell/)
- 17) <http://www.bsflp.com/lawyers/data/0169>
- 18) <http://www.bklynpubliclibrary.org/media/press/brooklyn-public-library-names-nicholas-gravante-jr-new-board-chair>
- 19) <http://observer.com/2013/11/bill-de-blasio-rolls-out-inauguration-team/>
- 20) <http://observer.com/2010/11/de-blasio-to-host-high-dollar-fundraiser-at-waldorf-astoria/>
- 21) <http://www.nytimes.com/1987/07/26/style/nicholas-gravante-jr-marries-evelyn-klings.html>
- 22) [http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=5a9\\_1219645828](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=5a9_1219645828)
- 23) <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ex-mayor-michael-bloomberg-brings-staff-new-ventures-article-1.1730804>
- 24) <http://www.linkedin.com/in/mbest1>
- 25) [http://www.pli.edu/Content/Faculty/Kwanza\\_R\\_Butler/\\_/N-4oZ1z135wh?ID=PE385258](http://www.pli.edu/Content/Faculty/Kwanza_R_Butler/_/N-4oZ1z135wh?ID=PE385258)

26) <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E02E6DB103BF935A35751C0A9639C8B63>

27) [http://www.mmexecutive.com/issues/2008\\_8/138538-1.html](http://www.mmexecutive.com/issues/2008_8/138538-1.html)

28) <http://www.nytimes.com/1993/06/07/style/robin-shanus-stephen-merkel.html>

29) <http://www.brooklynbridgepark.org/about-us/bbpark-conservancy/directory>

30) <http://fairelectionsny.org/women-support-fair-elections/>

31) [http://www.hellenicprofessionalwomen.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=138:christina-tettonis&catid=45&Itemid=34](http://www.hellenicprofessionalwomen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=138:christina-tettonis&catid=45&Itemid=34)

32) <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/charter-school-executives-earning-big-bucks-education-city-poorer-students-article-1.437341>

33) <http://www.nysenate.gov/photos/2011/sep/26/senator-golden-presents-christina-tettonis-proclamation-her-service-2011-grand-ma>

34) [http://www.homereporternews.com/news/government/local-leaders-hold-library-fundraiser/article\\_f8e8be28-a82a-11e0-9516-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.homereporternews.com/news/government/local-leaders-hold-library-fundraiser/article_f8e8be28-a82a-11e0-9516-001cc4c03286.html)

35) <http://littleknownblacklibrarianfacts.blogspot.com/2012/07/dr-lucille-cole-thomas-first-and-only.html>

36) <http://www.zoominfo.com/s/#!/search/profile/person?personId=30899015&targetid=profile>

37) <http://www.restorationplaza.org/about/board-of-directors>

38) <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/sandra-schubert/9/954/374>

39) [http://judgepedia.org/Alice\\_Rubin](http://judgepedia.org/Alice_Rubin)

40) <https://www.nycourtsystem.com/Applications/JCEC/Bio2008.php?ID=435>

41) <http://nationalstrategies.com/gino-menchini>

42) <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/about/douekbio.shtml>

43) <http://investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/private/person.asp?personId=82558760&privcapId=3561515>

44) <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-07/willoughby-s-owner-douek-sees-strongest-growth-online-audio-.html>

45) <http://bricartsmedia.org/about/news/press-releases/bric-welcomes-4-new-board-members>

46) [http://www.nylcv.org/board/henry\\_hank\\_b\\_gutman](http://www.nylcv.org/board/henry_hank_b_gutman)

47) <http://brooklynheightspress.wordpress.com/2011/02/08/turmoil-in-heights-key-figures-in-bha-resign-over-lawsuit/>

48) <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/kim-posnett/4/3b3/7b6>

49) <http://a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/>

50) <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2007/03/16/the-blackstone-simpson-thacher-connection/>

51) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Blackstone\\_Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Blackstone_Group)

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: library  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:41:47 AM

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**From:** greta berman [gwberm@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 7:52 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** library

I have used the NY Public Library since high school. (I graduated from the H.S. of Music and Art in 1961).

I have a Ph. D. from Columbia.

It is completely unfathomable for me to think of not having the resources of the NY Public Library.

And to diminish its holdings and change its nature would be completely unfair and detrimental to the education of future generations - as well as the continuing research of scholars like myself.

Please make every effort to retain the library as we know it.

Greta Berman, Ph. D.

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:41:13 AM

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**From:** Justine Swartz [ambrosia.swartz@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 2:06 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

Justine Swartz. 30 Clinton St. Brooklyn, NY, NYC 11201  
718-852-1858

We need you to investigate the selloff of our cherished Cadman Plaza Library because of the valuable real estate it is located on.

<http://www.bklynpubliclibrary.org/sites/default/files/files/pdf/Estimated%20Capital%20Needs%20of%20All%20Libraries.pdf>

Listed under The Brooklyn Heights Project  
COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCES

Brooklyn Public Library's Overall Estimated Capital Construction Needs

Brooklyn Public Library Estimated Capital Needs July 2, 2013

#13 The Grand Army Plaza Dweck,

Central District (35) \$9,500,000 is budgeted for the HVAC.

# 7 is Brooklyn Heights Library (District 33) HVAC air conditioning estimated cost is \$3,600,000

All the other 58 library branches listed under The Brooklyn Heights Project COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCES that need HVAC fixed the cost is uniformly estimated/fixed at \$750,000.

Why the discrepancy in the quotes? That was a rhetorical question. The Brooklyn Public Library Officials immorally determine an erroneous inflated price-gouging quote to restore the air-conditioning system as an excuse to selloff a cherished Brooklyn Heights library in order build a mega-development. Kudos for the obscenely wealthy.

The Overview of Brooklyn Public Library Finances states over 40% of air-conditioners are overdue for replacements. The estimated going rate to restore an air-condition system is \$750,000.

CLINTON HILL — The Clinton Hill Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library is closing [on Oct. 25](#) in order to install Self-Check machines and a new heating and cooling system, officials announced.

The library's original A/C unit broke in the summer of 2008. Since then the branch has been using temporary units. The Brooklyn Public Library is spending \$700,000 to replace the system, a spokeswoman for the library said.

<http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20131024/clinton-hill/clinton-hill-library-closing-for-900k-renovations>

\*\*\*\*\*

<http://brooklynheightsblog.com/archives/67500>

Josh Nachowitz says, "The developer is required to create a condominium regime,...an expensive legal process, and then transfer the condominium to the city for a dollar."

Nachowitz is pushing hard for Condominium Regime.

Fee Simple Ownership

In contrast to the condominium regime, you may own real estate by fee simple. Fee (from the old word, feifdom) refers to legal rights in land, and simple means unconstrained. Fee simple ownership is the absolute and unqualified legal title to real property, including both buildings and land. This is the most commonly used type of ownership.

"Fee Simple" means having complete ownership rights to a property, the land and any improvements to the land. This is the highest form of ownership and the fee simple owner has the right to possess, use and dispose of the land as he wishes, sell it, give it away, lease it to others, or pass it to others upon death. It is full inheritable.

FEE SIMPLE OWNERSHIP is the highest form of ownership, absolute and unqualified legal title to

real property, including both buildings and land. This is the most commonly used type of ownership.

You don't necessarily refer to condominium ownership as fee simple since a unit owner does not own the land on which the building is constructed. That is owned in common with all of the other Unit owners.

Condominium Regime benefits the Real Estate Developers.

There are maintenance charges for condominiums which is the unit owner's share of maintaining the areas of the building that are owned in common with all of the unit owners. A special assessment would typically refer to a special charge in addition to the maintenance charge to cover the cost of a project that is not necessarily part of routine maintenance.

You can have fee simple ownership of a house in a subdivision, townhouse, etc. where you also have assessments to maintain the areas you share in common with all of the owners in the development, for example, a clubhouse, pool, roads, etc.

The proposed library would not share any common areas with the Condominium therefor there should be no assessments if we were fee simple. If Nachowitz gets his way of making the library a Condominium Regime we will have maintenance fees based on footage plus unlimited assessment charges, that will bleed the BPL dry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: PUBLISHED in the BROOKLYN COURIER NEWSPAPER

Courier Life, May 31-June 6, 2013

SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR

LIBRARY PASS

To the editor,

At the Brooklyn Heights Branch Community Advisory Committee meeting on May 23 at Borough Hall, it was announced that the business and career section of the Brooklyn Heights Library at Cadman Plaza will soon be located at the Grand Army Plaza Library.

A spokesperson for Americans With Disabilities deplored that action.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has no elevators for wheelchairs, and people who can't climb stairs at the train stations that service the library at Grand Army Plaza, whereas the Cadman Plaza Library is completely assessable by an elevator at Court and Montague Street one block away. Plus most buses stop a scant block away from the centrally-located Brooklyn Heights Library.

Justine Swartz  
Brooklyn Heights

Justine Swartz. [30 Clinton St. Brooklyn Heights, NYC 11201](#) [718.852.1858](tel:718.852.1858)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUIP0iiC7E&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KUIP0iiC7E&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

ATTENTION: VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Heights Library Plan Risks Environmental

Disaster

Community Board 2, Brooklyn Borough Hall, April 4, 2013

Hi! My name is Justine Swartz.

My neighborhood Brooklyn Heights, stands out as a architectural phenomena in NYC. The region maintains an early ninetieth century charm and is the landmark's first historical district. Brooklyn Heights was built in 1600 hundred and by 1800 hundred there are beautiful majestic houses with plumbing, equip with water and sewer lines made of tile, concrete and clay. The layout of what the City calls a maze of undocumented pipes. There are no schematics or or diagram on record recorded.

The Department of Environmental Protection sends out letters saying that if you have sewer or water lines over 30 years you must buy insurance because it takes approximately \$3,000 to \$15 thousand dollars to fix a broken line. There is no insurance to be had for a two hundred year old clay and tile pipe in New York City's first historical district.

Mr. Josh Nackowitz talked of building a condo Over thirty-five floors high in Brooklyn Heights Library's footprint.

Pile driving causes stress and vibrations. A deep foundation with steel poles are driven into the ground using a pile driving hammer. The Blast Waves are up to two hundred and forty five vibrations a minute. These blast waves and air pollution from Pile Driving have serious adverse effects felt thousand of feet away from the driving activity.

By building this new condo in the Brooklyn Heights's library footprint we will be destroying Brooklyn Heights, the

integrity of Brooklyn Heights. We will be causing disastrous damage to the water pipes and sewer lines of my neighborhood. Which if/when they burst and leak, poisonous gases will be expelled and bacteria and raw sewage. They don't know where these sewer pipes are. It will be a disaster course to my community of Brooklyn Heights because a new condo is being built and who knows how many below level parking garages that will be made ???

Please don't destroy Brooklyn Heights. Please build an air-conditioner that will save Cadman Plaza library, that will save our neighborhood, the integrity of my neighborhood.

Thank you.

Libraries Rock! Renovate, Don't Terminate.

Check out this video on YouTube:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFPMChsE5RU&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFPMChsE5RU&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

Isaac Asimov wrote

"When I read about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that American society has found one more way to destroy itself."

QUOTED BY:

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik  
Congregation Mount Sinai  
Executive Vice President  
New York Board of Rabbis  
W: 212-983-3521  
F: 212-983-3531

The Business and Career Section of the Brooklyn Heights Library at Cadman Plaza will soon be located at the Grand Army Plaza Library.

I have filed a complaint with the ADA. The Grand Army Plaza library is not assessable by subway for the handicapped. There are no elevators at that stop.

I am the voice for those who can't make it into the library because of their physical restrictions. I have trouble with my knee and climbing the subway stairs now is agony. If I have to go someplace and multiple staircases are involved I will take car service or not go rather than using the MTA. I am fortunate I can afford the extra expense. Many people can't so they stay home. Their quality of life suffers. They won't be able to enjoy free career development classes, computers and WiFi, librarians educated and well thought out help, books, DVDs, diverse lectures and performances, at the Business and Career Library in Grand Army Plaza. It's a hardship being handicapped and closing down my library in Cadman Plaza is heartless and wrong.

If the Cadman Plaza Brooklyn Heights Library is demolished the effects on the mass population of handicapped and seniors, will be overwhelming for years. No temporary library will suffice. We can't afford a shut down. This is not fair. I give voice to this topic as to the damage that will be inflicted on our people, on me, that need and use the free services of our over crowded library in these bad economic times. (Thousands of library patrons use Cadman Plaza Business and Career Library weekly).

LIBRARIES ROCK

RENOVATE DON'T TERMINATE

By Justine Swartz

WITH HEAVY HEARTS IN HANDS WE TAKE A STAND FOR MONEY.  
NEW YORK CITY GOVERNMENT WE PETITIONED BY THE THOUSANDS NUMEROUS. I USE THE HUMOROUS.  
I'LL GIVE YOU THE GOBBLEDEGOOK ON BOOKS.  
PUSILLANIMOUS POLITICIANS ARE CRAVEN WHEN THEY DESTROY OUR CHILDREN'S SAFE HAVEN.  
PACIFIC STREET LIBRARY'S GIRL SCOUT TROOP WILL HAVE NO MEETING PLACE. DEVELOPERS PLAN ON STEALING THEIR SPACE.  
SUCH A DISGRACE.

SINCE 2008 PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING HAS BEEN DECIMATED,  
ABROGATED BY THE LIBRARY SLAYER MAYOR BLOOMBERG  
HE HAS SLASHED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN COLD HEARTED CASH.

WHAT BALDERDASH!  
MANY LIBRARIES ARE AT RISK. THAT'S SO SICK.  
BIG BUSINESS WANTS US TO FAIL.  
OVERCROWDED LIBRARIES THEY WOULD DOWNSCALE.  
EDUCATION, JOB SEARCHES, COMPUTER ACCESS, DERAILED,  
A GOOD ECONOMIC FUTURE CURTAILED.  
ITS NOT PRETTY NEW YORK CITY HAS NO PITY FOR THE NITTY-GRITTY.  
LIBRARY SHRINKAGE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BAD ASSES  
MEANS FEWER FREE CAREER BUILDING CLASSES FOR THE MASSES.  
CUT BACKS ON HANDY DANDY FREE CONVENIENT BOOKS  
PROVIDES A POOR ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.

DEVELOPERS HAVE HUGE APPETITES FOR REAL ESTATE  
IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS. IN CADMAN PLAZA BUSINESS AND CAREER LIBRARY'S FOOTPRINT IS A VERY

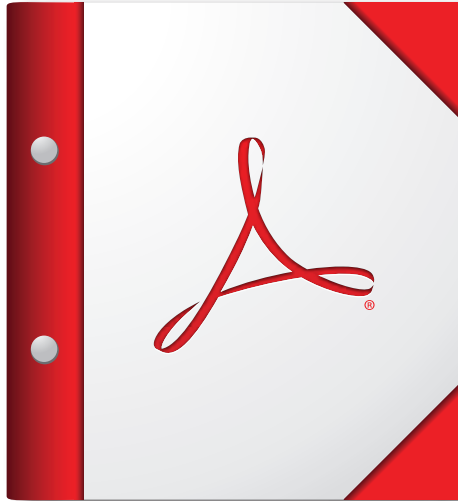
BAD, MAD BLUEPRINT OF CONDOS FOR THE WEALTHY. FOR US, NOT SO HEALTHY.  
HIGHLIGHTS OUR COMMUNITIES LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES.

AT THE DEFUNCT DELETED MUCH NEEDED DONNELL LIBRARY  
LOCAL THEATRICALS WERE DELIGHTFUL, NEIGHBORHOOD STRIVING ARTISTS INSIGHTFUL. PLAYS  
AND PERFORMANCES HAVE CEASED TO EXIST.  
THE PUBLIC BATHROOMS ARE MISSED.

OUR PLEAS HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS.  
FOR YEARS BROOKLYN HEIGHTS LIBRARY HAS NO AIR CONDITIONING.  
BOILER AND FURNACE PIPES WARRANT RECOMMISSIONING.  
WITH FASHION PASSION I BEG FOR MONEY WITHOUT DISTASTE ON BENDED KNEES WITH PIETY AND  
GRACE, OR FISTS OF FURY IN HIS FACE. OH LORD! DEAR GOD, I PRAY. PLEASE WE NEED A CAVALCADE  
OF FINANCIAL AID.

LIBRARIES ROCK! RENOVATE DON'T TERMINATE.  
WE ARE THE HOI POLLOI. OUR LIBRARIES WE ENJOY!

IN SUMMATION IT'S A STRUGGLE TO GET A USEFUL EDUCATION.  
I SWEAR TO THE TRUTH. I AM LIVING PROOF.  
LIBRARIES CHANGES LIVES. OUR QUALITY OF LIFE THRIVES.  
LIBRARIES COULD TRAIN YOU FOR A NEW VOCATION.  
TAKE A LOOK. I LEARNED TO JUGGLE FROM A BOOK.



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**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NYPL  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:42:24 AM

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From: Kenneth Carpenter [kencarpenter@comcast.net]  
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 5:25 PM  
To: financetestimony  
Subject: NYPL

I, a retired Harvard librarian, have done work on library history and have also long been a user of the NYPL for scholarly purposes, so I take the liberty of sending you my perspective.

The NYPL is one of a half dozen libraries in this country that can be called a "cultural preserver" on a broad scale, with holdings of very rare and unique materials from around the world, and in addition it has in the past had broad coverage of the book production of ordinary books from around the world. In that sense it has fulfilled the wishes of the early advocates of research libraries, who argued that the expensive and hard-to-obtain books should be available to all, not just the wealthy. For them, a research library was less an elite institution than a populist one.

The NYPL also used to be a library in which it was possible to read ordinary material and do research with large quantities of ordinary materials. It was fulfilling the ideals of democracy and was called the "people's university."

In its collections and services the NYPL has been an institution serving people, all sorts and conditions of people, albeit people with different needs. Now there seems to have developed a dichotomy: scholars vs. ordinary users. Perhaps the library has actually furthered the dichotomy by fellowship programs that provide funds and space to prominent scholars, who, I believe a study would show, are not really in need of funds and whose fellowships bring very little gain to the library.

Speaking personally, my latest visit to the NYPL was in early 2013, to consult unique or very rare materials for a bibliography of Benjamin Franklin's "Way to Wealth," one of the three American documents of the 18th century that had great impact around the world. The rigid policies imposed on the limited number of staff members of the Rare Book Division meant that I wasted hours with no books to describe for my bibliography.

At the same time I could observe that the reading room were filled with people reading books and working on computers. Thus, there truly are differing needs, as there always have been, and that is what I do not find adequately expressed in the writings about the library. It would be easier to meet them if the public discourse were not polarizing. After all, hundreds of thousands of book can go to offsite storage, if quick retrieval is provided for. I know because I successfully headed up selection for storage from the main Harvard Library before my retirement. The library should, however, also support scholarly use of its incredible holdings.

In short, I am advocating deep and thoughtful consideration of the multifaceted purposes of a great library rather than battling between opposing sides.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Carpenter  
16 Stafford Rd.  
Newton Center, MA 02459

June 3, 2014

To the New York City Council

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your effort to increase the Parks Department budget by \$27 million; please do continue to fight for that amount.

Parks budgets have been cut and cut, yet the City has added parklands. We need much more funding to permit the maintenance and enforcement that will make the parks into wonderful safe places for us all.

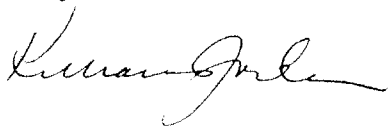
Here in the Bronx, particularly, we suffer from a lack of PEP officers. A few uncaring citizens can render entire parks unusable by allowing dogs to run free (and not cleaning up after them), or sequestering large spaces for big parties (and not cleaning up after them) or holding barbecues where this is not permitted (and not cleaning up after them).

Local residents believe that a concerted enforcement campaign, with the help of PEP officers, would improve these situations dramatically.

Throughout the City, our parks are our greatest resource for recreation, enjoyment, exercise, and improved health, and basic playspace. This is even more true in the nation's poorest Congressional district. We need your help to make this resource shareable by all.

Please help us to make them attractive and useful for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Killian Jordan", with a stylized, flowing script.

Killian Jordan  
1100 Grand Concourse, #2H  
Bronx, NY 10456

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: insane proposed changes at the NYPL  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:37:19 AM

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From: Irlpeterson01@earthlink.net [Irlpeterson01@earthlink.net]  
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 11:17 AM  
To: financetestimony  
Cc: Irlpeterson01@earthlink.net  
Subject: insane proposed changes at the NYPL

The proposed changes are destructive and should be canceled.

Richard Peterson (U of Connecticut, Storrs) and  
and Lin Kelsey Peterson (Yale U), long time readers from 1960's until  
now.

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Libraries  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:29:51 AM

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**From:** Lynn Rosen [grandmalynn123@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:08 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Libraries

There are so many things that bother me about the plans of the NYPL. I am a former library teacher. What bothers me is that I recently visited local libraries in Brooklyn. They were run down and the shelves were not stocked. Bindings were ripped and areas closed off. As a teacher this appalls me. My students cannot afford to buy books nor do they all have computers. Libraries served as a place to study. When there are no computers in the home the library is a wonderful place to access them.

In my school the library which was a state of the art library was closed because there was no money in the budget for a library teacher. My staff from Lynns Kids International now is opening it 5 days a week.

I am bringing this up because this clearly shows that libraries are not important to us. My students are sad that they can't take out books but in September they will.

What message are we sending? To me we are saying making money by selling off or downsizing libraries is a priority. How sad that this is the tomorrow we are offering our kids.\

I think we must rethink the decisions and the plans that committee members who dont care about kids made. Closing a library is closing a mind, removing a soul and lighting the path back to the dark ages.

Lynn Rosen  
CEO  
Lynns Kids International Organization  
President  
Saving Souls Corporation

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony on NYPD Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:36:08 AM

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**From:** Lucy Parks [lucyparks95@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 06, 2014 2:37 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on NYPD Budget

Dear City Council and the New York Police Department,

I am a resident of New York City, living in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn.

I am extremely concerned about what seems to be the trend in distributing our resources when it comes to the police. I feel that there are far too many police officers in my community, and that it makes the space feel threatening rather than safe. I have seen more arrests on my block than anywhere else in my life, and I find that deeply disturbing as I do not live in a particularly dangerous neighborhood. Most of the arrests seem to be for minor drug offenses, and despite the fact that black people and white people use drugs equally in the area I have never seen a white person be arrested for anything in Bed-Stuy. While I am white and am not specifically targeted by the police, I find that this police tactic creates deep wounds for my entire community and thus a less safe and a less healthy environment for everyone.

I am also concerned with the way the NYPD and criminal justice courts have treated protesters in recent years. Recently Cecily McMillan, a 25 year old student and member of Occupy Wall Street, was put in jail after being wrongfully convicted of assaulting a police officer. In reality, the officer sexually assaulted her and then the police department did everything possible to cover that up. The government wasted a great deal of resources prosecuting this innocent woman and working particularly hard to ensure that she did not get a fair trial. If this is any indicator of how you now respond to dissent, then I fear for my safety somewhat even writing this testimony to inform you of my concerns. Cecily McMillan is not the only person wrongfully serving a jail sentence, and if we're going to spend money on anything in the justice department it should perhaps be put to evaluating the fairness of our court system and releasing those wrongfully incarcerated.

I'd also like to note that a great deal of the budget money is slated to go towards overtime for police officers, and that the police officer in Cecily McMillan's case was on overtime and had been working for almost 20 hours. Perhaps if he wasn't allowed to work such long, strenuous shifts he would have made better decisions. I don't want anyone in my society who has been working for over 8 hours to have a gun, and thus I feel we should pay the officers better so that they don't need overtime and then budget significantly less of our money towards that overtime.

While I see a great deal of money put regularly into maintaining the police force, I see very little spent on improving other aspects of the justice system. For instance, the conditions at Rikers Island jail are deplorable. Many of the people incarcerated there are repeat offenders, which should be an indicator that our system is not working to actually prevent crime.

Punishment does no good if it doesn't prevent future harms. I have a strong feeling that if we improved the Rikers facility to allow people to heal and give them skills, resources, and incentives not to commit crimes in the future it would do our society much better than building a massive army of officers scouring the streets for folks to arrest.

Besides Rikers, I can think of a number of things we could spend our money on rather than increasing the police force that might lower crime rates. Namely: education, community building programs, housing and feeding the hungry and homeless, and drug rehabilitation programs. I hope that you take my concerns and suggestions into consideration in your deliberations today.

Sincerely,  
Lucy Parks  
Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NYPL  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:41:38 AM

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**From:** Marian Rothstein [mrothstein@carthage.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 8:53 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** NYPL

I would like to offer testimony about the importance of the Public Library. When I was a child it was a refuge, an endless source of all my reading material, the place that helped me become the educated adult I'm proud to be. It is essential to the future of the city that it continue to perform such services for successive generations in our city.

Now that I'm back in the city as a retired academic, still active doing research, more dependent than ever on the library, although now the research division. In the past few years I have spent many hours sitting in the Rose Reading Room, generally surrounded by a very democratic mix of other scholars and students preparing a broad variety of exams, young foreigners working on their English, future doctors and lawyers preparing for those exams, as well as tourists just enjoying the chance to sit for a while in such a lovely setting. It is hard to believe that the voices claiming that that this is an elite and unwelcoming setting have ever tried to spend a bit of time there. Visibly, nothing could be further from the truth. The building has served its purpose well for over a century, and is still doing so. It does not need to be turned into a tourist mall to enable it to function well in the 21st century.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Rothstein, PhD

Professor of modern languages emerita.

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: testimony on the libraries  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:35:25 AM

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**From:** Mary Ann Fastook [meowsmaryann@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 06, 2014 3:18 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** testimony on the libraries

To Whom It May Concern: My name is Mary Ann Fastook and I live at 225 Adams Street, Apt. 15F, Brooklyn, NY 11201. My local library is the Brooklyn Heights branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. Since Jan. 2013, the Brooklyn Public Library has said that they want to sell it to a private developer who will demolish it and who will include a much smaller library in that building. To that end, they signed a letter of memorandum with former Mayor Bloomberg. The land on which the library sits is public land and that library was built by the City. The Brooklyn Public Library never consulted with the neighborhood or the many people who come from other parts of Brooklyn and the City about their plan. They somehow found money to renovate other libraries but there is no money for Brooklyn Heights. The figures that the BPL offered for the repair of the air conditioning as well as whatever else is wrong with the building escalated. I believe they those figures are now 14 million dollars. To my knowledge, there has been investigation by the city to see if those figures are legitimate. The projects that have been put forth bear no developer's names nor any amounts they are willing to pay. I ask you to advocate for a realistic appraisal(independent investigation) of what it would cost to fix the air conditioning.

I also ask you to question what Linda Johnson, the CEO of the BPL means when she has said that programming is very important and yet the plan would mean a library 1/3 of the space of the current building.

Please remember that not everyone in Brooklyn Heights is rich. There are many ordinary New Yorkers who use that library. Some of them live in the neighborhood and some don't but its location makes it easy to get to. Something other than luxury housing needs to be developed in this city. Please consider finding out a fair appraisal of what it would cost to fix the air conditioning as well as allocating some of that money. Thank you. Mary Ann Fastook

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: People v Mayor de Blasio and City Council: Don't sell Brooklyn Heights Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:23:59 AM

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**From:** Mary Buchwald [marypbuch1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 09, 2014 6:52 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** People v Mayor de Blasio and City Council: Don't sell Brooklyn Heights Library

People v Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council: Don't sell Brooklyn Heights Library

Don't sell our public [library] assets.

Brooklyn Public Library, to its credit, during the Bloomberg years of the operating budget dance, made extensive major and minor capital improvements in branches throughout the system including Kings Highway, New Utrecht, Bay Ridge, Bedford, Mapleton, Mill Basin, Stone Avenue, Macon, Williamsburg, Park Slope, Ulmer Park, Dyker Library.

In 2005, BPL Trustees rejected the sale of the Midwood Library. By 2013, Pacific Library and Brooklyn Heights became sites for sale to condominium developers. Was this to compliment the "new Lincoln Center in Brooklyn" with BAM's expanding arts and cultural center, Atlantic Yards/Barclays Center, and Brooklyn Bridge Park, the sale of LICH? Please remember these two sites happen to be important, well-used neighborhood libraries.

Protest ensued to stop the sale of BPL's public [library] assets. Pacific Library was saved, for the moment. Brooklyn Heights Library is still in the throes of the battle: the people v Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council. At the recent, June 3, City Council library finance budget meeting, Council Member Stephen Levin left early and did not question BPL President and CEO, Linda E. Johnson. Council Member Brad Lander, chatting to a few people in the hall, said Mayor Bill de Blasio supported the sale.

Facts and accountability are being called for during this open comment period:

BPL cites \$9 million upgrades to fix the a/c system at Brooklyn Heights Library. Keep in mind, the Brooklyn Heights Library reopened in 1993 after a two-year renovation and expansion. Also note that the Park Slope and Clinton Hill branches had recent lengthy and extensive repairs, including a/c systems, done by the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

The public wants transparency on the a/c repairs at the Brooklyn Heights Library. Please ask the DDC to submit an estimate for the work. Repairs should not be a reason to sell public [library] assets. BPL's condo-mania for library branches in downtown Brooklyn must be rejected by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council.

The people (including Borough President Eric Adams) are against the sale of public [library] assets, are against the sale of the Brooklyn Heights Library. The public expects this 'progressive administration' to protect our public [library] assets. The verdict is still out.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Buchwald  
Citizens Defending Libraries  
Former Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library  
Retired Librarian, NYC Department of Education



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EVELYN MATECHAK  
ANDREA ROLLEFSON  
MIKE SCHADE  
JULIE YANOFF WILSON

June 6, 2014

McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance  
New York City Council  
Attn: Nicole Anderson  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Anderson

**Funding for McGolrick Park**

The McGolrick Park Playground was last renovated in 1997. A large, tree shaded space, the playground has seen heavy use and adverse weather. Community parents have expressed their concern over the health and safety of their children using the space. It is not just the playground, but the entire park is in need of maintenance from expense budget funding and overall capital funding improvements.

The Greenpoint community hosts many of the City of New York's essential but less than desirable services. Solid and liquid waste treatment facilities handle up to seventy five percent of the City of New York's waste. A Department of Homeless Services men's intake shelter and halfway house for registered sex offenders are located in the neighborhood. The historic industrial oil refining businesses created one of the largest underground environmental disasters in the country. The community around McGolrick Park sits on a Superfund Site. Luxury waterfront development will increase population density, which further stresses the environment and resources of the existing community. Despite the heavy burden this community shoulders, McGolrick Park, the largest open space in this part of the neighborhood, is sorely lacking in services and funding. Expected and approved new development will further increase population density, adding to the stress on the environment and resources of the community. This population influx will require more capital and services funding to keep up with the increase in usage of McGolrick Park.

Recently Community advocacy has brought the lack of equity at McGolrick Park to the attention of residents, families and area officials. 649 community members took the opportunity provided by Councilman Stephen Levin's District 33 Participatory Budgeting Process for 2014; to support a clean, well designed, play space and park that is a respite from the stress of urban living. The community was awarded \$450,000 towards this goal, and we hope the New York City Council will add considerably to this amount. This collaboration stands as a testimony to the power of community and local government working together to accomplish civic goals.

We are encouraged about the future of the park, and urge the Council to support our community and park. We applaud the interest of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Councilman Stephen Levin, Assemblyman Joe Lentol, Brooklyn's Community Board 1's Parks Committee, Brooklyn's NYPD 94<sup>th</sup> precinct, The Parks and Recreation Department and The Open Space Alliance, and strongly urge the allocation of funds for proper maintenance and capital improvements to McGolrick Park.

Sincerely,

The McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: library renovation  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:41:55 AM

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**From:** Nancy Struever [nancy.struever@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 6:41 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** library renovation

One of the thoughts that does not seem to have struck the board: a library is not a Starbucks. A library is a place for intimate research: kids finding books as help. Grownups doing research on a one f=of the thousands of important ways to expand our notion of New York City for starter. It is not a place for a Good Time. There are --I suppose- many venues for that in NYC.



The Rev. Dr. W. James Favorite  
*Chairman of the Board*  
The Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III  
*Chairman Emeritus*  
  
President and CEO  
C. Virginia Fields

## **PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT**

**C. Virginia Fields**  
**President and CEO**

**New York City Council Committee on Finance**  
Council Chambers - City Hall  
Friday, June 6, 2014  
3:00 p.m.

On behalf of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc., (NBLCA) of which C. Virginia Fields, Former Manhattan Borough President, serves as President and CEO. I thank you, Chairwoman Julissa Ferreras and Members of the New York City Council Committee on Finance for the opportunity to speak before you, today.

I am Darrick Whitley, Regional Affiliate Services Director - Region III, New York City of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. (NBLCA). Founded in 1987, the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. is the oldest and largest organization of its kind in the United States whose mission is to *educate, mobilize, and empower* Black leaders to fight HIV/AIDS and other health disparities in their local communities. With established affiliates in 11 cities, nationwide, including New York State and New York City, we work with a broad spectrum of community leaders, including clergy, public officials, medical practitioners, civic, social policy, business leaders and the media to achieve our mission.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to speak before you this afternoon in support of the request for \$5.8 million dollars to implement the New York City HCV Infection Control Program, within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and \$2.5 million from the council, as needed funding for rapid HCV testing for Health & Hospitals Corporation and other testing agencies. Specifically, the New York City HCV Infection Control Program will:

- Educate providers on guidelines and new therapies
- Test Baby Boomers and those at risk
- Establish a community fund to build linkage to care and treatment capacity
- Establish effective surveillance program
- Establish a public-private partnership for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Health and Hospitals Corporation, which combines resources from the public sector with those from the private sector to accomplish public health goals

To accomplish goals of the overall program, the private sector commits to donating 200,000 rapid HCV test kits at a total value of \$3.0 million to the city as well as other financial and in-kind services.

***Why is this request so critically important?***

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), estimates that more than 3.2 million adults in the United States are infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). With the highest rate of infections, 75 percent, is among the “baby boomer” population, those born between 1945 and 1965.

The Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C virus can also cause chronic hepatitis, in which the infection becomes life-long. Chronic hepatitis can lead to cirrhosis (scarring), liver failure, and liver cancer. In fact, viral hepatitis is the leading cause of liver cancer and the most common reason for liver transplantation.

HCV is called a “silent epidemic” because there are often no noticeable symptoms, so many people do not know they are infected.

Black people have a substantially higher rate of chronic HCV infection than Caucasians and other racial and ethnic groups, and the rate of HCV-related mortality is twice as high for black people as it is for non-Hispanic whites.

Nearly 200,000 New York State residents are thought to be chronically infected with HCV, 60 percent of them in New York City. Yet, the problem is largely unrecognized by healthcare professionals, policymakers and those at the greatest risk. Last October, New York State adopted legislation that requires hospitals and health care practitioners to offer Hepatitis C screenings to all people born between 1945-and 1965 – the Baby Boomer generation.

The virus, which is transmitted by blood to blood contact, can be detected through a simple blood test. Early detection and intervention are essential to provide life-saving treatment and reduce spread of the virus.

The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. urges the City Council to support this request as it is the “right approach at the right time” to address the three essential components

of HCV screening; surveillance; and building the capacity of providers in linking people to care and treatment....ultimately saving lives.

Thank you.



New York City Council

## Hearing on the New York City FY2015 Executive Budget

*Friday, June 6, 2014*

Testimony of **Jackie Vimo**, Director of Health Advocacy  
The New York Immigration Coalition

My name is Jackie Vimo, and I am Director of Advocacy at the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), an umbrella organization for over 150 groups across New York State that work with immigrants. I am here today to urge the Council to include **\$5 million** for the new **Access Health NYC Initiative**, which has been proposed by the City Council Health Committee Chair, Corey Johnson, in the FY2015 New York City budget. This initiative would support a desperately needed grassroots community education program about options for health coverage and care for New Yorkers, regardless of income or immigration status.

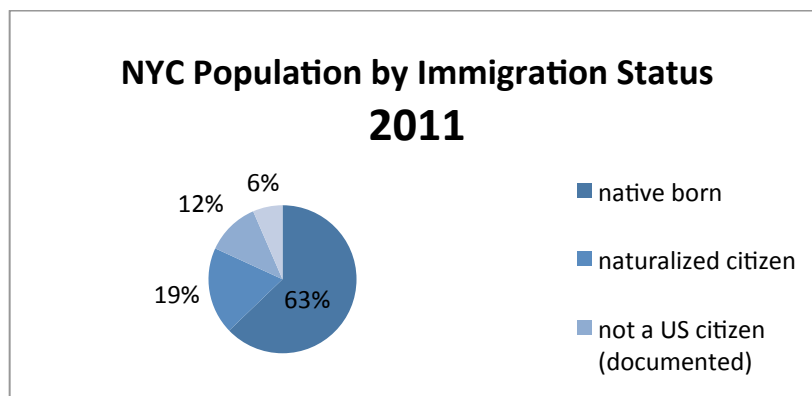
The NYIC represents many community-based organizations that are on the frontlines of serving immigrant communities, and we hear stories from our members on a daily basis about the urgent need for funding for immigrant groups to conduct outreach and education about health access in their communities. Earlier this week, I received a message from Sudha Acharya of the South Asian Council on Social Services (SACCS) in Flushing, Queens, who told me a story about a priest from a nearby temple who spoke only Tamil. His family is eligible for public health insurance coverage, but he did not know how to access health services for himself and his two children, and he would not have been able to access care if SACCS had not been there to reassure him that it was safe to use health services and to inform him about his rights in a language he could understand. Unfortunately, there is no state or federal funding to do outreach to New Yorkers like this Tamil-speaking priest. This is exactly the kind of service that would be funded through the Access Health NYC Initiative.

It has been an exciting time for health issues across the nation and here in New York City. Nearly one million New Yorkers statewide have enrolled in the New York State of Health (NYSOH), New York's state-run health insurance markets, since the new marketplace launched last October. Unfortunately, many immigrants remain uninsured because of language and other barriers, and undocumented immigrants have been explicitly excluded from federal reform. Although everyone, regardless of immigration status, has options to access health care in New York, many immigrants are confused

about their options – and many don’t even know that they *have* options. While state-funded Navigators are available to assist with enrollment, the state did *not* allocate funding for public education and outreach. We urge New York City to fill in the gap left by the state and Washington by including **\$5 million** for the **Access Health NYC** City Council Initiative.

### The Need for Public Health Education in Immigrant Communities

Immigrants experience great disparities in terms of access to health coverage and confront major obstacles to accessing care. In New York City, noncitizens (both undocumented immigrants and those with legal status) tend to be uninsured at higher rates than their citizen counterparts. This persistent inequality must be addressed if New York hopes to create a healthier New York City.



Many people are not aware that the great majority of immigrants are actually eligible to participate in public health programs, including the new health insurance exchange. New York City’s population is approximately **8.25 million immigrants**, approximately **15% of which is uninsured**.<sup>1</sup> New York City’s residents include over 3 million immigrants (37% of the population), about 1.6 million of whom are naturalized citizens,<sup>2</sup> 962,000 million of whom are lawfully residing but not citizens, and 535,000 of whom are undocumented.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, **approximately 83% of immigrant New Yorkers are either citizens or legal residents and thereby eligible to participate in New York’s Health Benefit Exchange**.

Although most immigrants are eligible for publicly-supported coverage, many remain uninsured at rates higher than their non-immigrant neighbors. Noncitizens<sup>4</sup> constitute a disproportionately high percentage of the uninsured,<sup>5</sup> including those who are eligible

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Migration Policy Institute, <http://www.migrationinformation.org/DataHub/state.cfm?ID=NY#3>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2011/02/01/unauthorized-immigrant-population-brnational-and-state-trends-2010/>

<sup>4</sup> Noncitizens refers to immigrants who are not naturalized citizens – this includes undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents and immigrants on temporary visas or who are in the process of adjusting their status. The term immigrants will be used in this paper to encompass both naturalized citizens and noncitizens.

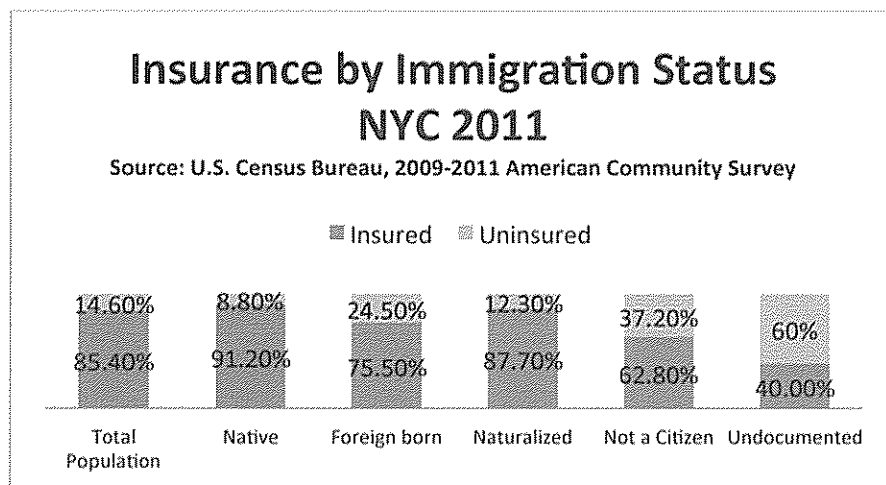
<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

particularly for the uninsured. The requested allocation of \$5 million would allow **65 organizations to apply for grants of \$75,000 (average minimum)**, and provide adequate additional resources for training and program oversight. Grants would be awarded through a competitive bidding/RFP process, and could be multi-year. Ideally, grants would be allocated based on the number of uninsured per borough, and targeted to communities with high numbers of uninsured.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, New York State awarded federal funds to networks of CBOs statewide to serve as “Navigators” to assist with applications for health insurance plans offered on New York State of Health, the state’s new health benefits exchange marketplace. Unfortunately, this funding cannot be used to conduct basic public education and community outreach. Access Health NYC would augment the state’s Navigator program by supporting outreach programs on health coverage and care available to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, and refer them to Navigators and other experts to enroll in coverage.

Many immigrants rely on CBOs to provide information about public programs in culturally competent ways. Unfortunately, immigrant CBOs are often underfunded and cannot do public outreach and education for free. It is these organizations that are best equipped to get the word out to their communities, and the city should provide them resources to do this crucial work. Better access to comprehensive insurance coverage and timely primary and preventive care will lower health care costs and improve health outcomes for all New Yorkers! Access Health NYC is good for the city’s health and good for the city’s budget. The NYIC gives Access Health NYC our strongest possible support, and we urge the Council to fund this important initiative.

for public health insurance but are not enrolled.<sup>6</sup> New York City's noncitizens are more than *four times* as likely as citizens to lack health insurance:<sup>7</sup> whereas **8.8% of native-born New Yorkers are uninsured**, 24.5% of foreign-born residents are uninsured, and **37.2% of noncitizens lack health insurance.**<sup>8</sup> There are many reasons for why immigrants are more likely to be uninsured. These include: higher rates of employment by small businesses that do not offer insurance, an underutilization of public insurance programs due to a lack of awareness of their rights, concerns about immigration consequences of accessing such services, and language and other barriers. The purpose of the new Access Health NYC program would be to help immigrants and other uninsured New Yorkers overcome the barriers to coverage and care. Enrolling eligible immigrants in coverage is crucial for public health in New York City, but also for New York City's budget. The Health and Hospital Corporation (HHC), is the city's safety-net hospital system. Uninsured New Yorkers who get sick will end up in HHC facilities, thus passing the bill to the City.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey; Passel, Jeffrey. "The Size and Characteristics of the Unauthorized Migrant Population in the US: Estimates based on the March 2005 Current Population Survey." Pew Hispanic Center March 17, 2006

Meanwhile, language continues to pose a major barrier to health care for New York City's Immigrants. Over **1.8 million New York City residents** over the age of 5, or **23%** of New York's population over the age of 5, are limited English proficient (LEP), meaning they need interpretation or translation services to communicate effectively.<sup>9</sup> A little over half of that population speaks Spanish; the other half speak nearly 150 other languages and dialects.<sup>10</sup> New York needs to reach out to these communities in languages that they can understand – *Access Health NYC* would speak to immigrants in

<sup>6</sup> Holahan, D., Cook, A., Powell, L. "New York's Eligible but Uninsured," United Hospital Fund, 2008.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/j>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

their own languages by funding immigrant organizations to do education within their own communities.

Although access to insurance coverage is an option for many, there are still many New Yorkers who will remain uninsured. The majority of the uninsured will be citizens and legal immigrants who are eligible for insurance but not enrolled, as well as individuals who still cannot afford the cost of health insurance, and others who are exempt from the individual mandate or who choose to pay the tax penalty rather than enroll in coverage.<sup>11</sup> However, the share of the uninsured population who are undocumented immigrants will likely grow as the in the coming years – they are specifically excluded from the new coverage benefits of the ACA and are already excluded from most public health insurance programs.

Despite the fact that undocumented immigrants are not eligible for most forms of public coverage, they still have options for coverage in New York City, including:

- “HHC Options,” a program of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation
- Federally Qualified Health Care Centers, and other safety net providers
- Pre-certification for Emergency Medicaid (good for one year); and
- New York’s “Child Health Plus” program for all children and youth up through age 18
- Medicaid for pregnant women

However, many undocumented immigrants are unaware that these programs exist, or are afraid to use them. Access Health could educate undocumented immigrants about their options for accessing care, and ensure that immigration status does not prevent any New Yorker from accessing the medical care they need. In addition, many families in New York are “mixed-status,” meaning that some members are undocumented while others are US citizens or otherwise lawfully present. In many cases, undocumented parents of US citizen children do not enroll them in the public programs they are eligible for because they are unaware of them, or because they are needlessly afraid of immigration consequences. Access Health NYC could reach out to undocumented and mixed-status families to educate them about their health care rights.

### **Reducing Coverage and Access Disparities: Access Health NYC**

For all these reasons, we urge NYC to include \$5 million for Access Health NYC in the FY2015 city budget. Access Health NYC is a new proposal for a city-funded initiative to support community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve immigrants and other medically underserved populations. It will enable them to do outreach and public education in their communities about options for health care coverage and care,

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid

*Many New Yorkers were LEFT OUT of federal health reform  
...especially many immigrants and their families!*

***NYC can ensure that ALL NEW YORKERS have access to health care by  
funding a \$5 million grassroots community health education initiative:***

# **ACCESS HEAL+H NYC**

## **What is ACCESS HEAL+H NYC?**

- Access Health NYC is a new proposal for a city-funded initiative to support community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve immigrants and other medically underserved populations. It will enable them to do outreach and public education in their communities about options for health care coverage and care, particularly for the uninsured.
- **\$5 million** would allow **65 organizations** to apply for grants of **\$75,000** (average minimum), and provide adequate additional resources for training and program oversight.
- Grants would be awarded through a competitive bidding/RFP process, and could be multi-year.
- Grants would be allocated based on the number of uninsured per borough, and targeted to communities with high numbers of uninsured.

## **How Does ACCESS HEAL+H NYC Help New Yorkers?**

- New York State awarded federal funds to networks of CBOs statewide to serve as “Navigators” to assist with applications for health insurance plans offered on the state’s new health benefits exchange marketplace (“New York State of Health”). Unfortunately, this funding cannot be used to conduct basic public education and community outreach.
- Access Health NYC can augment the state’s Navigator program by supporting outreach programs about health coverage and care available to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, and get them to Navigators and other experts to enroll in coverage.
- Although undocumented New Yorkers are not eligible for standard Medicaid and the new, private “Qualified Health Plans” (QHPs), Access Health NYC can help them learn about and understand their options for free or low-cost health care services available through:
  - “HHC Options”, a program of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation
  - Federally Qualified Health Care Centers, and other safety net providers
  - Pre-certification for Emergency Medicaid (good for one year)
  - New York’s “Child Health Plus” program for all children and youth up through age 18
- Many immigrants rely on CBOs to provide information about public programs in culturally competent ways. They are best equipped to get the word out to their communities.
- Better access to comprehensive insurance coverage and timely primary and preventive care will lower health care costs and improve health outcomes for all New Yorkers!

***Want more info?*** Contact Claudia Calhoon, New York Immigration Coalition  
212-627-2777 or [ccalhoon@thenyic.org](mailto:ccalhoon@thenyic.org)



**TESTIMONY OF THE  
NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP  
REGARDING THE NEW YORK CITY  
FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

**BEFORE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL,  
June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Good afternoon. I'm Mikolaj Lis, and I'm a student at Brooklyn College and the Vice-chairperson of NYPIRG's Board of Directors. I appreciate the opportunity to provide NYPIRG's perspective on higher education with regards to the New York City preliminary budget for fiscal year 2014-2015.

The New York Public Interest Group is New York State's largest student-directed non-partisan research and advocacy organization. Through NYPIRG, CUNY students are empowered to impact policy decisions on issues that affect us, including decisions about funding for public higher education and financial aid. Interns and other students involved with our nine CUNY chapters learn to become effective advocates by working hand-in-hand with full-time campus organizers and a team of issue experts, policy analysts, and attorneys to educate their peers, spur civic engagement on campus, conduct research, generate media coverage, testify before governmental bodies, and meet directly with lawmakers.

I am testifying today to urge you to continue to make the City University of New York a priority in the 2014-2015 budget. CUNY graduates work and pay taxes here, and 270,000 degree-seeking students are enrolled at CUNY. Among the many CUNY success stories are Jonas Salk and Colin Powell, both City College graduates and children of immigrants. Without a doubt, CUNY is part of what makes New York City so vibrant and successful.

**Academic Achievement Award**

We fully support the Council's proposal, as outlined in the City Council's Response to the Mayor's FY 2015 Preliminary Budget, to invest \$10.9 million to create the Academic Achievement Award. This long overdue merit based program will provide some of the City's best and brightest students help in offsetting the rising costs associated with attending college. Undocumented youth are currently ineligible for any federal and state financial aid that would encourage access to college and success thereafter. AAA would be one of the few programs that would be available to undocumented New Yorkers who went on to attend CUNY.

**Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Initiative**

We fully support investing \$18.9 million for the expansion of the STEM initiative. STEM awards high achieving students, who were ranked in the top 10% of their class, graduating high school a scholarship if they study and pursue a career in technology or science. The expanded program would include academic advisement, a cooperative study program, a research fellowship, summer tuition program, and an inclusion of STEM students into the Accelerated Studies Associate Programs (ASAP) initiative.

### **Single Stop**

Single Stop is a successful program that has helped over 45,000 CUNY students connect with government funding and services that allowed them to continue their pursuit of a higher education. Before Single Stop assisted them, many of these students did not know that they were entitled to these services. Single Stop also provides students with free tax preparation, legal assistance and financial counseling. We urge the Council to support CUNY's request of \$600,000 to support and expand Single Stop.

### **Citizenship NOW**

CUNY's Citizenship NOW program provides much needed immigration legal services—not only to CUNY students, but throughout New York City. This past year, over 3,000 students and community members have been assisted by this initiative. We urge the Council to support CUNY's request of \$800,000 to keep this service going strong.bn

### **Need Based Financial Assistance**

Many CUNY students receive the federal Pell grant and a state Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award to help them pay for college. But not all students have access to public merit-based aid. Thousands of low-income students, such as undocumented or part-time students, do not qualify for TAP or receive inadequate TAP awards. CUNY needs a City funded financial aid program to help students offset education cost and fill the gaps in TAP. We urge the Council to invest \$5 million into a need-based financial aid program.

### **Other Restorations**

CUNY is known for its nationally recognized research centers and it's many great opportunity programs, which offer social, academic, and financial assistance to those students who need it most. These programs have a proven track record of helping students overcome the financial and academic obstacles to completing a college education. All of these programs require continued support in order to serve as many students as possible. We strongly urge you to reinvest in all CUNY opportunity programs and research centers by restoring funding to the following programs: CUNY Prep (\$3.5 million); The Dominican Studies Institute at City College (\$470,000); The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (\$470,000); Creative Arts Team (\$400,000); and Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies (\$100,000). We also strongly urge the Council to include these programs, along with Citizenship NOW and other Council supported initiatives to be included, in CUNY's baseline budget. This would help protect these critical programs from future budget cuts.

### **In Closing**

We would like to thank you for providing this opportunity for us to share our thoughts on higher education in New York. We will continue to engage you in this discussion over higher education funding in the coming weeks. I know we share the same goals of ensuring affordable, accessible, high quality public higher education to the students of New York City.



**New York City Council Committees on Finance  
Hearing on the FY15 Final Budget  
June 6, 2014  
Submitted testimony of New Yorkers for Parks**

This budget season has overwhelmingly, and encouragingly, focused on addressing equity issues across the city's park system. It has been a constructive dialogue that has drawn the attention not only of the Council and City Hall, but also of the media and park advocates across the city. Now, it's time to make sure all that talk about a better parks budget actually helps deliver one.

What are the needs? First and foremost, more full-time maintenance workers and gardeners in parks most in need. To achieve that, we call on the Council and administration to fully support Parks Committee Chairman Mark Levine's proposal to increase the Parks Department's expense budget by **\$27 million**, which would give Commissioner Silver the ability to start strategically directing resources toward high-need areas with a clear goal: deliver quick, tangible results for park users. Additionally, the \$27 million would fund a batch of new Parks Enforcement Patrol officers, who play an important role in enforcing Parks Department rules and addressing quality of life issues in parks. **There is simply no budgetary action more critical to helping the de Blasio administration effectively address park equity issues than adding that \$27 million into the FY 15 budget.** And it should be baselined into the budget to ensure that the added staff positions and PEP officers are full-time and long-term. We are hopeful that the momentum in the Council and among park advocates behind that requested increase – as well as recent comments from City Hall that the Parks Department could use more funding – now translates into action at the negotiating table.

We were dismayed to hear at the Council's February 25 hearing on tree care that while the Parks Department has, thanks to recent budget restorations, shortened its street-tree pruning cycle, it still prunes very few park trees. And while \$2 million was added and baselined in FY14 for stump removal, there is still a huge backlog of stumps – particularly after Hurricane Sandy and the recent treacherous winter. We'd like to see **\$3 million** added for park tree care and stump removal so that the Parks Department can prune at least 25,000 trees in parks and remove approximately 4,000 more stumps. This work will be needed annually, so the \$3 million should be baselined in the budget.

There is momentum on the capital budget front, too: the FY15 executive budget includes a large infusion of capital money to be spent at the discretion of Commissioner Silver, including roughly \$80 million earmarked for "neighborhood parks." This is a critical step in the right direction. We're also encouraged to see that the Council is supporting a Parks Department request for much-needed capital division staff – 55 new positions – to help DPR both clear its capital backlog caused by Sandy recovery projects and to more efficiently take on the new neighborhood parks projects. Without an addition of **\$4 million** for those positions, those neighborhood parks projects simply wouldn't have the manpower in place to get them planned, designed and built in a timely manner. Like the potential new maintenance, gardening and PEP positions that would be covered by the \$27

million increase, these capital positions should be baselined in the budget to ensure that the capital division is properly staffed for the long haul.

As we've said many times over the past year, there are two essential ways to address equity issues: First, significantly increase the Parks Department's maintenance budget in a way that ensures the addition of more full-time maintenance positions. Those additions would allow the Department to more effectively plan for the long-term. Second, give the Department more control over how capital dollars are spent. With the \$80 million allocated for discretionary finding for "neighborhood parks" and, potentially, the \$27 million increase in DPR's maintenance and operations funding, the FY15 budget may well take a significant step toward meeting those benchmarks.

Summary of requested additions to FY15 executive budget: **\$34 million**

- **\$27 million** added and baselined for new full-time maintenance, gardening, and PEP positions
- **\$4 million** added and baselined for 55 new full-time Capital Division jobs
- **\$3 million** added and baselined for park-tree pruning and stump removal

###

*For over 100 years, New Yorkers for Parks has built, protected and promoted parks and open spaces in New York City. Today, NY4P is the citywide independent organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods. More information: [www.ny4p.org](http://www.ny4p.org)*

## Testimony on the Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget

June 6, 2014

My name is Anne Bove. I am a Registered Nurse at Bellevue and President, NYSNA HHC and Mayoral's Executive Council.

NYSNA is a strong advocate for the preservation and expansion of access to healthcare for all residents of our City.

We advocate strongly for providing health care according to community need, as determined with input by the communities themselves. The community must be included in healthcare decision-making.

We are 8000 strong in HHC, and we advocate for maintaining and expanding the system for maximum access to quality health care by the people of our City.

Thus, we work closely with the People's Budget Coalition for Public Health (PBC), a labor and community alliance consisting of over 20 organizations that works to maintain, preserve and expand New York City's public health programs.

Today, you will hear from a number of PBC member organizations about the programs and initiatives we ask be given support by the Mayor and City Council. I submit testimony today on behalf of NYSNA in support of those initiatives, which are crucial to reducing health disparities and bolstering existing effective programs and services (Attached is the full PBC agenda, which includes the details of these initiatives).

On behalf of NYSNA, I urge you to take action to implement funding for the following programs/measures:

### **1. Access Health NYC – \$5 million**

To invest in funding culturally and linguistically-competent CBOs in all 5 boroughs to do outreach and public education in their communities about options for health care access and coverage, particularly for the uninsured and those locked out of the healthcare marketplace.

### **2. Healthy Women, Healthy Futures (NEW) - \$3 Million**

Invest in scaling up efforts to address the dramatic and persistent health disparities in maternal and infant health, and to close the gaps in services by adding support for women during periods not covered by the Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (IMRI). This program would dedicate \$2 Million to pre- and inter-conception care and \$1 Million for expanded access to birth and postpartum doula services to improve care in the critical period during and immediately following birth.

*Continue on Page 2 →*

### **3. Workforce Diversity - \$1 Million**

To invest into existing NY Metro Health Education Centers (AHEC), to increase diversity in the health professions.

### **4. Workforce Staffing and Training - \$2 Million**

To provide for a well-trained and culturally competent healthcare workforce.

In addition, in order to ensure that the safest and highest quality care is provided by the workforce, we strongly urge implementation of minimum RN-to-patient staffing ratios in all HHC facilities, as well as minimum caregiver-to-patient ratios for other patient care staff, including doctors, LPNs and nursing aides.

### **5. Community Health Planning - \$1 Million**

To create a special commission to analyze and address health disparities that would engage in long-range planning with ongoing involvement of communities to address health needs. We believe that local communities should have a greater role in making decisions about the needs of the community and the allocation and distribution of resources to meet those needs.

### **6. Keep Corona and Tremont Immunization Clinics open - \$3 Million**

In the attached document, please note the PBC's additional requests, including pending legislation for Asthma-free Homes, the integration of health care into early childhood settings, like day care centers, kindergartens and public school lower grades, expanded school-based health and mental-health services, and ensuring that Medicaid reform does not restrict expansion of community-based health care services.

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: New York Public Library  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:30:55 AM

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**From:** Patricia Stirnemann [patricia.stirnemann@irht.cnrs.fr]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 9:18 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** New York Public Library

To the powers that be

It is hard to believe that New York, of all cities, is acting exactly like the Canadian government and destroying one of the world's major libraries. The Canadians deftly obliterated their top research libraries on ocean science. If you continue in your blindness, you may congratulate yourselves as you join the hall of fame of Book Haters. From Alexandria on, the list is long of destroyed libraries, often from fire or war. But you will be on the shorter and even more hallowed list among bling bling cornifucians, Those Who Destroyed From Within - a list that includes the thieves, desecrators, ignoramuses and insects of society.

Please revise your thinking and maintain the New York Library as a place of study and research and learning for now and the future. No electronic source will ever replace books.

Yours sincerely frightened of what you are doing,  
Patricia Stirenmann

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: re financing of NYPL  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:42:13 AM

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**From:** Paul Shaw [paulshaw@nyc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 5:31 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** re financing of NYPL

Dear New York City Council,  
please provide more money to the New York Public Library. But insist that much of the money go to upgrading the many branch libraries as well as for renovations of Mid-Manhattan and the Schwartzmann Building. And insist that the stacks once they are upgraded be used FOR BOOKS and not left empty as library president Anthony Marx says will happen. The Schwartzmann building should remain focused on researchers (which includes junior high school and high school students as well as university students and professional scholars) while the remaining branches and Mid-Manhattan should cater to circulating needs. This dual system has worked very well for a century and there is no compelling reason to abandon it and add circulating users to the overburdened Schwartzmann building.  
Thank you.

Yours,  
Paul Shaw  
Parsons School of Design  
School of Visual Arts

Paul Shaw  
[paulshaw@nyc.rr.com](mailto:paulshaw@nyc.rr.com)  
[www.paulshawletterdesign.com/](http://www.paulshawletterdesign.com/)

Blue Pencil  
Codex  
Legacy of Letters  
Paul Shaw / Letter Design

My name is **Paula Glatzer**. I'm an editor and an independent scholar. I am testifying about the New York Public Library because I use it. Or used to.

Please, do not rush to judgment.

Miraculously, we have saved the Mid-Manhattan Library from being sold to developers. At 42nd Street, the bookstacks that support the Reading Room will not be demolished, at least for now.

But there is still 151 million dollars in the budget from the previous administration, and we are asking you to take your time, so you will spend that money wisely.

At Tuesday's hearing, one member said he was so pleased with the Library's plan for a four-year capital budget, he was almost ready to vote for it.

With all due respect, that would be a rush to judgment. The uncovering of the Central Library Plan took six years, and we still don't know everything. The Library has never released details of the cost analysis or the independent audit, requested by candidate de Blasio, among others.

From this administration, we expect genuine oversight and transparency.

First, we ask you to really listen to both sides before spending taxpayer money. Three-minute soundbites, on a Friday afternoon, are not a fair hearing. It's time for you to talk to the architects, librarians, scholars and citizens who brought the CLP to light. Some of you have. But others have been hard to get to.

We all want to give libraries more money: for operations, like rehiring librarians and increasing hours, and for capital improvements to the many branches that have been allowed to deteriorate.

But please don't write a blank check for capital expenditures.

For the \$151 million, you can start by holding public hearings.

Two. The Speaker gets to appoint a representative to the NYPL Board of Trustees. Make this a real position, not patronage. Choose an independent voice, with an obligation to report to the Council. The Library has made big decisions in closed sessions. Open the process to a genuine public-private partnership.

Three. Ask the NYPL to disclose the details of their cost estimates and independent audit. How can you make good choices, if they're not open to public scrutiny?

We wanted to Save the Stacks because they are the best way to deliver books. NYPL was once the most democratic research library in the world. Anyone could walk in and use a book. But with the books out of the building and most of the reference librarians gone, that is no longer true. A person must have Internet access and an e-mail account to search for books and pre-order them, then wait several days for delivery.

The Library wants to save the stacks but not use them. This is incomprehensible to readers. So one example of what we need is a cost comparison: of upgrading the stacks vs. additional off-site storage and transportation. The Library says \$46 million to save the stacks. Let's see the details, get competitive bids, and do the right thing.



**"PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE HEART OF  
NEW YORK CITY!"**

## **FY 2014-2015 City Legislative & Budget Agenda Investments worth every penny!**

The People's Budget Coalition for Public Health is an alliance of 20+ community and labor organizations united around preserving and expanding our city's public health programs and services. At the heart of our health priorities and ideas expressed is the strong belief that:

1. Community health planning is essential to building a responsive public health system
2. Address health disparity by preserving and expanding community and public health safety net programs
3. Build and expand public health infrastructure to ensure our public health system has the capacity to serve all populations in need

While the health outcomes for New Yorkers may have improved in recent years, substantial inequalities remain among New Yorkers of various economic status, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, and racial/ethnic groups. The PBC recommends the Mayor and the City Council to support the following initiatives which are aimed to reduce health disparities by scaling up existing efforts that are effective, and by including public involvement in health care decisions.

***Access Health NYC - \$5 million*** would be invested in funding culturally-and linguistically-competent non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) in all 5 boroughs to do outreach and public education in their communities about options for health care access and coverage, particularly for the uninsured and those locked out of the marketplace. The initiative would target Immigrants, people with disabilities, LGBTQ communities, medically-underserved populations, the uninsured and non-English/limited English proficient communities throughout the city. Grants (in a range of approximately \$75,000) would be awarded through a competitive bidding/RFP process, and could be multi-year. We strongly recommend the following formula/criteria to be used in awarding the grant:

1. Grants would be allocated based on the percentage of the uninsured per community/borough, and targeted to communities with high percentage of the uninsured.
2. Priority would be given to CBOs that currently do not receive any public or private funding to conduct public education and outreach regarding health benefits, health programs and other options for low-cost health care services.
3. At least 50% of funding for this initiative should go to groups that have not already been funded as Navigators through New York State.

**PBC Organization Members (list in formation)** – Arab-American Family Support Center, Brooklyn Perinatal Network, CAMBA, Bronx Health Link, Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY, Children's Defense Fund-New York, Choices in Childbirth, Citizens' Committee for Children, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Commission on the Public's Health System, District Council 37, Doctor's Council SEIU, Federation of County Networks, Inc, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Fort Greene SNAP, Gay Men's Health Crisis, Greater Brooklyn Healthcare Coalition, Healthy People, Housing Works, Manhattan Borough President's Disability Task Force; Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign, Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC, New York Immigration Coalition, New York State Nurses Association, South Asian Council for Social Services; Spanish Speaking Elderly Council- RAICES, Village Care



**"PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE HEART OF  
NEW YORK CITY!"**

4. Preference will be given to CBOs that are able to reach hard-to-reach populations, and populations subject to disparities in health care access and coverage based on race, ethnicity, primary language other than English, disability status, immigration status, insurance status, sexual orientation, and gender.
5. Groups should have a demonstrated track record in working with said communities, include but not limited to health care access and coverage issues

**Healthy Women, Healthy Futures (NEW) – \$3 Million** would be invested in scaling up efforts in addressing the dramatic and persistent health disparities in maternal and infant health. In 2002, the City launched the Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (IMRI) to address these disparities in infant health outcomes, and with significant effort, the infant mortality rate has continued to drop. Following these successes in *infant* health, there has been a renewed recognition of the dire need for efforts targeted to improving *maternal* health. At the original launch of the IMRI, the city called for the promotion of women's health before, during, and after pregnancy, but further steps focused heavily on the prenatal period. A new initiative, the Healthy Women, Healthy Futures program can close existing gaps in services and improve maternal health outcomes by adding support for women during periods currently not covered by the IMRI. This program would dedicate **\$2 million to pre- and inter-conception care** programs for women before and between pregnancies and **\$1 million for expanded access to birth and postpartum doula services** to improve care in the critical period during and immediately following birth.

## **Workforce**

- **Diversity – \$1 million** would be invested into the existing NY Metro Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), which focus on addressing health disparities through increasing diversity in the health professions. The professional health care workforce is not reflective of this population. This initiative will focus on intervening the educational pipeline to enhance opportunities for racial/ethnic minority and disadvantaged students to enter careers in the health professions and health sciences. We recommend allocating AHEC programs and services provide community health education, guidance, support, and internships, for the future health care workforce, at all levels.
- **Staffing/Training - \$2 million** would be invested in a well-trained and culturally competent workforce. A workforce that is not only reflective of the communities it serves, but trained and staffed at the highest skill levels possible. We recommend minimum patient care staffing ratios in all HHC facilities for patient care staff, to include nurses, doctors, LPNs, and aides.



**"PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE HEART OF  
NEW YORK CITY!"**

Last but not least, the PBC believes that improving health status, insurance coverage, and access to services can best be accomplished through a community health planning approach. The provisions in Affordable Care Act, the approved Federal Medicaid Waiver, and the state's prevention agenda are opportunities for the city to ensure that changes to the health care system are responsive to the needs of community and improve health outcomes.

We recommend NYC investing **\$1 million in Community Health Planning**. This would allow the creation of a special commission to address health disparities and other related public health issues. Democracy is sorely lacking in the existing process of community health planning and there is a need to increase local control over and participation in the decisions around health care resources and public health issues. What is needed now is not a crisis-oriented response, but, rather, long range plans with ongoing involvement of communities to address health needs and public health issues. There is opportunity to make our city healthy place for everyone not just for a few.

**Additional Asks:** PBC respectfully puts forth the following requests that would improve New York's health system planning for child health and ensure that all families benefit equally from our city's resources.

- Pass the Asthma-free Homes legislation, which seeks to reduce indoor allergen hazards than can trigger asthma in residential dwellings. There is no intro bill number yet but the bill co-sponsors are Council members Rosie Mendez, Ritchie Torres, and Corey Johnson.
- Add **\$3 million** to stop the closing two immunization clinics. One clinic is in Corona Queens, and the other is in Tremont, Bronx. Both are located in medically-underserved, low income, immigrant and communities of color. Current funding level: \$491,000 in City Funds (\$164,000 in State funds)
- Integrate health-related programming in early childhood settings, such as childcare and Pre-K, to reach young children ages zero to five
- Expand the availability and use of pediatric dental and vision care to instill preventive health behaviors in early life.
- Prioritize the expansion and support for school-based health and mental health services, which provide a targeted mechanism for reaching an often underserved population
- Work with the State to ensure that reforms of Medicaid do not restrict but allow for the expansion of community based behavioral health, mental health, and health care services

For more information on how to get involved and about the issues we are working on, please contact Anthony Feliciano, Commission on the Public's Health System

(w) 212-246-0803    (c) 646-325-5317    Email: [afeliciano@cphsnyc.org](mailto:afeliciano@cphsnyc.org)

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 42nd St. Library  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:30:43 AM

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**From:** Pepe Karmel [pepe.karmel@nyu.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 9:29 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** 42nd St. Library

Greetings:

I am writing to urge you to restore the stacks and bring the books back to the 42nd St. library.

New York's importance as a center of intellectual activity has depended for decades on the availability and ease-of-use of this great library. Moving much of the collection off-site will make it significantly harder for scholars to work productively at the library, and will ultimately discourage them from working there at all. If you have to wait a day or two for a book or a journal, you might as well be working somewhere else.

In the new "information economy," innovators and wealth-creators go where there is intellectual, artistic, and cultural excitement. That's why New York remains the center of the American economy. In the long run, damaging this core asset of New York's cultural life will damage the city as a whole.

Please don't let this happen.

Sincerely,  
Pepe Karmel

--

Professor Pepe Karmel  
Department of Art History, NYU  
100 Washington Square East, Room 303  
New York, NY 10003  
E-mail: [pepe.karmel@nyu.edu](mailto:pepe.karmel@nyu.edu)

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: City Council Hearing of June 6, 2014 on Library Budgeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:32:24 AM

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**From:** Peter Rooney [magneticreports@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 11:49 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** City Council Hearing of June 6, 2014 on Library Budgeting

This testimony is submitted to the New York City Council, regarding its hearing of June 6, 2014, on library budgeting.

I am a book indexer by profession. In the past, I've relied on the 42nd Street Main Library to fulfill my research needs when working on a new indexing project. I look for sources in which to check my author's terminology and to get ideas for indexing the new book. Starting about December 2012, I have found there is very little use in going to the Main Library because most of the books I will be looking for have been moved offsite to New Jersey, as part of the so-called Central Library Plan. The Main Library has become quite hopeless as a source of ready information on any deep level.

Why is this happening? It's quite apparent that this is a real estate deal in the works, part of a larger movement to sell off public assets to the benefit of the few. In May, the NYPL reversed itself, saying it has abandoned the Central Library Plan, but does a leopard really change its spots? The New York Public Library was founded on the basis of advancing knowledge - not as an asset to be mined. Moreover, the Brooklyn and Queens library systems are quite unaffected by the NYPL action, and are continuing on the same path of selling assets to developers.

Re the City Council hearing on libraries of June 6, here are my thoughts:

- 1- Tony Marx and the top-level administrators of NYPL should resign. They have shown themselves to be incompetent to budget and spend money wisely.
- 2- Most if not all of the trustees should be dismissed, for the same reason.
- 3- the 42nd St. stacks should be upgraded, if necessary. (Doubtful it costs as much as they say.)
- 4- the books in New Jersey must be returned to 42nd St.
- 5- a funding stream needs to be established.

And here's a controversial idea, perhaps:

6- there should be a yearly charge for a library card. This would be subsidized for students and low-income people - they might pay nothing. But I think the average citizen or family could well afford a modest fee. This would stabilize the income and free the library from budget games.

Peter Rooney  
[magneticreports@gmail.com](mailto:magneticreports@gmail.com)

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The Rev. Dr. W. James Favorite  
*Chairman of the Board*  
The Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III  
*Chairman Emeritus*  
  
President and CEO  
C. Virginia Fields

## **PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT**

**C. Virginia Fields**  
**President and CEO**

### **New York City Council Committee on Finance**

Council Chambers - City Hall

Friday, June 6, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Julissa Ferreras, Members of the New York City Council Committee on Finance, ladies and gentlemen, I am C. Virginia Fields, Former Manhattan Borough President and current President and CEO of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. (NBLCA). Founded in 1987, the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. is the oldest and largest policy development and advocacy not-for-profit organization of its kind in the United States whose mission is to educate, mobilize, and empower Black leaders to fight HIV/AIDS and other health disparities in their local communities. We have established affiliate chapters in 11 cities, nationwide, six of them in New York State, including New York City.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to speak before you this afternoon in support of the request for \$320,000 dollars to implement the New York City Hepatitis C Initiative. NBLCA seeks to reverse the impact of the HIV, Hepatitis C and other health disparities epidemic within Black/African American and communities of color. Nearly 200,000 New York State residents are thought to be chronically infected with HCV, 60 percent of them in New York City. Yet, the problem is largely unrecognized by healthcare professionals, policymakers and those at the greatest risk.

Currently, NBLCA serves as the lead advisor for the New York City Council Faith-Based HIV/AIDS Initiative. In partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH), NBLCA provides technical assistance and capacity building to a network of 90 Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the five boroughs of New York City through a continuum of HIV/AIDS and STI education, testing and linkage to care. Based upon CDC data and the U.S. Public Health Service/Infectious Diseases Society of America guidelines that recommends HIV adult patients be screened for co-infection NBLCA advised adding Hepatitis C awareness and screening to the New York City Council Faith-Based HIV/AIDS Initiative. In 2012, the New York City Council agreed with support from NYC DOHMH.

Staying abreast of data, and aligned with the National Hepatitis C Action Plan, NBLCA co-founded the first African American Hepatitis C Action Day in 2013. The uniqueness of NBLCA is its' ability to respond and mobilize quickly to address critical health issues within Black/African American communities at a grass-roots level. Therefore, NBLCA needs funding to take action and implement strategies that render real-time outcomes.

Hepatitis C is an infectious liver disease that spreads through blood-to-blood contact with an infected person. Of those who are infected with the Hep C virus, the majority develop chronic Hep C — a serious, lasting disease that can result in severe liver damage, long-term health problems, and even death. The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. urges the City Council to support this request.

Thank you.

C. Virginia Fields



The Rev. Dr. W. James Favorite  
*Chairman of the Board*  
The Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III  
*Chairman Emeritus*

President and CEO  
C. Virginia Fields

## **PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT**

**C. Virginia Fields**  
**President and CEO**

### **New York City Council Committee on Finance**

Council Chambers - City Hall

Friday, June 6, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Julissa Ferreras, Members of the New York City Council Committee on Finance, ladies and gentlemen, I am C. Virginia Fields, Former Manhattan Borough President and current President and CEO of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. (NBLCA). Founded in 1987, the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. is the oldest and largest policy development and advocacy not-for-profit organization of its kind in the United States whose mission is to educate, mobilize, and empower Black leaders to fight HIV/AIDS and other health disparities in their local communities. We have established affiliate chapters in 11 cities, nationwide, six of them in New York State, including New York City.

NBLCA is requesting \$50,000 in capital funds from the NYC Council to support its' citywide HIV, HCV and STI programs via Digital Health Kiosk to assist with health related awareness and resources. Use of digital technology has been life-altering, but also health-altering. In the past year, 79% of Americans have searched online for health information. 52% used technology to research a health topic and 67% of people say they've gotten health information that they weren't able to get from a healthcare provider by connecting online. NBLCA seeks to reverse the impact of the HIV, Hepatitis C and other health disparities epidemic within Black/African American and communities of color by increasing access to information.

A portable kiosk enables participants to interact confidentially with the system, which provides screening education and awareness information. In addition, the kiosk works as a tracking tool that assesses for risk factors and probes for CDC required data. NBLCA will develop an educational program/tool that can be accessed via tablets and mobile phones, which can interface with the unified data collection and surveillance systems. NBLCA goal is to provide its partner FBOs and CBOs with the ability to use this video and screening tool, and allow for participant monitoring from initial outreach/testing and through each stage of the HCV continuum. This will help ensure that participants are not lost to follow up, and are linked to and retained in care.

Through the Faith Based Initiative, NBLCA has established itself as a pioneering agency in developing HIV/AIDS prevention, education, testing and support services using CTR. NBLCA's ability to reach communities at a grassroots level has informed the type of programming that community members want to see and often request; likewise, having partnered with local policymakers and health departments, its approach is founded in progressive methods and enables the work to stay relevant and on the cutting edge.

The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. urges the City Council to support this request.

Thank you.

C. Virginia Fields

**From:** [financetestimony](mailto:financetestimony)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](mailto:Anderson.Nicole)  
**Subject:** FW: Written Testimony: Council Hearing on The Library Systems Budget - Therese Urban  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:33:19 AM

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**From:** Therese Urban [terry.urban@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:12 PM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Written Testimony: Council Hearing on The Library Systems Budget - Therese Urban

**Written testimony submitted June 10, 2014 via email to the NY City Council  
Hearing on Budget considerations for the New York City, Brooklyn & Queens Public  
Libraries**

-

**By Therese Urban**  
**member: East Pacific Block Association**  
**Boerum Hill Association**

**Regarding the need for financing repairs and ongoing maintenance of our libraries with taxpayer funds and private donations, rather than the permanent disposal of land:**

I want to impress upon all City Council members why they should be insisting that all our library caretakers, Brooklyn, Queens and New York City, continue to value our presently threatened libraries with the same honorable egalitarian foresight that created them, and why it's important to keep those libraries open, well-maintained, and, especially noted in this testimony, situated on the land they already own.

I particularly address the current plan to demolish 2 library buildings in Brooklyn (The Pacific and Brooklyn Heights branches) and sell the land under them to private developers. The most obvious public disadvantage to our libraries selling off their land is that once sold, the library will never get it back; it's gone forever. That should NOT be an option.

**The 'Public/Private Partnership' Model is Not A One-Size-Fits-All Model.**

The plans for these land sales look to follow the pattern that has been implemented in recent years: "public/private partnerships". This model threatens to become the politically favored method of funding all public services in New York City, services that have traditionally been provided by taxes. We currently have library directors and boards who believe in and apply this model to our most valuable free institutions; they have skewed their budget estimates and funding solutions to support the prevailing corporate vision of a future based on a need to show a profit center in all corporations, even those distributing public services.

You, as elected public servants, should not reward the destruction of already existing public services that simply require a return to an ethically sound City Council response, to wit, a return to tax- and donation-based support for the ongoing maintenance and necessary upgrading of our public libraries.

**The City does not have to profit from public services like libraries; developers do have**

**to profit from their buildings. That competing interest should be avoided.**

Corporate interests are always going to be aligned with profits. Placing libraries in a space that's owned by private enterprise will inevitably subject a vital public service to changes in future management and business strategies as decided by that enterprise. Today's promises are profit-driven; tomorrow's will be too. There will be no guarantee of meeting a library's financial needs, 20 years, 30 years, 100 years from now, any better than there is now, when they own their own sites. Why should we take that risk?

Case in point: After selling the site to a developer, the rebuilding of the new Donnell Library space is delayed for several years due to certain private business decisions made by the developer in the owner's self-interest. Also, the Donnell has permanently dissolved its children's and young adults collections because they don't fit into the new digital model of library space, as it is drastically reduced from the lovely space it used to inhabit. The City itself is now admitting the error of that sale.

The allowances of greater density (FAR), various taxpayer subsidies and City property tax abatements to developers in exchange for public space has been questionably negotiated by the City in the past. While new public amenities may be worth the exchange, many agreements benefit the private sector much more than their 'donations' deserve, while abatements further erode our future tax base instead of increasing the taxes these desirable new properties should be remitting to sustain a civilized city – and our libraries. One look at the true economics of the disastrous (only for the public sector!) Donnell Deal is sufficient proof of that!

The exchanging of tax relief and greater FAR for public amenities might indeed serve to enhance the public good if these were new services; but these libraries are not, they are replacements being touted as 'new'. And with all the extra density developers negotiate for, NEW public services should be required for the population expected, not replacement ones, especially not smaller replacements, and especially not replacements which will require the re-investment of the funds the Library reaps for the sale of the land in the build-out of the facility!

The developers wind up with everything they want – taller buildings with more profitable luxury apartments in the sky and low taxes for years - and we get the library facility we should have had anyway, but now without owning the land.

To sell a library's land and award substantial benefits to the private sector for re-supplying one, all in the name of finally serving a great public need, after political interests have intentionally cripple the library system for years, is abhorant to intelligent New Yorkers, rich and poor. Prior short-sighted economic manipulations must be considered as causing the current scrutiny of library land values, and the City Council must not allow more of the same to erode this unique legacy.

**Libraries were built on valuable land because they were meant to inspire people to reach for personal excellence.**

We all understand the first 3 criteria of real estate value: "location, location, and location". Land in New York City is finite, and has always been coveted by people who envisioned future demand. And the land under both the Brooklyn Heights and Pacific libraries is admittedly very valuable. And why should they not remain the proud owners of it?

Carnegie libraries were placed in highly visible and accessible locations, and given formal architectural prominence in order to accomplish their several missions: to augment expansion of free education to the general public and the social advancement of minorities and the underprivileged, and to heighten public understanding of the particular needs of children in society.

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Social Engineering wears many faces, has many arguable practical considerations, but the Carnegie Foundation's idea in providing unique spaces to move inspiration to aspiration is one of our country's finest philanthropic legacies, and should not be hijacked to current monetization trends.

The Pacific Library has served that purpose for 109 years. The Carnegie mission is as relevant now as it was in 1905. Nothing has changed - except that now, what masquerades as 'philanthropy' in NYC negotiates a price: influence, zoning overrides, tax breaks.

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That developer already has an 'approved plan' to give space to the Pacific Library in exchange for whatever benefits were on sale that day. Supposedly this is a "done deal". The plan calls for 'moving' the Pacific Library into a new space, but the sale of the land under the present library will have to pay for the build-out. So it's only ground floor space, in return for potentially massive profits, literally 'sky high'.

Aside from other considerations, it is worth noting that at the last Council hearing I heard the Brooklyn director present an opinion that the land under the Pacific Library wouldn't bring in very much money – not enough money to actually fully build out a large new space because

it was ‘a small footprint’; additional money would have to be found to complete moving this library. Such misrepresentation of that parcel’s value exemplifies the behind-the-scenes effort to obscure the financial negotiations. This same spin continues to be presented by the Research Library, the Midtown Manhattan one, and in Brooklyn Heights.

While it is true that Pubic Advocate James, when she was a Councilmember, had received some vague assurances as to the ‘safety’ of the Pacific Library after that hearing, no real estate is ‘safe’ in this climate. We all know representatives and representations change, how competing agendas can be decided by economic expediencies. We cannot discount that Two Trees says it has an ‘approved plan’!

We need the City Council to budget for the necessary repairs and maintenance for our libraries, so that we can be assured of a firmer guarantee of ‘safety’ for all our library land.

**The Pacific Street Library is especially significant as it is.**

The architecture of this beautiful building is symbolic in the way of all Carnegie architecture: the impressive doorway is designed to impart the idea that learning elevates one’s station in life, and it’s flanked by lamp posts symbolizing enlightenment. Maybe that’s hokey in the 21st Century, but all architecture uses visual notes to make its music and the music of the past is not irrelevant to the present. It should inspire, if only as a reminder that someone long ago thought underprivileged people deserved to be fed at a beautiful table, and we should demand that today’s caretakers still value and promote that public ideal.

Several attempts have been made by Park Slope and Boerum Hill community groups within the last 15 years to landmark it, but the applications suffered pocket vetoes by people with other agendas. Again this year, the Park Slope Civic Council has voted unanimously to have the library landmarked, and across 4th Avenue, we in Boerum Hill joined in that application and again hope for success. We have never heard anything encouraging for our efforts.

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**We need to keep the Pacific Street Library where it is.**

Thousands of new apartments have been built or are in the Downtown Brooklyn pipeline, and all residential services in the area will certainly need to be expanded. In exchange for the increased FAR they dearly desire, because profits must be maximized, the developer should trade space for a new library that serves the new population; the Pacific “children’s library” doesn’t have to be a part of that conversation. The developer shouldn’t be concerned with which library is housed, only that they can trade public space for the more valuable higher floors.

Let us keep ours! Within a 5-block radius to the south and southeast of this library, in the

neighborhoods of Boerum Hill and Park Slope, we already have 3 NYCHA public housing developments (Gowanus South Colony Houses, Wyckoff Gardens Houses, and Warren Street Houses) and 5 public schools (PS 216, 38 and 133 elementary, Middle School 447, and the Brooklyn H.S. of the Arts). Almost all of these children already live in the neighborhood. And more are moving in every month!

We need this library working for us, not a replacement in another neighborhood. These children, independently or in school groups, shouldn't have to cross the 2 busiest intersections in Brooklyn (Atlantic Ave and Flatbush Ave) to go into Ft Greene for their library. That's just another impediment for them to overcome. Ft. Greene has its own library, and now they can have another one in BAM South. It will house the BAM archives at least! Let it be part of the Cultural District. But we deserve our own neighborhood library.

Additionally, the NYC and BPL central plans for replacement services all entail reducing actual book space to complement an increase in digital access. It's a cost-cutting measure being sold as a benefit to the public.

Digital books are not inspiring to children. Picture books, storybooks, books you can hold, carry and share, books you're inspired to read in bed by flashlight – those are necessary for children. Symbols you can see and feel add understanding, help form ideas, and the physical space that welcomes children, that makes them feel like important people, nurtures lifelong learning habits.

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**Instead of destroying this one, the Pacific Street Children's Library could be the jewel of the Brooklyn system!**

Returning it to its original service, updating it with the technology our children truly do need, this 1905 legacy could shine as a continued promise.

Just imagine! How wonderful it will look, left at its own original corner; what a beautiful counterpoint the old building will be to the modern ones sure to rise on the other corners, and all over Downtown. Anyone who sees it will thank us for keeping it as a reminder of what our great-great-grandparents cherished, and how well this generation nourished Carnegie's public trust.

Thank you for your attention. And long live private philanthropy not tied to government subsidies!

**Submitted June 10, 2014 by Therese Urban, Brooklyn, NY**

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Written Testimony for the Budgetary Hearing on the New York Public Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:36:57 AM

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**From:** Thomas H Collins [thcollins@nyu.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 06, 2014 11:52 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** Written Testimony for the Budgetary Hearing on the New York Public Library

Dear City Council Members,

I am gravely concerned over the library's revised plans that would leave the stacks in the 42nd Street Main Branch empty. President Marx claims that the costs to install climate controls to the stacks would amount to \$46 million, but he has never released to the public the full independent cost analysis for bringing the stacks up to code.

Instead, he insists the books will be housed in storage under Bryant Park. However, the Bryant Park Stack Extension (BPSE) was never intended or designed to hold the entirety of the New York Public Library's vast research collection. It was built to store new acquisitions that would ensure the library remains viable for the future.

In order for the New York Public Library to continue to fulfill its mission as a one of America's leading research libraries, it is imperative that the stacks below the Rose Reading Room continue to be used to store the millions of books in the library's collection. Utilizing the seven-floors of stacks, *in conjunction with both levels of BPSE*, will allow for faster book retrieval times and the possibility of storing more items in the library.

Concerning the actual costs and details of the Central Library Plan, President Marx and the NYPL board of trustees have been far too secretive. We now know that the Central Library Plan would have cost over \$500 million, including \$8 million already paid to Foster + Partners. Despite promising to do so over a year ago, President Marx has refused to release the full independent cost analysis report for the Central Library Plan.

Before granting any additional public funding for the NYPL's capital spending projects, the NYPL Board must openly disclose their plans and costs to the public. In the name of greater transparency, it is incumbent upon the City Council to compel the New York Public Library to reveal the full reports containing the costs for renovating the Mid-Manhattan library and the 42nd Street Main Branch stacks.

Thank you,

Thomas H. Collins  
Member, Committee to Save the New York Public Library

600 W 146th Street, Apt 43  
New York, NY 10031  
(985) 870 6551

**From:** [financetestimony](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Nicole](#)  
**Subject:** FW: New York Public  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 10:30:04 AM

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**From:** Thomas Izbicki [tizbicki@rci.rutgers.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 9:49 AM  
**To:** financetestimony  
**Subject:** New York Public

As a librarian in administration, I am troubled by some of what I have heard about the planning at NYPL. It seems to me to have taken little account of the users of the collections.  
Thomas Izbicki PhD

**Testimony submitted June 10, 2014 via email to the City Council  
Hearing on Budget considerations for the New York City, Brooklyn & Queens Public  
Libraries**

**By Therese Urban**

**member: *East Pacific Block Association,  
Boerum Hill Association,  
Brooklyn, NY***

**Regarding the need for financing repairs and ongoing maintenance of our libraries with taxpayer funds and private donations, rather than the permanent disposal of land:**

I want to impress upon all City Council members why they should be insisting that all our library caretakers, Brooklyn, Queens and New York City, continue to value our presently threatened libraries with the same honorable egalitarian foresight that created them, and why it's important to keep those libraries open, well-maintained, and, especially noted in this testimony, situated on the land they already own.

I particularly address the current plan to demolish 2 library buildings in Brooklyn (**The Pacific and Brooklyn Heights branches**) and sell the land under them to private developers. The most obvious public disadvantage to our libraries selling off their land is that once sold, the library will never get it back; it's gone forever. That should NOT be an option.

**The 'Public/Private Partnership' Model is Not A One-Size-Fits-All Model.**

The plans for these land sales look to follow the pattern that has been implemented in recent years: "public/private partnerships". This model threatens to become the politically favored method of funding all public services in New York City, services that have traditionally been provided by taxes. We currently have library directors and boards who believe in and apply this model to our most valuable free institutions; they have skewed their budget estimates and funding solutions to support the prevailing corporate vision of a future based on a need to show a profit center in all corporations, even those distributing public services.

You, as elected public servants, should not reward the destruction of already existing public services that simply require a return to an ethically sound City Council response, to wit, a return to tax- and donation-based support for the ongoing maintenance and necessary upgrading of our public libraries.

**The City does not have to profit from public services like libraries; developers do have to profit from their buildings. That competing interest should be avoided.**

Corporate interests are always going to be aligned with profits. Placing libraries in a space that's owned by private enterprise will inevitably subject a vital public service to changes in future management and business strategies as decided by that enterprise. Today's promises are profit-driven; tomorrow's will be too. There will be no guarantee of meeting a library's financial needs, 20 years, 30 years, 100 years from now, any better than there is now, when they own their own sites. Why should we take that risk?

Case in point: After selling the site to a developer, the rebuilding of the new Donnell Library space is delayed for several years due to certain private business decisions made by the developer in the owner's self-interest. Also, the Donnell has permanently dissolved its children's and young adults

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Thank you for your attention. And long live private philanthropy not tied to government subsidies!

**New York City Council Finance Committee, Committee on Cultural Affairs,  
Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and Select Committee on  
Libraries**

**New York City Council Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget Hearings - Libraries  
Tuesday June 3, 2014, Public Comments Friday June 6, 2014  
Testimony by Veronika Conant**

I am Veronika Conant, a retired academic librarian and member of the Committee to Save the New York Public Library. I am also past President of the West 54 - 55 Street Block Association, a group active during the disastrous sale of the Donnell Library.

It was good to hear that the book stacks at the 42nd Street Library will not be demolished and that the Mid-Manhattan Library will be renovated. However, we are concerned about transparency, accountability and oversight.

There are still many unanswered questions regarding the way the \$151 million capital funds from the City Council will be used for the renovation plans. Has NYPL asked for a budget modification for the \$151 million and if yes what is the breakdown?

In March 2013 over 3 million items were removed from the book stacks in secret, and moved to a distant location in the Bronx where they been stored ever since. The plan is to keep the stacks empty even though they are an integral part of the 42nd Street building's structure, and a remarkably efficient book delivery system to the Rose Reading Room above. They are in working condition, were air conditioned in the '80s and received a sprinkler system in the '90's. According to Tony Marx their upgrade to current standards would cost \$46 million - a price he considers too expensive.

The stacks provide 160,000 square feet of shelving space. At the cost of \$46 million, the unit price is \$287.50 per square foot - a bargain.

Is NYPL quoting an independent estimate they have received for the upgrade in writing? According to the DDC's figures of \$150 per square foot for interior renovation, the cost would be \$24 million. Has DDC given an official estimate, and if so, what was the value?

While it is appreciated that NYPL will reconfigure the space in other parts of the 42nd Street Library, we want to be assured no space will be taken away from what is needed to allow the book delivery function and to provide air conditioning, humidity controls and sprinklers for the book stacks.

DDC stated that since the NYPL plans are pass through, they do not have control over the funds until after a contract has been signed. The plans can be modified by NYPL only prior to the signing of a contract. After that they are locked in. We recommend the budget modification include the cost of the above upgrades and also the renovation of

Mid-Manhattan. We ask all of you to please make sure no contract gets signed for the NYPL plans without these.

Additional recommendations:

- Develop the second BPSE storage area, started during Vartan Gregorian's presidency with the goal of doubling the available storage space at 42nd Street from 3.5 million to 6.7 million . Cost estimates are \$8 - \$20 million.
- Do not sell SIBL, do not allow the sale of public libraries in any library system at a time when more people than ever use libraries. SIBL was created for \$100 million in 1996, has been wired for technology, with hundreds of computers, and comfortable and expensive furniture. It functions extremely well as a technology center. All it needs is longer opening hours than the present 51 hours per week, a relatively inexpensive investment. (By comparison, Mid-Manhattan is open 88 hrs per week)

Other comments:

On Tuesday PA Tish James asked Tony Marx (TM) was Stephen Schwarzman's \$100 million donation used for the renovations. His answer was no, it was used for the operating budget. However, Robin Pogrebin's NYT article on March 11, 2008 states it otherwise. Please read it at

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/11/arts/design/11expa.html?pagewanted=1&emc=eta1>

TM's statement at the hearing that pass though projects which get some private support take half the time at half the cost of publicly funded projects, needs proof. The examples of DDC's library projects I looked up for cost indicated otherwise. I sent this list to the Library Committee after the April 28, 2014 hearing. Can we see his list?

TM also stated \$280 million capital funding has been spent on the branches since 2002. Can we see the detailed list, with break down to public vs privately funded projects?

Finally, the news of plaster falling from the ceiling of the Rose Reading Room has led to a temporary closing for several weeks, speaks loud and clear about the importance of protecting this 103 year old beautiful interior space, used daily by researchers from all over the world. A \$15 million interior restoration project, including re-plastering, was completed in late 1998. Please practice your oversight function to make sure inspections are done and the monumental room is restored for use as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Veronika A Conant, M.L.S. retired from Hunter College Libraries  
45 W 54 St, 7C, New York, NY 10019  
212 581-1895 [vaconant@yahoo.com](mailto:vaconant@yahoo.com)

**New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and  
International Intergroup Relations and Select Committee on Libraries**

**Oversight: Tracking how the Department of Design and Construction  
spends, monitors and discloses capital funding for library and cultural  
projects**

**Monday, April 28, 2014**

**Testimony by Veronika Conant**

I am Veronika Conant, a retired academic librarian and a member of the Committee to Save the New York Public Library. I am also past President of the West 54 - 55 Street Block Association, a group active during the disastrous sale of the Donnell Library in 2009.

Thank you for holding this very interesting hearing. The DDC is doing a great deal of useful work on libraries. It was the first time that we heard actual cost estimates, breaking down costs to units of cost per square foot. According to DDC, for libraries the average cost of a simple interior renovation is \$150 per square foot; the average cost of new construction is \$700 - \$850 per square foot.

**NYPL's Central Library Plan (CLP)** will create an about 100,000 square feet new circulating library in place of the current book stacks at 42nd Street. The plan will destroy the research library's book delivery system (7 floors of historic and functional book stacks, which can hold millions of research materials, and hold up the Rose Reading Room above), sell off two popular public libraries, shrink their contents into the new space created, and move millions of research materials off-site. The estimated cost is \$350 million, with \$151 million from City funds.

**The cost of \$350 million for 100,000 square feet of library space means \$3,500 per square foot**, an outrageously expensive undertaking compared to DDC's \$150 per square foot cost for interior renovation and \$700 - \$850 per square foot cost for new library constructions.

The 7 floors of book stacks at the 42nd Street Library are in working condition, were air conditioned in the '80s and received a sprinkler system in the '90's. Using DDC's figures of \$150 per square foot for interior renovation, their upgrade to current standards would cost \$24 million (for 160,000 square feet densely placed existing shelving).

Using DDC's figures, the close to 160,000 square feet present Mid-Manhattan Library's interior renovation would cost \$24 million (at \$150 per square foot) while a new Mid-Manhattan library of the same size would cost, using \$850 per square foot, \$136 million. It could even be larger, leaving space for growth.

Both versions are significantly less expensive (\$48 million for simple renovations or \$160 million, including a new Mid-Manhattan) than the present estimated \$350 million. They would preserve the historic book stacks, filled with over three millions of books, allowing them to continue to serve researchers all over the world as they have done for over 100 years. Two popular public libraries would continue to remain in use, serving the needs of millions of library users.

We would like to get an estimate from DDC for the plans mentioned, and would very much appreciate if you could explore the alternative plans now.

DDC stated that since the NYPL plans are pass through, they do not have control over the funds until after a contract has been signed. The plans can be modified by NYPL only prior to the signing of a contract. After that they are locked in. We would like to make sure no contract gets signed for the present plans.

Thank you.

Veronika A Conant, M.L.S. retired from Hunter College Libraries  
45 W 54 St, 7C, New York, NY 10019  
212 581-1895 [vaconant@yahoo.com](mailto:vaconant@yahoo.com)

**Subject:** Fw: NYPL cost data  
**From:** Veronika Conant (vaconant@yahoo.com)  
**To:** TMeah@council.nyc.gov;  
**Date:** Thursday, May 1, 2014 8:42 PM

Hi Tai,

I have been in contact with Ilona Kramer, CM Dan Garodnick's Chief-of-Staff, about the NYPL's Central Library Plan (CLP) for some time.

To supplement the testimony I gave on Monday, April 28, and sent to you electronically, I am forwarding an email I just sent to Ilona. Can you please add this to the records.

Thanks and regards, Vera

Veronika Conant M.L.S., retired from Hunter College Libraries  
Member, Committee to Save the New York Public Library [www.savenypl.org](http://www.savenypl.org)  
45 W 54th St, Apt 7C, New York, NY 10019  
(212) 581-1895      vaconant@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Veronika Conant <vaconant@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Ilona Kramer <ikramer@council.nyc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2014 8:12 PM  
**Subject:** NYPL cost data

Hi Ilona,

As promised, I am sending what I just wrote up for the Committee to Save the NYPL, following up on Monday's hearing. The new Commissioner of the DDC had printed copies of his testimony available to the public and of course I immediately got a copy, read it, and decided to look up data for the libraries DDC was renovating.

I looked up through the NYT articles describing recent renovations of several other

NYPL libraries.

1) The new 10,000 square feet **Mariner Harbor Library**, done through DDC, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/12/nyregion/an-oyster-filled-with-books-to-open-on-staten-island.html>

cost \$12.5 million, which includes the cost of books and equipment as well. Rounding it to \$10 million for the building comes to about **\$1,000 per square foot**. DDC gave \$700-850 per square foot value for new construction. DDC's average estimates are low but not too far off.

2) The newly renovated **Washington Heights Library**, through DDC, had 13,000 square feet, cost \$12.4 million, including equipment comes to about **\$950 per square foot** <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/06/11/staten-island-community-gets-back-its-library-much-improved/>

3) The **Stapleton Branch Library, SI**, also through DDC, got 12,000 square feet for \$15 million, which included a 7,000 feet brand new addition, includes new equipment. **Cost: about \$1,200 per square foot.**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/27/nyregion/washington-heights-library-renovated-is-to-reopen.html?emc=eta1&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/27/nyregion/washington-heights-library-renovated-is-to-reopen.html?emc=eta1&_r=0)

For additional comparison:

4) **Bronx Library Center** - a newly constructed regional library, cost about \$50 million, 78,000 square feet, completed in 2006. **Cost: about \$641 per square foot**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/16/nyregion/16library.html?emc=eta1>

The cost of the renovations, except for the Bronx Library Center, were somewhat higher than the averages given by DDC but even \$1,200 per square foot, is almost one third of the unit cost of CLP.

The CLP, at an estimated cost of \$350 million to create 100,000 square feet new space at 42nd St comes to \$3,500 for every single square foot.

I hope this strengthens what I and others said in our testimonies on April 28. I will also send this separately to the Counsel for the Library Committees.

Thanks and regards, Vera

Updated Case of the Donnell Library  
February, 2014

- The Donnell Circulating Library, was built in 1955 from funds Ezekiel Donnell left in his will in 1896, on land donated by John D. Rockefeller.
- Lot size: cca 100.42 ft x 175 ft =17,572 square ft, 5 floors, gross area 100,441 square ft , total library space about 88,000-97,000 square ft
- The Library, as specified in Donnell's will was open seven days a week (in 2001 @ 55 hrs per week) and was designed to accommodate young people with a Teen Center and Children's Room.
- The Donnell Library was a popular, full service, regional, circulating public library with several unique collections and services: 300,000 total volumes, Teen Center (renovated in 2004 for \$275,000, then over 10,000 volumes, ) Children's Collection with the original Winnie-the-Pooh toy figures, World Languages Collection (cca 175,000 volumes in 19 languages, 74 magazines in 24 languages) Reference collection, 100 bilingual language dictionaries) NYC history collection, Fiction & Non-Fiction, Media Center (14,500 square ft, renovated 2000-2001 for \$1 million from City, State & Federal funds, new furniture, flooring, lighting, shelving, electric work, painting, ADA accessible, climate controlled, with 264 seat auditorium and 20 seat Conference Room), Computer Center. Used by New Yorkers from all five boroughs, nationally.
- It was the first public library in the NYPL system, designed for air conditioning. (using the last of Donnell's bequest, \$170,000, in 1957).
- In 1955 the Donnell sold its unused air rights (about 110,000 square ft) to 666 Fifth Avenue, a new skyscraper being built by Tishman next door
- **2007 statistics: attendance est. 720,000, circulation est. 1,320,000.**
- 
- **The sale of the Donnell in 2008 was Phase 1 of NYPL's Central Library Plan.**
- It was to be sold to Orient-Express Hotels for \$59 million, with a plan to demolish the building, replace it with an 11 stories high hotel with a much smaller, about 28 - 29,000 square ft Donnell on 3 floors, 2 sub-level ones. Sale plans fell through after the financial crisis of 2008.
- **August 2008. The Donnell library and cultural center closed completely, with the collection dispersed and library staff reassigned.** NYPL claimed the repair of the a/c system would have cost \$50 million. There was lack of transparency, no public hearing. **The neighborhood has been without the library since then.**
- The West 54 - 55 Street Association paid for research on the Donnell building to get it designated a landmark. In 2009 the New York State Historic Preservation Office found it eligible for State and National Historic Landmark designation. However, it needed support by the owner; then NYPL Pres. LeClerc never signed the papers, allowing demolition of the building.
- 
- **The small temporary library on 46 Street & Lexington/ Third opened in 2009 (12,000 square ft, 2 floors, teen and children's collection, regular materials, 45 computers, open 44 hrs per week) is too small, too far, no longer in CB5, with less access for everyone, including children, seniors and the disabled. Cost, size, staffing not known.**
- 
- Even though the original plans fell through, and the West 54 - 55 Street Block Association made an effort to stop further sale, **the building was resold in July**

2011 for \$67.4 million to Starwood Capital and Tribeca Associates. The lot was merged with 6,300 square ft lot of the "21 Club", total lot area: 23,892 square ft. The developer, using Tishman Construction, is building a 50 story, 275,000 - 340,000 square ft condo hotel, with pool, spa, restaurants. It will include a 28 - 29,000 square ft of library space in the basement to replace the Donnell, less than one tenth of the new total building area. (The new owners bought a light and air easement from the owners of 666 Fifth Avenue, next door for \$30.285 million last December, and in January paid \$16.597 million more for air rights from Orient Express-owned "21" Club behind the Donnell site on W 52nd Street ).

- **May 2013. We were shown unsatisfactory, vague designs of the new Donnell Library @ \$20 million cost to NYPL, due to open at the end of 2015 in the new basement of the Baccarat condo hotel building where one penthouse is selling for \$60 million and the condo price for 61 units starts at \$3.5 million**
- <http://www.baccarathotels.com/> Hotel will also provide lots of profit
- <http://www.corcoran.com/nyc/NewDevelopments/Display/572>
- **What we know about the new library, designed by Enrique Norten:**
- **28-29,000 square ft (less than one third of the original Donnell space), with entrance on floor one, a bleacher leading to two additional underground floors of varying usable space, an auditorium (120 seats vs old one 264 seats), collection size given was 29,000 volumes, one tenth of the old Donnell collection. I sent a list of questions to Ilona Kramer, Chief-of Staff to CM Dan Garodnick, in May 2013. She did get some answers, listed above. Unanswered: could space be enlarged, or, if not, reconfigured better on the three levels, how many users can be seated at desks or laptops, # of librarians/support staff, hours open, computers, size and scope of collection. We want larger collection back and more space for the Library.**

**There are several problems with the above picture:**

1. **The sale of the Donnell, the first public library sold to a private developer, set a precedent for additional sales and shrinking of library collections**, now spreading to two additional libraries in Midtown and to the Brooklyn Library system. Yet, NYPL prefers to forget that first phase of the CLP and now we only hear about the two additional public libraries (Mid-Manhattan and SIBL) to be sold to pay for the \$300-350 million cost of CLP.
2. The neighborhood was against this plan all along. There was lack of transparency in the entire procedure, and we residents have been without our beloved neighborhood library since August 2008, with more wait till late 2015.
3. The original shrinking of the Donnell was arranged when the new condo hotel was going to be 11 stories high. **With plans for a huge skyscraper, the new Donnell should rightly be the same size as the old one was.**
4. Where are the air rights for 340,000 square ft coming from? Donnell had little over 100,000 square ft, 21 Club had 52,000 square ft unused air rights, and 666 Fifth Avenue had no air rights to sell, it was overbuilt in the first place
5. NYPL keeps changing its story: how much they got for the building and what the funds from its sale were used for. Ann Thornton said to me personally at a meeting at the CUNY Graduate Center in Spring 2012 that NYPL used it for building a \$50 million Service Center in LIC. Now NYPL talks about \$39 million from the Donnell to be used for CLP and \$20 million for the new Donnell. But, according to ACRIS, the Dept. of Finance's website, NYPL received \$67.4 million from Starwood Capital and Tribeca Associates. We need an examination of the funding issues, especially since the asking price for the penthouse alone is \$60 million (out of 61 condos).
6. According to Tony Marx, NYPL's only mistake with the Donnell was closing it too soon.

7. Is the developer getting tax free status due to the library in their building? (Museum Tower across the street has not paid taxes since 1984, when MoMA sold their air rights)

**General thoughts:**

- **We need stronger oversight of our libraries by the City Council** and our elected officials. The Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations, Chaired by Jimmy Van Bramer, had in 2013 seven members. **The Select Committee on Libraries had exactly one member.** Why are there no active Council Members wanting to serve on it? Libraries do need adequate operating and capital budget and support from the city to allow them to function as needed. Neither Committee has ever passed any legislation about libraries as far as I could see.
- **We need to make sure no public library ever gets sold without public hearing and fair representation of the public.**
- **During the present economic times libraries are more important than ever, and more people use them than ever before. This is not the time to sell them off or to shrink them.**
- The \$150 million capital funding for CLP must be stopped or the budget modified, and an independent study is needed of the plans and alternative solutions. **These libraries, once sold off, will never come back.**
- For more information about functioning of the NYPL branch and research libraries see separate compilation about the NYPL budget.

Veronika A. Conant, Feb 13, 2014

Member, Committee to Save the New York Public Library

[www.savenypl.org](http://www.savenypl.org)

# A \$100 Million Donation to the N.Y. Public Library



Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times

A landmark library will be renamed for Stephen A. Schwarzman, shown above at the West 115th Street branch of the New York Public Library.

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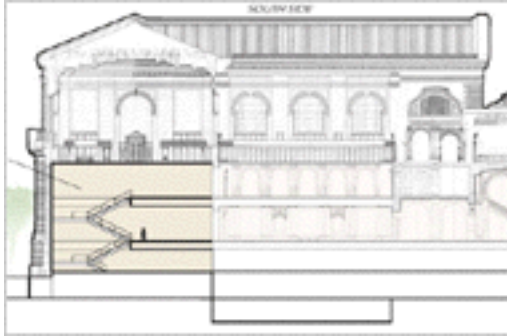


By [ROBIN POGREBIN](#)

Published: March 11, 2008

The [New York Public Library](#)'s venerable lion-guarded building on Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street is to be renamed for the Wall Street financier Stephen A. Schwarzman, who has agreed to jump-start a \$1 billion expansion of the library system with a guaranteed \$100 million of his own.

**Multimedia**



Graphic  
Grand Plans

## Related

[Times Topics: New York Public Library](#)



Josh Haner/The New York Times

Above, Catherine C. Marron, the chairwoman of the New York Public Library, with Paul LeClerc, its president.

The project, to be announced on Tuesday, aims to transform the Central Library into a destination for book borrowing as well as research. The Mid-Manhattan branch, on the east side of Fifth Avenue at 40th Street, will be sold and its circulating collection absorbed into the new space.

The gift from Mr. Schwarzman, a library trustee and buyout guru who made fortunes as the chief executive of the [Blackstone Group](#), is among the largest to any cultural institution in the city's history. The

1911 Beaux Arts structure on Fifth Avenue will be called the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building after construction is completed around 2014. The building is protected by landmark status, and the library expects the name to be etched on the building should approval be granted by the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission.

"We hope to incise the name of the building in stone in a subtle, discreet way on either side of the main entrance about three feet off the ground," said Paul LeClerc, president of the library's board of trustees. "It's in keeping with the dignity of the building."

In an e-mail message on Monday. Mayor [Michael R. Bloomberg](#) said, "With this donation, Steve is giving back to the city that gave him so much and is helping ensure that New York remains a cultural and intellectual capital of the world."

The project reflects a new resolve among library officials to adjust to a shifting information world and become more responsive to city residents. "We're more focused on what people want from us," Mr. LeClerc said in an interview. "It's a mindset change."

In an interview, Mr. Schwarzman, 61, said he was impressed by the project when it was presented to the board last June.

"This was an absolutely first-class, professional, practical strategic plan, and it deserved to be supported," he said. "The library helps lower- and middle-income people — immigrants — get their shot at the American dream."

Mr. Schwarzman said it was the library that proposed renaming the landmark building. "They said, 'We'd like you to be the lead gift and give us \$100 million and we'd like to rename the main branch after you,' " he said. "I said, 'That sounds pretty good.' "

He said his gift would be dispensed over the next few years (he declined to be more specific) and that he had signed a contract governing the donation. "It binds me and my estate, even if I die," Mr. Schwarzman said.

The library is hardly the first cultural building to bear a donor's name. The new six-story building at the Museum of Modern Art was named after David and Peggy Rockefeller, for example, and the Library for the Performing Arts at [Lincoln Center](#) is named for Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman.

Mr. LeClerc said there was no dissension within the library's board of trustees over the renaming. Still, the change will doubtless invite spirited commentary. Mr. Schwarzman has become something of a lightning rod for critics of Wall Street excess, especially the high-spending ways of private-equity chiefs.

Many of those financiers have suffered a comeuppance since the credit markets foundered last year. Mr. Schwarzman's stake in Blackstone has plummeted from about \$7.8 billion to about \$4 billion since he took his company public last June, and Blackstone's shares have tumbled about 32 percent in the last two months alone.

Mr. Schwarzman said his recent losses would have no effect on his gift. "As you have more resources in life, it's your obligation to deploy those for the benefit of others," he said.

The library itself has drawn criticism for some other transactions, like selling the Donnell branch in Midtown Manhattan in November to Orient-Express Hotels Ltd. for \$59 million. The branch will be razed to make way for an 11-story hotel, with the library taking over the first floor and an underground level.

In April 2005, the library decided to sell 19 works from its art collection to bolster its endowment and raise money to buy books. The sales netted \$53 million, but critics lamented the loss of canonical pieces including "Kindred Spirits," a Hudson River School painting by Asher B. Durand.

Mr. Schwarzman is also the board chairman of the [John F. Kennedy Center](#) for the Performing Arts in Washington and a trustee of the [Frick Collection](#), the [New York City Ballet](#), the [Asia Society](#) and the [Film Society of Lincoln Center](#).

The costs of the \$1 billion library project are to be covered through the sale of some existing buildings and a \$500 million capital campaign that has already brought in \$250 million, including the Schwarzman gift.

The library is also seeking government support. New York City, which owns the Fifth Avenue building, provides about half of the library's \$265 million operating budget. It is also contributing \$30 million toward a \$50 million renovation of the building's facades that is already under way.

The new circulating library will be situated in a vast space that currently houses eight levels of stacks below the Main Reading Room and overlooks Bryant Park through strip windows. The stacks will be moved to an existing three-acre storage area beneath the park, opening the way for the space to be gutted and reconfigured with new rooms for children and teenagers and ample computer work stations. Library officials said they had not yet chosen an architect.

The plan also calls for a new cafe and information center to enliven Astor Hall just inside the Fifth Avenue entrance, wireless Internet access throughout the building, refurbishment of branch libraries and the creation of two new libraries in Upper Manhattan and Staten Island.

"We're not going to set up huge neon signs in Astor Hall," said Joshua L. Steiner, the library board's vice chairman. "At the same time, people need to feel welcome."

Mr. LeClerc said he wanted the new main branch to serve the needs of teenagers working on term papers, graduate students writing theses, rare book aficionados searching out volumes and children flocking to story hour. "You can grow up intellectually, academically and professionally in the building," he said.

By making the Fifth Avenue building more accessible and drawing patrons from the shuttered Mid-Manhattan branch, the Central

Library hopes to attract as many as four million people per year, up from the current one million.

Founded as a public institution in 1895, the library has four special research libraries and more than 85 branches. The main library had a small circulating division from 1911 to 1970, when the Mid-Manhattan branch across the street opened.

Officials said the system was shifting to what they call a “hub and spoke” concept. The idea is to create hub libraries with comprehensive services — literacy training, homework help, job search assistance — and to tailor programs at satellite branches to meet the needs of specific neighborhoods. Those hubs would aim to replicate the success of the new Bronx Library Center, which has become a thriving gathering spot since it opened in that borough’s Fordham section in 2006. It has become a magnet for young people in the neighborhood, most of whom are African-American, Caribbean or Latino. (Brooklyn and Queens have their own library systems.)

“The Bronx library was designed to send signals, both overt and subtle, to the community that use it that this is their space,” Mr. LeClerc said. “It was designed with them in mind.”

Based on extensive research, the library system learned that 60 percent of its users are members of minority groups and 60 percent are from families with annual incomes of less than \$50,000.

Officials hope that the Central Library at 42nd Street, with its two stone lions named Patience and Fortitude, will become a draw for such residents. “The average user of one of our branch libraries wasn’t coming to 42nd Street,” Mr. Steiner added. “This new plan is the further democratization of that building.”

## Comments

As promised, I am sending what I just wrote up for the Committee to Save the NYPL, following up on Monday's hearing. The new Commissioner of the DDC had printed copies of his testimony available to the public and of course I immediately got a copy, read it, and decided to look up data for the libraries DDC was renovating.

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For additional comparison:

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The CLP, at an estimated cost of \$350 million to create 100,000 square feet new space at 42nd St comes to \$3,500 for every single square foot.

I hope this strengthens what I and others said in our testimonies on April 28.

Thanks and regards, Vera

April 30, 2014  
Veronika A. Conant  
vaconant@yahoo.com



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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL LUNCH  
PROGRAM**

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

WE ACT for Environmental Justice (“WE ACT”) urges Mayor Bill De Blasio to support the City Council’s plan for universal free school lunches for all New York City public school students.

WE ACT is a Northern Manhattan community-based organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by assuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. WE ACT is committed to improving the food options available to low-income students of color. There is no doubt that access to healthy and free school lunches significantly impacts low-income students of color. WE ACT therefore endorses universal free school lunch for the reasons that follow:

- **Students Deserve To Be Free from Food Insecurity**

Under the current system, students who meet certain income requirements qualify for free or reduced-fee lunches. Nevertheless, even students who do not qualify still often face food insecurity and often skip lunch. Deprived of a good meal, these students may not be able to perform at their highest level. Universal free school lunch would ensure that all students are better nourished and thus able to dedicate themselves more fully to learning. It helps alleviate the economic burden of families who struggle to make ends meet and provide sufficient food for their children.

Child hunger not only affects the social and behavioral aspects of children, but in addition policy reports have demonstrated that later in life, individuals who experienced hunger as children are disadvantaged in the workforce and job readiness areas due to drawbacks in education and technical skills. Given that poverty is the main cause of food insecurity and hunger, every individual deserves equal workforce opportunities to make the economic gains necessary to live a healthy life.

- **Students Deserve to Be Free From Stigma**

Healthy food is unquestionably fundamental to our health and should be a source of sustenance, not shame. But the current system exacerbates economic inequality by identifying students by their income levels. Students – especially high school students – refuse to participate to avoid being bullied or shamed by their peers. As a result, the current system fosters an environment of division and ridicule, making free lunch an embarrassment, not a benefit. By granting access to all students, and thus eliminating any link between food and income, universal free school lunch conveys a powerful message that when it comes to something as fundamental as food, we are all equal.

- **Universal Free School Lunch Provides Considerable Economic Benefits**

Increasing participation will increase the funds from state and federal government, and, at the same time, will lessen the administrative burden of paperwork involved in processing students according to their income levels. The result is that more students eat lunch, and higher and better quality food can be purchased as a result of greater purchasing power by the City's schools. That increased participation will expand the jobs in the food services profession and, along with increased federal rules, expand local economic activity. These economic benefits come at a very small price: the \$24 million cost to the City is a fraction of the NYC Department of Education's \$26 billion budget.

For these reasons, WE ACT strongly urges Mayor De Blasio to include in the executive budget the funding necessary to provide universal free school lunch to all New York City public school students.

Sincerely,

WE ACT for Environmental Food Justice Working Group Members  
James Burke – Director of Membership and Organizing

**My name is Yuki Endo, Jackson Heights resident and I am not happy with Mayor Bloomberg's underfunding 3 systems of New York City Public Libraries which are Brooklyn Public Library, Queens Public Library and New York Public Libraries. I depends and relies on all public libraries including in Long Island and Westchester County.**

**Please do not support NYPL Central Library Plan, Brooklyn Library Plan. For New York Public Library, please do not relocate Science Business Library and Mid-Manhattan Libraries and merge with 42nd St Library and leave 42nd St Library alone.**

**For Brooklyn Public Library, please do not sell Brooklyn Heights Library or Pacific Libraries, including other libraries.**

***For Queens Public Library, even though it is unaffected, but it could happen to any public libraries.***

**I have been hunting for every public libraries, taking pictures of empty book/DVD shelves where I found empty bookshelves in Queens Library's busiest Central Library in Jamaica like this.**



**I also found empty bookshelves in Mid-Manhattan Library.**



**Even though Nassau County Library System's Hicksville Public Library is not part of city, but I even saw estimate 12 empty bookshelves at this library as well.**



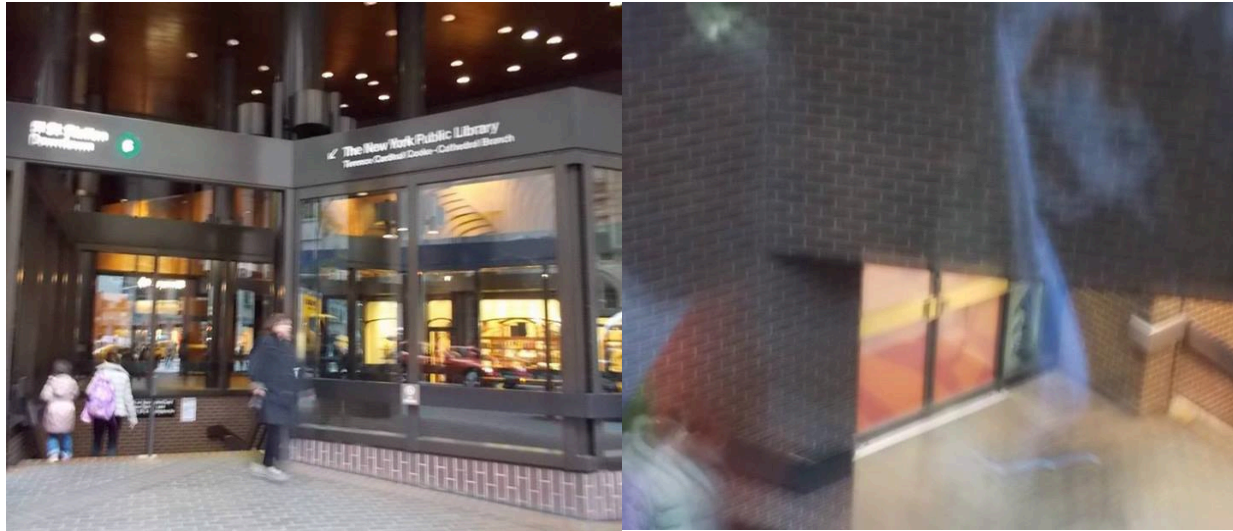
**As I google image search “empty library bookshelves”, I came to pictures of empty bookshelves in Seattle Public Library’s Central Library in Washington State.**

**Seattle Public Library’s Central Library like this:**



**If public library buildings were sold to developers, and replaced with luxury building with small library space could be like these libraries as follows:**

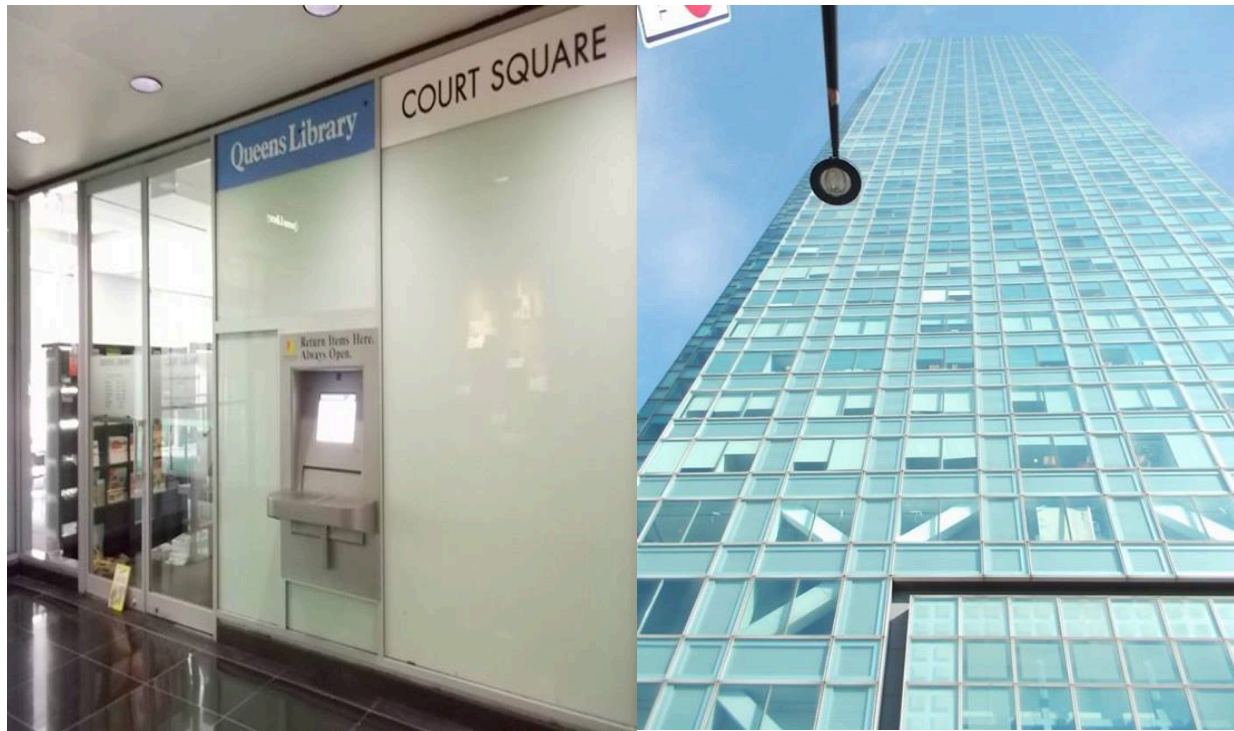
***NYPL Terance-Cardinal Cookie Branch- Small Library by steaming hot 51st St (6) Station.***

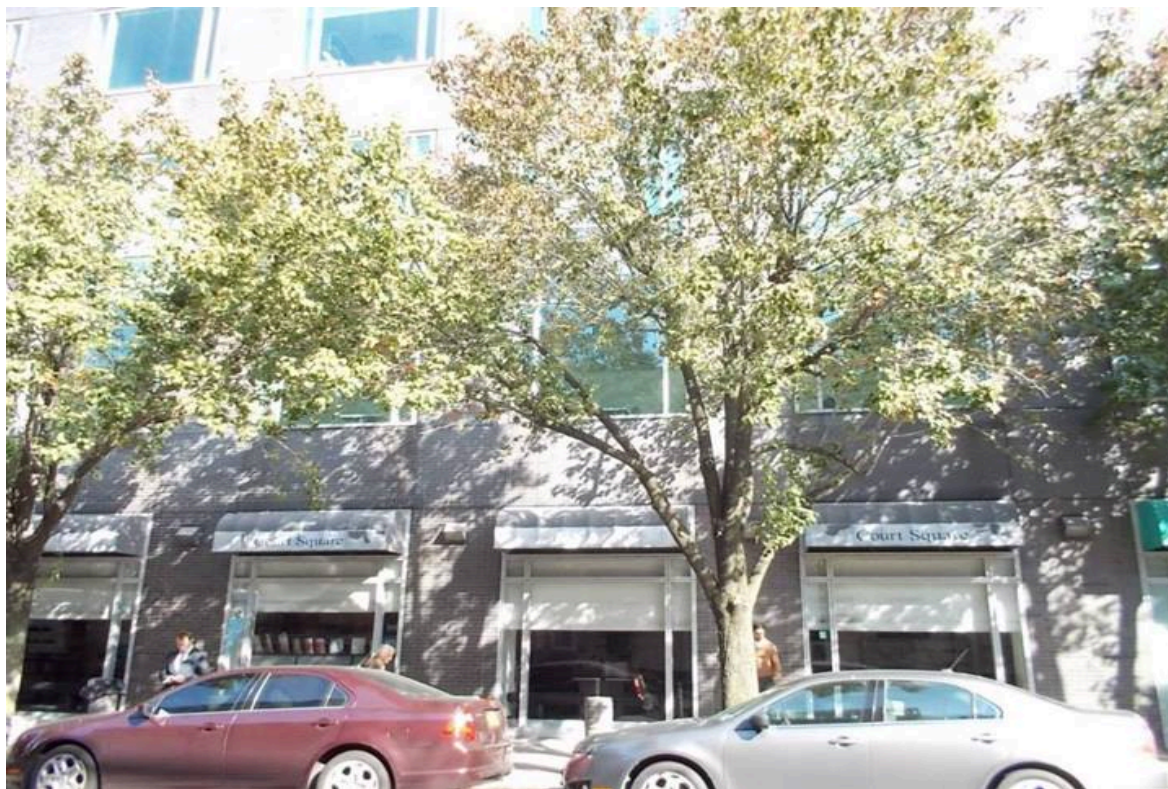


***NYPL- Macombs Bridge Branch in Harlem River Housing Project- Smallest Library and ADA accessible- No Space for CopyCard Dispenser and Copy Machine.***

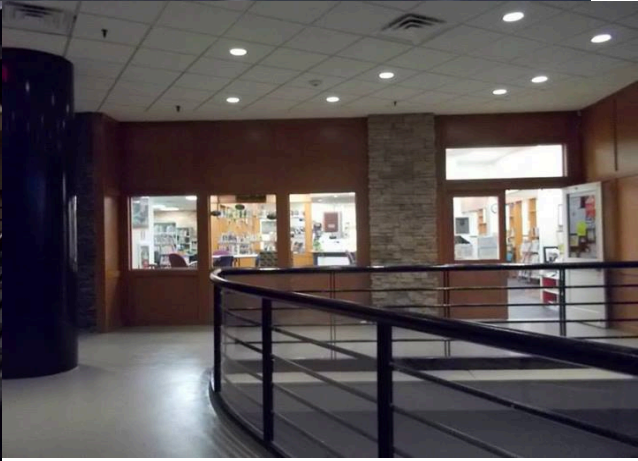


***QPL- Court Square Library- Inside Citibank Court Square building, which is skyscraper with small library space. CATALOG PC OUT OF SERVICE.***





**Great Neck Public Library- Station Branch- In Shopping Retail Center**



**Donell Library Center was beautiful public library that got destroyed by greeding money eating developers.**



**Please do not destroy our public libraries.**

**All our public libraries are like learning center for free where people of all ages gets help, do research, use internet for free, and libraries provide free classes. Even though we have Let's Learn English Classes schools like ZONI or Internet Cafe, these places cannot replace PUBLIC LIBRARIES because they are not free. Some of people cannot afford to attend these English Classes or Internet Cafe, because it's not cheap.**

**Most hotels has internet access, but most hotel internet access are mostly restricted to people who are staying in hotels.**

**Even they cannot replace the internet and I am sure hotel managers don't like when people started using hotel internet when libraries are destroyed..**

**Without public libraries, I never found out about issues regardding public libraries, fracking, nuclear and animal.**

**It's crazy rule that if I have overdue fine on NYPL card, I cannot rent laptop at Columbus Branch or Schomberg Center while other NYPL branches rents laptops with overdue fine.**

**I am not happy with New York City having BOOK BURNING PARTY AT AFFECTED PUBLIC LIBRARIES.**

**In relative to libraries, I know 42nd St Library, Mid-Manhattan, Central Library-Jamaica and few Brooklyn Libraries are open on 7-days.**

**I also found out most libraries in Long Island or upstate New York are open 7-days a week during school years and why can't New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library or Queens Public Library to do same and operate 7-days a week**

**Today, I just noticed New Amsterdam Branch Copy Machine is out of service, so I cannot refill my NYPL Copy Card because it does not have regular Copy Dispenser that allows you to refill NYPL Copy Card.**

**NYC PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEED TO BE PRESERVED LIKE ARTWORK IN METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART OR NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.**

**So, I am asking all REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS TO LEAVE OUR NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC LIBRARIES ALONE!!**

**WE DO NOT WANT ANY LIBRARIES ACROSS THE WORLD TO BE CLOSED.**

**THANK YOU..**

**See more photos here.**

**[https://www.facebook.com/yukilibru.endo/media\\_set?set=a.253190491495748.1073741906.100004143973561&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/yukilibru.endo/media_set?set=a.253190491495748.1073741906.100004143973561&type=3)**

**Sincerely yours truly,**

**Yuki Endo**

**93-05 37th Avenue #5A**

**Jackson Heights, New York 11372**

**[s89hblr@gmail.com](mailto:s89hblr@gmail.com)**

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

6:10

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Budget Closures Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6-5-14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carolyn McIntyre

Address: 62 Montague St

I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries

Address: 62 Montague

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

5:45pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Agnes Abraham, Chairperson

Address: Public Healthcare

I represent: Kings County Hospital Community Advisory Board

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/06/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Malcolm Lewis

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Project Reach-Chinese American Planning

Address: 39 Eldridge St, 4th Fl Corral

NYC 10002

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lucretia John  
Address: 561 Rugby Road Brooklyn 11230

I represent: NY Caring Across Generations + ALIGN

Address: 50 Broadway, NY 10004

*National  
Black  
Leadership*

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Darrick Whitley

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Educ &  
DCA*

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14 4:15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Douglas Israel

Address: 266 W. 37th St

I represent: The Center for Arts Education

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Education  
**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

4:25

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 8/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Liz Accles

Address:

I represent:

Community Food Advocates

Address:

Lunch 4 Learning

Education  
**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

16 yrs old

Appearance Card

4:25

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Universal Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Niklasia Orlin AGE 16

Address:

Brooklyn School for Math and Research

I represent:

Universal Free School Lunch

Address:

Bushwick Campus

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

15 yrs old

Education

Appearance Card

4:25

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Universal Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Aminata Abubakar (15 yrs old)

Address:

ALP Bushwick Campus

I represent:

Youth Food Council

Address:

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Melba Adams

Address: Brooklyn, NY

I represent: Seniors - home care NYC Caring Across Generations

Address: Brooklyn, NY

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6 June 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: C. M. PYLE

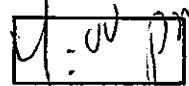
Address: 470 West End Ave NY 10024

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: 6008 Lateef Wearrier

Address: 39 Eldridge Street

I represent: Project Reach

Address: 39 Eldridge Street

Project Reach

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

9:00pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Toussaint Bonaparte

Address: 70 W 95 Street

I represent: Project Reach

Address: 39 Eldridge St

Project Reach

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

9:00pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Yinan Chen

Address: 39 Eldridge St.

I represent: Project Reach

Address: 39 Eldridge St NYC 1000

Project Reach

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

9:00pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DON KAO

Address: 39 Eldridge St, NYC 10002

I represent: Project Reach - Chinese Am

Address: 39 Eldridge St 10002 Plany Council

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

4:00 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Amir Thornell, RAPP Coordinator

Address: Steps to End Family Violence

I represent: RAPP Program

Address: P.O. Box 287326, NY, NY 10128

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:55 PM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Robin Mann

Address: 48-10 31st Ave

I represent: FIERCE

Address: 147 West 24th Street

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:55 PM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Athena Soules

Address: 360 Clinton Ave #5K

I represent: DRUM + Occupy Wall St

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Rapp*

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3.55

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. *JP*

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: *6/6/14*

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: *David Zolansky*

Address: *885 F.R. Ave*

I represent: *CARRO Teen RHP*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Education put together*

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3.50 *JP*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: *GLORIA CRUZ*

Address: *ISAAC NEWTON MIDDLE SCHOOL*

I represent: *BRIDGES - UNION SETTLEMENT*

Address: *1600 TREASANT AVE.*

*Education put together*

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3.50 *JP*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: *KEYLA JIMENEZ*

Address: *ISAAC NEWTON MIDDLE SCHOOL*

I represent: *SEA BRIDGES - UNION SETTLEMENT*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

Education  
Child  
Care

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Pat  
Tegher  
11

Appearance Card

3:50 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NINA DASTUR

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: UNION SETTLEMENT

Address: 237 E 104<sup>TH</sup>

Culture  
Affairs

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:50 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Heather Woodfield

Address: 21-32 45th Ave LIC

I represent: One Percent for Culture

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Health

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:50 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jackie Vimo

Address: 25th St, New York, N.Y. 10001

I represent: New York Immigration Coalition

Address: People's Budget Coalition

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:40pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Judith Kahan

Address: 25 Chapel Street Brooklyn

I represent: Center Against Domestic Violence

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: August Wright

Address: 540 Main St

I represent: CUNY Students

Address: 695 Park Ave - Hunter

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:40pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Solange de la Paz

Address: Nyc

I represent: Nyc Caring Across Generations - Seniors

Address: Nyc

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

*Partnership with children*

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:40pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GREG HELMSTETTER

Address: 299 BROADWAY, SUITE 1300

I represent: PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDREN

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*HRA*

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:40pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6-6-2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Milinda Nimmons

Address: 115 E. 106th St 3rd Fl.

I represent: Community Voices Heard

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*HRA*

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:40pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6-6-2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joseph Mpa

Address: 115 E. 106th St 3rd Fl.

I represent: Community Voices Heard

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:37pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CHARMAINE RUDLOCK

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY HEALTH

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:30pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 06/06/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PATRICK POUX

Address: 440 AMBER ST, BR

I represent: HEAL HOME OWNERS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3:30

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: JUNE 6, 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GREGORY HOMATAS

Address: 229 ST. JOHN'S PL #4B BROOKLYN NY 11217

I represent: SELF

Address: SAME AS ABOVE

Home  
Care  
Services

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Keith Luke

Address: Brooklyn, NY

I represent: EISEP Home Care Recipient - Senior

Address: in my home

Home  
Care  
Services

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Margiana Jones

Address: Bed stuy

I represent: Brown Community Dev Corp. - EISEP Senior

Address: 484 Washington Ave home care

Brooklyn 11238

Home  
Care  
Services

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lani Sanjek

Address: 520 Eighth Ave NYC 10018

I represent: NY Statewide Senior Action Council

Address: 275 State Str. Albany NY 12210

CUNY

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:30pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrew Mora

Address: 26 Stuyvesant Lane, Glen Cove, N.Y.

I represent: Cuny John Jay College

Address: W 89th & 10 Ave

CUNY

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:30pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sanaly Santiago

Address: 1010 Bryant Ave Apt 42 Bx 10150

I represent: CUNY - John Jay College

Address: W 59th St & 10th Ave

Librarians

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:20pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: June 6, 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Veronica Conant

Address: 45 W 54 St, 7C, New York, NY 10019

I represent: Committee to Save the New York Public Library

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumy

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

5:30 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Wallace Ford

Address: 1650 Bedford Ave - Bklyn

I represent: Medgar Evers College

Address: Same

ACS

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:15 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bonita Brown

Address: 107 E 94th St Apt

I represent: Self & Family

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ACS

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:20 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 6/6/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aleah Holland

Address: 138 E 93rd St

I represent: HEAL Network

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ACS

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:15

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BURCHIELL M. MARCUS

Address: 817 SARATOGA

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:15pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6-6-14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Paula Glatzer

Address: 215 W. 78th St NY, NY

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:15pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Stephanie Gendell  
CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: CCC - Citizens' Comm. Arch

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

Education

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:15 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mikolaj Lis

Address: 501 Brighton St

I represent: NYPIRG

Address: 3 Murray St

Farmers  
Market

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:15 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cheryl Huber

Address: Grown NYC

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 51 Chambers St.

Health

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:10 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stephen Beasley

Address: 154 Halsey St #3 Brooklyn NY 11216

I represent: Peoples Budget Coalition / Greater Brooklyn Health Coalition

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural  
Affairs

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

3:10 pm

Appearance Card

3:10

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

ANNE DENNIN

Address:

535 W 110th, NYC

I represent:

New York City Arts Coalition

Address:

75 Broad Street

Public  
Housing

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:00 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Tree Stantack

Address:

345 Classon Avenue 17d

I represent:

Public Housing Residents

Address:

345 Classon Ave 17d Brooklyn 11205

CCRB  
Police  
Dept

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:05 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

John Brown

Address:

1135 University Ave

I represent:

Highbridge Garden Bx

Address:

Highbridge Center

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:04 P.M.

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Budget Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RITA BOTT

Address: 1657 E. 34th Street, B'klyn NY

I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries 11234

Address: c/o 62 Montague St., BK 11201

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:04

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Budget Res. No. Libraries

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 06/06/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael D. D. White

Address: 62 Montague St.

I represent: Brooklyn, NY Citizens Defending Libraries

Address: 62 Montague Street, 1120

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:00 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DARA HUNT

Address: 402 E 90th St

I represent: PLEDGE 2 Protect NYC

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Lipkowitz*

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

3:00 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marshe Rimmer

Address: 215 Adams St 10A

I represent: myself + member Bogus Task Force

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

*DAY  
CARE*

Appearance Card

3:05

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alice Owens

Address: 47 PLAZA STREET

I represent: Colony South Brooklyn

Address: Seav Street Brooklyn NY

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

*Dark  
Dept.*

Appearance Card

3:00 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARIA ROCA

Address: 1521 41 Street 11235

I represent: FRIENDS OF SENSAT PARK

Address: same

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*MPD-Civilianization*

Appearance Card

10:15AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ralph Palladino

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, L1549, DC37

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(MPD-Civilianization)*

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Libraries*

Appearance Card

10:15AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eileen Muller

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, L-1482, DC37

Address: (Brooklyn Public Library Build)

*(Libraries)*

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*MPD-Civilianization*

*w/ Ralph  
Palladino  
L1549, DC37*

Appearance Card

10:15AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Janice Jordan

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: Chair Chair, PAAs + SPAs, L-1549, DC37

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(MPD-civilianization)*

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

10:15 AM NYCHA  
**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:15 AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rose Lovaglio

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY, NY 10007

I represent: Vice-President, L. 371, DC 37

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(NYCHA)

Education

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

12:05 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/5/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Santos Crespo, President Local 372

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Immigration

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

12:05 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/5/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Oren Koot, Vera Institute of Justice

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Higher Education

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

10:30 am

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Muhammad Arshad

Address: Chairman

I represent: University Student Senate

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care  
Early Childhood Education

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

10:25 am

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lisa Caswell

Address: 2082 Lexington Ave.

I represent: Day Care Council of NY

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Higher Education

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

10:30 am

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Prof. Siobhain Hughes

Address: 695 Park Ave

I represent: Student Affairs Standing Committee  
of the University Faculty Senate

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: June 6, 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mary Haviland

Address: 32 Broadway New York, NY

I represent: New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Health*

Appearance Card

*Public*

10:15 AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Fitz Reid

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, L 768, DC 37

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Health)*

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Health*

Appearance Card

10:15 AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Judith Araya

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, L 436, DC 37

Address: (Nurses and Epidemiologists)

*(Health)*

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Commissioner Jacques Diha

Address: NYC Dept of Finance

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anthony Feliciano

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: People's budget coalition for Public Health

Address: Access-Health NYC

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cathy Dang

Address: 55 Hester St., NY, NY

I represent: CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities

Address: 55 Hester St., NY, NY 10002

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

NY PD

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

2:55pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stan Williams

Address: 273 S. 2nd St Apt 3B 11211

I represent: Justice for Cecily McMillan / OWS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

NY PD

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

2:55pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAPHNE CARR

Address: 603 W. 115th St #120 10025

I represent: Am. Port of OCCUPY WALL STREET - NYC

Address: ALL STREETS

Public Housing

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

8:40pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shirese Casenave

Address: 201 Gold St 11201

I represent: The Church of The Open Door

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. Dr. Mark V.C. Taylor  
Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

Public Housing

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

2:40 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6-6-14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MICHAEL NOBLE

Address: 264 10th Ave

I represent: MYSELF - CB4

Address: [Signature]

Criminal Justice

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

2:35 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Courtney Bryan

Address: 520 8th Ave, 18th Fl, NY, NY 10018

I represent: Center for Court Innovation

Address: 520 8th Ave, 18th Fl, NY, NY 10018

AC Child Welfare

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

2:25 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: June 6, 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anthony Pappas

Address: 24-15 24th Street; Astoria, NY 11102-2827

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire  
&  
Criminal  
Justice

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

2:25 pm

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marianne Yang, BKlyn Defenders

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jennifer Long / Nova Strachan

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Bronx League Services / Mothers on the Move

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

4154

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kimberleigh Smith

Address: 306 ~~West~~ Lenox Ave.

I represent: Harlem United

Address: Same as above

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆