

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON  
AGING, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SENIOR CENTERS, THE COMMITTEE  
ON LAND USE, THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, THE  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION, AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND ETHICS

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May 22, 2014  
Start: 11:10 a.m.  
Recess: 5:32 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Rm - City Hall

B E F O R E:

JULISSA FERRERAS  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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MARGARET S. CHIN  
MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED):

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ANDREW COHEN  
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CARLOS MENCHACA

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Good morning and welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the City Council's hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget FY 2015. My name is Julissa Ferreras and I am the Chair of the Finance Committee. This morning we are joined by the Committee on Aging chaired by my colleague Council Member Margaret Chin and the Subcommittee on Senior Centers shared by my, chaired by my colleague Council Member Paul Vallone to hear from the Department of Aging. Today we'll, today will be a long day. After we hear from the Department of Aging we will also hear from the Department of City Planning, the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Department of Information and Technology and Telecommunication, and the Department of Investigation, and the Conflict of Interest Board. These hearings are a lot of work and I want to thank my finance staff for putting these hearings together. I want to thank acting Director Latonya McKinney, the Division and Committee Council Tanisha Edwards, Deputy Director Nathen Toth, Deputy Director Regina Poreda Ryan, Legislative Finance Analyst Sara Gastelum who covers Landmarks

in the Department of City Planning, Legislative Finance Analyst Kenny Grace who covers DoITT, Legislative Finance Analyst Ellen Eng who covers Department of Investigation in the Conflicts of Interest Board, and the finance superstars Nicole Anderson and Maria Pagan who pull everything together. Thank you all for your hard work. Before we get started I want to remind everyone that the public will be allowed to testify on the last day of budget hearings on June 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at approximately 4:00 p.m. The public session will be held in this room. For members of the public who wish to testify but cannot make the hearing you can email your testimony to Nicole Anderson and she will make it a part of the official record. Her email is NAanderson, N A N D E R S O N, @council.nyc.gov. Today the executive budget hearing kicks off with the Department of Aging, DFTA's fiscal 2015 budget totals 259.7 million dollars. DFTA's budget includes 8.9, 8.1 million dollars in new needs which comprise additional funding for case management, baseline funding for reimbursements for home delivered meals and baseline funding for six new innovative senior

centers. I'm so happy to say that of the new needs the 2.6 million dollars providing for case management was called for by the council members' preliminary budget hearing and expressing the council budget's response released last month. However while I'm happy our voice was heard it was only partially heard since the additional funding for case management wasn't, was included in, at fiscal 15 only. It is my hope that after this round of budget hearings the administration will take the concerns expressed by council members and the public regarding DFTA's proposed budget and work with the council to ensure that fiscal 2015 adapted budget reflects all of our priorities and values. I look forward to hearing from DFTA Commissioner to learn more about the agency's operation and reflected in the executive budget. Before I turn the mic over to my co-chairs for a statement I want to take a brief moment to commend the DFTA Commissioner Donna Corrado for her, and her staff and the transparency efforts of the agency. In the 2013 audit of the State Office for the Aging the state found that DFTA was not allocating their resources equally between personal services and

other personal service costs and was using more resources towards personal service. As a result of this audit DFTA realigned its personal service's head count and federal funds were moved from personal services to contractual services and the city funds were moved from contractual services to personal service. This realignment resulted in a decrease in some programs and increases in others and had minimal impact on DFTA's overall budget. But, but that, that these efforts reflect a more transparent budget is important. Since I've been the Finance Chair one of my main platforms has been transparency. Transparency in the city budget and transparency in agency operations which I strongly believe leads to a better more efficient and accountable government. Thank you Commissioner Corrado. I applaud your efforts. Before we hear from the DFTA Commissioner I will turn the mic over to my co-chairs. And Co-Chair Chin will begin followed by Co-Chair Vallone.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you Chair Ferreras. Good morning. I'm Margaret Chin, Chair of the Committee on Aging. Welcome to the Fiscal 2015 executive budget hearing for the aging committee

held, joining with the Finance Committee chaired by Council Member Julissa Ferreras and the Subcommittee on Senior Center chaired by Council Member Paul Vallone. As already stated by Council Member Ferreras today we will hear testimony from the Department for the aging also referred to as DFTA, on its proposed budget for fiscal 2015 and general agency operation. The aging population is the fastest growing demographic in New York City. Yet the Department for the Aging's budget continues to be underfunded. Many senior rely on services provided through DFTA's network, especially seems a majority of them live on fixed or low income. Senior also contribute to the city in many ways including volunteering their time to serve communities members and being caregivers for grandchildren and other relatives. It is time that the city gives back to the senior and this new administration must make senior issue a priority. Although I commend the administration for adding 8.1 million in new funding for the agency in the fiscal 2015 executive budget I hope we'll see a few more items added to the budget before the final adoption. For example we could expand funding for

NORCs in order to cover at least four of the NORCs that were previously funded with just a small increase by the city to the NORC RFP. Many of DFTA's program area including case management, senior centers and meals, and senior services are also still not adequately funded to meet the needs of the many seniors in the city. The administration added an additional 2.6 million in funding for case management to reduce the case management ratio to 65 cases to one case manager. But unfortunately this additional funding was only for fiscal 2015 and not baselined in the out years. It makes me truly concerned that next year we will have to go through the process of advocating for the administration to include additional baseline case management funding to reduce the case management ratio again. The administration also included 3.3 million in base line funding for congregate and home deliver meal reimbursement. While this additional funding may increase the reimbursement up to 20 cents realistically reimbursement need to increase by an additional 40 cents at least. Many seniors rely on meals served at senior center or delivery directly to them. And increasing the



reimbursement to provider is essential in order to ensure that seniors are served a nutritious and balanced meal every day. While there are more work to be done in terms of funding DFTA's budget I do appreciate the Commissioner's effort thus so far to bring senior issues to the forefront. Before we welcome Commissioner Corrado I'd like to thank the committee staff for the work in preparing this hearing; Tehina Supura [sp?] Finance Analyst and Kelly Taylor our Council. We will now hear from Council Member Paul Vallone chair of the Subcommittee on Senior Center and then we'll have testimony by the Commissioner. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Good morning everyone. Thank you to my Co-Chairs Julissa Ferreras and Margaret Chin. And again I'm Council Member Paul Vallone and I think what you see like we saw this morning on city hall steps and what you see in this room and you see up here with the council members are people who are passionate and dedicated to do the best for seniors. And I think everyone sitting at the tables that are here are representatives of that. And that's why days like today are exciting to fight for the issues that are

important and also talk about the areas we can do better. So that being said I'd also like to thank our staff. Tahina and Kelly have been amazing. And without their guidance we wouldn't look so good up here. They always give us the right things. So our council fiscal 2015 preliminary budget response asked the administration to add additional funding for our NORCs, our Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities. This is one of the areas that I would like to see increased and also the definition of what a NORC to be increased. Because as every eight seconds someone reaches the age of 65 the demands for that age group changes. So the definition of what a NORC is needs to be expanded and those that applied need to be looked at, we looked at as to why they were not adding onto the list. DFTA's fiscal 2015 executive budget includes two new needs specifically related to senior centers. As fellow Council Member Chin mentioned 3.3 million in additional funding was added and base lined for congregate and home delivered meal reimbursement. This additional funding is clearly not enough especially when taking into consideration the ethnic and kosher meals that are more expensive to

prepare. And we were proud to have a, a hearing just based on the needs of, of the meals and the dignity that the seniors deserve. My main concern is that senior centers serve diverse populations. Like my hometown in Queens can continue to prepare these meals without financial hardship. I hope the council can work with DFTA and the administration to add additional funding to meal reimbursements and we also want to fight to reinstate our six day congregate meal program which such imperative for those who needed those meals to survive for the weekend. Finally I'm pleased to see that 2.3 million funding and six new innovative senior centers, ISCs that DFTA already announced contracts for are in the executive budget. I'm excited to see how these programs will further enhance services offered to seniors in the city and that the city is now closer to having these ISCs across the boroughs and that they're accessible to everyone. And now we'll hear from our wonderful Commissioner Donna Corrado and thank you for your help Donna.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Thank you  
Chairperson Ferreras, Chairperson Chin, Chairperson Vallone and members of the Finance and Aging

Committees. I'd like to also Chairperson Ferreras say thank you but I must give credit to the DFTA staff and my predecessor now Deputy Mayor Lillian Barrios Paoli because I cannot take credit if I was not here at that time for transparency. But it certainly is a value that carries over into this administration and to DFTA, myself, and you have my assurance that will continue. The fiscal year 15 executive budget projects 259.7 million in funding and includes allocations of 107 million to support senior centers, 31 million for home delivered meals, 21.5 million for case management services, 16 million to support homecare and home bound seniors who are not Medicaid eligible. Two point, 6.5 million for NORCs, or Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, and four million for caregiver support services. We are very pleased that additional funding is also included in fiscal year 15 executive budget as you mentioned, 3.3 million to address the rising food costs for congregate and home delivered meals, 2.6 million for case management services and 2.3 million for innovative senior centers. Current funding for meal services for seniors is not reflective and has not

1 been reflective of the actual food costs. The  
2 additional funding of 3.3 million will help address  
3 the budget gap between meal allocations and the  
4 true cost of providing this service. Regarding case  
5 management services the additional 2.6 million in  
6 funding will strengthen the system and support the  
7 reduction of caseloads. Due to an increase in  
8 demands DFTA's existing caseload is nearly 80 per  
9 case manager, on average that is. DFTA commissions  
10 Fordham University to conduct a recent case  
11 management study which determined that caseload,  
12 caseload sizes ideally should average 65 per case  
13 manager. We are looking to enhance the ability of  
14 our case management programs to allow for  
15 flexibility in both the model and the types of  
16 services provided. For example some agencies may  
17 prefer a model which utilizes essential intake  
18 staffer. Other agencies may triage clients between  
19 intensive and low need. These factors may result in  
20 variations in caseload size by caseworker but the  
21 additional monies will afford us that flexibility  
22 in, in testing new models of service and really  
23 bringing caseloads down in the aggregate. We have  
24 also found that many make case management clients  
25

face eviction, utility shut offs, and financial exploitation. To that end DFTA plans to offer a bill paying component for contracted case management clients modeled after the Council of Senior Center and Service's five year demonstration project. Improving the financial security of frail, low income seniors is an important unmet need that the bill payer initiative will address. Clients will be referred from DFTA's contracted case management agencies who will be screened for bill payer eligibility during client assessments. Those seniors eligible for the program will be matched with screened and trained volunteer bill payers. And all bill payer's activities will be professionally supervised. At the fiscal year 15 preliminary budget hearing I discuss DFTA's innovative senior centers which provide robust health and wellness programming, mental health support, educational and socialization activities, and cultural and technology opportunities. As innovative senior centers are merging as a successful model for senior center services we continue to learn from their initiatives and to enhance the entire senior center network. In

addition through private foundation support we are proud that we have embarked on the first ever full scale impact analysis of the effect of senior center programming on the physical and mental health of participants of our innovative senior centers. DFTA will launch six new ISCs this July following a solicitation that was issued in October of 2013. Contracts were awarded to a, a negotiated acquisition to the Educational Alliance in Manhattan Community District 3, Find Aid for the Aged in Manhattan Community District 7, the Carter Burden Center for the Aging in Manhattan Community District 11, The Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council of Brooklyn Community District 4, the Neighborhood Self-Helped Older Persons Project in the Bronx in Community District 3, and the Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee in Queens Community District 1. The additional 2.3 million in funding will support programs at these six new innovative senior centers with programing such as evidence base programming to help seniors manage chronic conditions, expanding evening and weekend fitness classes and their hours to provide meals, offering such activities as Zumba and Pilates, and

expand of cultural opportunities and partnerships with theatre groups and virtual senior centers that allow homebound participants to attend the senior center in a video based class, and provide a, a new social network through an intimate face to face connection with peers. In advance of the forthcoming Elder Abuse Prevention Intervention Services request for proposals DFTA released a concept paper last month. The Elder Abuse Services Program has a dual mission; assisting and ensuring the safety of adults age 60 and over who have been abused and preventing further abuse by raising awareness of these issues through outreach and educational presentations to individuals and groups. The concept paper outlines the objectives, elements, and parameters of the Elder Abuse Services Program that DFTA envisions for the city. We will be accepting comments from interested parties until 5:00 p.m. on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. DFTA plans to give strong consideration to the feedback, suggestion, and comments provided by the community when preparing the RFP. So please read that concept paper. We would love to illicit your feedback, the council members' feedback as well and although we



1  
2 set the parameters we, we are willing to entertain  
3 many different models and new innovation and would  
4 like to expand that in the future so please do give  
5 us your feedback as well as the public. We expect  
6 to issue this RFP for Elder Abuse Services in the  
7 summer of 2014 for contracts to begin on July 2015,  
8 July 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for this opportunity to testify  
9 about DFTA's executive budget for fiscal year 2015  
10 and I look forward to continuing the partnership  
11 with the city council in these efforts. I am  
12 pleased to answer any questions.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you  
14 Commissioner. If you would be able to get us the,  
15 the, the paper on the seniors... just spoke  
16 [phonetic] about, the senior...

17 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...programming,  
19 that would be great. If you get it for this  
20 committee and also for the committees on aging.

21 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Uh-huh.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We have been  
23 joined by Council Members Gibson, Koslowitz,  
24 Cornegy, Treyger, and Miller. And I just want to  
25 remind colleagues that for the Finance Committee

meetings we're going to have a five minute clock  
for members followed by a three minute second  
round. Obviously there's a lot of issues that are  
very important to all of us and you know I was  
very, I just want to thank my colleagues' efforts  
especially on the NORC work.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: It's been a  
challenge for us to be able to ensure that it's  
reflected and when it wasn't it was, it was  
something that we're really going to be focused on.  
But I want to focus on three, three topics and then  
circle back with you at the end for the second  
round. Wanted to, and I know that we just had a  
hearing on this but just for the record for this  
committee wanted to revisit SCRIE, the state and  
city recently passed bills increasing the income  
eligibility threshold of the Senior Citizen Rent  
Increase Exemption to 50 thousand dollars a year.  
What outreach efforts are DFTA engaging in to  
enroll seniors who are not eligible for SCRIE  
income, are not eligible for the new threshold. And  
also what efforts is DFTA making to coordinate  
outreach with the Department of Finance?

COMMISISONER CORRADO: In addition to the Department of Finance's outreach team which includes a fulltime outreach coordinator for seniors who has a relationship with organizations that work with older adults including senior centers advocacy groups DFTA also has an outreach unit that participates in numerous events throughout the year to discuss benefits and entitlements for older adults including SCRIE. In Calendar year 13, 2013 DFTA participat3ed in approximately 180 community events which were attended by more than 14,800 adults. DFTA also has intergovernmental staff that give presentations and provide updates to community boards on SCRIE and other topics. DFTA and Department of Finance collaborate frequently to share information and coordinate our outreach efforts. For example Department of Finance's outreach coordination for seniors attended DFTA's annual housing benefits and entitlement earlier this month. Department of Finance also sends SCRIE flyers to 335 aging service providers within the DFTA network which reached 17 thousand home delivered meal recipients, senior centers, case management agencies, caregiver

1 programs, homecare providers, and legal service  
2 providers. And do these efforts require additional  
3 funding for the agency as you asked, DFTA plans to  
4 discuss with the new Department of Finance  
5 Commissioner about a, a coordinated outreach  
6 approach and to have a better sense of need. So  
7 that, it's a, Department of Finance Commissioner  
8 just started I believe two weeks ago vis-à-vis his  
9 staff he's very interested in collaborating with us  
10 to beef up those efforts. And I must say I've been  
11 listening to the hearings of the Department of  
12 Finance... prior hearings and was impressed with the  
13 progress they've made thus far and, and their  
14 willingness to work with us to find even better  
15 methods of doing outreach and using data. And  
16 everybody's going to roll up their sleeves and, and  
17 expand that in the future.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Well that has  
20 been my experience sitting in this seat...

21 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...the coordination  
23 of agencies. And I think in... [crosstalk] many ways  
24 this could definitely help...

25 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...help the,  
reaching out to the senior population...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...that really  
should be benefitting. So then I wanted to talk  
about elder abuse and NYCHA senior centers that  
DFTA took over. Elder abuse the administration base  
lined 800 thousand for elder abuse in fiscal 2015.  
And in the out years DFTA plans to solicit a  
request for proposal or an RFP, elder abuse  
contract in early fall and plans on administrate,  
administering one elder abuse contract per borough.  
Clearly from our perspective 800 thousand isn't  
enough. One per borough isn't enough. Is DFTA in  
contact with OMB and the administration to increase  
elder abuse funding for the budget is adopted? And  
ideally how much in total funding would DFTA  
require to adequately address elder abuse each year  
throughout the five boroughs?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Clearly 800  
thousand dollars a year is not enough funding for  
elder abuse services. However, we've been working  
very closely with OMB and they're aware of our  
funding needs. And the concept re, the, the concept

1  
2 paper that we released has a budget range from 800  
3 thousand to 2.8 million. And the reason why we've  
4 expanded that is we are, we would like to have some  
5 flexibility in program design. So while ideally one  
6 in each borough, program in each borough would be  
7 very nice we're looking at many different things  
8 and we'll entertain that. But ideally 2.8 million...  
9 [crosstalk]

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Can you give me  
11 an example because there's a big difference between  
12 800 thousand to 2.8. So when you're talking about  
13 flexibility just so that we understand especially  
14 when we're trying to support initiatives and other  
15 ideas that we're already in tandem with where you  
16 may be thinking.

17 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Well currently  
18 there's 800 thousand that was base lined.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: So that's the  
21 existing funding. An additional two million will  
22 help us expand for example we can do elder abuse  
23 services in each of the five boroughs as you said.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Mm-hmm.  
25

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Or we can do something different. It depends on the feedback from the concept paper.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay, which is what we're getting...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...copy of?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay. Right so they're, I, so I just want to confirm you're RFPing the 800 thousand at the current model that you have.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes that's just with additional, that's for current operations. We're asking for 2.8 million to afford us some flexibility.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: And that would be additional dollars that you would RFP at another time?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: okay. NYCHA seniors due to the budgetary constraints New York City Housing Authority NYCHA proposed to close 38 NYCHA run senior centers. Four of the senior

centers that were proposed to be closed, Pelham Parkway, Farragut, Saratoga Square, and Polo Grounds Towers were picked up by DFTA because they had the appropriate square footage necessary for conducting programming according to the agency's standards. NYCHA did not add additional funding in its executive budget to extend funding to NYCHA senior centers that were slated to close in fiscal 20 four, 14. Had DFTA been in talks with NYCHA or the administration to transition more senior centers to the agency or what will happen with NYCHA senior centers if they're not funded in fiscal 15? And how much additional funding would DFTA need to support NYCHA senior centers that meet DFTA requirements for programming?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay. We have been in discussions with the chairperson of NYCHA and NYCHA's leadership regarding the senior centers and their continuation. It is our understanding that NYCHA will be led, is, is working closely with the administration to continue those senior services although I am not going to speak for the chairperson but at this time it's our understanding that they will continue. At least that's her



1  
2 intent. If by some chance that does not happen we  
3 plan to work with NYCHA to have a transition into  
4 our existing senior centers as best we can do that.  
5 And the force senior centers are operating that did  
6 meet the criteria of a DFTA senior center that you  
7 just mentioned those four Palem Parkway, Farragut,  
8 Saratoga Square, and the Polla Grounds Towers are  
9 being operated by DFTA at this point in time. So  
10 it's status quo.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: So would you be  
12 able to provide for us for the 32 senior centers  
13 that will remain, how close the, the, the DFTA  
14 funded senior center is to them, or how we're going  
15 to get the senior center...

16 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: We, we've done an  
17 evaluation of that. And for every one of those  
18 NYCHA programs there is a D, a DFTA center within a  
19 ten block radius.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay, can you  
21 just provide us that list? We have a lot of new  
22 members and I know we... [crosstalk]

23 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...engaged in this  
25 conversation...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...last year...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...but for the sake  
of...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...our new members  
and for existing...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...members too,  
just so...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...we have that for  
the committee. Thank you very much. I really want  
to pass this over now to my co-chairs to ask  
questions and then I'll come back on a second  
round.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you  
Commissioner. I just, I want to follow-up. I know  
that in our meeting and also the preliminary budget  
we talked about the funding for the NORC RFP. And  
in the councils respond to the mayor's preliminary  
budget we also ask for you know enough funding at  
least to go down the list so that you can fund at

1  
2 least four more of the NORC centers that did submit  
3 to the RFP. But unfortunately that was not included  
4 in the executive budget. What's the amount of money  
5 that you anticipate extra that, that we can still  
6 continue to fight for?

7 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay. With the  
8 additional 900 thousand that was base lined funding  
9 for the NORC we were able to fund four additional  
10 programs, that was with the recent RFP bringing the  
11 total number of NORCS that, that DFTA sponsors to  
12 28. With another 1.5 million we will be able to go  
13 further down on that list and fund those viable  
14 proposals and those existing NORC programs.

15 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: How many more can you  
16 fund?

17 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: We can, we could  
18 fund four.

19 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Another four?

20 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Another four and  
21 possibly one that was, a council was funding. So  
22 it's, it would five right? I think it would be a  
23 total of five or six.

24 [background comments]  
25

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay. So it would be [crosstalk], it would be, it would be 940, 57 thousand dollars to fund four. And then if the additional discretionary ones that were submitted but for whatever reason were disqualified on some technicality it would be 1.5 million.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Total?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Okay. So we could get another 1.5, 1.5 million from the administration that would take care of all the existing NORC?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: No it would not.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: All, all the one that apply for the RF... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Well it would, all of the viable, all of the, the, the NORCS that currently are being operated this fiscal year and all of the NORCS that received high enough scores to have a viable program. So the answer to your question is yes.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Okay so maybe if you could give us a, a break down in the terms of the one that didn't apply that is on the, the list, the RFP list how much more is needed to really go all

1  
2 the way down the list. And then other one that did  
3 not apply or were not qualified to apply what's the  
4 total amount for that. So then the council can  
5 really take a look at what we need to negotiate  
6 with the administration at the end. Maybe what we  
7 need to...

8 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

9 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: ...pick up...

10 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay.

11 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: ...to make sure all of  
12 the NORC program, it, will continue to run.

13 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay, we'll do  
14 that.

15 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: The next question is  
16 on case management. I think you and I were both  
17 disappointed, well I was anyway that it wasn't base  
18 lined. Do you, do you have any idea why the  
19 administration only put it in 2.6 for FY15 only? I  
20 mean this is based on DFTA's study to bring the,  
21 the case, the caseload down to 65.

22 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm. Well 2.6  
23 million will, will go a long way to bring those  
24 caseloads down. So I'm grateful for that. And we're  
25 also grateful to the council and to the

administration that the 2.6 million in new funding for case managers management services was added to the DFTA's budget. And we are aware of the value and the importance that these services continue from year to year. And we will be assessing the feasibility in the coming years, in the out years.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Are there any, have you started discussion with OMB?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes we are and they are aware of that. And we will continue with those discussions.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Well we will work with you to make sure that happen.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: The other question I have is on... in the budget that, in your testimony it said there are right now 16 million to support homecare for homebound seniors who are not Medicare, Medicaid eligible. How many seniors are you serving with, with that, that amount of money? And then also how many seniors are on waiting lists?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay, we currently serve approximately 3,000 seniors. And

1  
2 we, as of yesterday, we have a wait list of 240  
3 clients. So we would need another 1.8 million to  
4 address the wait list.

5 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Okay that's, that's  
6 good. And on the, just the last question and then  
7 I'll pass it on to Council Member Vallone. On the  
8 elder abuse, so the, DFTA is planning to issue an  
9 RFP.

10 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

11 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: So the, all the  
12 agencies that are providing elder abuse prevention  
13 service and education service they going to get an  
14 extra year right? Is this a negotiated acquisition  
15 for a year and then you're going to do the RFP. So  
16 we have a little time to try to fight for more  
17 money because... [crosstalk] because it, we need, I  
18 just say we need an extra two million to really  
19 make at least a substantial program. So how's that  
20 discussion going on with OMB and also with the  
21 Deputy Mayor. Well the, the discussions are ongoing  
22 of course but that, you're right that one year and  
23 releasing the concept paper gives us a period of  
24 time to look at new models, to issue an, an RFP and  
25 you're, and you're correct. The 800 thousand, those

programs will be continued through for one year  
under the negotiated acquisition.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Okay so that leaves,  
we have a little time so we could continue...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right and...

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: ...to advocate and  
hopefully we could get an extra two million so that  
when...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: ...you do issue the  
RFP...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: ...that it is a  
substantial increase to the program.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Right?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you  
Commissioner so Council Member Vallone, Chair  
Vallone.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you Madam  
Chair. I think as a proud Fordham University grad  
I'm going to have to talk to my fellow Fortson  
University alumni as to how they came up with the



number of 65. I was hoping they'd come down to a lower number. So we're talking about the case management. My concern there is what percentage, or do you have that breakdown of the case management workers that are actually going to have master's of degrees in the fields that we...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...require and to adequately address these case manage... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right. The, the survey did address that or actually calculated the number of case managers that had master's degrees in the sample that he studied which was not all of case management programs but I believe it was 15 to, to 20 percent of the current case managers in those five programs that were studied 15 to 20 percent had a master's degree and the rest had bachelor degrees which may not have been in social work necessarily in, in all other, other fields as well.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: But it was a starting low... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...funding that's  
come...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...number.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Alright with the  
funding that's coming would there be an effort to  
increase those numbers?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: There, there's a  
flexibility to do that yes. But realizing that  
mastery level caseworkers cost more money so that  
may effect and impact the number, the caseload  
differential. So it's a pot of money. It will be  
given to the case management programs and they have  
the flexibility to hire bachelor level, master  
level, but it's a finite amount of money.  
So if you're spending more on your personnel  
naturally you get fewer workers. That's just...

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well that would  
bring... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...math.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...of...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...what additional  
amount of funds would we need to hire the profess,  
the proper professionals to deal adequately? That's

1  
2 something I think we'd be interested in fighting  
3 for. So we'd not only just have the funding but the  
4 funding to hire the correct... [crosstalk]

5 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I would agree  
6 and, and we can, we can get you those figures.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: The next is the  
10 congregate and the home delivered meals  
11 reimbursement, 20 cents is a little tough for me.  
12 You know I think we had a special hearing...

13 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...just on reaching  
15 out to the groups that for seniors an ethnic meal  
16 was more than just the additional 20 cents it's  
17 there, it's the pride of who they are in the  
18 additional meal. But when you speak to the contract  
19 providers and those that provide the meals are  
20 saying they can't, they don't have the funding to  
21 do that. They're talks with OMB, or is there a hope  
22 to raise that reimbursement level?

23 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Well we're,  
24 we're, we're continuing, we're always talking to  
25 OMB about this particular issue. And we're grateful

1  
2 that we got, what we, what we have gotten. It, it  
3 goes a long way towards covering the full cost but  
4 it may not cover the full cost so we will continue  
5 to advocate for an increase in meals funding.

6 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Did we come up  
7 with a, an ideal reimbursement that we'd like to  
8 target, like to go for that was above the 20 cents?

9 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: At this time, no.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's something  
11 that we'd...

12 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...like to work with  
14 you on.

15 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I, I think that's  
17 part of it is just expanding how things have  
18 changed over the years to the reality of what's  
19 going on...

20 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...in our centers.

22 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: The, the elder  
24 abuse was something that we had another hearing on  
25 that Council Member Chin and I and not only are we

1 concerned but we also introduced new legislation  
2 to, to look at the financial exploitation of  
3 seniors, the new demands on our district attorneys,  
4 the limited amount of legal resources available to  
5 our seniors. So I, I think the elder abuse combines  
6 a whole new world of legal concerns for seniors. So  
7 I think we need to expand not only the funds that  
8 we're allocating but the definition of what falls  
9 under elder abuse. And I think I wanted to ask you  
10 because there, in a section with legal services  
11 you, it appears that there's been a combining of  
12 the legal services being provided by agencies.  
13 Specifically it says the consolidation of legal  
14 services from DFTA, Homeless Services, Department  
15 of Youth and Community Development. So what...

17 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...is the impact of  
19 that are you happy with that? Is that something we  
20 need to look at? Is that going to provide benefits  
21 or is that going to put additional limitations?

22 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Well there's,  
23 there's two things. HRA is trying to find more  
24 efficient ways to, to do and carry out their legal  
25 services by combining pools from different

agencies. So that's something that is a good thing.

And we support that in concept. But also we're looking at our own particular funding source for our legal services and it's under review with the, the City's legal department because of just the way that the funding and the regulations read under the Older Americans Act. As the Area Agency on Aging DFTA may not be able to contract with another city agency to carry that out. So that is under review at the moment. But even so whether it's, it's in DFTA or HRA 60 percent of those cases are around evictions. So it does make sense in, in, in one way but either way those legal services are very important to DFTA. And you're, you're right. It...

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well that, that's one of my... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...it needs to grow.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...fears...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...as we would then advocate...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...for a senior and  
find out a certain agency is...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...doing something.  
And then the other one's going to say no that's  
supposed to do that, and that would be the last  
thing I'd want to and I know...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...Council Member  
Chin asked great legislation pending to be required  
to provide legal services for any senior facing  
evictions. And Mendez, to Council Member...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...Mendez and that,  
that's critical aspect...[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes. We're all,  
we're all on the same page and the administration  
just as well... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Is that going to  
be part of that concept paper?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: It is, does  
address that, yes.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Because I...  
[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: And, and if  
you'd, we solicit your, your comments and your  
feedback as well. Mm-hmm. [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...coming on how to  
expand that. One of the things I, I just needed  
your guidance on is, it says underfunded senior  
centers. So how underfunded are we and how, what  
type of funding would we need to avoid that?  
That's, and the budget response we, not only  
talking about NORCs, we're talking about  
underfunded senior centers who I know all of our  
districts and the whole City's impacted by that so...  
if you could expand on that.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay, that's  
right. To address the senior centers that are over  
utilized and underfunded we would need an  
additional 1.2 million. That's to fund existing  
operations, not for any expansion.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So 1.2 million  
would keep us, of what we had for 2014?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Correct, with the  
over utilization.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Are we in  
negotiations with OMB, I mean as always?



2 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: We're in, we're  
3 always in communication with OMB. [crosstalk] So  
4 they're aware of our funding needs, yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I think one of the  
6 things we all hear from the hearings is the demands  
7 on our senior centers, the lack of the funding to  
8 the senior centers, the services that the senior  
9 centers provide need to change. And I think one of  
10 the many bright spots that your change has brought  
11 and that's why I'm very excited as you as  
12 Commissioner is you're willing to listen to those  
13 and say we can do things better. And I think  
14 that's...

15 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...that's a great  
17 start to listening to the concerns. Because as we  
18 find out the demands today of our seniors just  
19 changed because it's not just our aging population,  
20 it's the family that supports the aging population.  
21 It's the spouse, it's the child, it's the  
22 grandparent that find themselves so often not  
23 knowing what to do. So the senior centers become  
24 critical in leading people to those services or at  
25 least telling them how to get there. And that

combines legal services. A lot of time that combines the food, the care, the social workers, all of that kind of intertwines. So it's kind, it's hard to separate these into saying and I, and I'm excited that you're saying you're willing to look at all these changes. So I, with that I'd... my questions and I turn it back over to my fellow chairs for the other council members who may have questions.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Chair Vallone and Chair Chin. We will now start with council members. We have Council Member Gibson followed by Council Member Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very much. Thank you Madam Chair and to Chair Chin and Chair Vallone thank you so much for your leadership. I'm certainly on so many issues important to seniors and families. And good morning Commissioner to you and your team. Congratulations on the appointment. Looking forward to working with you. And many of my colleagues already expressed a lot of the concerns that I had around just the aggregate meals, as well as elder abuse, legal services very important. I just had a question

1  
2 about expanding the definition of NORCs and senior  
3 centers. I'm extremely lucky to have a NORC in my  
4 district. And we started out at five days, now  
5 we're down to three and it's a very small NORC. So  
6 I, I just wanted to know are you considering  
7 expanding the requirement for senior centers that  
8 are eligible for DFTA RFPs so that smaller senior  
9 centers that don't necessarily serve a large  
10 population can be eligible. And I ask that because  
11 many of these centers while they're small they  
12 serve a very unique population that lives, in my  
13 development in 16 hundred apartments, in River Park  
14 Towers and it's an incredibly successful NORC and I  
15 want to see them continue to do more work. And so  
16 have you looked at some of the definitions of  
17 expanding NORC and smaller senior centers?

18 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: The answer to  
19 that is my staff and I have had many discussions  
20 about the arbitrary limits of what constitutes a  
21 NORC.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Mm-hmm.

23 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: The RFP was  
24 issued. We have more than enough viable programs at  
25 this point in time but rest assured if in future

RFP opportunities avail themselves we will, it will be much more flexible and, and not so black and white in terms of a cut off because there are many variations on the theme. I realize that. It's more about quality than quantity. And but, I do believe there is a certain amount of base line funding that a program needs in order to run a, run a good program and a quality program. So in the future if we were have, we did have the opportunity to procure more programs that would be certainly taken into consideration.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, and I just certainly want to emphasize to please keep that in mind that it's certainly about quality and not quantity. The innovative senior centers that we have, we have so many different types of programs offered. Do you know what is the definition of what you define as an innovative senior center in terms of unique services that are provided for the seniors?

COMMISSONER CORRADO: What, what constitutes an innovative senior center... I've been asked this many, many, many times. So it's just the additional money, the additional facility space,

1 just allows agencies to expand their offerings at  
2 the innovative senior centers and do more robust  
3 programming, expand hours for example, do  
4 additional types of programming like I had related  
5 in my testimony. They do technology classes, do a  
6 lot of health and wellness activities. And we'd  
7 like to give them the opportunity with the  
8 additional funding to be creative and not every  
9 community is the same, not every community has the  
10 same needs. And not every sponsor for example has  
11 the wherewithal to do the same types of  
12 programming. So it's reinvigorated senior centers  
13 to some extent, taking them out from what we, we  
14 had created 30 years ago in a model that was  
15 created 30 years to something that we can be proud  
16 of now and that we will continue to proliferate  
17 hopefully with...

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...additional  
21 funding.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, well my  
23 district, I represent the Bronx CB3 so we're  
24 serviced by the Neighborhood Self Help by Older  
25 Persons Project...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: ...so I definitely will look to get more information on that. I guess I just wanted to echo the sentiments of Council Member Vallone just in terms of the case management. I just believe in principle 65 is still too much being that many of our seniors have many intricate issues. The legal services consolidation that's being talked about and, and is in the budget with DFTA, DHS, as well as DYCD. Do you know what impact that would have on our seniors? And what access would they have through this consolidation to access legal services? Is there a phone number, an outreach coordinator? How would that work with this proposed consolidation?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I believe that, that the seniors would not lose services, it would be seamless. And if that were to take place we would work out with the Department of Homeless Services and HRA a way that they can access the service seamlessly. So we would still be involved in terms of how those cases are referred. And there are several ways that they do it now so that I would imagine would continue.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: But it's still  
4 under discussion and under review by legal whether  
5 or not that's going to happen as it relates to  
6 DFTA's legal service portion.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay. Thank you  
8 very much. Thank you Madam Chair.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council  
10 Member Gibson. We'll have Council Member Cornegy  
11 followed by Council Member Koslowitz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Good morning  
13 and thank you Chairs. I would like to preface my  
14 comments and questions by saying that I was the  
15 former Policy Analyst on Aging prior to being a  
16 council member. So I have a special place in my  
17 heart for aging and all issues that are related to  
18 aging. My district has a very unique distinction of  
19 having a lot of brownstones which allows my seniors  
20 to be house rich and cash poor and find themselves  
21 in a situation where they're unable to access  
22 services. And one of the main tenants as I  
23 understand it of a NORC is to keep seniors in their  
24 home, be able to keep seniors in their homes  
25 longer. Now I don't presently have a NORC but have

1  
2 been fighting to get one since I was a policy  
3 analyst. I just wanted to know do you believe that  
4 a NORC would be able to assist seniors who are  
5 homeowners with limited resources but with homes to  
6 be able to stay in their homes as well?

7 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Absolutely. And  
8 in every community district throughout the city  
9 there is a case management program as well. So you  
10 know there's many different definitions of NORC,  
11 NORCs but a case management program, a senior  
12 center serves everyone regardless of, of the type  
13 of housing that they live in. And I realize that  
14 brownstones present unique problems just in terms  
15 of that particular housing stock, if they don't  
16 have elevators for seniors as they become frailer  
17 and older they may have difficulty managing the  
18 steps and the stairs and all that. But they can  
19 avail themselves to every service that's available  
20 out there for the, the community in terms of our  
21 case management offerings as well.

22 COUNCIL MEMEBR CORNEGY: And, and just  
23 my last question is... So one of the things that we  
24 were exploring before I left my, my former role was  
25



the fact that there were many pop up day treatment programs throughout the city...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: That not, that didn't necessarily meet the needs, especially of the frail and elderly but were able to through marketing and through sometimes deceptive practices reach out to seniors and get them to enroll in their centers. Is there an enforcement portion that you're looking at that's going to be able to limit...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: ...some of those predatory practices that we're...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm. Those, the pop up centers are not necessarily under the auspices of New York City Department for the Aging but we have brought the issue to the attention of the Department of Health and the State Office for the Aging, and the Attorney General. So those, the enforcement is being done by then and we are, as we get information we're, we're giving it to, to the state office so that they can follow-up and really hold them accountable as well. So it's kind of third party, fourth party but we really can't go in

and, and audit them. We can just tell them what we know.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: But it is a disturbing trend I admit.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council Member and we will have Chair Chin who has a follow-up question. Do you, okay, okay. So Council Member Koslowitz followed by Council Member Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you to the chairs. Good morning.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Good morning.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I'm happy to see that some of the services are base lined. But I'm unhappy to see the amounts of money that are base lined. And I want, like for instance social adult daycare is based on 400 thousand. What is the actual budget of adult daycare?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: That is the total budget, 400 thousand.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: That's it?

2 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: For social adult  
3 daycare that DFTA sponsors yes.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: That's like  
5 almost no money at all. I mean social adult care in  
6 many cases take care of two people, the caregiver  
7 and the person who needs the social daycare. Senior  
8 centers to me save lives. I've seen it with my own  
9 eyes. I've been, I've been in the business for many  
10 many years, like 35 years. And I've seen people  
11 that would die be okay because they go to a senior  
12 center. And I feel that seniors aren't being  
13 treated well. It's like I know in the mornings when  
14 I go to work there's a woman in my, that comes in  
15 my elevator and she doesn't accept the fact that  
16 she, she's 93 years old and she doesn't accept the  
17 fact that she like goes to a senior center. She  
18 volunteers and she goes to help them with, with the  
19 food. And it, 93 years old I mean she could dance,  
20 she is so lively. And it's wonderful to see  
21 otherwise she would just be stuck in her house. And  
22 I really feel that the social adult day care is  
23 really not being taken care of. 400 thousand  
24 dollars, I know in my district adult daycare has  
25 been eliminated. There is no adult daycare.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: And I  
represent the community HAPs in Forest Hills and  
they do not, they used to have it but they do not  
have it anymore. Is there any talk about putting  
more money into this and helping people?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: DFTA's working  
with our provider agencies because the DFTA funded  
social adult daycare model has never truly been  
adequately funded. There are other options out  
there and not every social adult day program is  
awful. Some of them do live up to standards and  
it's weeding out which ones, which of those  
programs whether they're privately sponsored,  
whether it's a commercial center, whether it's a  
voluntary agency that's providing the service that  
we make recommendations to programs that really  
have the best interest of the senior at heart. And  
with that and the changes in health care and  
managed care many of the long term care managed  
care programs also run their own adult day centers.  
So we're in the process of trying to understand the  
new world and the new health care regulations and  
long term manage care, and through our learning

process we'll be able to help our providers  
contract with managed long term care companies and  
manage care companies and access the services or  
they can expand their social model programs and  
bring new funding into the DFTA network by doing  
things like FIFA service and really creating a new  
business model that would support these types of  
services. But I agree with you the, the need is  
there. But we also have to look at the reality of  
healthcare and the new business models that will  
need to take place if we're going to bring in the  
resources that we really need which is an abundant  
need we have to think of how to expand that  
revenue.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: No I  
understand that and you know it just hurts to see  
that there was a program and there is no program  
now. And you know seniors shouldn't be shortchanged  
in any way. They should... you know their...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: ...their money  
should keep rising because there is so many seniors  
that need you know that backup system.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: And I just  
feel that's important. I also want to ask about...  
You said, did you say there were 3,000 meals being  
delivered throughout the city of New York?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: There's 12  
million annual, congregate and home delivered. 12  
million?

[background comments]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: 12 million  
annual.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Oh, okay  
because I heard the number 3,000 I got like  
panicked and...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I'm sorry that  
was 3,000 homecare clients.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Oh, okay. And  
what about frozen meals, are there still any frozen  
meals being served?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I, I believe  
there are some frozen meals and, and the people  
that receive them enjoy them. There is some I  
believe on weekends there are some agencies that do  
deliver frozen meals. But I believe at this point  
they have the option.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: They have the  
option?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Are they, are  
they monitored in any way of how they you know...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I believe each  
agency does a survey every year about what those  
clients' preferences are and they use that service.  
I mean they don't have to have frozen meals. They  
have other options. They can do hot meals, they can  
do prepackaged meals, they can do the boil in the  
bag. There's a different, there's different  
technology out there and they're, they're different  
caterers. So based on what their feedback is and  
their budget of course if they have more funding  
they have more options.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Okay, thank  
you very much.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Your welcome.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council  
Member Koslowitz. We'll have Council Member Treyger  
followed by Council Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you  
Chairs and welcome Commissioner...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Good to see you again. I, I raised at the previous, the last hearing that we met about the centers and that were impacted by, by the storm are there any figures that your office now has or is compiling about the total number of cost to, to damages to, to DFTA run centers in the Sandy impacted neighborhoods?

[background comments]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: At this point in time there's only one senior center, the JCC of Staten Island that has not opened. I'm sorry...

[off mic discussion]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: JCC of Greater Coney Island did move back but they're awaiting an appeal for FEMA to make them whole in terms of finance, financially whole and to offset some of the cost of them getting back into their center and doing further renovations related to the storm damage. But they are back in business. There is one other center in Staten Island that is still waiting for their FEMA claim so that they can rebuild and get back into their center as well.



COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Right but as far as any estimates and numbers about total damage done to all our DFTA centers I mean is, I think that data could be helpful for us to... Believe me I am not shy about making our case to FEMA. We have been on them time and time again on many, many aspects of this recovery. But I think data overall citywide as far as damage done to our centers, DFTA spaces, and it's not just the physical structures that were damaged but there were you know resources, computers, other types of materials that were damaged by the storm that really have not been replaced. And in some cases they've had to rely on private sources or, so I think that these figures are crucial in us making the case to FEMA to get every single recovery dollar back to our neighborhoods.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: In terms of the, post Sandy the providers were asked to, to make their FEMA claims directly because it's faster and it's more efficient. To our knowledge basically the, the two organizations that are still waiting for, one organization that's... what the Commissioner had said of JCC and stat, of Greater Coney Island

1 we won't know if they were made whole by FEMA until  
2 FEMA makes a final determination. We have been in  
3 constant contact with Rabbi Weiner so the, whatever  
4 FEMA does not, is short on DFTA has already made a  
5 commitment that will make them whole. The second  
6 senior center is New Dorp run by the Staten Island  
7 Friendship Clubs and they're collocated on New Dorp  
8 Beach and it's in the flood plain. And there, they  
9 suffered substantial damage in the building, the  
10 structure of the building, it's a parks building.  
11 So the Parks Department is right now looking in  
12 terms of whether that building is salvageable and  
13 whether or not they should rebuild it. So in terms  
14 of the seniors that go to that center they're  
15 currently being serviced by nearby centers from the  
16 same organization.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yeah I, I, I  
19 appreciate any assistance you can provide to these  
20 groups and it would just be helpful if we did  
21 collect data as far as from each of these groups as  
22 far as the amounts of damage they each sustained to  
23 both their physical infrastructure as well as any  
24 materials, computers, resources that they lost as a  
25 result of the storm. Because having, having that I

1  
2 will make that aggressive case to FEMA and to all  
3 relevant agencies to get every penny back, every  
4 dollar owed back to, to our communities.

5 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm. We, we  
6 could do that survey and get that information to  
7 you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I, I, thank you  
9 Commissioner. And is there currently any types of  
10 discussions with OEM on, on updating evacuation  
11 plans, emergency plans in at risk neighborhoods  
12 that are prone to coastal storms and coastal  
13 events. And is that being shared with those groups?  
14 Just, I, a status update on that?

15 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm. We do  
16 have a dedicated assistant Commissioner that works  
17 closely with OEM and who's our emergency service  
18 person and she is in the process of updating their  
19 COOP [sp?] plan, that's a new acronym for me. And  
20 she will be sharing that with us once it's  
21 completed and reviewed within the next month.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yes I'd really  
23 appreciate an update...

24 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.  
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...as well on  
3 that because...

4 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Okay.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...I think that  
6 making sure that our seniors are prepared groups  
7 that run these spaces are prepared so...

8 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

9 COUNCILMEMBER TREYGER: ...you know we  
10 don't have to guess about what an evacuation plan  
11 might be. And I would also urge that a discussion  
12 and this, this will be an issue of resources as  
13 well on how to make our spaces even more resilient  
14 in the face of climate change, in the face of the  
15 increased risks of more coastal events.

16 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: And that's  
18 something that I'd like to have follow-up  
19 discussions with your office about as well. I thank  
20 you... [crosstalk]

21 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I thank you and I  
22 know that's a priority of this administration in  
23 terms of sustainability and all the work that's  
24 going on around resiliency so... And there is  
25 actually somebody that's assigned that job

exclusively within the mayor's office. So we can  
work closely with that person and, and give you a  
status update.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you  
Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON FERERRAS: Thank you Council  
Member Treyger. Now we will, followed by Council  
Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you  
Chairs. Commissioner since we have a mayor very  
committed to fighting equality in our city and  
knowing that the former Commissioner also was  
someone that really had a, a commitment on, on  
doing the best she could for our senior population  
I have no doubt that you will continue working the  
same direction. My first question is what, what is  
the number of senior citizens in New York City that  
the data already, already establish them as a group  
of people who live under the line of poverty?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Number of people  
that live under the line of... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Senior  
citizens.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ..poverty is nine...  
[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Senior...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...19 percent live  
under 150 percent of the federal poverty  
guidelines.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: 19 percent of  
our senior... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: But that's a...

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: ...citizens.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...that's an  
astounding number, yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Our senior  
citizens... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I see, good.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Do you also...  
[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: And that's,  
that's double the amount of average in other  
cities, in other major cities.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Right. Do you  
also have the number of senior citizens who, or any

type of data of the number of senior citizen who  
they go to sleep being hungry...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Well...

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: ...because  
they, they don't have food.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I, I don't know  
how I would calculate that but certainly food  
insecurity is, is a major concern of ours. So...  
[crosstalk] how many actually go to sleep you know...  
[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Can we say  
that that's is a challenge, can we say that that's  
is still you know a challenges for the present  
administration to...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Absolutely we  
can...

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: ...be sure.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...we can do that  
just on, on our experience with serving seniors  
and, and the number of seniors that utilize our  
centers and some centers being over utilized and  
knowing from our provider agencies and the  
advocates that actually know these communities and,  
and what not. There are certain groups that if it

were not for the food that they get at ta senior center or, or a food pantry they would not be eating... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And then you take me to the next question. My question is, is also a reflection in my own reality, in my family. We are a large family. We are 12 brothers and sisters. So my mother is alive, my father passed when he was 84 but I know that if my family would not be so large would everyone contribute my ma wouldn't of have enough with the social security check that she get to be sure that she's eating healthy. She's only able to do it beside getting her check because all brothers and sister we chip in. However, what is the number of senior citizens that we have in New York City which is my first question that they live by themselves?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: We do have that number. I don't have it off hand but we do, though maybe Michael can tell me. We can get that number to you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And, and, and I'm pretty sure that based on previous board hearing that we have that we have a real number of...



2 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: ...of that  
4 population which again is a challenge..

5 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: ...because you  
7 know everything is about the data. What is the data  
8 city state and federal level. So and I just asking  
9 the question because I know that when we are trying  
10 to build one city for all of us we have to take  
11 into consideration that there's a percentage of  
12 senior citizen that they live by them self. Most of  
13 them they go to the senior center. But we have the  
14 other group that we choose the group because of HUD  
15 issue, because of some level of depression, they  
16 prefer to stay in their apartments.

17 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And I know  
19 that you're, you, the previous Commissioner and  
20 yourself you're doing a great job. However can we  
21 say that that's still a challenges that we have?

22 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: That's still a,  
23 that's still a challenge and it's a commitment of  
24 this administration. It's a commitment that we  
25 have, and the staff at DFTA have. We know how many

1  
2 people we serve in our senior centers. But we also  
3 know we only serve a small percentage of all of the  
4 seniors. There's 1.8 million seniors that live in  
5 New York City. We do not serve the majority of  
6 them.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: How many do  
8 we serve from one million, for 1.8?

9 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Would we... there's  
10 1.8 million seniors and... [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And how many  
12 do we get to serve from the 1.8?

13 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: About 33  
14 thousand.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: 30 percent,  
16 okay my last question is about what are we doing,  
17 what initiative do we have for promoting the  
18 intergeneration in this city among senior citizen  
19 and the rest of the population. As the former  
20 teacher that I was I, when I go to the senior  
21 center I see a lot of potential, a lot of senior  
22 citizen that they can be very useful.

23 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: If we connect  
25 them with our children, with our student is there

any initiative of promoting intergeneration's...

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: We, we do have a,  
a small number of intergenerational programs. But  
the majority of the integrate, intergenerational  
work is, is done by groups sponsored by DYCD and  
ACS and I know the, the chancellor is also very  
interested in creating more intergenerational  
opportunities through the after school programming.  
And we're working with her and her staff to supply  
the seniors right. Not necessarily the youth, they  
have the youth. And the seniors have a lot to offer  
like yourself right. You're saying you're a, you're  
a teacher. There are many retired teachers. There  
are many retired professionals. There are many  
seniors that you know through mentoring programs,  
through after school programs, out of school time  
programs it's such a valuable program and it, it's  
a value to society in general. So we're looking to,  
how do we, how can we best expand those programs  
even if they're not necessarily housed within DFTA  
because we just have you know a very small, small  
funding, small amount of funding for our

intergenerational programs. But the city in general  
has many of them.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: So it's about  
interagency cooperation and coordination.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council  
Member Rodriguez. Council Member Miller followed by  
Council Member Rosenthal. We've been joined by  
Council Members Ignizio and Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Good morning  
chairs, co-chairs. And thank you Commissioner for  
coming out and forgive me for having to step out  
and come back. And I know that Chairwoman Ferreras  
has asked the question about the transfer of the  
NYCHA centers and the DFTA. And I just want to  
digress a moment and, and simply ask what happened  
to the employees of those, of those centers?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: My understanding  
is that those centers are still being operated. And  
we had spoken earlier in the week to the  
chairperson, the NYCHA chairperson who's working to  
maintain those centers. So that is the direction  
that she would like to go in. If that does not come  
to fruition there will be a transition plan and

1  
2 NYCHA will work that out and DFTA will be  
3 instrumental in helping that transition happen.  
4 However, at this time there's no change as far as I  
5 know.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So I, I guess I  
7 am hearing that there is a conscious effort to make  
8 sure that those long term experienced employees  
9 remain employed particularly at those centers and  
10 if not that somewhere within the agency?

11 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I can't answer  
12 that for NYCHA but my understanding is nothing's  
13 changed. Those centers are still being operated on  
14 and it, and in our last conversation with the NYCHA  
15 chair, she, her desire is to continue operating  
16 those centers so she's going to find a way to do  
17 that.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: And if not she  
20 will, she will let us know what her plan is.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay, thank you.  
22 So along that line of staffing obviously your  
23 agency has more contracts than anyone in the city..  
24 DOE. Want to talk about something, talk about that  
25 staffing and some of the, the, the labor conditions

1  
2 and, and the monitoring of those, and the oversight  
3 of those conditions and as it pertains to your  
4 contract.

5 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I, I don't  
6 understand the question... [crosstalk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: What I mean is  
8 that you have folks working in the centers. What  
9 are the standards and how do you monitor those  
10 standards?

11 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: We have program  
12 officers assigned to each center. We have  
13 regulatory guidelines and standards and we do  
14 regular assessments around those standards in  
15 addition to contracting standards that are  
16 monitored by city agencies, the Mayor's Office of  
17 Contracts. So those are annual. And there's fiscal  
18 audits, there's programmatic audits and they are  
19 systematic.

20 COUCNIL MEMBER MILLER: So do, does your  
21 agency have any input based on your specific areas  
22 of expertise? Or do you just leave that to the  
23 other agencies to, to kind of determine what those  
24 guidelines are?

25

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: No the guidelines are, are developed, they're, they're DFTA guidelines so they were developed along with whatever our funding sources are for the Older Americans Act. If it's federal guidelines they're integrated into whatever portion is, is funded by the federal government. So it incorporates the state federal and city guidelines. And programmatic standards so... And we measure against those standards. And then there's fiscal standards that the, are citywide that they're monitored against. And we have a fiscal staff that are internal to DFTA and programmatic staff that are internal to DFTA that monitor our agencies.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Your welcome.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council Member Miller. We will have Council Member Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you very much Chair for this very important hearing and welcome Commissioner. It's such a pleasure to see you here.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: It's been a pleasure getting to know you and work with you. And I appreciate your commitment to seniors and making sure our government works well for our seniors. I have three quick questions. The first one is in regards to as you know the, in regards to the NORC. And DFTA's funding of NORC. As you know I have a NORC in my community that did not even respond to the RFP this year because they didn't qualify. There was a new set of criteria this year that they did not meet. So I know that they're, that the cost for... you had said earlier that the cost of funding, those NORCS that didn't qualify would be 1.5 million. But those NORCS applied and didn't qualify. The NORC in my district did not even apply because they were following the rules and they thought they couldn't qualify. I'm wondering what the cost would be city wide for other NORCS that didn't apply because they don't qualify. If you know they were, they were very few that actually did not apply because they did not qualify. And that 1.5 million ask would include that particular...

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh.



COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...NORC that  
you're, you're speaking of. However, there presents  
certain procurement challenges. If they did not  
apply they're not a viable NORC in, in terms of our  
procurement rules. So that if it were to be  
refunded it would be total discretionary allocation  
and it would be a year to year situation.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Ah, right.  
I'd like to talk to you more about how we could  
think creatively about that. As chair of the  
contracts committee. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Your welcome.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Secondly in  
terms of expanding NORC funding there are many more  
buildings in my district on the upper west side  
where seniors are aging in place. And I'm wondering  
if you would consider working with the council to  
think about some sort of sliding scale, some sort  
of RFP where you would have a sliding scale whereby  
NORCs that don't necessarily qualify to meet all  
criteria...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...you would  
consider funding going forward. Some sort of

1  
2 sliding scale of payment if they met some of the  
3 criteria.

4 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: In the perfect  
5 world yes. But just to, in terms of edification for  
6 the other council members there are a number of  
7 NORCs that are privately funded...

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...because as we  
10 know not every community district and every  
11 neighborhood has the same amount of resources. So  
12 for example there are communities on the upper east  
13 side where the per capita is higher that they self-  
14 fund both case management agencies and their  
15 naturally occurring retirement communities. So that  
16 was something that I've recently learned, that  
17 there are many more than I ever thought there could  
18 be. But there, those are community organizing  
19 efforts that take a lot of energy and passion. But  
20 if there's a willingness to do that then I would  
21 encourage that for council members that are  
22 fortunate enough to have those, that type of census  
23 and that type of housing stock within their  
24 district.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right, so my district, the buildings I'm thinking about fall somewhere in between.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: They're not in poverty but they're not that much far above. So that's why I say some sort of sliding...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. And then just lastly I want to thank you for the excellent contract management that you do. Because as Council Member Miller noted you have so many contracts. And I look forward to working with you this summer. As you know again with my contracts chair hat on...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...I'm hoping this, to have a summer project where we understand better your best practices and we can help other agencies implement those as well.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I look forward to that conversation and my partner here is, is also shaking her head. So that's something that... we'd enjoy a conversation around contracting.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I appreciate that. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Thank you Council Member Rosenthal. We're going to go now to the co-chairs. Co-Chair Chin and then followed by Co-Chair Vallone.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you. Commissioner I just want to follow-up from some of the question that was asked earlier. So on the, the overutilization you were talking about an extra 1.2 million for centers that really over utilize. How many centers would that cover?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: We're looking that in terms of actual overutilization of meals, congregate meals. So that would approximately...

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Well how many meals would that cover?

[off mic conversation]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: so the... my, my finance expert is telling me it would most likely cover around 12 centers. Plus it includes underutilization and underfunded programs as well.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: I, I think that's important because I know that in, in my district I

1  
2 have a lot of centers that, a lot of senior goes  
3 there throughout the city. So they're definitely  
4 over utilized...

5 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

6 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: ...and they need, they  
7 need the support. In your testimony you talked  
8 about your first ever full scale impact analysis of  
9 the effect of senior center programming on the  
10 physical and mental health of participants at the  
11 innovative senior center.

12 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Correct.

13 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: So are, were there  
14 ever any full scale impact study on regular  
15 centers?

16 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: No that has never  
17 been done.

18 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Why not? I, I'm just  
19 saying that the way, I mean it's... [crosstalk]

20 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Well they, they  
21 may, they may have been... see the, the operative  
22 words was full scale. Individual senior centers, I  
23 know catholic charities we've embarked on studies  
24 to see whether certain programming was effective or  
25 not effective. But a, a comprehensive research

1 study takes a great deal of time, resources, and  
2 talent. And we have our Director of Research and  
3 Planning here Michael Bostick who, who is really  
4 working with the researchers to design a full  
5 impact study which brings this to a whole different  
6 level. [crosstalk] And, and in innovative senior  
7 centers are a new model as you know so as these  
8 programs are implemented and some have been around  
9 for a number of years now is the time to do that.  
10 And we can use the neighborhood centers to really  
11 have the base line information that we would need  
12 to compare a new innovative model, one against the  
13 other.  
14

15 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Well I mean it's good  
16 that you're doing the study. I mean the city is  
17 putting a lot of resources to start these  
18 innovative senior centers but we have a lot of  
19 senior center throughout the city that would more  
20 funding they all already innovative senior centers.  
21 I mean they have wonderful program and they attract  
22 seniors from all over the city, all over the  
23 borough so that, we just want to make sure that we  
24 also pay attention to the existing senior center.  
25 They are doing great work in our communities.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: And to make sure that they also get the attention and the funding that they need. I mean you might not, we might not call them innovative but they've been innovative for a long time.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: I could not agree with you more.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: So I'll pass it over to my co-chair.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I think we talked at the beginning about underfunded senior centers but I, I think we could take the opportunity just to maybe expand what's included in that. I think maybe we can fight for funding or separate things in a different way. I think the reality of anyone that has to run...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...a senior center are the operating costs.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And when the operating costs are included in the cost of running the senior center a very large chunk of the budget

1  
2 for the senior center is allocated just for the  
3 operating cost, especially the rents.

4 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And then you have  
6 insurance cost and employees.

7 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: There's, would you  
9 consider the separation of possibly fighting for  
10 funding for base line and the operating costs so  
11 they're not included in the funding for senior  
12 centers so that they can truly have a budget that  
13 they can use, not just pay bills.

14 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: The answer to  
15 that question is yes and we're in conversation with  
16 OMB around new needs asks to bring certain centers  
17 up to a base line. And there are historical reasons  
18 why a center may not have adequate funding even at  
19 a... and it could be contractual, it could be a  
20 multiservice agency that was offsetting the costs  
21 of rent for example because they had a larger  
22 contract with another city agency or state agency.  
23 That contract no longer exists because of funding,  
24 funding cuts in other areas of their agency. And  
25 then there's a shortfall on the, on the senior



center contract side. So there are many reasons why that can happen. And we would like to make those senior centers whole at some point in time. But that's the goal to do that. They're not, fortunately not many situations like that. But there are particular scenarios that we've been made aware of that we would like to help those senior centers.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well that's encouraging.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I mean I think the...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...the sign that you're saying you'd like...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...to assist and...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...provide. I think we'd like to...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...guide and be part of that.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I hear that as I  
go now from senior center...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...to senior center  
that they can't...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...meet the daily  
costs of operating...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...a senior center  
let alone provide...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...services so they  
have to pull money from a certain program...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...in order just to  
pay the rent.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Or pay the  
insurance, or pay the light, the electricity...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...utilities...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: We'd also would like to look at that you know more creatively in terms of looking at other projects that the city is doing. This administration as you know is very committed to creating affordable housing and to using NYCHA property to do further development. So where there are opportunities with existing centers that for whatever reason may not have adequate space to co-locate programs in this new housing development. So that's something that we're exploring. And we feel that with all of these new housing opportunities and with all centers and communities that we can do the mapping and hopefully the stars and the moons will line up and that we'll be able to do creative relocations.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Do you have facts or figures that separate the operating costs from a senior center and the percentages of what is used?

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes we do. We have those cost centers and we do that for every contract. And we can get that information for you if there are particular centers you're interested in.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well I think  
there'd be, we might be able to see a trend... in a  
certain percentage...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...used across the  
city or per borough.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And there might be  
something that we could target for... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...for that  
astronomical rise for...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...whatever reason  
happened whether it was insurance or rent or  
utilities that maybe we can offset an... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...emergency relief...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: ...with that.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Yes, we do have...  
every, every contract has different cost centers so  
we track that. And every center has a variable  
amount of fixed cost as well. So not every center

1  
2 for example costs the same amount of money. And I  
3 think that's an important point. So we can't say  
4 you know there's a certain level. You can say what  
5 a cost to operate and provide the service but the  
6 fixed costs have always been a challenge.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you very  
8 much.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Co-  
10 Chair. I just wanted to ask what was your original  
11 ask of OMB and what did it, did they not fund?

12 [off mic comments]

13 JOY WANG: Well we had a lot priorities...

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Sorry, just if  
15 you, if you could state your name for the record.

16 JOY WANG: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you.

18 JOY WANG: My name is Joy Wang. I'm the  
19 Associate, Associate Commissioner of our Budget and  
20 Fiscal Operations. So we had a lot of needs  
21 basically over the last seven or eight years DFTA  
22 has lost about 70 million in funding. The base fund  
23 is 70 million in funding compared to seven years  
24 ago. So we're very grateful for the 20 million that  
25 was base lined into our budget for next year. So

2 that has been very helpful. So we've just been  
3 going to OMB and trying to go up from there. We,  
4 they know our needs and then we were very grateful  
5 that we received 8 million dollars this year.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERS: If you can share  
7 with us any, actually share with the committee and  
8 we'll follow up with you in a letter so you can get  
9 it back to us for any questions that weren't asked  
10 today. So you can get back to us before we begin  
11 our budget negotiating to ensure that we are as  
12 supportive to our seniors as possible. And I just  
13 wanted to highlight and I know that we've had a  
14 great partner with CSS and in your testimony you  
15 talked about the bill payer initiative. And I know  
16 that it, it seems that it's a, a screen and  
17 volunteer, screened and trained volunteer bill  
18 payers...

19 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...in the, in the  
21 era of confidentiality and of just being able to  
22 protect our seniors and with identity theft it  
23 concerns me. So I don't know if you've, if you're  
24 aware of what the training or screening process is  
25 but when we talk about volunteer that means you're

not, you may not be there long. And this could happen with paid employees. But how do we preserve or protect our seniors from confidentiality and...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: This is a program that's been established for a number of years. It's a, a national model to form the basis of the, of even the council's program. It was originally started by AARP and they had put in a lot of guidelines and a lot of recommendations and ran the program for a number of years and interestingly their statistics because they've always evaluated their programs. There's less financial exploitation and abuse than there is in the general population because there are so many controls in place which I found out to be incredible...

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Right.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...information. So those controls are built into the program and certainly the volunteers will be screened as we would screen any employee in terms of background checks and, and whatnot. But they, they have only a certain amount of discretion as it relates to the bill paying. So it may be that they don't actually signing checks.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERERRAS: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: But we're, we're  
4 going to look at that, we're going to develop a  
5 program but...

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: I think it...

7 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...but we'll have  
8 all of those...

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...definitely right  
10 direction...

11 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: ...checks and  
12 balances.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: It's definitely a  
14 step in the right direction. And then it has had  
15 some national testing and, and that it's successful  
16 on the national level.

17 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Actually you know  
19 helps us understand it better.

20 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Mm-hmm.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: And I, and I wish  
22 it. I, I, I hope that it gets to a point where  
23 we're able to provide it across the board. So I, I  
24 thank you for your vision and for working with our  
25



partners in, in this. So I thank you for your  
testimony today and we are...

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...going to wrap up  
the DFTA hearing. And we will be starting with our  
land use portion of today's hearing in a, in 15  
minutes. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Thank you.

[long pause]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We will now  
resume the city council's hearing on the mayor's  
executive budget for FY 2015. The Finance Committee  
will now be joined by the Committee on Land Use  
chaired by my colleague Council Member, Council  
Member David Greenfield to hear from the Department  
of City Planning. We have five agencies to hear  
from today. So in the interest of time I will forgo  
an opening statement and turn my mic over to co-  
chair Council Member David Greenfield.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Madam  
Chair. First I want to thank the throngs of people  
who have come out here today for this hearing.

[laughter]

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: You can't see  
3 it because the TV is focused on us but in fact the  
4 chamber is overflowing. My name is David Greenfield  
5 I'm Chair of the Council's Committee on Land Use. I  
6 want to recognize as well the chairs of the  
7 subcommittees of the Land Use Committee which  
8 include Chair Mark Weprin, Chair Peter Koo, Chair  
9 Inez Dickens, and also Chair Jimmy Vacca who will  
10 be joining us later for our DoITT portion of the  
11 hearing. This will be our only opening statement in  
12 the interest of time as well. This hearing will  
13 cover the fiscal 2015 executive budget for the  
14 Department of City Planning, the Landmarks  
15 Preservation Commission, and the Department of  
16 Information, Technology, and Telecommunications  
17 fondly known as DoITT. This is a joint hearing with  
18 the Committee on Technology and the Committee on  
19 Finance. The Department of City Planning conducts  
20 planning related to the growth, improvement, and  
21 future development of our city. It's responsible  
22 for initiating change in the zoning maps and  
23 providing technical and professional assistance to  
24 community boards. Accordingly city planning will  
25 play a key role in mayor de Blasio's recently

unveiled housing plan which calls for the preservation and construction of 200 thousand units of affordable housing over a ten year period. While planning initiatives and zoning changes that will help make these affordable units a reality are still being worked out the Land Use Committee is interested in learning more about the new needs reflected in city planning's 28 million dollar budget including details on the addition of borough planners and staffing and environmental consulting services in connection with the mayor's housing plan. After the Department of City Planning we will hear from the Landmarks Preservation Committee, LPC protects the City's architectural, historic, and cultural resources. The Commissioner... Enterprises agnates and regulates buildings, district sites, and interiors, surveys potential landmarks and historic districts, evaluates proposals for landmark designation, and regulates alterations to designated sites and structures. The Committee on Land Use is interested in learning more about the new needs reflected in the new commission's fiscal 2015 five million dollar budget including details on their planned move to 253 Broadway which is an

1  
2 estimated cost of 240 thousand dollars. In addition  
3 the commission hopes to continue discussion on  
4 priorities for the commission in light of mayor de  
5 Blasio's recently unveiled 10 year housing plan.  
6 I'd like to thank City Planning Commissioner Carl  
7 Weisbrod, Landmarks Commissioner Robert Tierney,  
8 DoITT Commissioner Heintz, and their respective  
9 staff for joining us today. And we will now turn it  
10 over to Mr. Weisbrod for his testimony.

11 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Thank you very  
12 much chairs Greenfield and Ferreras and Sub-  
13 Committee Chairs Weprin, Dickens, and Koo. Thank  
14 you for the opportunity to be here today to testify  
15 regarding Department of City Planning's fiscal year  
16 2017 executive budget. I am joined here by Richard  
17 Barth our Executive Director, by Howard Sactin  
18 [sp?] who is our Deputy Director for Strategic  
19 Planning, and Carolyn Groslin [sp?] who I think you  
20 all know very very well who is our Director of  
21 Intergovernmental Relations. And after my hopefully  
22 brief introductory remarks we'll be delighted to  
23 answer your questions. When I testified before you  
24 in March on my I think fourth day in office I  
25 outlined some of the major priorities I saw for

1 City Planning for supporting the mayor's plan for  
2 preserving and developing a total of 200 thousand  
3 units of affordable housing over the next decade. I  
4 don't believe I knew at that time that it was going  
5 to be 200 thousand units but we do support  
6 obviously the plan which we were very actively  
7 involved in crafting. Second ensuring that our  
8 focus on housing creation is coupled with an  
9 intense commitment to ground up neighborhood  
10 planning efforts that support mixed use, strong  
11 mixed use communities, something I've spent most of  
12 my life doing. Third, continuing our work on  
13 resiliency particularly in areas affected by Sandy  
14 and fought to reduce the bureaucracy associated  
15 with moving through the ULERP process and to ensure  
16 a better, faster, and more transparent planning  
17 process. I also shared with you some of the more  
18 startling statistics regarding the sharp decline in  
19 funding support for planning activities over the  
20 past several years which have resulted in a 30  
21 percent overall decline since FY 2008 and a  
22 cumulative loss of 68 staff positions the  
23 department's fiscal condition had also resulted in  
24 an overreliance on grant funding resulting in  
25

inflexibility of work assignments and gaps in court support services. The mayor has made clear that planning is priority of this administration and the Department of City Planning must be a major driver in transforming administration goals into reality.

I further believe that our work can provide the essential underpinning and strategic thinking necessary to accomplish a broad and aggressive agenda to ensure a more equitable city and therefore pleased to report to you that the proposed budget before you today reverses this downward spiral over the past six years and contains significant increases in funding and staff positions to the department. This will enable us to better adjust the key initiatives and priorities to achieve the goals articulated by the mayor. The department began FY14 with an expense budget appropriation of 20.8 million dollars which consists, consisted of seven million in tax levy funds and nearly 14 million in federal and other funds. That's 35 percent of our budget at the beginning of FY14 where city tax levy funds and 65 percent federal and other funding. When the FY14 budget was adopted in July of last year the

Department of City Planning's authorized headcount was 234 full time positions of which only 60 were tax levy and the remaining 174 were primarily funded with federal dollars. Three of those 60 positions were funded on a temporary basis just through the end of the fiscal year. Since adoption of that budget it has undergone several modest financial plan changes which we had discussed at our council hearing in March. The preliminary budget for 2015 forecasted 231 positions and a total budget of 20.3 million dollars which would have represented a further decline in the previous year's adopted budget and it would have represented the seventh straight year of declining resources. Fortunately this current post executive budget before you today incorporates changes that will better position the department to undertake an array of administration priorities while continuing to carry out its many charter mandated responsibilities. The budget adds substantial staff resources to the department increasing the number of budgeted positions by 31; from 231 in the preliminary budget to 262 in the executive budget for FY15 and the out years. About half of these

positions, new positions will be assigned to our borough offices which will take the lead on ground up community planning which is quite labor intensive. The balance of the new staff would be assigned to technical review, environmental review, and central office planning functions particularly the council's office as well as administrative support for the agency and that's essential to help support the efforts in our borough offices. The department's overall budget would be increased to approximately 28 million dollars in FY15. This increase includes 2.3 million in personal service dollars to fund the new positions, two million dollars for environmental consultant services to ensure we can implement the neighborhood developments and rezonings and other neighborhood proposals that are developed as well as 3.1 million dollars for annual rent to allow city planning to relocate from its deteriorated dysfunctional and I would say almost slum like conditions at 22 Reith [sp?] Street into more suitable space. The increase in tax levy positions in funding will also reverse a trend which has had the department relying increasingly on federal and other grants to support



its ongoing activities. Approximately two thirds of the staff falls into this category increasing the number of tax levy positions does provide us with more flexibility in the assignment staff and allows us more easily placed resources where they are most needed. As in the past due to staggered federal, city, and state budget cycles the FY15 executive budget reflects only a portion of the total anticipated federal and state grant funding for the fiscal year. Additional federal and state grant funding for existing staff will be added to the Department's budget later in the budget cycle. This includes 19 temporary positions that were added in FY14 for resiliency planning using CDBGDR funding and these are expected to be reflected in the FY15 budget through a budget modification after adoption. As noted the executive budget includes a base line increase, an OTPS of two million dollars for FY15 and the out years to support an environmental review for neighborhood rezonings and text amendments associated primarily with the affordable housing plan while many straight forward environmental reviews can be undertaken in house environmental consultants are needed to facilitate

the more complex analysis resulting from large area wide rezonings incorporating increases in housing capacity. It is expected that the bulk of the funding for environmental consultants would be used to help implement a large program of area wide rezonings with significant opportunities for new housing none of which we will be able to advance to certification without the ability to complete environmental review work. The FY OTPS budget also includes 3.1 million in funding to allow us to move our headquarters from 22 Reith [sp?] Street to other lease space in lower Manhattan which we have not identified yet. Anyone who I, anyone of you who have visited our offices at 22 Reith Street understands the conditions under which we work day to day and meet with a broad cross section of stakeholders. And while we have been slated to move to the municipal building at one center street in 2017 the lack of adequate space for the department within that building require that find alternate solutions and allows us to I hope greatly accelerate our ability to find suitable alternative space. We expect a significant majority of our future work program will be occupied by

facilitating the aggressive housing agenda. As you all know the mayor recently released Housing New York our blueprint for tackling the affordability crisis over the next 10 years by providing 200 thousand new and preserved housing units over the next 10 years. 40 percent of these 200 thousand affordable units will be achieved through new construction which means with a production of an average of 8,000 new units of affordable housing per year over the life of the plan. It's a very ambitious plan but we are optimistic that we will be able to achieve it. This is a 60 percent increase over the average annual new construction of affordable housing produced during the last decade. So you can see we are being ambitious but we also do believe it's achievable. A key theme that runs through the plan is our commitment to expand the capacity for housing in all five boroughs by fostering diverse and livable neighborhoods. To fulfill this ambitious goal we, the Department of City Planning, working with you and other local elected officials together with local businesses, residents, and community organizations will commence planning studies in 15

neighborhoods in all five boroughs where we believe the potential exists to greatly expand housing capacity. We recognize that this effort must be undertaken through a ground up community planning effort that coordinates new development with appropriate infrastructure and city services. And let me provide very briefly a template for how this can work for the past few years, two years our Brooklyn office under the very capable direction of Porna Macapor [phonetic] has been engaged in a planning process with the community in East New York, a vibrant multi-cultural neighborhood that really has been left behind even as many other parts of Brooklyn have thrived. This transit rich area offers a 30 minute commute to lower Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn and east to JFK on Long Island via the Long Island Railroad. Our planners have been out in the community meeting with all the stakeholders and listening to their hopes and their vision for their community. In close partnership with elected officials, community members, business leaders, and the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation we've developed a framework for growth and revitalization that can create the opportunity

for thousands of units of new affordable housing,  
much needed retail jobs and services and that also  
addresses the physical infrastructure needs of the  
area. We've been engaged with our sister city  
agencies to ensure that our planning work  
comprehensively addresses infrastructure and  
service needs, access to jobs and training, and  
ensures that the people in the community can  
continue to be partners in the revitalization of  
their neighborhood. We believe East New York now  
welcomes increased density because it understands  
the benefits it can bring. But we understand also  
that the City's obligation is to provide and  
produce the timely infrastructure and services that  
increased density requires. We will similarly  
engage with communities throughout the city to  
identify other opportunities for growth and  
redevelopment. We will work toward shared goals of  
providing new housing options, necessary services,  
and economic development opportunities in each  
borough and throughout the city. One tool we  
believe will help facilitate this comprehensive  
approach to neighborhood planning is for city  
planning to work with other city agencies including

HPD and EDC to play an enhanced role in the City's capital budget planning process in order to better mesh the level and timing of the City's capital investments and neighborhoods with new residential development. We will also be implementing a mandatory inclusionary housing, zoning requirement as part of all future rezonings that substantially increase potential housing capacity in medium and high density areas. This will require that a portion of the new housing developed in these rezoned areas to be permanently affordable to low or moderate income households in order to ensure diverse and inclusive communities and to cushion the impact of gentrification. The program will be applicable in all medium and high density districts where rezonings provide an opportunity for more housing, mandatory inclusionary zoning will be implemented in conjunction with these neighborhood rezonings. Over the next few months city planning working with HPD will expedite the completion of a study to provide the foundation in land use policy for incorporating the mandatory inclusionary housing program into the zoning resolution. We'll also be looking at areas to improve and strengthen

the existing inclusionary policy including better aligning it with existing tax incentives. We also recognize that for developers and businesses time is money. The city, particularly city planning and HPD are committed to making the permit and approval process more efficient. We are also reviewing zoning and building code regulations such as reducing parking requirements in transit oriented areas for affordable housing. Where car ownership is low building environment and below constraints and minimum size of units for seniors and transferability of developments rights, TDRs that could lower the cost of affordable housing construction. A second key component of our work program will be continuing the work of recovery and long term planning for coastal resilience, Superstorm Sandy hit New York hard and exacted a very heavy toll on neighborhoods throughout the city. Moving forward city planning is launching studies in 10 areas distinct from our areas of opportunity for affordable housing across the city to engage communities in a resiliency focused planning process to understand the threat sea level rise poses to the long term fabric of neighborhoods

1  
2 and to begin the process on planning for vibrant  
3 and resilient neighborhoods in, for the long term.  
4 We will continue to engage communities, especially  
5 those that have been left behind in the last decade  
6 in reimagining and strengthening their  
7 neighborhoods based on a shared vision of  
8 opportunity we will meet with you, neighborhood  
9 residents, civic leaders in making sure that our  
10 plans for future growth are based upon the real  
11 needs and aspirations of the people that live in  
12 the, these neighborhoods. And I welcome your  
13 partnership and look forward to continuing our work  
14 together to support the city in our collective  
15 future. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you very  
17 much for your testimony. We've been joined by  
18 Council Member Gentile, Rosenthal, Miller, Treyger,  
19 Barron, Kallos, Lander, Mendez, Weprin, Levine,  
20 Van, Majority Leader Van Bramer, Mealy, Council  
21 Member Palma, Council Member Dickens, Arroyo, and  
22 Ignizio. Thank you very much for coming today to  
23 testify. I have just a few questions. One in your  
24 testimony you talked about where car ownership is  
25 low. I never heard that being taken into



1  
2 consideration in city planning. Can you explain  
3 that? Because I would think that as a driver I  
4 think that nowhere in New York City is the car  
5 ownership low.

6 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well in fact  
7 we've, we have done and continue to do a number of  
8 studies on car ownership in certain neighborhoods,  
9 particularly those that are very transit dense,  
10 mass transit dense and particularly those that  
11 where for the most part housing is affordable car  
12 ownership is significantly lower than it is in  
13 other parts of the city. I want, I, I, I would just  
14 say Madam Chair just in general one of the things  
15 about what we're looking at is, recognizing that  
16 one size doesn't fit all and each neighborhood is  
17 different and... So neighborhoods where we can  
18 demonstrate that in fact car ownership is low and  
19 mass transit opportunities are readily available  
20 and, and particularly below capacity should not  
21 have the same high parking requirements as  
22 neighborhoods where car ownership is not low. And  
23 to the extent that we can fine tune this so as to  
24 reduce the cost of construction and make, make  
25

units more affordable we're going to try to do  
that.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Right. I was just  
talking to our Co-Chair and its Chair usually car  
ownership is low because there's nowhere to park.  
So if we're building with no parking availability  
that's where it becomes a challenge.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I, I, I think we  
can cross out those distinctions.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: So I want to talk  
about your lease space. Can you provide the  
committee with details on your, and, and I know  
that you put them in your testimony on the...  
conditions are deplorable and of course we would  
never want you to be in conditions that are  
deplorable.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Slum like.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Slum like.

However...

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: That would make  
the city a slumlord.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: That would make  
us a slumlord...

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: That's right.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Right. Okay,  
however it, it concerns me that we're leaving this  
facility without taking into consideration two  
things. One I would like to know if you know where  
you're moving to since you're asking for 3.1  
million dollars I'm assuming that you know how  
much, where you're going is going to cost. And why  
can't you move into the municipal building  
temporarily while we renovate the space that you're  
currently in?

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well the... two  
answers. First of your, first question about do we  
know where we're going to move. The answer is no we  
don't. We are beginning a, a search in... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: So how do you  
know you know... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...lower  
Manhattan.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...how do, how do  
you know that you need 3.1 million dollars.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Because we know  
what the market is in lower Manhattan and  
particularly the lower end of that market and I  
having spent more than a decade of my life in lower

Manhattan as president of Alliance for Downtown New York particularly know the market very very well. The budgeted amount for space in lower Manhattan that we've, that's in the budget is in, it's at the, at the frankly low end of the, of the lower Manhattan office market. The reason that we can't move into the municipal building temporarily and then move back into our existing space are really two fold. One, as far as I know and one of the reasons that we can't move into the Municipal building permanently is that there, there isn't available space there. And second, and perhaps more importantly the cost of renovating our existing space is in, and we can get you the exact amount that DCAS has estimated but is in the tens and tens of millions of dollars and it would be generally recognized not be cost effective for the city to renovate our existing space.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay, so I would love for you to provide for this committee the analysis of DCAS...

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: And, and just to, let me say it. The estimate I'm told is 115 million dollars to renovate our existing space. And

1 I would just say one, one other thing about it  
2 which is that in addition it, it is, for those of  
3 you that have, have been to city planning, seen our  
4 space at city planning not only, I think you not  
5 only appreciate the condition of the space but how  
6 highly inefficient it is for the kind of staff that  
7 we have. It's on several floors. It, it is, it is  
8 not conducive to the collegiality of, that is  
9 particularly important at city planning where a  
10 variety of divisions have to work together. It is  
11 filled with, it's a rabid warren of space so that's  
12 an additional factor. Probably when the decision  
13 was made to move city planning into the space three  
14 plus decades it was a poor decision at that time.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Well perhaps you  
17 should have kept it up as we went along also  
18 because 115 million dollars later poor conditions  
19 is unacceptable also for a city owned property. So  
20 I would love to see the DCAS analysis on the 115  
21 million dollars and what it is that you're looking  
22 for. And if you could just tell me if you, if you  
23 happen to know you're saying that the space is not  
24 conducive now so what the square footage is where  
25 you are now and what the square footage is of where

1  
2 you want to go. But you can get that for the  
3 committee at some point.

4 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Certainly.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: So I'm going to  
6 ask my last question before I give it over to my  
7 co-chair and come back for a second round. A total  
8 of 154 land use applications were referred for  
9 public review by DCP from July to October fiscal  
10 year 2014. And 85 percent of these applications  
11 were referred within six months the median time to  
12 refer an application is 48 days which represents a  
13 significant improvement over performance a year  
14 ago. Given DCP's ability to process land use  
15 applications has increased. Do you anticipate a  
16 lower median times or days in reviewing land use  
17 applications and environmental reviews? And do you  
18 anticipate an increase in revenue from the  
19 collection of fees?

20 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well I think the  
21 record you cited is a good one. We clearly have  
22 very much improved our processing time and I think  
23 we still can do better. How much better we shall  
24 see. But to a large extent it depends on the, the  
25 complexity and nature of the applications that we,

1  
2 we get. I do think that the I don't know what is  
3 projected in terms of fees for next year but it is  
4 entirely dependent on, really on the economy and  
5 how many applications are filed. And, and perhaps  
6 Mr. Barth who was there during the July through  
7 October's period can speak to that as well as to  
8 projections to the future.

9 RICHARD BARTH: Right and I was, I was  
10 going just to add the chairman's...

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: I'm, I'm sorry if  
12 you could just state your name for the record.  
13 Thank you.

14 RICHARD BARTH: I'm sorry my name is  
15 Richard Barth I'm the executive Director at City  
16 Planning. And the, just referring the chairman's  
17 correct that to some extent the fees that we  
18 collect are based on the economy, of the health of  
19 the economy and they've been, our fees have been  
20 rising over the past few years, a projection for  
21 fiscal year 15 is for completion of fiscal year 14  
22 is 3.6 million in fees for ULERP and seeker fees  
23 which is more than a million over that which had  
24 been projected at the start of fiscal year 13. So  
25

there has been based on the increased workload in  
ULERP pipeline an increase in the fees.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you. And I  
just wanted to acknowledge that your Queens staffer  
John Young is amazing. It's been a real big  
pleasure working with him and I had to land the  
Willets Point project which was very complex and do  
a rezoning but I must say and I said this when we  
spoke before I'd like to put planning back in city  
planning because for my interactions for a long  
time has been that it's about rezoning and, and the  
focus has been about rezoning with very little  
support on the planning perspective and putting  
planning ahead of it so that as members we can also  
look at our districts from a planning perspective.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Thank you very  
much. Thank you for your compliment about, about  
John Young. I, I do think first that we are blessed  
with an extraordinarily competent group of borough  
directors and I think one of the real comparative  
advantages of city planning is that we are  
geographically based and we are neighborhood based.  
And to your, to your point about planning I was,  
hope I made clear in my testimony that I am totally



committed to not just rezonings but planning. And rezoning is a tool in planning but it is not the only tool and it's not necessarily the only result. And again one of the reasons I wanted to use East New York as a template is that it is an example of how a vision can be created working with everybody both public institutions, neighborhood institutions, local elected officials, businesses and others in, in, in, in a way that can lead to a common vision but also requires a broad based array of tools in order to be successful. It's, it, if just, and East New York I think is a very good example of that. If we just rezone East New York without, without addressing transit connections and street improvements and, and other factors in that neighborhood and every neighborhood that we're working in we're not creating the kind of market for either affordable housing or market rate housing. It is all about neighborhood, neighborhood strengthening neighborhoods.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you so much and I'm going to pass it over to my Co-Chair Greenfield.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Madam  
Chair. You mentioned a lot about East New York. Of  
course we relatively recently did the Livonia  
Commons rezoning over there. So is that sort of the  
first of the 15 neighborhoods that you're looking  
at going into and are there other neighborhoods  
that are now on the docket that you're considering.  
Because it seems like there's a lot of focus  
particularly in your testimony and conversations on  
East New York in particular.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Yes East New  
York is the first of the, of our 15 areas of  
opportunity, the reason that I can speak of it  
robustly is because there has been a lot of time  
and effort devoted to it to bring it to this point.  
We will, we are in the process now of beginning to  
identify the other neighborhoods that we will be  
launching similar efforts in and as we identify  
those neighborhoods we will be meeting with a local  
elected officials including obviously each local  
council member in that area and starting that  
process as I said in my testimony from the, from  
the, from the ground up. But as I also I think  
indicated with respect to east New York it is a

1  
2 template, it is I think an appropriate and  
3 potentially highly successful way to proceed. But  
4 it requires time and we can't just impose rezonings  
5 on neighborhoods from afar. It really requires our  
6 staff and other city agencies working and investing  
7 time in each such neighborhood to come up with a  
8 common plan and, and that's one of the reasons why  
9 city planning is a, a labor intensive entity  
10 because our planners spend a lot of time in each  
11 neighborhood.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So is that what  
13 these new staff is, are going to be doing by our,  
14 by our numbers we see the potential of up to 28  
15 more staffers within city planning. Can you sort of  
16 elaborate on what these folks are going to be  
17 doing, sort of break it down for us. Is it now  
18 assist of communities or is it more for individual  
19 applications or are we talking about more planners.  
20 I mean can we just get a little more details about  
21 the increase in staffing which as you know we  
22 welcome we just sort of want to know where it's  
23 going and how does that reflect in terms of the  
24 bigger, I guess the two issues that we have here on  
25 the committee are the general overall housing plan

and specifically timeliness of projects and whether these new staffers will ensure that we have quicker completion of projects?

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Yes I can give you a, a general breakdown. Roughly 50 percent of the new staff will be assigned to our borough offices and they will be working with neighborhoods. I mean they will be, they will be assigned to first and foremost to work on the housing plan. They will be supplementing staff that is already in our borough offices. How exactly they are allocated among the borough offices will depend to, I think in the first instance on our assessment of the complexity of each of the, the 15 areas that we will be looking at. But first and foremost they are planners and they'll working with, with each neighborhood. And they have to be supported by appropriate staff in the central office who will give them support but also assure Mr. Chairman what you've asked for which is expeditious and what everyone asks for which is expeditious processing.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. And specifically in terms of other neighborhoods are there other neighborhoods that you've identified

1 yet when you say you're, you're in the process?  
2  
3 Clock is ticking, are there particular  
4 neighborhoods that you've identified or  
5 conversations that you've begun in terms of the  
6 other 14 neighborhoods of opportunity?

7 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: We're, we're, I,  
8 I literally am, I've asked our borough offices to  
9 submit to me their suggestions. And I am beginning  
10 to get them now and will be looking at them over  
11 the next several days and then we will go out and  
12 talk to local communities, those that I, I believe  
13 have merit and where the, where our borough offices  
14 have made compelling cases. I will and they will be  
15 going out and talking starting with the local  
16 elected officials and, and informing them and  
17 asking them whether they agree that there's  
18 opportunities in those neighborhoods. So the  
19 process has begun but it has not reached the point  
20 yet where I, where we have actually gone out and  
21 done any outreach.

22 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So I'd, I'd  
23 actually like to suggest, something to think about,  
24 perhaps you might want to consider asking local  
25 council members who of course are very familiar

1  
2 with their districts whether they have any ideas or  
3 priorities that they can suggest to you. So that  
4 might help jumpstart the process.

5 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I think it's a  
6 very good idea and I, I, I think our borough  
7 offices have I think pretty much across the board  
8 very very good relations with local council  
9 members. And my sense is that their recommendations  
10 also reflect what they believe or they, their  
11 discussions with local council members but if not  
12 I, I will be sure that they do that. I think that's  
13 an excellent idea.

14 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you and  
15 can I just ask you about the, the mandatory  
16 inclusionary housing program. I think you made it  
17 very clear that the medium and high density areas  
18 will now have that. Is there any more details that  
19 you can share with us in terms over there? Are  
20 there going to be certain percentages or  
21 requirements? I, I think we all understand that  
22 that's happenings. What, what do we think it's  
23 going to look like practically when, when those  
24 programs actually come online.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well you know we're just starting as I indicated in my testimony just starting the study with HPD and it's, we hope to expedite this. This is a study that will be concluded in a matter of months not in a matter of years because we want to get this underway. I will say that we start with certain basic assumptions which is that again there has to be sort of a, for good land use planning a central theme that this, that mandatory inclusionary housing is, is based on land use considerations and that will be a common theme running through, through every neighborhood. But we do anticipate that, that mandatory inclusionary housing will be tailored to the rezonings or the changes in particular neighborhoods. So it's not going to be one size fits all but I do hope that, that we will be able in each one of these to provide a degree of predictability, a degree of reliability based on sound land use principles and, and, and that it will be required.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: And finally the, the plan, the housing plan very specifically lays out different bands of income. We've seen in

1 the past especially under the Bloomberg  
2 administration that despite their attempt to stick  
3 to certain bands it ended up being rather skewed  
4 ultimately when we looked back 12 years later. Is  
5 there anything on, on your front in terms of the  
6 folks who are actually doing the rezoning to ensure  
7 that the goals that you set out in terms of the  
8 percentages of affordable housing actually are  
9 achieved?  
10

11 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well everyone..  
12 and the administration is working as a team on this  
13 and overall we want to assure that the targets that  
14 were laid out in the housing plan which as you know  
15 substantially I think quadruples the percentage of  
16 units that will be for the very very poor and also  
17 recognizes that, that we want to be serving  
18 moderate income households as well. So overall we  
19 are all committed to achieving the target set out  
20 and the housing plan. In any particular  
21 neighborhood and again this really does go to the  
22 issue of there isn't just one size that fits all.  
23 That one, we're certainly not going to be saying  
24 that in every single neighborhood mandatory  
25 inclusionary housing or affordable housing in each



neighborhood will have the precise exact targets that are set forth in the housing plan. It would be inappropriate. It wouldn't be keeping with both existing neighborhood conditions and neighborhood desires in, in many cases. So, so, so there will be for certain variations among neighborhoods but, but precisely, but overall we will I'm confident achieve the, the targets that are set out in the housing plan.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. I'm going to turn the questioning over to our Subcommittee Chair Dickens to be followed by Council Member Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you so much to both of my chairs. And good morning. Thank you for, or good afternoon. Thank you so much for coming in for your testimony and for taking our questions. Now Chair Weisbrod... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I have a question concerning your testimony where you referred to the mayor's housing New York affordable housing plan for the creation of 200 thousand units which really is 120 thousand units for preservation

and 80,000 new units over the life of the plan. As,  
also as part of doing that, the, the mandatory  
inclusionary zoning would obviously in some cases  
mean an increased FAR which probably could mean an  
increase in heights. It also means that the use of  
more of whatever is left of city owned land unless  
of course private land is taken back... What is the  
financial impact or increased cost? Because we're  
only, we're talking about 41 billion dollars of  
which the city would only be putting up 8.2  
billion. Which means we would be looking for the  
balance of the money to come from the federal  
government and from the state government. Now what  
would be the financial impact, the increase cost  
that would increase that 41 billion when we do  
mandatory inclusionary zoning which would probably  
result in that increased FAR in historic districts.  
In many of the minority communities throughout the  
city of New York and the five boroughs there are  
numerous historic districts such as in mine. That  
means to increase the FAR to raise the heights  
which is obviously against what is allowed by  
landmarks preservation in the historic districts  
which means an increased cost due for very soft

cost as well as construction cost. What is the financial impact if you know at this time?

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well let, let me. I think you asked several questions. So let me try to respond to them. First on the overall budget for the housing plan which is as you, as you know estimated at 41 billion dollars with the city providing roughly 8.2 billion the vast majority of the, of the cost of the housing plan will be borne by the private sector, not by the public sector.

It's their cost of construction, their cost of building, their cost of financing, and the like. We estimated and in the housing plan that federal funding would continue at the rate it has, it is proceeding now which I think we all recognize is an appallingly low rate but that's what we have estimated and we are looking for a little less than two billion dollars of the overall 41 billion dollars that would come from other sources. But the vast majority of the funding in this plan would come as it appropriately should come, from the private sector because that is what drives housing construction in the city and the public support is in some respects a subsidy for affordable housing

and in some respects an incentive for the private sector to produce the, the funding that's necessary to build. Point number two is yes we are as I indicated with respect to areas of opportunity where we do believe that there are opportunities to change the density in certain areas where there can be a huge amount of, of new housing capacity. That really can't take place in historic districts and frankly we're looking at neighborhoods throughout the city where the, the where, where the current increase in market rate housing is really and, and, and the market has really passed certain neighborhoods by. So there are neighborhoods where we do believe and we hope and as I indicated to Chair Greenfield we're now looking at what those neighborhoods would be. But that's a separate issue from mandatory inclusionary zoning. And under the existing, the existing voluntary program that exists in many neighborhoods we do in fact provide incentives including increase FAR for developers to provide permanent affordable housing in return for increased FAR. Under the mandatory program that requirement of increased permanent affordability that will be imposed and again this will depend on

the neighborhood might not and may well not, probably won't involve increases in FAR, it will just be required. And, and clearly where, one of the reasons we will be looking at this on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis is because on the one hand we want to achieve the maximum amount of affordable housing we can through mandatory inclusionary zoning. On the other hand we don't want to make mandatory inclusionary zoning confiscatory to the point where the private sector is not going to invest capital. So finding that right balance is something we are going to have to look at on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis. But it will, the mandatory inclusionary housing program have, have, I don't think have anything to do with height.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you. What my, what my question about that was with the increased heights and increased FAR as it impacted upon historic districts and you answered that in the beginning. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Madam Chair. And with that we're going to pass it over to Council Member Brad Lander. Just want to remind

folks we're on a five minute clock and there will  
be an opportunity with three minutes per member.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Mr.  
Chairman. It's wonderful to have this whole panel  
up here. I want to congratulate Carolyn on her  
engagement and its innovative... [crosstalk]

UNKNOWN MALE: Should have mentioned  
that.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I learned about  
from the Madam Borough President so you can look on  
her twitter stream if you want to find the  
innovative location that her fiancé proposed to  
her. It makes me very happy to have you here and  
see this testimony. As you know both mandatory  
inclusionary zoning and a real return to thoughtful  
community based planning for smart growth for our  
neighborhoods are deep passions of mine. So it's  
wonderful that they're not only committed to by the  
administration but in the budget and that makes me  
encouraged. Couple questions on each of them. On,  
on the mandatory inclusionary study is that being  
done in house or do you anticipate hiring a  
consultant to, to do it.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: We're going to do it in house and that, we, that's why we can, we, we anticipated doing it in a expeditious fashion and we, we literally are starting it as, virtually as we speak. And I should have said at the outset that, that one aspect of our, of this study will be to talk to relevant stakeholders and get their views on how this can work, on how this can work most efficiently. And... really I... as, as noted by several of the questions from Chair Greenfield and Subcommittee Chair Dickens it's... there is not one size that fits all here.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: It's going to be a little complicated. It's going to be a little different in different neighborhoods. And so we want to be able to get the best thinking we can and understand as best we can the market so that we achieve both goals, both increased housing production generally and increased affordable housing specifically.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Absolutely and there was a great conversation at the Ford [sp?] foundation that some of your staff took part in,

1  
2 the housing Commissioner took part in where we  
3 talked with folks from around the country,  
4 complicated issues, and I'm glad you guys are on it  
5 and, and I just so... Now yesterday Commissioner Been  
6 talked about the, you know we all want this to be  
7 aligned with the tax incentive modifications she  
8 talked about that tax force that's going to convene  
9 in August and have its recommendations done by  
10 December. And so I'm just a little curious what the  
11 time, we all want to get going, we want the  
12 community plans to be moving. How do you see the  
13 timeline of your mandatory inclusionary study and  
14 the task force for changes to the tax incentive  
15 programs...

16 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Yeah.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...lining up?

18 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well, well my  
19 fondest hope and I, and it think it will be  
20 achievable is that the work that we're undertaking  
21 with Commissioner Been and HPD on mandatory  
22 inclusionary and our study will help inform the  
23 taskforce and, and to probably to, to a modest  
24 extent vice versa as well. But I think mainly, I  
25



1  
2 think our, our work will help inform the task  
3 force...

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: You imagine  
5 moving first and getting... [crosstalk]

6 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: We're moving,  
7 right.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...mandatory IZ  
9 work done to then inform...

10 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Right.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...provisions to  
12 the... [crosstalk]

13 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: We may not have  
14 it 100 percent complete by the time the task force  
15 convenes but we are starting our work literally  
16 immediately. And as you know there have been issues  
17 regarding the alignment of tax policy with, with  
18 mandatory or inclusionary zoning more generally  
19 and...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Absolutely and  
21 then...

22 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...and that's  
23 created problems for developers, created problems  
24 for the city, it's created, it's created  
25

inefficiencies in the sense that we sometimes don't leverage our limited tools...

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...as best we can.

So that, that's one of the main goals of, of, of actually both, both endeavors.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Right, and as I spoke about with her yesterday I have introduced a bill. I don't understand why we're still giving tax breaks for market rate development that doesn't include affordable housing anywhere in the city. And I don't understand why in zones where one or the other gets you 20 percent, the same 20 percent minimum gets you both. So those are conversations that we'll have as these studies move forward. My last question goes to the community planning work which I'm so thrilled to see. I appreciate the resources are there and the way you're moving forward with it. And you've spoken about the need to involve other agencies and I think a challenge for council members has been as we've moved through planning in the past that needs that are identified are hard, we don't have a good framework for getting those partners to the table and getting

real commitment. So if growth requires more school seats, if there's an absence of a bus line that we need, if you need sewer infrastructure because it floods when it rains. It has, there hasn't been a framework for making sure those things are real in the plan up front. And so I, just as you're setting up and new infrastructure for neighborhood planning in neighborhoods where growth is going to occur... if you could tell us a little more both how you're looking to include other agencies but also how it will be possible to work with us and bring us things that give us real certainty, confidence that those things will be part of the plan and not things we have to bargain for at the end and then cross our fingers that the agreements, which really aren't even agreements, they're like little notes, they've been in the past like little post it notes from the deputy mayor saying maybe... How are we going to do better on that front together?

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: You know I think this is, this is part of probably our, the most challenging thing we will be doing. And I've said I've done this kind of thing mostly from outside the city but sometimes from within city government.

1 And to be perfectly candid about it I've said it's,  
2 it's, it's frequently easier to coordinate city  
3 government from outside city government than from  
4 within city government. However having sharing with  
5 you the, the frustrations of, of, of these  
6 endeavors in the past we are really committed and  
7 the administration is really committed to first  
8 city agencies that are involved in a neighborhood  
9 to be involved at the very earliest stages instead  
10 of at the end, second that we have... and this is an  
11 interactive process to be sure that we have  
12 identified very early on in the planning process  
13 what resources and needs a community has and what  
14 public investments need to be made and when they  
15 need to be made. And then third how do we ensure  
16 that the timing of investments get made at, at the  
17 appropriate moment. I'm fairly confident that we  
18 will be able to do the first part of this which is  
19 getting all city agencies to work together with  
20 neighborhoods and I think our work in east New York  
21 demonstrates that that can be done actually. The  
22 second part of it is also I'm fairly confident that  
23 we'll be able to identify what will be needed and  
24 when it will be needed. The third part is probably  
25

the hardest part and that's one of the reasons I indicated in my testimony that city planning will be playing a much larger role in the capital budget planning process so that we can more easily identify and make sure that, that all appropriate capital, particularly capital budget entities, agencies in the city can identify when particular investments are necessary, where they should be in the capital budget and how the capital agencies can to some extent reorder their priorities so that the necessary public investments come online at the appropriate time. That's not an easy task as all of us know but it's the hardest part of this. But I'm committed to seeing this happen and as most of you know, if not all of you know that there once was a time when city planning and OMB were the co-directors, or co-constructors of the City's capital budget. And that was taken out of the charter while it's not going back into the charter anytime in the near future I think there is a receptivity, I know there's a receptivity at OMB and with Dean Fuleihan who I've had many conversations with him about this to make sure that we do play that role.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council  
3 Member. We will have Council Member Rosenthal  
4 followed by Council Member Miller. And I'm sorry  
5 we've been joined by Council Member Levine,  
6 Johnson, Richards, Cohen, and Rodriguez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So I'm... thank  
8 you Chairs and thank you Commissioner for being  
9 here. It's so nice to have you here. So I represent  
10 the upper west side of Manhattan. And I'm going to  
11 pick up on the same theme that Council Member  
12 Lander and Council Member Greenfield just talked  
13 about. And what I'd like to do is put in a big plug  
14 for looking at each district differently. When you  
15 think about mandatory inclusionary housing for the  
16 upper west side we are in the perfect spot to  
17 address maintaining middle income families in New  
18 York. So if we want to talk about New York as being  
19 not a city of just rich and just poor but what  
20 we're doing to maintain our middle class. I think  
21 the upper west side is an example of a place and an  
22 opportunity to maintain middle income families. Let  
23 me give you an example. Two seasoned public school  
24 teachers who comprise a family of four would have a  
25 family income of 180 thousand dollars. They could

not afford to live on the upper west side right now. Now I know we're not talking about Ritchie Torres' district. I understand that. And I understand the needs of those districts having affordable housing for their income levels. And I understand completely and am a champion of supporting low income housing in my district. We approved a couple of years ago a project that will bring in over 600 units of affordable housing for families that the 30 percent of AMI income level. 100 percent there. We need affordable housing for everyone. But I just went through a land use project where TF Cornerstone which I think you approved on your second day on the job. So...

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I was in a fog council member.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh so...  
[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...we were happy with that approval...

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Well I wasn't. I mean I'll tell you that one I, I was able, managed to rest in the way that Council member Lander just described two additional things.

One was 20 additional units of affordable middle income housing. Now Council Member Torres who just walked in is going to not be happy with me but those were income bands at 175 percent, 200 percent, and 230 percent of the AMI. And I consider that a big win. The base of 200 units will I asked for it to be upped from 30 percent AMI to 60 percent AMI. And that's great for my district because we want the people who move in there to be able to shop at those local grocery stores. It's simply the reality of my district. And I'm going to stop talking in a minute because I want to hear your thoughts but the other piece was this sailed through just to be clear in a neighborhood where few had, if the EIF had contemplated this building in the context of another building that had just been approved by city planning and it's in the midst of being built with 800 units we would recognize that over 3,000, probably 5,000 individuals, so over 3,000 families will be moving in and we desperately need a new school. But according to Seeker [sp?] we just missed the criteria for both schools. So now we have a thousand unit development going in right next door



1  
2 to a 800 unit development and the best I was able  
3 to negotiate was a new public school pre-k that  
4 will take up 15 thousand square feet. And yes I'm  
5 proud of that but what we need is a 100 thousand  
6 square foot school to go in that building. And now  
7 we've lost the opportunity in that four or five  
8 block radius. I don't think there will be any new  
9 development coming in. So our public, our future  
10 public school students are not in good shape. So  
11 I'd like you to respond to that but I also am, I  
12 would... the constituents in that area and the  
13 residents in that area would really ask that you be  
14 mindful of middle income families and needs as you  
15 contemplate inclusionary affordable housing. Thank  
16 you.

17 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Thank you  
18 Council Member. As I indicated in my responses to  
19 Chair greenfield and Subcommittee Chair Dickets  
20 [phonetic], Dickens and to Council Member Lander we  
21 are going to be looking at mandatory inclusionary  
22 on a neighborhood by neighborhood, rezoning by  
23 rezoning basis. The, it's only appropriate because  
24 the issues in each neighborhood are different and  
25 how exactly it will play out in any particular

neighborhood it's too early to tell but we are going to look at it in, in each neighborhood. And with respect to seeker I think we... first I think seeker is as we know a, a... has been used and has been a... and is by law a disclosure document more than a planning document. It is not the only basis by which public investments should be made. And one particularly in the areas that we will be looking at comprehensively and the 15 studies we will be undertaking part of our planning responsibilities will be first looking at the neighborhood as a whole and its needs as opposed to being reactive and just responding to what, what seeker, an environmental review requires. Not say, not say that it's unimportant, it's obviously very important but it is not the only tool to determine what a community needs and should have.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council Member, thank you Council Member Rosenthal. We'll have Council Member Miller followed by Council Member Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Madam Chair and to the Co-Chairs and thank you Commissioner for coming out, being out today. I

1 want to kind of just stay on this really admirable  
2 and ambitious housing development that we're  
3 talking about over the next few years. It, it seems  
4 that, let me digress a minute and talk about the  
5 mandatory inclusion and the time table on that. I,  
6 I know you, you mentioned that sometime in the next  
7 few months and you said, and claimed sometime  
8 around the fall. But as we get there I want to just  
9 be sure that, and because in retrospect I'm seeing  
10 over the housing that has been developed and the  
11 plans for intended housing. It appears that we're  
12 creating new neighborhoods. And there is a need in,  
13 in, in just about every neighborhood throughout  
14 this city to create housing for indigenous  
15 residents. And, and I want to ensure and, and  
16 hopefully this community involvement will help to  
17 ensure that we address that problem that, that  
18 communities all over the city, particularly in  
19 South East Queens where I am has that same  
20 opportunity and that we are not creating housing  
21 markets that are moving indigenous residents out.  
22 So that would be my concern and I would like to  
23 hear you speak to ensuring that that does not  
24 occur. And then if I'm correct about 70 percent of  
25

1  
2 this would be private investment and I would like  
3 to, you speak to the commitment and the solid  
4 commitment of those private investors, particularly  
5 as it pertains to pension funds and others who may  
6 be involved with that, to ensure that these  
7 projects get done. So I, I'll... allow you to speak.

8 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well let, let me  
9 deal with the first question which is yes we're  
10 going to do this as I've said on a neighborhood by  
11 neighborhood basis. And one of the goals of  
12 mandatory inclusionary zoning is to help keep  
13 people in their neighborhoods. Our goal is to, is  
14 as new housing is built and it has a requirement  
15 for affordability that, that that will be a very  
16 important resource to help keep people in, in  
17 their, in their neighborhoods. With respect to the  
18 in, the overall housing plan budget the vast  
19 majority of the, of the 70 percent of, of private  
20 sector funding will be in the form of, of both  
21 equity and, and financing that, debt financing that  
22 private developers will need in order to, in order  
23 to build. And there will be, there will be some  
24 money certainly coming and I believe, I don't have  
25 it in front of me, but I believe there is in that,

in that 41 billion dollars a significant amount of money from pension programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay thank you.

So... Again so when we start talking about... is the majority of this going to be government land, owned property that we're looking at or are we looking at other space throughout the city and is there any dialogue with, with elected and, and communities throughout to identify locations because that's certainly something I would like to have a conversation about. And then just to digress again what the, yesterday's hearing, I know that it was some mention about the goal in creating housing was also to create some type of diversity within communities which are great but I want to make sure that we have a mechanism in formula to, that ensures that the indigenous folks have an opportunity take advantage.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Right. I, I

would, I, I would say that probably some of the new housing capacity will be on publically owned sites. But I think the vast majority will end up being on privately owned sites. And what, what our goal is here is to help create a market... that will attract

private capital and, and incentivize not just with  
tax incentives but by helping to create vibrant  
communities that will incentivize private  
developers from, to, to invest in neighborhoods.  
And at the same time assuring that a significant  
amount of that new housing capacity be affordable  
by imposing on every new major rezoning differently  
in each neighborhood probably. But, but imposing on  
every new rezoning in a high density area or medium  
density area an affordability requirement of some  
sort. And it will vary in neighborhood just as my  
response to Council Member Rosenthal... it will vary  
neighborhood by neighborhood because what the goals  
are of every particular neighborhood are a little  
different.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you very  
much. Look forward to working with you in the  
future.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very  
much and we're now going to move onto Council  
Member Richards followed by Council Member Mendez.  
And I want to recognize that we've been joined by  
Council Member Peter Koo.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you  
3 chairs and thank you for testifying today Chairman  
4 Weisbrod. I have three questions. The first  
5 question I wanted to raise is on the Brownfields  
6 program. I see you guys have allocated 176 thousand  
7 dollars toward supporting that program, wanted to  
8 know if you guys are in conversation with the state  
9 or the governor's office in terms of what they're  
10 planning to do in terms of the Brownfield's  
11 program.

12 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Let me ask, let  
13 me ask Mr. Slackin [sp?] to respond to that because  
14 he's been overseeing the Brownfields and, and, and  
15 our resiliency program.

16 HOWARD SLACKIN: Thank you. For the  
17 record I'm Howard Slackin. I'm Director of  
18 Strategic Planning for the department. The, what I  
19 think you're seeing is a pair of Brownfield  
20 opportunity area grants that we are undertaking in  
21 cooperation with community groups on the north  
22 shore of Staten Island. And these are grants that  
23 originated with the New York State Department of  
24 State and so we are working directly with them as  
25

part of the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program to  
advance those projects.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Great but are  
you aware that I think in the governor's exec  
budget there wasn't money there. So I think June  
19, 19<sup>th</sup> is arriving so I'm just wondering if the  
administration is going to have a conversation with  
the state or are you guys having a conversation  
with them in terms of ensuring that they're going  
to support New York City?

CAROLYN GROSSMENT: Hi Council Member,  
Carolyn Grossman, Government Affairs Director. We  
are aware that the program has been cut for future  
years. That does not affect the 176 thousand  
dollars that's in our current budget. It does  
affect the ability for the department as well as  
other entities around the city to capture  
additional planning funds. We obviously think that  
that's unfortunate and have expressed that we think  
that that's been an important funding source for us  
in the past. But luckily you know it does not  
affect our, our funds that have already been  
allocated.



2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay. Second  
3 question was on the environmental reveal  
4 consultants. What will their... so I see you guys put  
5 two million dollars in, in terms of that, wanted to  
6 know what roll will they playing, will they be  
7 working with DEP in particular?

8 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: As you know for  
9 any, any major discretionary action we or any  
10 government entity is required to do an  
11 environmental impact statement. And the, the, the  
12 at least the major areas that we're looking at or  
13 will be looking at throughout the city I have no  
14 doubt will require significant environmental impact  
15 analysis and review in order to be undertaken by us  
16 or by the city. And that will be comprehensive and  
17 of course include DEP but also include virtually  
18 any city agency that has an impact on our  
19 environment whether it's DOT, or whether it's  
20 Historic Resources or Open Space or, or, or the  
21 like. So of course it will include the DEP. Those,  
22 those analysis are quite complicated and  
23 comprehensive and require the outside environmental  
24 consultants to undertake, smaller ones who will  
25 undertake in house and do ourselves but...

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...on the, on the,  
on the larger ones we'll certainly need outside...  
[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: And who will...  
and so your department of, be overseeing them and...

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Generally  
speaking on, on all rezonings we are the lead  
agency...

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Mm-hmm.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...and we, we will  
be overseeing them. They are on, on specific  
projects. Other city agencies could be the lead  
agency but I think on, on the neighborhood area  
wide rezonings that we'll undertaken I am fairly  
confident we'll be the lead agency on all of them.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay, great.  
And then the last question I had is on, I know you  
guys are going to planning around resilient and  
sustainable communities and I represent the  
Rockaways of course and I think you guys might have  
started a process... I feel like you guys did one  
meeting in the Rockaways already. Just wanted to  
know if you guys were looking at the R&E site in

1 particular, if you're aware of it One 80 acres of  
2 land out there that is desolated and... it's already  
3 zoned. I mean and developers are looking to you  
4 know obviously do some mix of housing there and,  
5 and, and really reshape the waterfront community  
6 there. So just wanted to know if that was on your  
7 radar and are you guys having conversations on  
8 that... [crosstalk]

10 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Yeah I, I'm  
11 informed by Mr. Slackin who can certainly speak for  
12 himself but I'll speak for him for the moment which  
13 is that this is a site where HPD is really taking  
14 the lead but we are in fact working with them.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you so  
16 much. I appreciate it.

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.  
18 Council Member Barron to be followed by Council  
19 Member Mendez.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
21 want to thank the Chairs Greenfield, Ferreras,  
22 Weprin, Dickens, and Koo. And I want to thank the  
23 panel for coming to talk about how you see  
24 especially implementing the plan for housing that  
25 the mayor has proposed. I do represent the east New

1  
2 York section of Brooklyn. And I heard you reference  
3 east New York. Were you talking about the east New  
4 York section of Brooklyn or you were talking about  
5 the eastern part of New York City. Because I want  
6 to know what the particular plan is that you talked  
7 about. Is it the Atlantic Carter... [crosstalk]

8 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: It's mostly the  
9 Atlantic Carter in east New, east New York. And I  
10 think a portion of it is in your district Council  
11 Member and I think a... [crosstalk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: No.

13 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...portion of it  
14 is... [crosstalk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: But I'm, I'm...

16 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...in, in...

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...familiar with...  
18 [crosstalk]

19 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...Council Member  
20 Espinal's district.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Correct.

22 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Right.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm familiar  
24 with the plan and I just wanted to know if that is  
25

what you were referring to. And I did sit in on a few of the planning sessions...

COUNCIL MEMBER WEISBROD: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...that occurred at the community board because I do represent Community Board 5 and it's a part of that plan. Now as you talk I do want to echo the concerns of Council Member Miller in terms of residents who have lived in the community for a number of years who now may have an opportunity to move into new housing, upgraded housing who are being, who may be forced out. Because we know if we look at certain areas of the city, specifically Bed-Stuy the block population there has diminished where is in a fact for east New York we've seen an expansion of the community. And it's because the former Council Member make sure that as housing came in it was within the range of the income of people who live in that community which is basically about 30 thousand dollars. So the housing was designed basically starting at 25 thousand dollars and it went up from there. What are your plans? What are the 15 neighborhoods that you've identified as

expansion for housing? Your report talks about...  
[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Yeah, we haven't identified them yet except for east New York. So east New York is the first and we will be over the next several weeks identifying the others. And as we identify a neighborhood we will be coming out and talking to the neighborhood, working with the neighborhood, really as I indicated earlier using the east New York planning process as a model because we think that has been effective in east New York, has resulted in substantial neighborhood consensus about what should be done and so that's the approach we're going to be using. And as I indicated with respect to at least mandatory inclusionary zoning the, we will be doing this on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis and taking into account the, the, the needs and goals of, of, of each community and each neighborhood that we are, are rezoning. To a significant extent there is a several billion dollars in the housing plan that, and a, and a vast increase in the city capital commitment to affordable housing. And the driver of, of that within a zoning envelope will be, will

be HPD. And the, they'll really be the entity that will lead most of this.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Oh, I'm very glad that you brought that up because we're seeing that there's a lack of coordination between many of the agencies that are going to be working on developing these houses. There's a lack of coordination between them. There was a particular project which was designated as an economic development incubator. And the group was told that they had been given the sight and that they would have a one year award with a possibility of extending it for an additional two years. That was in September of last year. And now they've been told oh, there's been a major change and now we're targeting the same site that we had told you you could develop. We're targeting that for imminent development of housing. We have concerns in that regard because the community had been excited about the prospect of having an economic incubator in our community. It was going to have an opportunity for artists to be able to have studio space, for entrepreneurs to be able to have vending space. And for the community to be able to interact and have

performing space as well whereas now we're being told that's not going to happen. It's creating a, a very sensitive issue in the community. It's something that had been in place, people had in, the groups that were involved which included the Arts East New York and PRAT and the Local Development Corporation is now looking very askance at this change of plan. So we need to get better coordination. We still want to see how that plan can go forward. And we don't want to have a saturation of housing without all the necessary components that go with it. We've heard that for instance, to schools not being built to adequately fund that, I'm sure you know about Gateway 2 project which is bringing in a huge number of privately owned homes, two and three family homes as well as apartment buildings. And we need to make sure that we coordinate with DOE to get the appropriate schools built. We had a huge overflow problem from the sewage which had not happened previously two weeks ago with the heavy rain. Homeowners brought pictures and we went and saw the homes that had been damaged. So there's a great need to make sure that the infrastructure, not just



1  
2 the transportation and things that might be a  
3 little easier but the infrastructure because you  
4 know there's a limited train service in east New  
5 York. So we certainly have to do that. So I  
6 certainly look forward to working with you  
7 directly, my office, and being able to identify how  
8 best to address the, those housing needs in the  
9 community of east New York particularly.

10 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Likewise.

11 [crosstalk]

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you  
13 Council Member Barron. Council Member Mendez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you Mr.  
16 Chair. And thank you for being here today Chairman  
17 Weisbrod. I, you know I watched the odd couple. I,  
18 I learned we should never assume. So I'm going to  
19 ask you because I came in late and I didn't hear  
20 you read the testimony. I'm assuming though I  
21 should never do that. But on page three there is  
22 something missing so I didn't understand your  
23 testimony. It's in the middle of the page, the  
24 second paragraph. And then the second sentence says  
25 this increase includes 2.3 million is PS dollars to

fund the new positions, two million for  
environmental consultant services to assure we can  
implement the neighborhood that are developed. And  
we propose as well 3.1 million for annual rent to  
allow city planning to relocate from its deterrent  
dysfunctional... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I think the word  
plans is missing. Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: That's what I  
assumed.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Good.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Guess that works  
out.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I'm sorry...  
[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Just making  
sure. And I joined the council, I took my position  
here in January of 2006. Prior to that for several  
years my community and I, and my predecessor  
Margarita Lopez had worked on a rezoning... We  
finally passed a rezoning, a contextual rezoning in  
my district in November of 2008. So that was nearly  
three years of me being in office and several years  
before hand. Just wondering how do you plan to

1  
2 expedite some of these rezonings? And I'm assuming  
3 from what I've read that it will have, it's going  
4 to be community based planning. And what would be  
5 the financial impact to try to expedite this in  
6 terms of more staff people or whatever else might  
7 be needed to expedite some of these rezonings?

8 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well I, as I  
9 indicated in my testimony this is for the first  
10 time in seven years a reversal of the department's  
11 budget in the sense that we are getting new  
12 resources with really the bulk of them being  
13 devoted to implementing the, the, the mayor's  
14 housing plan. We will see I think in the, in the  
15 next year whether the staff that this, this  
16 additional staff is sufficient to undertake that  
17 effort. I mean that we all know that city resources  
18 are never enough to do everything we would like to  
19 do. And so they're, there are constraints on  
20 achieving the optimum amount of staffing although  
21 I'm really very, very, very pleased that we have  
22 seen a reversal in city planning's loss of staff  
23 and attrition over the past several years. With  
24 respect to expediting rezonings and making them go  
25 faster... there's really a, a, I think a balance to

be had. On the one hand we are going to work as aggressively and as closely with neighborhoods as we can to do ground up planning. But ground up planning under the most focused circumstances and under... respect of, of how much staff we have available to do it really does require a certain amount of time if we're going to do it well. And we want to do it well because we want to have, achieve a consensus in neighborhoods to the extent we can and mesh our, our planning efforts with, the needs of, of each community. That takes a degree of time. We're talking earlier about east New York and the work we're doing there which has been, been very very well received by the east New York community. But that's been an investment of, of two years. So it's, it's, it's... no one wants to see this proceed faster than I do but at the same time I want to make sure it proceeds well. That's point number one. On the, on the second point however which is how can we make the, once we have a plan, how can we make the process go faster and how can we make the precertification process particularly move faster. We're really committed to doing that. The department's made a lot of progress over the last

few years in expediting that. We're going to make more progress in the months and years to come. But I'm really committed to expediting the process not just for communities but for the private market as well because time is money.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Ms., Mr. Chair I did have some other questions.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: We'll have a round two.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: We'll have a round two.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: We'll have a round two.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you and in...

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...the interest of time we're also, we're going to recommend that the Chair limits his responses as well to five minutes because we got a few other committees waiting to testify.

2 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I'll, I'll, I'll  
3 shorten my answers.

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I know that  
5 enthusiasm at you know testifying here in front of  
6 the council. Council Member Treyger.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you  
8 Chairs. And welcome Commissioner. I first wanted,  
9 you know as the Chair of the New Recovery  
10 Resiliency Committee I, I do appreciate the  
11 attention that's being paid to resiliency measures  
12 and Department of City Planning. I do just, I do  
13 have a, my first question is what sorts of costs  
14 does the 1.1 million dollars in OTPS funding  
15 relating to the neighborhood resiliency studies  
16 cover?

17 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I'm going to let  
18 Mr. Slackin answer that.

19 SLACKIN: The primary use of the OTPS in  
20 that budget, I mean some of it is, a relatively  
21 small amount is for equipment and to serve staff  
22 and, and primarily in the borough offices as they  
23 undertake their projects. But the, the, it is  
24 primarily for anticipated environmental review to  
25 implement the recommendations of the studies which

would involve retaining consultant services to undertake environmental review tasks that, that are beyond what the department can do in house.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Okay. Just moving forward that I am very concerned and I have a laser like focus on making sure that we don't place any additional burdens on those victims from Superstorm Sandy. And making sure that every decision we make as we move forward I, I, I expect engagement with the communities at the grassroots level with all of local elected officials to make sure that we are helping and aiding those victims and not placing any additional burdens as they are, as we know suffering quite a bit. I'd like to also now just turn my attention to Coney Island in my district. I was not the councilman in Coney Island during the 2009 rezoning but I am certainly the councilman now. And I would just like to point out that there were things done during the rezoning to allow for certainly large scale development. But as other colleagues here mentioned prior that we can't plan an abstract. I think that we have to plan dealing with the issues and the needs of the existing community. I believe that our role is to

1 address the needs of families today and not people  
2 that might move in 10, 15, 20 years from now. And  
3 so there are existing significant infrastructure  
4 issues in my district that I, I'm hearing some news  
5 about that might be addressed but my concern is  
6 peninsula-wide making sure that we meet the needs  
7 of, of families throughout the Coney Island near  
8 Sea Gate, Sea Gate Peninsula. It's also a factor of  
9 making sure that transportation is also looked at.  
10 If you try to drive into Coney Island during the  
11 summer months it is very, very difficult, a major  
12 challenge. Also an issue of police resources the,  
13 the Police Department has to cover the entire two  
14 and a half mile stretch of beach and boardwalk in  
15 addition to the residential areas. And we never  
16 factored into the growth of how many more housing  
17 we have and future housing that will exist. So I  
18 really believe that it is crucial that when we make  
19 these plans we, we factor in the existing needs  
20 right now and not just predict or you know assume  
21 what the needs will be 10 to 15, 15 years from now.  
22 Any comments on Coney Island I, I would appreciate.  
23

24 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I don't have any  
25 specific comments on Coney Island. But just to note



that as we plan neighborhoods going forward that's exactly what we plan to do.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you. And I, I will close just I have more questions, I'll save... in the second round. But just want to point your attention to a particular road, street in southwest Brooklyn. It's physically in Councilman Gentile's district but it does impact my district. This a road called Shore Parkway in southwest Brooklyn. I don't know if you're familiar with it. But just to read off the list of establishments along Shore Parkway. You have residential buildings that house many seniors, a nursing home and rehabilitation center, senior housing, a shopping plaza, a BJ's department store, a Mercedes Benz dealership, a Trojan's amusement park, you have a, a school for children with Autism and Down Syndrome, a proposed garbage transfer station that will bring in over 2,000 tons of garbage every single week barged out over the water, a boat marina and parks with future plans for kayaking. Would you consider this a model example of city planning?

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: I'm modestly familiar with shorp [phonetic], Shore Parkway area and I note your concerns about it.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I will definitely like to follow up with your office and to discuss this further and I thank the chairs for their time.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very much. I just have one quick question about an item. I think it was two million dollars in environmental consulting services. Can you just very briefly tell us what that new expenditure is going to be for us?

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Yes it's for environmental consultants that would do the environmental review on our more comprehensive area wide rezonings.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So are they going to be in house or... [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: No... this, smaller environmental reviews we will do in house but the more complex ones are, we just don't have the capability to do that.

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay, Council  
3 Member Mendez for a round two which is three  
4 minutes.

5 COUNCIL MEMEBR MENDEZ: Thank you. I'm  
6 going to ask all my questions up front. So part of  
7 that rezoning that we did back in 2008 we worked to  
8 get an anti-harassment provision which DCP did, set  
9 that was on us and we did that with HPD. And I  
10 really think that these are important things to  
11 consider and we have to have these. It didn't work  
12 very well whatever funding was put in place the  
13 groups could not make the deliverables. But in the  
14 interim I've lost a lot of rent stabilized units  
15 and individuals have been harassed out of other  
16 affordable units in my district. So I want to know  
17 if this is something that DCP will work on. The  
18 other thing is we've tried to do retail rezoning  
19 and we had met with then Commissioner Amanda,  
20 Amanda Burden and I was wondering have you given  
21 any thoughts to doing that? Because we are losing a  
22 lot of crucial diversity in stores, particularly on  
23 mom and pop stores. And then lastly about ten years  
24 ago or so DCP had a hearing to limit where sidewalk  
25 cafes can be and we haven't had anything done... it's

1  
2 like 10 or 12 years ago and I was just wondering  
3 are you considering doing that? Because certainly  
4 sidewalk cafes while we have some restrictions they  
5 should not be everywhere in our city.

6 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: On, on the, the  
7 first question about anti-harassment I, I will say  
8 that there is a provision in the housing plan to  
9 buchess that up and that HPD is taking the lead on  
10 that, not city planning but HPD is taking the lead  
11 on that with respect to the rezonings in the, or  
12 rezoning in the lower east side area over the past  
13 few years. I really turn to... my colleagues who were  
14 there. Mr., maybe Mr. Barth or or Ms. Groslin could  
15 respond.

16 CAROLYN GROSLIN: Sure. Council Member  
17 we can obviously follow up. My recollection is that  
18 there, there was money set aside to help the  
19 housing groups advocate on behalf of potential  
20 tenant harassment issues in your neighborhood...

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Yes.

22 CAROLYN GROSLIN: We, we certainly  
23 support that. The, the, the concern has, has been  
24 in the past that the zoning is not a particularly  
25 effective tool mainly because of the timing, the

sequencing associated with the time of harassment  
versus the time of a building permit which may be  
decades later.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Okay.

CAROLYN GROSLIN: But we absolutely are  
committed to making sure that harassment issues are  
addressed and... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Okay. I, I guess  
I just need to follow up with HPD if it's still  
going through HPD to really make it meaningful  
because it wasn't very meaningful for my district.  
Retail rezoning? Any thoughts on looking at retail  
rezoning.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Not yet. I'll  
say we have a very ambitious housing plan that  
frankly the major resources of the department are  
going to be directed to that in the first instance.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: And sidewalk  
cafes any... taking a look at doing that.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Well I was just  
going to say as you point out early in Commissioner  
Burden's term she, we undertook a, basically a  
chain text amendment to facilitate certain kinds of  
sidewalk cafes in certain areas. I think you know

1  
2 in terms of taking a fresh look at that that will  
3 have to be part of, of you know as we go forward  
4 with the work program how that fits in.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you. I, I  
6 thought it was great when they did it. A lot of  
7 communities found out about it too late. So it's  
8 been a substantial amount of time so we can take  
9 another look at it in the future it'll be great.  
10 Thank you very much. And thank you Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you  
12 Council Member. And final question that I have for  
13 you is that one of the major points discussed  
14 towards achieving the goals of the ten year plan is  
15 the idea of creating a, I believe the term what you  
16 used was a more liberal method regarding the  
17 transfer of unused development rights for landmark  
18 buildings and districts to potential of development  
19 sights. Have you had any discussions internally,  
20 externally, whether agencies in terms of what that  
21 would look like and what the plan is over...

22 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: ...we've heard a  
23 lot of ideas from a lot of different sources. We  
24 have, we're committed in the housing plan to  
25 starting and conducting a study on TDRs to see how

they can best be utilized. It's a very complicated issue as you all know. But that study hasn't begun yet but we're committed to doing it.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Co-Chair. We are, thank you for your testimony today...

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...and we look forward to working with you and continuing. There may be follow up questions that we'd like to get to you so if you can get them back to us expeditiously that will help us in our budget negotiation.

COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Absolutely. We'd be delighted to and we look forward to working with you Madam Chair and all the members of the council as well.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay thank you. We're going to take a three minute break before we start with DoITT. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Oh, ask a quick follow up?

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: [sighs]

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Is that alright?

It'll be less than three minutes... Okay...

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Can you make it  
two minutes actually?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You got a deal.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I was just  
downstairs watching the live streaming. So I heard  
your response to Council Member Mendez about  
commercial rezoning... Sorry I'm out of breath. ...for  
what I would call mom and pop stores and as you  
know and certainly the staff has been wonderful in  
working with the upper west side to zone on, in  
terms of physical space to try to address the needs  
of small independently owned businesses. But I  
know, but it's a challenge. And I would argue, I  
heard your response and, and I would argue that in  
many ways the affordable housing plan, again back  
to the particular needs of the upper west side and  
I don't know other communities are actually  
intricately linked to the independent business  
owners and that the loss of small businesses is a  
reflection of outrageously high market rents that  
exist now on the upper west side. And I'm sure in



1  
2 other places. And that's with striving out the  
3 independent businesses. And I would just ask that I  
4 know you're taking on this big endeavor and I get  
5 that but really it's intricately related to the  
6 loss of mom and pops. And I'm hoping that... I have a  
7 minute and 23 seconds... I'm done. That I'm hoping  
8 that at least you know in the back of somebody's  
9 mind or in some way you can contemplate this as  
10 well. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER WEISBROD: Thank you  
12 Council Member.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you very  
14 much. We will take a three minute break and we will  
15 start with Landmarks.

16 [pause]

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We will now  
18 resume the city council's hearing on the mayor's  
19 executive budget FY 2015 the Finance Committee and  
20 the Committee on Land Use chaired by my colleague  
21 Council Member David Greenfield. Just heard from  
22 the Department of City Planning. We will now hear  
23 from the Landmarks Preservation before we hear from  
24 the commission. Before we hear from the commission  
25

I will turn my mic over to my Co-Chair Council  
Member David Greenfield.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I am too  
forgoing my statement in the interest of time and  
in the interest of hearing the very compelling  
testimony from the Landmark Preservation  
Commission. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: I'm on? Okay. Thank  
you very much. Thank you Council Members. Morning,  
good afternoon Chair Greenfield, Chair Ferreras,  
other honorable Council Members Chairman Koo. Bob  
Tierney Chairman of Landmarks Preservation  
Commission and thank you for giving me this  
opportunity to testify on the commission, about the  
commission and its 2015 executive budget. The  
landmarks commission is the mayoral agency  
responsible for protecting and preserving New York  
City's architecturally, historically, and  
culturally significant buildings and sites. LPC's  
fiscal year 2015 executive budget is 5,268,457  
dollars which comprises 4,710,465 in city funds,  
and 557,992 in community development block grant  
funding. Of the CD funding 20 percent, 21 percent  
is allocated for our grant program and low income

for low income home owners and non-profits. And the remainder is used to support other agency community development related functions such as surveys, archeology, community outreach, and education. And in this budget there is an increase of 244,900 dollars from the preliminary budget when I was here a month or two ago. And that is reflected in this executive budget. And of the 244,900 increase 240 is directly related to the agency's plan relocation to offices at the city owned landmark building at 253 Broadway. Adjustments to heat, light, and power, and a lease adjustment are also reflected in this plan which accounts for the remaining 4,000, 49 hundred dollars of the increase. There are a total of approximately 31, now it's up to 31,700 as we speak, 714 designated properties throughout the city including 111 historic districts and 20 historic district extensions, 300 and, 1338 individual landmarks, 117 interior landmarks, and 10 scenic landmarks. The commission places a high priority on working with owners of historic properties and potentially historic properties. The commission works with this council to ensure that the relevant council member in each of these cases

has all the pertinent information about a potential landmark and the feedback we're getting from the owner and from the community. We always solicit obviously first and foremost the views of the council member in, in whose district these historic, potentially historic properties are located as we move forward in the process and address any potential issues prior to a vote. Last year LPC, the last fiscal year excuse me LPC designated three historic districts and extensions as well as 17 individual structures, individual landmarks. So the, that comprised a total of approximately 400, 14 hundred buildings to the City's inventory that I described early, earlier the 31 thousand odd... In the current fiscal year we have designated two historic districts in the south village, two historic districts, the South Village historic district and the Park Avenue historic district extension and 10 individual landmarks. At the preliminary budget back in March this committee asked several questions and followed up with written requests for additional information from the agency. And let me go, I'll go over a few of them as we go through the rest of the testimony and

allude to them as they come up. I, first I was asked to provide the total percentage of land which is landmarked throughout the five boroughs and submit it to this body at the end of March the following numbers. Manhattan, for Manhattan 27.1 percent of tax map lots are designated. In the Bronx 1.0 percent, Brooklyn 4.5 percent, Queens .9, and Staten Island .3. To do this exercise just to explain it quickly we relied on data from the DoITT GIS files. The commission receives hundreds of requests each year for potential new historic districts and for individual landmarks. The, we concentrate our resources on the work of designating those buildings in districts that are first and foremost meritorious. But beyond that where a community and council member support has been clearly expressed and at the same time balancing the commission's priorities of protecting historic resources in all five boroughs. So it's a mix of factors as I've, as I've just described. At the preliminary budget hearing the council, this committee, the council requested information on buildings that have a calendared status and did some background on that. The first, first what is

1 calendaring, it's the, for us it's the first  
2 official step in the designation process. It's a  
3 calendar vote which technically paces a building or  
4 potential district. On the LPC calendar for, for a  
5 future public hearing. So it's an official act  
6 taken to put it, set it on for a hearing. In the  
7 majority of cases, a vast majority of cases  
8 actually, most cases certainly today and over the  
9 years I've, I've been running the commission,  
10 leading the commission. The commission then holds a  
11 public hearing as it's, after it's calendared and  
12 is able to complete the designation process with a  
13 designation vote and subsequent action affirmation  
14 we, we hope and trust and it usually is an  
15 affirmation based on the, the approach we've taken  
16 here at the city council. Sometimes however once an  
17 item has been calendared and the public hearing has  
18 been held the commission has not been able to  
19 complete the designation process because there have  
20 been a number of reasons why that could happen,  
21 some cases the information is brought forward at  
22 the hearing that delays further consideration,  
23 maybe new information, thinks we didn't know, or  
24 things that other people want to bring to our  
25

attention. And so then, then there becomes a need  
for further owner and community outreach. And these  
items then until we can, until we can reach the  
kind of consensus that I think makes the best  
possible way to approach historic designation in  
the city, until that consensus can be reached along  
the lines that I've earlier described these items  
remain calendared until such time as the  
commissioning can move forward with a designation  
vote. The committee requested a list of currently  
calendared buildings. And we provided that list to  
you. Please note that the vast majority of those  
buildings are within calendared historic districts  
that the commission is actively working on. So  
other individual buildings have been calendared for  
some time. I'm not crazy about that but it, because  
of all the factors I've just listed there are,  
there are some that we just, that are still there  
and we're making every effort and we've made a s  
substantial progress in recent years in completing  
the designation process one way or the other, an up  
or down vote on designation so that things become,  
that are removed from the calendar. So, but we're  
whittling away the, the problem. And again the

vast, the real bulk of the numbers are active historic districts that we're, that we're going right through. So that, that list, that number will be significantly reduced. As the demand for designation increased the need for the commission to protect and regulate landmarked buildings has also increased no surprise. The commission does not, and by the way our regulation is not stopping change but it's to ensure that adaptations and adaptive reuse and changes over time to importantly architecturally and culturally and historically important properties are appropriate. In fiscal year 2012 we issued 11,238 permits which is more than twice the number of permits during the mid-90's. And so far this year we're on a record pace. We got 8346 as of today or a few days ago. A 12 percent increase in the number of applications we received by this day last year, 7339. We've landmark more buildings were receiving more applications and we're issuing more permits and, and we are issuing them we hope in trust and I'm pushing mightily with a great staff to implement them, to process them efficiently, effectively, and expeditiously. So we've always been able to meet



the demand by permits by reviewing our processes,  
improving the work flow, streamlining the agency,  
maximizing efficiency, we, we expedite  
approximately 30 percent of our permits through a  
fast track service. We also... [clears throat] excuse  
me, design materials helping applicants get through  
the process more quickly. We recently added six  
full time, new full time permit issuing staff  
members that were, and we're always looking for  
ways to increase overall efficiency with or without  
new staff members and enhance the agency's  
interaction with applicants including further  
expanding that fast-track program I talked about  
and streamlining the intake process. Additionally  
the commission continues to conduct research on  
green technology to learn how greener materials if  
you will can fit appropriately within the context  
of historic buildings. And we found that they do.  
There's nothing inconsistent with sustainability,  
green building, and just in fact not only is it,  
there's nothing inconsistent, the greenest building  
is a building that's not torn down and that is  
adaptively reused. So the committee, the, this  
committee enquired in that connection about

landmarks that were impacted by Sandy, the storm, Superstorm Sandy the commission during that period or subsequent to that period received a total of 20 Sandy related applications over the last 18 months mostly for interior alterations and relocating mechanical equipment's, equipment and a few roof repairs. As I said I think of my preliminary, we were the historic fabric of the city was fortunate to have escaped some of the devastating damage that was inflicted in other parts of the city throughout the, throughout the five boroughs. But the, from a historic point of view it's amazing actually only 20 applications for repairs. As stated in the preliminary budget hearing as part of the mission of preserving and protecting the City's architectural treasures we have an award winning grant program, offers a variety of grants low and moderate income home owners and 501C nonprofits to help or restore and repair the facades of their landmark buildings. That, since that, that grant program has ordered 450 grants since its inception to home owners and nonprofits. The eligibility of home owners for these grants is determined by HUD's national objective including an applicant's income

and the benefit the restoration work would have for providing relief for blighted communities in quotes, that's the, the term in the statute, blighted communities in low and moderate income areas. The, this program has a, an annual budget the actual grants of 114,790 dollars which is awarded in community development block grant funds. Our program works closely with applicants to assess eligibility, explain how an owner or nonprofit can qualify and the grant program receives approximately 15 completed grant applications a year, our grant applications, grant awards excuse me typically range from 5,000 to 20 thousand with an average grant amount being in the range of 15. The program, out of these 15 completed applications each year we offer, award eight to nine grants to about 60 percent of the eligible applicants. And once it's granted the, we follow up, we, it's with technical assistance and any, any kind of other assistance that can be provided to make sure the work is done efficiently, correctly, and within the scope of the grant. Finally the agency continues its active enforcement of the landmarks law, the enforcement department this year is very active,

475 complaints issued 449 warning letters, 100 or so NOV's, notice of violation. And our goal here is to get compliance not to, not fines or fees or penalties although in rare cases that happens. But basically to get compliance with the landmarks law. Two-thirds of the warningly letters, actually before it even gets to the other stages gets the attention of homeowners and others who apply quickly to the commission and the violations are addressed, there's no fine, no penalty. That's the way, that's the, the best case scenario. And, but the worst case I guess is working... I'll just quickly touch on working with the law department that we bring forward demolition by neglect lawsuits. These are particularly egregious cases which have however the handful of cases we brought a significant number actually have been an important effective enforcement tool to address neglected buildings and respond to community concerns about the issues they can cause. The legal actions are brought when landmarks are in serious disrepair. Owners just are not responding to repeated requests for repairs to be voluntarily undertaken. The system I talked about above has

1  
2 been exhausted and then we go to court and there  
3 are serious consequences. They are currently four  
4 active demolition by a neglect lawsuits; three in  
5 Brooklyn, one in Staten Island, and in most cases,  
6 even in these cases the commission is successful in  
7 working with an owner to address the issues with  
8 the property or the property's sold, the new owner  
9 gets on board and, and the thing works, and it  
10 works out the way it should. The committee has also  
11 provided this, excuse me, the commission I have  
12 provided this committee with more detail and  
13 information and the status of these active suits.  
14 So in some, and in closing I believe the  
15 commission's action to continue to meet the  
16 challenge of balancing the need to preserve the  
17 fabric that gives New York City its character, its  
18 unique character, defines its rich cultural and  
19 historic appeal and it encourages growth and  
20 adaptive reuse over time. It doesn't block change,  
21 we encourage change, it's appropriate change and  
22 the character gets maintained. I'm proud of the  
23 agency's work in ensuring that the place is most  
24 important to the collective story of New York City  
25 are preserved for generations to come. And it's the

partnership that I started out with property owners, community boards, advocacy groups, elected representatives, primarily the city council that allow the Landmarks Commission to fulfil its mission. I would like to thank everyone here for, again for your continued support of historic preservation and happy to answer any questions you might have.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We appreciate your testimony. We appreciate your service, your long standing service to the community and to the city. And I think actually Council Member Koo you have some questions. Want to turn it over... we, we have a several questions we'd like to ask. And I want to turn it over to the Subcommittee Chair Peter Koo to start, or start us off.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you Mr. Chair. I have a question on the mayor's housing plan. The transferable development rights. One of the major points of discussion towards achieving the goals of the 10 year plan is the idea of creating a more liberal method regarding the

transfer of unused development rights from landmark buildings and districts to potential development sites which may not necessarily be adjacent or being historical building or district. So my question is have you have any preliminary discussions within your agency or with others regarding possible ways to realize this goal?

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes we have. We're very interested in that. We've had our discussions within the agency. We've had informal discussions with other relevant city agencies, particularly city planning commission over the year, been certainly historically. But now it's taking on an added urgency and we're delighted to be able to accelerate those discussions to, to come to grips with the specifics of any such transfer proposal. We think it's a great benefit not only to the city and for housing, and affordable housing and... but also a great benefit for historic preservation. So we're enthused about that and we're actively pursuing it.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Okay, another idea has been the suggestion of creating a land ban for

2 transferable development rights. Has this been  
3 discussed?

4 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: It will be one of the  
5 many issues that are in that general area that are  
6 discussed sure. Yes it will be.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you I have no  
8 more question.

9 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very  
10 much Mr. Chairman. I wanted to follow-up on a  
11 couple of things. You know when we, when we met  
12 earlier this year and I raised the issue of 27  
13 percent land marking in Manhattan I believe your  
14 response at the time was you believe that was a  
15 high number.

16 [laughter]

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...that in fact  
18 shockingly I was correct. So now in, in, in  
19 retrospect looking back and I guess looking forward  
20 as well. I mean we're pretty much, think at this  
21 pace I would project that in 20 years all of  
22 Manhattan will be landmarked in fact. Does that  
23 worry you perhaps... it certainly worries me. I don't  
24 think all of Manhattan should be landmarked and I'm  
25 just curious about whether your... [crosstalk]



CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: I don't, I think...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...perspective is  
on that?

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: I, I would worry me  
because it's not possible that all of Manhattan  
could, could have the, could be eligible under our  
pretty strict criteria for historic designation. I  
have great regard for all of Manhattan of course  
but our, our standards and our, and our strictures  
in, for determining eligibility are pretty strict  
and they take on very specific parameters. And I  
would be quite surprised if it would get anywhere  
near that kind of number.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay I hear  
you. I mean I would argue that a 27.1 percent is  
not that strict right. I mean that's, that's a lot  
of Manhattan.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes it is, it's, that  
is what the, those, those are the facts, those are  
the tax map lots and I think you, we, you know we  
could obviously go through district by district and  
landmark by landmark and see which ones perhaps  
are, or in some, some judgment shouldn't be

protected. But I, I, I'm not sure what those would  
be.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Does land  
marking make mistakes? Ever look back and...  
[crosstalk]

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Everybody makes  
mistakes... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...maybe, maybe  
we got it wrong, maybe...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Well...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...we need to  
change this, maybe we need to delist a landmark or  
more restrict a district that was wider. And I ask  
that once again in the, in the...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Mm, sure.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...context of  
considering the, the new impetus especially with  
the mayor's plan to...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...preserve and  
build affordable housing. We've got huge swaths of  
Manhattan that are effectively off limits and  
certainly I think that makes that more challenging  
and is an area of a concern. First I question the

premise of whether they are off limits. I, I mean there's affordable housing is buildable in historic districts, there's affordable housing currently in historic districts. Admittedly of course that there are restraints and parameters that make it perhaps tougher but it can be done. And in terms of mistakes I'll just speak for myself. No doubt a few have been made. But I'm not going to, I'm not going to list them and I really can't come up with them right now...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I don't blame you for not...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: ...but they're there.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...listing them.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: They're there.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay. But, but...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: But not in the wholesale way you're suggesting that we, that we peel back districts or that we start delisting...

[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I'm not, I'm not suggesting in a wholesale...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: ...delisting...

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...And, and I  
3 want to be clear it's...

4 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...the nature,  
6 the nature unfortunately of oversight is that we  
7 don't oversee all the things that you've done well.  
8 And I think that and I want to reiterate we  
9 appreciate your leadership, we appreciate your  
10 chairmanship. We think overall you've done very  
11 good work. However there are areas no matter how  
12 good anyone is where there will be room for  
13 improvement and that is simply...

14 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Absolutely.

15 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...all we're...

16 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Absolutely.

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...we're judging  
18 at this point, not the rest of it which we think  
19 has been done very well.

20 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Couldn't agree more.

21 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: And  
22 specifically to speak to that point how, I mean how  
23 do you feel as, as, as the chair and certainly  
24 going forward can we, can you give us a suggestion  
25

perhaps or lay out a plan how we deal with these  
calendared buildings. I'm looking at June...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...23<sup>rd</sup>, 1970,  
June 14, 1966, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1966, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1967,  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1966. I mean wow. I mean we're... we got  
50 years...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: I just...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...on and we  
still have lots of buildings that you guys can't  
seem to make up your mind about.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: We can make up our  
mind it's just that the, the, the appropriate level  
of community support, owner support, and the other  
dynamics that I alluded to in the testimony that  
perhaps obtained at the time it was calendared in  
some of those time periods you described has for  
whatever reason a new council member a, a new owner  
has dissipated and that it becomes then, the, the  
issue always becomes. And we have cut that list  
down dramatically as I said. But then the issue  
finally on these nettlesome ones that are still  
there are okay we'll have a public hearing on these  
calendared buildings, here they are, list them all,

2 and we're going to have public testimony on whether  
3 they should be designated or not. We'll go through  
4 that process and then there's an up or down vote.  
5 We say yes or no. And we've done that on many, not  
6 all and there, there are, that's one way to  
7 proceed, and that's a good way to proceed to get  
8 final closure on these so I'm, I'm a...

9 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So, so you  
10 would agree? And to be clear I'm not blaming you.  
11 You weren't around as the chairman in the 60s as  
12 far, as far, as I know...

13 [laughter]

14 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So, and I'm  
15 just trying to understand but you...

16 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yeah.

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...would agree  
18 that it makes sense perhaps going forward just as...

19 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...you know  
21 looking forward that perhaps there should be a  
22 mechanism where if we don't get around to it within  
23 a certain I don't five years right, that's it,  
24 you're, you're off the list and, and...

25 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...for those who don't know who are watching the issue really is you know between us we know that the Department of Buildings when there's an item that get calendared they put a little asterisk over there and basically it's very difficult to do anything with those. Would it be fair to say hey after a certain point by default you voted no and then if you want to bring it up another 10, 15, 20, 40, or 50 years later god bless you.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: I, I wouldn't be prepared to adopt that, that kind of solution. I believe that it's a problem that, that, that...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So what, what would you recommend? Seriously, what would you recommend... [crosstalk]

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Well first of all the years, the years I've been there we have not calendared bill, if you go through the list that you're, you're alluding to these are not buildings that I calendared, that were calendared in my tenor that are... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I'm not blaming you.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: ...currently  
unaddressed. So... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I'm asking for  
advice, some suggestions.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yeah I think it, an  
arbitrary time limit presents some issues.  
Certainly I wouldn't rule it out, I wouldn't rule  
it in. I'd talk to council about it and others and  
examine it. Because you're right there ought to be  
a solution or maybe a different approach. And I'm  
happy to look at any approach. My, certainly the  
commission staff is happy to look at any approach  
to be sure. Again I don't think it's a, it's an  
ongoing problem but we do have the existing  
inventory that you described that probably, we got  
to figure out a way to, to deal with it.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay and just  
specifically...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: And we're trying to.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: It seems to us  
that you have the ability under the new budget to  
hire up to six new staffers can you give us some  
details...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes.



CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...about exactly  
what it is that they will...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Permit issuance...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...be doing.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: ...because this level  
of, as I described that the amount of permits that  
are pouring into us for change, appropriate change  
is increasing rapidly. And in order to provide the  
workforce necessary to, to have a decent humane  
case level and still turn these around. It was  
determined by our analysis, by OMB, by the, that,  
that was required and necessary in order to have,  
continue to expedite issuance of permit.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: That that'll  
also lead to faster turnaround...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes, it should...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...in terms of  
the...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes, absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...permit times...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...as well?

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay and...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Exactly.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...and finally  
can you tell us about the move and the expenses  
related to that?

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: I will. The, we've  
worked with DCAS, DBC, and DoITT on this plan  
relocation. They're the agency from 1 Center Street  
to 253 Broadway as I said this landmark building  
across the street. My understanding is part of a,  
of a DCAS master plan for agency relocations and we  
worked closely with DCAS on this. And DDC oversees  
the design and construction of the project and the  
budget issues if that specifically I, DCAS  
certainly would be able to provide answers for. We,  
what interest me most about the new space even  
though I will in all likelihood not, certainly  
won't be in it at chairing this commission but I  
might, maybe I'll be in it in some other capacity..  
[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...welcome to  
visit I'm sure.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: ...we'll see. That,  
that, we have, we'll have significantly upgraded  
public hearing facilities to, to facilitate... We

1  
2 have hearings every Tuesday. We go like crazy. We  
3 do, do it like you all do, not as frequently but we  
4 are very busy. We have a lot of public interest and  
5 I think that the public hearing facilities will be  
6 greatly enhanced and that is key to me in this  
7 process.

8 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay great.  
9 Thank you very much. With that I'll turn it over to  
10 Council Member Kallos to be followed by Council  
11 Member Mendez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Chairman I just  
13 want to start off... I'm Council Member Ben Kallos.  
14 Those of you watching can tweet me @BenKallos, just  
15 wanted to start off with a warm welcome and a huge  
16 from the bottom of my heart, from the bottom of my  
17 district's heart, on behalf of former Council  
18 Member Jessica Lappin that the Landmarks  
19 Preservation Commission finally put an end to... I'll  
20 use it a term of art michigas [phonetic] with the  
21 city and suburban first avenue estate which had  
22 been warehoused for over a generation and had  
23 brought in a hardship application that was self-  
24 imposed and your commission voted unanimously to  
25 deny that hardship application. I'll be working as

1  
2 closely as I can with that group to get those 110  
3 plus units of affordable housing onto the market  
4 as, as soon as possible. So thank you and since I  
5 probably should ask a question how can we do more  
6 of that, how can we get more landmarks that are  
7 warehousing units back on the market?

8 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Let's hope they're,  
9 they're, there are no such cases that are like that  
10 one specifically. And I'm not sure that there are  
11 any actually. So yes if there were we would move as  
12 aggressively as we did in that case to make sure it  
13 happened.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: And then on, on  
15 the other side my colleague takes exception to 27.1  
16 percent land marking. I, I love light, I love air,  
17 I wish we had a constitutional right to both. The,  
18 the laws that were in place previously that created  
19 a right to those and, and made sure that our  
20 tenements actually had a light shaft and an air  
21 shaft which at the time was, was inventive and  
22 disruptive and groundbreaking we are looking at  
23 canyons where whether it's commercial buildings  
24 down here or it's in my district you, you have  
25 couple of dozen feet, never really a hundred feet

1  
2 or more between two skyscrapers that are 360 feet  
3 taller, higher where we're, we're blocking out the  
4 sun from our parks. How can we use landmark law  
5 properly to make sure that not only are we  
6 preserving the historic character of neighborhoods  
7 but preserving peoples' historic right to light and  
8 air that is created by these landmarks.

9 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: I think the record  
10 speaks for itself. We're very careful and they, the  
11 rate, the appropriateness of the changes that are  
12 allowed to historic buildings and historic  
13 districts. And if that flows from it then so be it.  
14 That's an incredibly important benefit.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: And last but not  
16 least I'm incredibly jealous of my colleague  
17 Council Member Dan Garodnick in the Park Avenue  
18 Historic District. I'd like one of my own. In, in  
19 Yorkville we have a, a lot of historic townhouses  
20 and row houses and neighborhoods where when you're  
21 on that block it feels like you stepped into  
22 another pocket in time so I, I am eager to working  
23 with you and your agency and your successor...

24 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Okay.  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: ...to see the  
percentage expand beyond 27.1 percent to as much of  
my district as possible.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you  
Councilman. And I'll refer you to Oklahoma, Texas,  
Nevada...

[laughter]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: There are  
similar states where you may have a constitutional  
right to, to air and light but certainly we don't  
have that here in New York City. And quite frankly  
it doesn't have anything to do with Landmarks.  
That's the, you should of asked that question of  
the, of the, of the, of our folks at city planning.  
I think you've hit the nail on the head which is  
that what we object to is using landmarks to try to  
evade city planning regulations. And I appreciate  
you reaffirming that point, that is something  
that's constantly done in New York City. With that  
I will turn it over to Council Member Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you Mr.  
Chair. Chair Tierney it's been wonderful late years  
working with you. I remember my first, really

getting to know you. You let me get in your car  
because I had knew problems...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: That's right.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: ...and we were  
doing a tour of the Fieldstone...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: ...historic  
district. My, the, the first landmark designation  
that I tried working on was when I was a very young  
organizer in Williamsburg Green point and we worked  
on trying to get the McCarren Park and Pool  
designated back in 1987. I actually got to vote on  
that as a Council Member and make it so.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Wonderful.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: So there, there  
was a problem with backlog. And I know that you've  
gone a long way in a, from all those years back  
and, and researching and, and getting either  
designations for land markings. What is the  
portfolio of what's still outstanding that in, in  
this next legislative term LPC will need to deal  
with?

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Well we have as I  
said in a normal year in excess of 200 applications

for historic districts and individual landmarks.  
That, that's just they come in, they just never  
stop coming in. And we're, we're sifting through  
them now making evaluations and judgments. I don't  
want to, I don't want to single out any one or two...  
there are a few districts that are still, that are  
still in play and that we're actively at a late  
stage of the process and then there are others that  
we're just beginning to examine. So I think I'd  
rather not... if I mention one it'll be why not the  
other three... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: No I...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: ...but we have an  
active, continuing to have a very active agenda and  
things brought to us and, and the preservation side  
of things, the regulatory side is, goes on a pace  
and the research side as you just pointed out  
there, the, the backlog issue in terms of requests  
coming in and our ability to, to respond is greatly  
improved. So we're, we're, we're in real time now  
but the process continues and we'll, we're, the,  
the agency will continue to be very busy.



COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: During my time on the city council we did get to advocate for more funding to increase your staffing levels...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Is your staffing levels adequate at this moment?

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes it is and I think the Chairman alluded to the six additional hires for permanent issuance which will, be sure that it remains at a, at a full strength and in a, in a way, at a, at a way to have the resources to do the job yes. And we greatly appreciate all your support over the years to that effort. It wasn't always so.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: So you don't have to comment on this. I just want to say that you know I'm very supportive of an LGBT historic district and actually the LGBT couscous has voted in favor so you'll be getting a letter to that effect from the couscous.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: And I hope to see that done during your tenor, whatever's left or under the next you know, the next chairperson...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I think it's  
very important to our community.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: And I want to  
thank you for your service to the city for all  
these years.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Thank you  
councilwoman.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.  
Council Member Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Mr.  
Chair. First off I'd like to thank Council Member  
Mendez for supporting voting to designate the  
McCarran Pool which is, resides in my district.  
It's a great historic resource that we have.  
Depression era, WP era public resource. I don't  
have a question Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to take  
this opportunity to thank you for your service to  
the city for your, your dedication and your  
openness to working with communities, council  
members, and other elected officials. And your open  
mind and really exemplifying the best of public  
service. And I just wanted to take this opportunity  
for the record to acknowledge that and I want to

1  
2 thank you so much for all of, all of your time and  
3 all of your good work.

4 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: And thank you for  
5 those kind words. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.  
7 Council Member Jumaane Williams actually asked me  
8 to ask two questions on his behalf. The first is  
9 he's wondering about the status of the land marking  
10 of the rest of Victorian Flatbush.

11 CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Active review, active  
12 consideration, a proposal that's this high as I'm  
13 showing here from, with 10 disparate elements to it  
14 we're working through extensive research. We're at  
15 a point, close to a point where we will, we will  
16 respond to the Council Member and talk about the  
17 specific tentative conclusions we've reached but  
18 we're there basically. We're there at the point  
19 where we can have that kind of specific rule it in  
20 rule it out. But that's a good example though of  
21 the kinds of demands that we get by the way for...  
22 You ask why, you know have we done enough land  
23 marking, is there too much or whatever, Victorian  
24 Flatbush there, there's over a thousand buildings  
25 in that request so it continues.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Sure, of course  
my point was that Brooklyn is a fraction of the  
land marking... [crosstalk] Manhattan I think we're  
at .4 percent... [crosstalk]

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...in Brooklyn.  
But thank you for teeing that up for me. The second  
question that he has is regarding the land marking  
of the Jackie Robinson House.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Yes, he has brought,  
he has been a very constructive forceful advocate  
for the review of that house. I've, we had to, we  
had earlier reviewed it ourselves, done extensive  
research and reached a conclusion that it was not  
eligible for individual designation because of the,  
the facts that we had compiled. We are now  
reexamining it because he and others, Jumaane  
Williams and others have done additional research  
that we are looking at to see whether that can  
change our conclusion, active review as we speak.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Great. Thank  
you. Seeing no other questions Chair we, once again  
we thank you for your service. We wish you the best  
of luck with the...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...next phase of  
your personal and professional life.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: And I assure  
you that we will make sure that you have access to  
the new space so you can come...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Oh good.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...and visit and...

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...if necessary  
we'll include as a terms and conditions of the  
moving costs.

CHAIRMAN TIERNEY: [laughs] Appreciate  
it, thank you. [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Bless you.  
Thank you very much... [crosstalk] Now we'll take a  
two minute break and we will start with DoITT.

[long pause]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Can, can... Folks  
we're, we're on a tight schedule so if we could do  
media interviews afterwards we'd appreciate that.  
Thank you very much. Is DoITT ready to testify.

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. Well  
then, please begin.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We will now  
resume the city council's hearing on the mayor's  
executive budget for FY 2015. The Finance Committee  
and the Committee on Land Use chaired by my  
colleague Council Member David Greenfield has now  
been joined by the Committee on Technology chaired  
by my colleague Council Member Jimmy Vacca to hear  
from the Department of Information Technology and  
Telecommunications. Before we hear from the  
department I will turn my mic over to my Co-Chairs  
for a statement. Co-Chair Vacca.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you.  
Chairperson Ferreras, Chairperson Greenfield I  
thank you. And behalf of the Committee on  
Technology we welcome the Department of information  
Technology and telecommunications and I'm James  
Vacca, Chair of the Committee on Technology. We're  
going to review DoITT's proposed FY 2015 expense  
budget and we will also be speaking about  
technology and DoITT's commitment to upgrade the  
City's IT system. We will thoroughly review all new  
spending items to ensure that proper cost controls

are in place to avoid inefficiency and waste realizing that it's important that we always look to see where we can possibly save money in our budgeting. This week the administration ordered a suspension and investigation of the Emergency Communications Program due to extreme delays and cost overruns. Since this project is now under the purview of DoITT and a major component of the Department's budget we are eager for further information about the scope of the investigation, how long this project will be suspended, and what the cost will ultimately be. Additionally we hope to hear more specific information about DoITT's budget plans with regards to the film office incentive program, open data, vision zero, and expansion of Wi-Fi in parks. And I want to welcome Acting Commissioner Evan Hines from DoITT and we look forward to his testimony.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very much and I, I too am looking forward to the testimony of the acting Commissioner on many different questions that we have, specifically the increase in the budget, the 92 positions, IT security, the plan for free public Wi-Fi and of

1 course the emergency communications transformation  
2 project including issues relating to overbilling.  
3 And with that we'll leave it to you to take it  
4 away.  
5

6 EVAN HINES: Good afternoon Chairs

7 Ferreras, Greenfield, and Vacca and members of the  
8 City Council Committees on Finance, Land Use, and  
9 Technology. My name is Evan Hines and I am Acting  
10 Commissioner of the Department of Information  
11 Technology and Telecommunications and New York  
12 City's Acting Chief Information and Innovation  
13 Officer. Thank you for the opportunity to testify  
14 today about DoITT's fiscal 2015 executive budget.  
15 With me are Annette Heintz Deputy Commissioner for  
16 Financial Management and Administration, John  
17 Winker our Associate Commissioner for Financial  
18 Services and Stanley Shor Assistant Commissioner  
19 for Franchise Administration. DoITT's Fiscal 2015  
20 Executive Budget provides for operating expenses of  
21 approximately 481 million dollars. The budget  
22 provides for 102 million dollars in Personal  
23 Services to support 1,324 full-time positions and  
24 379 million dollars for Other than Personal  
25 Services. Of the 379 million dollars, 30 percent,



or 114 million represents Intra-City funds that have been transferred from other agencies to DoITT for services it provides. Telecommunication costs represent the largest portion of the Intra-City expense. Fiscal 2014 Intra-City telecommunications expenditures are budgeted at 88 million dollars, while total telecommunications costs are budgeted at 131 million dollars. This budget represents an increase of 24 million dollars from the Fiscal 2014 January Budget and an overall net decrease of 32 million dollars from the Fiscal 2014 current modified budget. The 24 million dollar increase to the Fiscal 2014 January Budget is mostly attributable to OTPS funding associated with ongoing maintenance costs to support recent approved capitally-funded initiatives. DoITT also received some funding to convert inter-fund agreement positions to tax levy funded positions. The net decrease between Fiscal 2014 current modified and the Fiscal 2015 Preliminary Budget allocations represents a drop of an, in Inter-fund agreement funding after 2014 and one-time grant funding that was only allocated in the Fiscal 2014 current modified budget. Any unspent Fiscal 2014

grant funding will be rolled over into Fiscal 2015.

As the City's technology agency DoITT implements, maintains, and innovates the City's IT and telecommunication systems. Since we last appeared before you in March DoITT has continued to build on a number of critical agency initiatives. NYC.gov, the City's official website was relaunched in 2013 significantly improving the City's ability to serve the public. Using a data driven approach the site offers the most frequently requested content up front making it easier to access information about neighborhoods, events, and programs. This January DoITT started redesigning individual agency websites, the goal being to provide New Yorkers with a consistent experience across all of our online destinations. Citywide geographic information systems provides enterprise wide support for geospatial applications developing and hosting interactive maps and dereference data along with associated tools and applications such as NY City Map. Examples of recently launched and enhanced interactive maps and tools include the first New York City crime map produced in collaboration with the NYPD. A cloud based

geocoding services based on the Department of City Planning's geo-support system and the New York City Business Atlas for exploring business conditions across the five boroughs. Major GIS projects currently in development include the Vision Zero effort, an enhanced NY City map and an updated census fact finder. CityNet, the City of New York's proprietary network provides agencies with robust, secure, 24/7 monitored act, connectivity. DoITT operates and manages the network which provides the fundamental transport mechanism for inter and intra agency communications citywide. DoITT currently manages over 100 network locations, nearly all of which are connected using free fiber through the City's telecommunication's franchise agreements. DoITT recently upgraded 71 locations to 10, 10 gigabyte per second and is working to complete the remaining locations next fiscal year. Citywide Voice Over internet protocol, a more resilient telephony solution allowed the city to remain a network up time of 99.97 percent for Fiscal 2013. In 2012 to 2013 in the wake of Hurricane Sandy DoITT expedited the migration of approximately 5,000 city telephones to VOIP. DoITT currently

manages 17 thousand VOIP phones across 15 agencies and continues to transition agencies from the traditional phone system to VOIP to realize the functional and financial benefits of the new technology. Approximately 12,000 additional users will be transitioned over the next 18 months. New York City Open Data, the City's open government program provides the public with easily accessible, machine readable, data spanning the full range of city operations. From May to September NYC open data is powering the annual NYC BigApps competition enabling hundreds of developers, entrepreneurs, thought leaders, designers, and marketers to address shared civic challenges through technology. Since our last testimony DoITT has increased the number of data sets on the New York City Open Data Portal to more 1,250. The next milestone as required by Local Law 11 of 2012, the City's Open Data law comes in July 2014 when DoITT and the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics provide the annual update to the NYC Open Data Platform, Plan. The plan details the City's progress in opening public data since the previous report. [dot]NYC is a new web address for those based in New York City. With

the launch of [dot]NYC we will become the first city in the country with a top level domain creating new opportunities to generate revenue for the city, support local businesses, organizations and residents, and establish a unique level of geographic authority in the digital sphere. NewStar Inc. is the official registry operator for [dot]NYC supporting all marketing efforts and operating the technical infrastructure of the [dot]NYC domain. The city through DoITT will be monitoring this initiative which will generate a minimum of 3.6 million dollars in revenue over the course of five years. NYC connected communities a variety of interrelated technology initiatives, increases public access to an adoption of broadband and underserved communities. Over the last three years New Yorkers have participated in more than three million sessions of NYC connected communities programming. From accessing computers, printers, and internet service via NYCHA's traveling Digital Van to computer classes available in over 100 public computer centers, these initiatives are narrowing the digital divide across all five boroughs. Funding was added to DoITT's Fiscal 2014

budget to sustain this program moving forward and DoITT is working with partner agencies to continue providing critical broadband technology access. Public Wi-Fi is now available in more than 60 parks and public spaces citywide. More than half of these Wi-Fi hotspots are provided by the City's cable franchise providers as part of a series of public benefits delivered by their franchise renewal agreements. In Harlem, DoITT and partners are building the country's largest continuous free outdoor Wi-Fi network. When we last testified this network was live from 110<sup>th</sup> to 120<sup>th</sup> streets between Frederick Douglass Boulevard and Madison Avenue. Today the network extends up to 135<sup>th</sup> Street with development underway to expand the network up to 138<sup>th</sup> Street. Although still in development an average of 1,600 New Yorkers use the network each day and we expect this to continue to rise in the upcoming warmer weather months. Public connection points offering free five borough public Wi-Fi as well as free calls to 911 and 311 represents another step toward greater broadband connectivity. Last month DoITT issued an, an RFP to transform the City's network of public pay telephones into Wi-Fi

hotspots and information hubs. The new structures will be distributed across the five boroughs constituting one of the largest free Wi-Fi networks in the country and guaranteeing at least 17.5 million dollars in annual revenue for the city. Proposals are due June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and DoITT anticipates having a new franchise in place by years end. Together these innovations are making government more efficient and more effective everyday ensuring that the City of New York continues to be a leader in, in public sector service delivery. This concludes my prepared testimony and I will now be pleased to address any questions. Thank you. [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you very much. I want to go right into ECTP. ECTP which was launched in 2005 at a projected 1.3 billion dollars the 911 overhaul was a signature public safety initiative for the Bloomberg administration and after years of cost overruns and missed deadlines the current administration has decided to suspend the project for 60 days in order to assess what went wrong. The last, for the preliminary budget hearings when asked for this questions you

1 suggested that we should ask the questions of the  
2 mayor's office. And it's my understanding that it's  
3 now under your purview so I'm hoping that you can  
4 answer our questions. First we are happy to know  
5 that it's been moved out of the mayor's office and  
6 into your responsibilities within the 60 days. When  
7 the 60 days are up and report is finalized will you  
8 be able to provide the information to the council?  
9

10 EVAN HINES: So first you know, as you  
11 probably know it was announced on Monday that the  
12 incoming Commissioner of DoITT Anne Roest would be  
13 actually overseeing the program during the  
14 assessment phase and conducting the assessment. We  
15 literally just found that out on Monday. The  
16 incoming Commissioner starts on Tuesday. By the end  
17 of the 60 day period we'll have, we'll know what's  
18 going on with the program but we haven't been  
19 involved with the management of the program except  
20 for administrative support for the last four years.  
21 So in two months we'd be able to tell you more but  
22 right now I can't... [crosstalk]

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We just, I'm ask  
24 if, if this session is going to produce a report or  
25



information that you would be able to share with  
the council.

EVAN HINES: So the, we, Commissioner  
Roest has been instructed to provide  
recommendations based on the assessment to the  
Mayor's office and what they do with the  
recommendations you know is up to them.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: And had, if it's  
beyond what we would like for you, to recommend  
from this committee is that the department explore  
our opportunities to recover the monies from  
contractors who have either overbilled or under  
delivered on projects related to ECTP.

EVAN HINES: So we actually, with HP we  
actually had reached a... [off mic] Verizon or HP...  
[on mic] Verizon we reached a settlement with them.  
We received 50 million dollars back for them for  
work that we determined you know wasn't delivered.  
In the case of HP... that, we reached a settlement  
with HPD. We submitted it to the controller's  
office for registration, settlements have to be  
sent to them, it was rejected, and now the law  
department is actually continuing to work on that.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay so we'll  
3 also follow that up on the committee. Just want to  
4 talk before I pass it over to my co-chairs and then  
5 I'll come back for a second round of questions. On  
6 May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the administration released an edited  
7 version of the City's contracted consultant's  
8 report that reviewed the City's 911 emergency call  
9 system. The report by Winbourne Consulting was  
10 critical both the unified call taking, UCT protocol  
11 and the management of the two billion dollar  
12 emergency communications transfer project and found  
13 that the nine 11 system is, is beset by delays and  
14 errors that would leave callers with how, without  
15 help for crucial seconds in, in an emergency.  
16 Consultants called on the city to make specific  
17 changes outlining 34 different recommendations.  
18 Have you read the report, what are your thoughts on  
19 the report? Where, what happened with the  
20 recommendations of this report? And have you read  
21 the unedited version because as we saw the prior  
22 administration released a very edited version of  
23 this report.

24 EVAN HINES: So I haven't read the, the  
25 report, you know whatever versions are out there I

1 haven't been privy to. As you're probably aware I  
2 became acting Commissioner at the end of January  
3 while I was at the Department before then I had no  
4 involvement with ECTP.  
5

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay, so we're  
7 going to follow-up with the incoming Commissioner  
8 who you said starts on Tuesday...

9 EVAN HINES: Starts on Tuesday...

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: And will she have  
11 access to this report? Are you...

12 EVAN HINES: Yes, I believe the report  
13 was publically available...

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Right but it was  
15 publically available in a very edited version. So  
16 I'm trying to get questions on someone who has  
17 viewed this report that's unedited and can speak to  
18 the issues that were edited out of this report.

19 EVAN HINES: Right. I only know of the  
20 report that I believe is the report that you all  
21 must have seen which is the report that the last  
22 Commissioner Rahul Merchant [sp?] had seen as well.  
23 Whatever was a final draft of the report is what he  
24 saw he...  
25

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...the report had  
34 recommendations which were also public. Can you,  
can you walk me through how the recommendations  
were processed and, and how they improved.  
Obviously this already issue ridden system. So they  
made 34 recommendations, what happened?

EVAN HINES: Right, I can't. I told you  
I haven't read the report. I wasn't involved in  
ECTP, DoITT for the last four years, wasn't  
involved in creating those recommendations, or, or  
implementing those recommendations or even  
overseeing that whether or not they were  
implemented.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay. I'm going  
to give this over to my Co-Chair Council Member,  
Chair Vacca. Oh, I'm sorry we've been joined by  
Council Members Palma, Matteo, Weprin, and Johnson.  
You may begin.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you Chair  
Ferrerias. I wanted to continue questioning the 911  
call center and the 911 call up, backup center  
which is in my district in the Bronx. When, do you  
know when the Bronx call back center is scheduled

1  
2 to be finished? Is there a date by which  
3 construction is slated to be finished?

4 EVAN HINES: They, there, I'm sure there  
5 is a date. Again I'm sorry to not be able to answer  
6 these type of questions but we're currently doing a  
7 program assessment. There are multiple work streams  
8 in the program, the building of PSAC 2 is actually  
9 one of those work streams or in one of those work  
10 streams for facilities management. When we get to  
11 that part of the assessment reviewing it we'll then  
12 have the, know what's going on as far as with the  
13 schedule, what dates were originally scheduled,  
14 what date3s it may be as of today, and that will be  
15 ramping up when Commissioner Rose gets here.

16 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Well I too want to  
17 thank the administration for taking the bull by the  
18 horns. I very much want to thank them. I was one of  
19 those because PSAC 2 is in my district. I was one  
20 of those that sounded the alarm years ago that this  
21 had the potential to be a runaway train. And that's  
22 what it's become. This is the building in my  
23 district. There's a one, if you look at this one  
24 family house and you look at this building it  
25 towers over my entire community, gigantic in

1 nature. It started out as approximately 800 million  
2 dollars. And I want you to know that the  
3 administration at that time, the former  
4 administration wanted it to be event taller than  
5 that. They said they made a concession and reduced  
6 the size. DDC, and my concern here is that one  
7 agency does not know what the other agency is  
8 doing. We have so many agencies doing this and  
9 doing that or not doing this and not doing that.  
10 DDC issued a report May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and they said  
11 that project construction is scheduled for  
12 completion in June of 2015. That's around the  
13 corner. Do you see any way that there will be a  
14 temporary CofO [phonetic] for June of 2015 as DDC  
15 projected only one year ago?

17 EVAN HINES: Again I apologize. I cannot  
18 answer that. The assessment just started just now.  
19 I will be very involved with it, with Commissioner  
20 Roest but it is, it was just announced and it's  
21 just starting and we're just in the planning phase  
22 so that it could kick off fully next week when she  
23 arrives. She starts on Tuesday.

24 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Are you involved in  
25 purchasing at all? Are you involved in purchasing?

1  
2 Furniture? Cable? Because in fiscal year 2013 it  
3 was estimated that that would cost 12 million  
4 dollars and in fiscal year 14 there's 83 million  
5 dollars for furniture and cable. Why is there that  
6 cost escalation?

7 EVAN HINES: I believe that, the, the  
8 purchasing for that, anything for the building is  
9 in DDC's budget so it doesn't come through DoITT.

10 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: So this is in DDC's  
11 budget but you now have responsibility for the  
12 administration of it? Is that, is that... Am I...

13 EVAN HINES: I'm, I'm sorry can you  
14 repeat that?

15 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Is this now in DDC's  
16 budget but you have the responsibility to see this  
17 project to completion? Is this being taken... Is the  
18 responsibility being taken away from DDC and placed  
19 into your hands. I thought it was being taken away  
20 from a division of the mayor's office.

21 EVAN HINES: Correct. So, but DDC... so  
22 the way DD, my understand that the way DDC operates  
23 are agencies that they're building structures for  
24 are their clients.

25 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Right.

1  
2 EVAN HINES: So in this case DDC manages  
3 more the, more than the lion's share but manages  
4 the budget and the construction of the building.  
5 Since it's part of this larger program we would be  
6 overseeing, ensuring that if there's any kind of  
7 dependencies with other parts of the program and  
8 that they're staying on schedule, like in  
9 overseeing... [crosstalk]

10 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Well I...

11 EVAN HINES: ...schedule.

12 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: To be honest I, I'm,  
13 I'm glad that you're doing this because I don't  
14 know of many other instances where DDC is overseen  
15 by another agency. But perhaps because of the  
16 circumstances here this may be the right thing to  
17 do.

18 EVAN HINES: Well it, it's, earlier I  
19 was saying there is multiple work streams for the  
20 project. The building is a very critical work  
21 stream. And so as part of that program yes they're  
22 you know a governance board that would be over the  
23 management of the program would be overseeing the  
24 work that DDC is doing.  
25



CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Right. What is the nature of the investigation? Does the nature in the, the nature of the investigation obviously is cost overruns... am, am I correct?

EVAN HINES: The, the nature of the investigation is to review what the project scope is, what the current status of each work stream is, what the current schedule is, what the budget is where you know what the base line schedule of budget was compared to where we are now, and to determine how best to move forward with the program.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Does the investigation scope include fraud?

EVAN HINES: That I... that I don't know. The, there's parts that was referred out to both the controller and to the Department of Investigation, the assessment that we would be involved in is on the actual technology program.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay, what is the nature of the investigation with the current 911 call center. Forgetting PSAC 2... [crosstalk]

EVAN HINES: Right...

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: PSAC 1.

2 EVAN HINES: So the, the current 911  
3 call center DoITT is not, has no authority or no  
4 responsibility with 911 operations. I believe  
5 there's a hearing next Friday on unified call  
6 taking where NYPD and Fire Department will be there  
7 and it would best be posed to them at that time.

8 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: The original cost of  
9 the 911 call center modern technological  
10 modernization and the construction of the PSAC 2  
11 call back center was estimated to be 1.3 billion.  
12 WE are now looking at 2.2 billion.

13 EVAN HINES: So...

14 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Am I, am I correct?

15 EVAN HINES: ...regarding the budget we  
16 could speak to you about that. John could give you  
17 the history on the budget.

18 JOHN WINKER: Good afternoon. My name is  
19 John Winker. As you said correctly the original  
20 budget in 2005 was at 1.345 billion dollars. As of  
21 the executive budget 2010 it was increased to 2  
22 billion 31 million dollars which it still stands at  
23 today. The major difference in that growth was  
24 really related to PSAC 2. I mean the initial  
25 allocation for PSAC 2 was around 400 million. You

mentioned about 800 before. It was initially  
earmarked at 400. That was really more of a place  
holder than anything else.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Yes.

JOHN WINKER: After the assessment was  
done or the estimations and everything else in  
terms of the scope of the build that was increased  
to about a billion and one. And that was the,  
entire increase of the budget at that time. And  
that budget's remained constant now. In terms of  
where the investigation goes we'll see where  
everything lies. You said 2.2 billion, that 2.2  
billion number I think that you're, you're  
including now includes about 200 million dollars in  
expense costs that have been accrue today, that's  
really the operational costs associated with, with  
PSAC 1 which is around 50, 50 million dollars a  
year. So that's really where the numbers are today.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Is some work, is  
some work going to take place during the 60 day  
period? I understand some sidewalk work, minor  
work, are we going to allow some work to proceed...

EVAN HINES: Yes we...

2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: ...that may not be  
3 under investigation for example, that may not work,  
4 that may not be as a part of the investigation  
5 safety...

6 EVAN HINES: right well what...

7 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: ...safety security?

8 EVAN HINES: ...what's happen... what, what  
9 we've done is we've actually stopped all new  
10 expenditures. So any new contracts of any kind, new  
11 contracts, new purchase orders, changes to existing  
12 contracts to either extend them or to change orders  
13 to increase them all of them has been stopped in  
14 their tracks wherever in the pipeline they were.  
15 Even in some cases being pulled back if they had  
16 been submitted to the next level of oversight.  
17 What's continuing though is previously approved  
18 work that, where vendors are on board because we  
19 will be looking at those contracts and the scope of  
20 them as part of the assessment and then determine  
21 how to move forward after that. We don't want to  
22 necessarily stop something not knowing exactly what  
23 we're stopping because of the impact that it would  
24 have down the road.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Commissioner the current 911 system is beset with delays. It is beset with inappropriate response to people's calls for help. We need to have the technology in place so that these delays never happen again. And hearing about these cost overruns and even further delays really is upsetting to many New Yorkers. And we want this put on the front burner. And I think the 60 day delay does do that. But I think that we've got to come to the table soon with a solution. And we look to you and your agencies since you've been given oversight responsibility. And we look to the new Commissioner to make sure that what has to be done is done. I just hope that we've nipped this in the bud. I just hope. I support the action we've taken but I just hope that we've nipped this in the bud. Because many of us were crying about this, warning about this for a long period of time and it was known, and the cost overruns just continued. The taxpayers' pockets are not bottomless and this appears to be a boondoggle that we have to address. So I look forward to hearing more from you and the new Commissioner. I

want you to know that we're going to be in touch  
with you on this.

EVAN HINES: Right. And I welcome  
further conversations. This is a priority of the  
administration's to actually determine what's going  
on and figure out a go forward strategy. I could  
guarantee you it's a top priority of our agency.  
It's all hands on deck. We're engaging with all  
stakeholder agencies. So we'll move forward  
quickly.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Many times we are  
patient but our patience is running out on this  
one. I just want you to know.

EVAN HINES: Got it.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you.

EVAN HINES: You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: thank you Chair  
Vacca. Now we'll hear from Chair Greenfield.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Madam  
Chair. So you've been acting Commissioner now for a  
few months at DoITT. You're heading out as acting  
Commissioner because there's a new Commissioner. So  
you are well placed to tell us in the last few  
months how is DoITT doing?

2 EVAN HINES: So DoITT is doing great.  
3 DoITT has, even with the change in, in  
4 administrations I'm actually happy to say we didn't  
5 see an exodus of many people on our team. And it  
6 shows in our performance continues to go up. Major  
7 systems that we are responsible for have had up  
8 times of nearly 100 percent, about 99.87 percent I  
9 believe. We've actually doubled the amount of  
10 environments that we provide agencies to operate in  
11 our data centers in the last year without any, much  
12 of an increase in effort because we've actually  
13 gone through process improvements to actually  
14 deliver those environments faster, more  
15 efficiently, and on schedule to agencies for dates  
16 that we promised. So DoITT's doing really well.

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Let me ask you  
18 about this. It seems like you guys want to add I  
19 guess 92 positions in the upcoming fiscal year. Can  
20 you tell us about that? I mean when I think  
21 technology I generally think efficiency and so I  
22 always wonder why it is that we have the need to  
23 add so many new positions at DoITT.

24 EVAN HINES: Sure. John.  
25

JOHN WINKER: In terms of the increase in positions that you're seeing the vast majority of those positions aren't necessarily new. What's, what the majority of those positions really represent is a conversion of positions from what was formerly IFA eligible, capitally eligible positions to now city funded lines. Essentially what we've done is we've converted projects that have been substantially completed from an implementation phase they go into more of a, a support mode and they're no longer capitally eligible to be funded out of that bucket so they move into CTL. So the, these lines aren't necessarily all brand new. The vast majority... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Are you referring to the intrafunding agreement conversions? Is that what you're referring to?

JOHN WINKER: Yes, IFA conversions.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: But weren't those supposed to be temporary positions? That's what I don't really... [crosstalk]

JOHN WINKER: Well there, they're, they're for the build phase. They're...



2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay.

3 JOHN WINKER: ...they're funded in, in  
4 that temporary funding stream and then they become  
5 permanent lines as city, CTL or City, City Tax  
6 Levy.

7 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay I mean I  
8 guess in the future it would be helpful when,  
9 right, I mean think about it from our perspective.  
10 You guys are doing these capital projects, and you  
11 have anticipation down the road these capital  
12 projects after they end will then be converted into  
13 permanent operating funds. If someone flags that  
14 and sort of lets us know...

15 JOHN WINKER: I mean we work with OMB on  
16 that front you know. And, and this is something  
17 that we've been working with them over the last few  
18 years to really move more of the positions out of  
19 the IFA you know realm and into CTL... [crosstalk]

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So what about  
21 the new positions because those are not all of  
22 them? So what are the new positions that you're  
23 looking to hire?

24 JOHN WINKER: There, there is several  
25 new positions. We have some line, we have a line

1  
2 for [dot]NYC which is to support that program which  
3 is brand new. We have a position that came in, a  
4 couple of positions that came in for the Vision  
5 Zero Initiative. And we had, yeah we converted, we  
6 had some, some IFA positions that were for the  
7 Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment Digital  
8 Program. Those are now CTL positions. They were,  
9 they were initially, they were initially for IFA.  
10 They're now three CTL slots. But like I said before  
11 I can give you a real break down of all those lines  
12 but most of them are new... [crosstalk]

13 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: If you could  
14 send it to us post...

15 JOHN WINKER: Sure.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...meeting in  
17 terms of...

18 EVAN HINES: And...

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...exactly who's  
20 doing what and at what levels we'd appreciate it  
21 yes.

22 EVAN HINES: And another area where the  
23 headcount came from. There were five positions for  
24 Open Data which were consultant conversions. So it,  
25 to get the program up and running we were using

consultants. We actually converted it to actually city staff so it's city employees now. And it's actually saved several hundred thousand dollars a year using city employees for that rather than the consultants.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: And what is the percentage of the budget currently that you outsource to consultants?

JOHN WINKER: Well in, in terms of percentage... I'd have to give you a percentage but we have it essentially about 39 million dollars in annual spend most of that being capital that's for a hundred and, a 159 I guess FTE type slots that you would call for specialized skill sets, things that we don't have in house, skills sets that we don't have in house.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay.

EVAN HINES: It was 39 million out of...

JOHN WINKER: 39, yeah 39 million.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: That's the number of, of... [crosstalk] outsourced in terms of... [crosstalk]

JOHN WINKER: 39 million is, is what we're at, our annual spend is for consultant services.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Got it. Can you tell us a little bit more about the free public Wi-Fi and payphones, how that's going to work, how you envision that... [crosstalk]

EVAN HINES: Sure...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...the RFP has just been released.

EVAN HINES: So I'm going to hand that over to our Assistant Commissioner for Franchise Administration Stanley Shor who oversees that process...

STANLEY SHOR: Good afternoon. What we're doing is we've issued a request for proposals for a new franchise contract that would provide for new structures on the City's streets replacing existing payphone locations, providing some additional locations up to 10,000 throughout the city. Not, not 10,000 additional but up to 10,000 altogether. And what these structures would be all outfitted with Wi-Fi that's 100 percent free to the public. They would also have advertising space on

1 them. Some of them would be digital. Some of them  
2 would not be digital. And they would also all have  
3 phones that could, at the minimum provide free 911  
4 and 311 and there's expectation that they, the  
5 proposals will propose what other levels of pay,  
6 payphones services whether they want to charge for  
7 the call so they could provide phones for free. And  
8 it'll all be part of the proposal. We are  
9 envisioning Wi-Fi that will be in some  
10 neighborhoods where there is a large concentration  
11 of existing structures that the Wi-Fi will be  
12 continuous and so we're looking forward to that as  
13 a, as a great amenity for the city. People will be  
14 able to log on and just keep walking and have Wi-  
15 Fi. It will benefit the people who have limited  
16 access to the internet by providing a free means of  
17 connecting through smartphones and through other  
18 devices. We, we know that many people of limited  
19 means use it as their primary or only access to the  
20 internet, they use smartphones so that we, we feel  
21 that this is a real benefit. And that the  
22 advertising that's on these structures will not  
23 only generate revenue for the city but will also  
24  
25

2 generate enough revenue to support having a free  
3 Wi-Fi network.

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: What do you  
5 anticipate the revenue is going to be for the folks  
6 who are providing this service? What's, how are  
7 they going to make their money? Right, you're  
8 putting it out there in terms of an RFP. Have you  
9 figured that out and what are you looking at in  
10 terms of that?

11 STANLEY SHOR: Okay it's, obviously  
12 we're the city government and we can't necessarily  
13 predict everything that the proposals will come up  
14 with as far as revenue. We know that the  
15 advertising is a substantial source of revenue. We,  
16 we note that many payphones are out there on the  
17 street that don't get much use as pay phones but  
18 they're out there generating lots of revenue with,  
19 with advertising. We believe that there are,  
20 there's potential for sponsors to come in and  
21 attach their name to the provision of free Wi-Fi  
22 that's been done in the subways already. So that's  
23 another stream of revenue. The, the proposals are  
24 able to propose other sources of revenue be it  
25 through advertising on the, on a splash page as

1  
2 part of the Wi-Fi. Other telecommunication services  
3 that potentially could be offered at the structure  
4 on the street. We're not really suggesting what's,  
5 those services are going to be or could be. We note  
6 that changes keep happening in the  
7 telecommunication industry. So we are leaving that  
8 very much open. And we're also asking proposals to  
9 design structures that will be changeable over the  
10 course of the franchise contracts so that they will  
11 be able to add components if there are some new  
12 services that can be added without having to go  
13 through major changes.

14 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay, so just  
15 to be clear the main source of revenue for the  
16 contractor that would bid on this and ultimately  
17 you would provide the, the one bid for would be  
18 from advertising be it whether it's on the actual  
19 structures or splash pages or on other sorts of  
20 situations like that? [crosstalk]

21 STANLEY SHOR: Yes that's what we  
22 anticipate.

23 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay and, and  
24 does your RFP guarantee that there is sort of equal  
25 roll out across the city? Because as you can

1  
2 imagine in some areas it's more lucrative to  
3 advertise in other areas of New York City. So how  
4 does that, how does that figure into the plan?

5 STANLEY SHOR: Okay well what we've  
6 asked for is for the proposals to give us a plan  
7 for what they would be willing to do as far as the  
8 various boroughs. We have set forth what's out  
9 there now as far as advertising structures in, in  
10 the five boroughs. We note that we would like to  
11 have additional structures outside of Manhattan  
12 because the largest share is in Manhattan and we  
13 don't want the other boroughs to be devoid of this  
14 new service. The other boroughs, it's not that  
15 there aren't locations already in the other  
16 boroughs, there are but in some, in some boroughs  
17 it's, it's considerably less and let's say for  
18 example Staten Island it's, it's, it's only about  
19 one percent of the whole total. So we would be  
20 looking at the proposals. We obviously have to work  
21 with them, what they can generate revenue on and  
22 we've asked them to set forth what's their best  
23 rollout that they could do with additional  
24 structures.



CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay I just think that, just to clarify I think what we'd like to see especially in the world of land uses an, an equal rollout in sorts in terms of this sort of plan. We don't want to see a plan that ultimately ends up you know where midtown and downtown Manhattan end up getting free Wi-Fi and then you know in 2076 we'll see you in Queens right. So I think that's just something you should be mindful especially as the process moves forward and eventually you'll be coming I'm sure for a full Land Use hearing. So just to give you an early heads up on that so that doesn't become an issue down the road. Thank you.

STANLEY SHOR: Actually it, in, in the text of the RFP we, we have asked that as it's being rolled out that they show how they're being equitable in the rollout. So we, we are mindful of that.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: I just have a follow up on this topic before we give it over to Council Member Weprin. When we had our, our power outage here in the city you know I remember people making calls from the pay phones, calling home. So

1  
2 we're turning over to voice over IP which  
3 potentially, and I, and you can correct me if I'm  
4 wrong, our phones will be using Wi-Fi and the power  
5 goes out what are the options that we're leaving  
6 our city residents.

7 STANLY SHOR: The, we are asking the  
8 proposers to submit in their proposals how they are  
9 going to provide the power, how they're going to  
10 provide the service. We asked them to be mindful of  
11 redundancy and resiliency. We mentioned in there  
12 that we're interested in seeing if they're going to  
13 use solar panels, what other, you know what sources  
14 that they can use to be more resilient. Obviously  
15 when the power goes out if you have something  
16 that's connected to power it goes out. But it,  
17 there are ways that they can put out a system that  
18 has battery backup and solar power can help charge  
19 the batteries and there are, some of the  
20 connections could be still using DSL which is  
21 Copper so it still carries the current on there as  
22 far as whether the copper will continue as the  
23 system that's somewhat out of our hands because  
24 Verizon has been basically replacing the copper  
25 with fiber...

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Right.

STANLEY SHOR: So that's... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Well I would...

STANLEY SHOR: ...what they were concerned  
about...

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...I would... Right.

I would hope as you go through this process that  
you take into consideration you know god forbid we  
go through this process again where we have a power  
outage that was an option for many families,  
especially those that were here in the city trying  
to get back to the outer boroughs. And I, in, in  
our testimony, in our finance testimony from  
Commissioner, Sanitation Commissioner Garcia she  
spoke specifically about these street sweepers that  
are going to be green. But also will serve as  
generators. So if ever there's a power outage the  
street sweepers are actually something that  
community residents could go plug into and will  
serve as a generator. So I think in the spirit of  
where the administration is going that we are able  
to look at options where perhaps the locations  
could also serve as HUBs for people to charge their  
phones, or in the case of an emergency that there's

a, another option for people to be able to reach their families I think it's something they should definitely take into consideration when reviewing those responses from your RFP. And I'd like to now hand over the questioning to Council Member Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you Chair Ferreras. Thank you very much. Commissioner nice to see you. I want to follow up on the next generation of pay phones discussion a little bit. I want to start out by saying that I'm disappointed because in our new generation of working so closely with the administration that we weren't consulted at all as far as this RFP and how it went because I have a number of concerns about the way this RFP is written. I just want to know why, was there any thought of maybe discussing this with the city council as far as how this RFP would go at all?

EVAN HINES: So I believe, I don't know what level of discussions there were but there were discussions. One, we needed an authorizing resolution...

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Mm-hmm.

EVAN HINES: ...in order to issue the RFP I believe. On top of that we've actually, the RFP

2 wasn't just written like in, in one or two months.

3 It was over the course of the past year. And there  
4 was input stemming from community... [crosstalk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Mr. Shor has his  
6 hand on the mic so I think he wants to add  
7 something.

8 STANLEY SHOR: We had... I'll, I'll admit  
9 it was a limited amount of contact. We did meet  
10 with Land Use staff briefly to tell, tell the, to  
11 inform the council as to what we were planning on  
12 doing. We didn't get into the details of the RFP.  
13 We have taken a long time to come up with the  
14 details of the RFP. It was a, a planning process  
15 that worked through the Bloomberg administration  
16 where everyone didn't agree on the components of  
17 the RFP. The new administration embraced the RFP  
18 and wished to move on it quickly and made its  
19 choices as far as how to reach out as far as the  
20 various elected officials and stake holders. And  
21 keeping in mind that they wanted to get this out  
22 very fast so that people could no, would no longer  
23 have to deal with the you know decaying pay phones  
24 on the street. But that, when these contracts came  
25 to an end in October that we would either have or

1  
2 be close to having new structures ready to go. So I  
3 can't, can't say that there was a lot of outreach.  
4 It's... And I understand why you would be concerned  
5 that you didn't have it but this is how it went  
6 forward.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Well I can say  
8 there was not a lot of outreach but that's okay. I  
9 mean look I, we're very excited about this. I  
10 understand in October the franchise for the  
11 payphones expires and they are rotting shells right  
12 now. Most of them, even if the payphones work the  
13 person who owns it doesn't allow them to work which  
14 they don't work even, puts a little sticker on  
15 them, don't use the phone, it's basically  
16 advertising space. So we're excited that some new  
17 generation's going to be coming in. My, my biggest  
18 concern is Mr. Shor how long have you been with the  
19 agency? I know you've... [crosstalk]

20 STANLEY SHOR: It will be 13 years...

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: 13.

22 STANLEY SHOR: ...next month.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Well before you  
24 were there even in 1995 following Mabel [sp?] when  
25 the franchise was given out to payphones the city

2 council had passed a resolution that, that made  
3 sure that we didn't have, we had nonexclusive  
4 contracts given out to scores of providers for  
5 payphones all across the city. You're aware of that  
6 right?

7 STANLEY SHOR: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Right. So that  
9 was a good thing, create competition between the  
10 phone companies, you know people who are running  
11 these payphones. And obviously as cell phones  
12 became popular the, the use of pay phones changed.  
13 I was sort of shocked to see when the RFP came out.  
14 And this is my biggest concern that it's really  
15 asking for an exclusive franchisee to run all, now  
16 10,000 you said of these payphones, kiosk, whatever  
17 they are and that just seemed counter to, to what  
18 the law would be which it says we want to try to  
19 encourage competition.

20 STANLEY SHOR: The, the RFP and... mirrors  
21 the authorizing resolution in that the contract  
22 that will be eventually awarded if we get a good  
23 proposal and we do choose to go forward it will not  
24 be an exclusive contract meaning that the city can  
25 issue a contract, start the process with this

2 contract or issue another RFP two months later if  
3 we choose to. So it's similar to the street  
4 furniture franchise in that that was done as a  
5 nonexclusive contract similar to the cable  
6 contracts that were done that looked like they were  
7 exclusive but then we granted Verizon a contract  
8 citywide.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: So you're saying  
10 that, but I thought, I saw the RFP, I don't have it  
11 with me. It did sound like it was asking for one  
12 provider. Now you're saying that we, it is asking  
13 for one provider but we're not going to, maybe  
14 later on we'll decide eh, we'll add some more  
15 providers later on... [crosstalk]

16 STANLY SHOR: That's, that's...

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: That's what  
18 you're saying?

19 STANLY SHOR: ...the option... [crosstalk]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: So now here's my  
21 real concern about that. And it's especially true  
22 with what technology we're talking about here. And  
23 you alluded to it. This is technology that changes  
24 weekly. Right now we have these ugly payphones all  
25 over the city that are basically advertising space.



1  
2 It could easily happen that these beautiful new Wi-  
3 Fi stations become ugly advertising space within a  
4 year. I mean it could change quickly where we don't  
5 need Wi-Fi anymore because we all have it in our  
6 brain or something. I mean who knows where the  
7 technology goes. By creating it and right now  
8 they're, I don't know how many companies are  
9 running the pay phones. Do you know? It's a lot,  
10 it's scores of them right?

11 STANLY SHOR: It's 10 companies.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: 10?

13 STANLY SHOR: Yeah.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay so not  
15 scores, half a score. 10 companies using it and I  
16 think there's some benefit to that in that it  
17 creates a competition like hey I want mine to look  
18 better than that guy's over there. And in this  
19 particular thing there money is being made and you  
20 said it here by the advertising. Well the  
21 advertising is there whether the damn thing works  
22 or not, whether it looks good, whether it's up to  
23 date, whether it's modern. I think we create a real  
24 problem by giving it to one person even with the  
25 possibility we may add someone later instead of

1 saying let's, we have 10 franchises out here. I  
2 mean I'm not sure if they're all capable of doing  
3 this. I'm sure there are other people out there who  
4 would do this, it just seems to me in my own  
5 layman's way of this that the more competition we  
6 create the more likely we are to have a product  
7 that's going to work long term. And I think this  
8 franchise agreement is for 15 years... my god, 15  
9 years who knows what we're, where we're going to be  
10 then.  
11

12 EVAN HINES: What, what I would suggest.  
13 In the, in the past I believe there has been  
14 litigation around how we structure certain  
15 franchise agreements how, how we award them. And so  
16 we don't want to get into that situation again.  
17 What I would suggest is our general council is  
18 actually over franchise administration, Stanley  
19 reports to him, that we have a briefing for  
20 whichever council members would want to know about  
21 the thought that went into it as an attorney client  
22 type conversation.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: And again I mean  
24 it just seems logical to me that instead of saying  
25 let's pick one, add more later, let's put it out

1  
2 wide net, let's take as many as, qualify, I'm not  
3 looking to give it to anyone, but if they qualify  
4 being able to do this in a proper manner let's  
5 start with the possibility of getting 10, then we  
6 only do four you know. I mean that would make more  
7 sense to me. And I, I really feel like this is a  
8 dangerous thing to do, you know dangerous may be  
9 the wrong word but, foolish thing to do in that we  
10 will, may end up with, with rotting shells very  
11 quickly that are no longer effective based on what  
12 the technology is. Because as we all know it's  
13 changing daily as to what is appropriate. So I  
14 would just ask that if there's a way to change  
15 that, a way to open up the RFP to, to more than one  
16 exclusive contract I think that's in the best  
17 interest of consumers of the city in the future.  
18 Okay... [crosstalk]

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I think we, we  
20 have many questions surrounding this and we're  
21 short on time. So what we're going to do is myself  
22 and Chairman Weprin and the other Co-Chairs we're  
23 going to send you a letter with a list of detailed  
24 questions specifically about this RFP that we'd  
25

1 like answered before the end of the budget process.

2 Does that work for you?

3  
4 EVAN HINES: Sure.

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very  
6 much.

7 EVAN HINES: Your welcome.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Co-  
9 Chair Greenfield and Weprin. We've been joined by  
10 Council Members Ignizio, Gentile, and myself. Now  
11 we will hear from Council Member Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you  
13 chairs. I just have two very quick questions. I  
14 think you misspoke at one point because I heard you  
15 say that, that the agency spends 39 million  
16 annually on contracting without site consultants  
17 who have skills that DoITT just doesn't have. Did  
18 you mean to say that specifically for the NYC win  
19 that you have 38 million or did you really mean 38  
20 million.

21 JOHN WINKER: No, no I, I, what I meant  
22 was it's 39 million dollars for what we call ITCS  
23 which is I, IT consultant services. What you're  
24 talking about in terms Niaswin [phonetic] is a  
25 maintenance contract to maintain that network. And

2 that's not, the maintenance we pay on that is not  
3 part of that number.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh.

5 JOHN WINKER: Because that's really a  
6 maintenance function as opposed to a IT or personal  
7 service type of staff supplementation or whatever  
8 you want to call the IT consultants that come in  
9 that...

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay let me  
11 try, take another stab at it. In your OTPS budget I  
12 think you have something like 191, 192 million  
13 dollars for contractual services. If we were to  
14 look at the details of that which I know we have,  
15 but I just don't have right in front of me would we  
16 see then the 39 million for ITCS separate from the  
17 38.3 million NYC win baseline?

18 JOHN WINKER: Yes. Well first of all you  
19 wouldn't see the 39 million because about 35 of  
20 that is, is actually capital funds. So you wouldn't  
21 see it in the OTPS budget. Roughly five million  
22 dollars is really expense related costs associated  
23 with the 39 million.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, I have  
25 a lot to learn. And then secondly I want to talk

1 about 911 but from a different angle. I represent  
2 the upper west side of Manhattan and had an  
3 experience the other day that was, was terrifying.  
4 I was biking down the Westside Greenway and someone  
5 had a seizure or something. And by the time I got  
6 there none, the ambulance had not arrived when they  
7 had already been waiting 20 minutes. Apparently  
8 what happened, I waited with them and within 40  
9 minutes the ambulance had come and taken the woman  
10 to the hospital where she proceeded to have  
11 something like five hours of surgery. But here's  
12 the point. The reason 911 didn't get the call is  
13 because it went to New Jersey first. And I have  
14 gotten complaints about this frequently from my  
15 constituents who live along West End Avenue and  
16 Riverside Drive that the 911 calls go to New Jersey  
17 first. And then the dispatcher eventually will send  
18 it over to Manhattan. Can you help me understand  
19 better what's going on there and what you're doing  
20 to rectify the problem?

21  
22 EVAN HINES: That, operations of 911 you  
23 would have to speak with NYPD and the Fire  
24 Department for how they, how their...

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh.

EVAN HINES: ...calls operate.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: My bad.

EVAN HINES: We, we, we don't handle  
their technology.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, sorry I  
jumped down it because it was a 911... [crosstalk]

EVAN HINES: That's okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

EVAN HINES: Your welcome.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you. There  
are no wrong questions.

EVAN HINES: The operations of their  
technology.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Right.

EVAN HINES: ECTP is now under DoITT for  
the project management of the delivery of it.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: And finally two, two  
final quick questions regarding [dot]NYC when is  
the formal launch? I saw something about a  
prelaunch. Can you just sort of explain how that  
works?

EVAN HINES: Sure. There is actually  
four phases. And this month is the sunrise phase so  
that's for companies that have trademarks. They

1  
2 have the first opportunity to get [dot]NYC, to  
3 apply for [dot]NYC addresses using their company  
4 name. Phase two is for city government and  
5 affiliated, affiliates in June and July.

6 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Including Council  
7 Members?

8 EVAN HINES: Including council yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay.

10 EVAN HINES: Yeah. So that will be in  
11 June and July. That period happens. In August  
12 businesses organizations and residents with  
13 physical addresses in New York City will be able to  
14 register for domains for a slightly higher fee than  
15 the last phase, phase four which launches in  
16 October which is general availability for... again  
17 you have to be located in New York City, have an  
18 address here.

19 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: So ultimately to  
20 purchase a [dot]NYC address you will have to have a  
21 physical location in New York City?

22 EVAN HINES: Yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: It's not going to be  
24 open to the world?

25 EVAN HINES: No.



CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Got it and that would be a, a home address, or a business address, or any address really right? Not necessarily a business address?

EVAN HINES: Either. If you could prove that you have a tie to New York City, an address tied in New York City so business or residence.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: How about a P.O. Box? Eh, I'm just busting your chops. Final question inquiring minds want to know what's the compliance rate on the open data portal looking like?

EVAN HINES: So we are I, I have a biweekly meeting on it. We were over 90 percent so we're on schedule to actually be... You're talking about for the plan, as far as for the plan what's supposed to be...

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Yeah.

EVAN HINES: ...done by July? So we are on target to be done. There's I think maybe about six data sets. But it's over 90 percent right now and will be completed in time.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Great. Thank you very much.

EVAN HINES: Your welcome.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: And my last wrap  
up question as we talk about technology and  
bringing ourselves up to modern times and having  
access we also unfortunately have to talk about  
security and preventing our IT systems from being  
hacked. So I know you can't disclose the measures  
by which we may be using them but anything that you  
can share with us that you can make us feel safer  
about one, getting on the Wi-Fi systems from the  
public perspective but also our IT systems as we  
help move this city forward to the new age. What,  
what, what structures do we have?

EVAN HINES: So we have a multipronged  
approach to handling IT security. We have malware  
detection, we have content URL filtering so we know  
when somebody's trying to come to NYC.gov or into  
the City's network, like you know where they're  
coming from. I could tell you... ..two more pieces to  
it... I actually can't tell you the other two pieces.  
But there's a lot more to it than even the four  
that I would have mentioned. And we're more than  
happy to have our Chief Information Security

Officer meet with you to go into more detail if it would give you a better comfort level.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay, thank you.

So I want to speak very specifically to experiences that we have as council members to be able to do our job effectively. I have one hands free phone in my office here at city hall. Our phones are very antiquated for us to get additional lines which we need to be able to do our jobs more effectively for our office is an incredible challenge. And I know that we partner with you in this process and I don't understand one why replacing the phones that we have no, now are, is so costly and why we just can't get an entire new system and is, is the option of turning over to, a voiceover which is what we're trying to do, is that an option for our 250 offices? Because to get an extra line in our offices is such a challenge. It took my co-chair six months, I'm still waiting for one extra line so that my staffer can have a phone and has only speaker phone for the entire office.

JOHN WINKEY: Our operations team could probably assist you with this, with this request. I mean we would have to speak to somebody, somebody

on your team in terms of liaison and, and, and see  
what we can do to help you out.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Fantastic...

JOHN WINKEY: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We'll definitely  
follow up. Thank you very much for coming to  
testify before this hearing today and I'm looking  
forward to the new Commissioner coming and  
answering some questions.

EVAN HINES: Me more than you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you. We  
will take a three minute break before we will hear  
from the next... before we hear from the Department  
of Investigation.

[long pause]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We will now  
resume the city council's hearing on the mayor's  
executive budget FY 2015. The Finance Committee  
will now be joined by the Committee on Oversight  
and Investigation chaired by my colleague Council  
Member Vinny Gentile to hear from the Department of  
Investigation. We heard from four agencies and we  
have two more to go. So in the interest of time I  
will forego an opening statement and turn the mic

over to my Co-Chair Council Member Vinny Gentile  
for a statement.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Good afternoon and  
welcome to the Joint Finance and Oversight  
Investigation Committee Hearing on the Fiscal 2015  
executive budget. Today we will be discussing the  
executive budget of the Department of the  
Investigations. And I think we'll be joined by some  
of my other colleagues beside our Chair Julissa  
Ferrerias and they will be on their way so we'll  
announce them when they come. Department of  
Investigation promotes and maintains integrity and  
efficiency in Government Operations through it's  
inspector general and other investigative staff.  
The Department investigates and refers for  
prosecution city employees and contractors engaged  
in corruptive fraudulent activities or unethical  
conduct. Investigations may involve any agency,  
officer, or employee of the city as well as those  
who do business with or receive benefits from the  
city. The department provides the mayor with  
recommendations for corrective actions to assist  
city agencies in the design and interpretation of  
strategies that limit opportunities for criminal

misconduct and waste. Fiscal 2015 executive budget for DOI is 27 millions, 27.6 million dollars, 5.7 million dollars greater than its fiscal 2014 adopted budget. The Department's city funded budget increases by 4.9 million dollars. The DOI's total authorized headcount increases by 63 civilian staff. The increases in DOI's budget reflect the addition of the NYPD Inspector General Unit which has a budget of 3.7 million dollars and a staff of 43. The fiscal 2015 executive budget included additions to administrative and IT staff and the addition of a new investigate, investigative, investigative squad. These funding actions added 20 additional staff and 1.7 million dollars to DOI's budget. So I look forward to discussing DOI's budget and how it reflects the agency's work. We have with us today the Commissioner of the Department of Investigation Mark Peters. Welcome Commissioner and I might mention for the record that the committee is in receipt of your letter dated May 21<sup>st</sup> in which you gave response to issues raised at our preliminary hearing. And as our members come in and I think we have some, let's give them a copy as they... take that, okay...

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: And we've been  
3 joined by Council Member Constantinides, Council  
4 Members Dromm and Council Member Deutsch.  
5 Commissioner you may begin... [crosstalk]

6 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You may begin  
7 Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Thank you. Good  
9 afternoon Chairperson Gentile and members of the  
10 Committee on Oversight and Investigations and  
11 Chairperson Ferreras and members of the Committee  
12 on Finance. I'm pleased to be back before the city  
13 council to discuss the mayor's executive budget  
14 proposal for the Department of Investigation for  
15 fiscal year 2015. After years of budget cuts to DOI  
16 this executive budget restores 63 positions to the  
17 agency. The majority of which will create the new  
18 Office of Inspector General for the NYPD with the  
19 remainder, about 20 positions that will allow DOI  
20 to strengthen its oversight of city agencies and  
21 entities. This demonstrates a significant  
22 commitment by the mayor and his budget team to the  
23 elimination of corruption and government  
24 misconduct. This additional staff means that we can  
25 better fulfill our comprehensive mission as the law

enforcement agency that safeguards New York City from corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse. DOI is mandated not only to investigate allegations of corruption but also to site the executive order criminal activity, conflicts of interest, unethical conduct, misconduct, or incompetence. Close quote. Additional staff members we'll be able to hire our essential for DOI to carry out its duties and enhance its broad approach to corruption fighting. In the end New Yorkers are the ultimate beneficiaries. In addition to reviewing with you elements of the budget proposal I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on three specific topics. First our progress in building out the new NYPD office of the inspector general, second the importance of DOI's independent third party review, and third the agencies increased focus on data mapping. As I announced during a press conference on March 28<sup>th</sup> Phil Eure will be heading the new NYPD Office of Inspector General. He has just finished up his role as the Executive Director of Washington D.C.'s Office of Police Complaints and will begin his role here in New York City next week on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Hiring a first rate team to carry out



the mission of this independent police oversight office will be his priority over the next several months. We will add 43 staff members as provided for in the executive budget including investigators, data analysts, lawyers, community outreach personnel, and support staff. While we expect to make key hires relatively quickly I do want to emphasize that it will take several months to build a firm foundation for this office. And I ask you and the public to partner with us during this critical phase and understand that devoting our attention to establishing a dedicated knowledgeable team is imperative to ensuring the office is a success and makes a positive impact. Until we do this, until we build that staff we cannot realize the full promise of the new law. One of the key elements of Local Law 70 is that it empowers the Commissioner of DOI to broadly look at the Police Department's conduct where it comes into contact with the public. The purpose; to strengthen accountability and instill greater public confidence. This type of third party examination by investigators who understand law enforcement and police oversight is crucial to independent

findings. In fact this macro view of an agency, looking at an agency's policies and practices from the outside to see how it delivers services is a strategy that DOI is employing across the board. As the City's anti-corruption agency DOI is uniquely situated for this type of review. DOI's Inspectors General and investigators have a deep expertise in the agencies they oversee, access to city data and documents, and the independence to spot problems and come up with tangible workable resolutions that improve city government and services to New Yorkers. DOI routinely investigates allegations of fraud and corruption and makes arrests to stop corruption in its tracks. We will continue to press this core function. In deed we are developing the means to more efficiently find corrupt conduct and bad practices mainly through data mapping. Data mapping involves the use and cross comparison of multiple data sets to identify patterns that raise red flags that could not be seen by on the ground investigation. This type of systemic review is a compelling way for us to effect broad scale change. Data mapping encourages reform in a comprehensive way allowing us to root out vulnerabilities and

discourage corruption, fraud, and abuse before it happens. We have in the past and on a limited scale already used these techniques to root out pension, unemployment, and housing fraud. Today technology allows us to expand our ability to leverage this technique, better target our resources, and increase our success rate in finding corrupt actors and referring them for prosecution or finding and remedying abusive and bad practices. These efforts will enhance DOI's already significant impact on the city. In fact in the two short months since I was last before the city council DOI has been able to move on a number of important investigations including a preliminary investigation we conducted regarding the response time of emergency personnel following a tragic fire in the Rockaways where two young children died. While this is an active and open investigation we were able to make recommendations to the mayor on immediate steps that had to be taken to protect the public safety. DOI's investigation is continuing and when we, and when completed we will issue a public report of our findings. We continue to work effectively with our partner law enforcement agencies on a number of

investigations and recently stood alongside state, the state attorney general on a significant arrest alleging misuse of public funds. And just this week the mayor asked that DOI conduct an independent investigation of the development of the City's new 911 system, an investigation that will conduct a systemic review and examine a number of issues including why there have been numerous delays in its implementation, why the project is over budget, and why it is not slated to provide the requisite services. I thank the administration, the city council for listening to DOI's needs and embracing our mission by providing in this executive budget a nearly 4.8 million dollar increase from the previous year's budget. With the addition of 63 staff members included in the fiscal year 2015 budget DOI will have approximately 289 city funded lines with another roughly 180 or so staff who are not supported by DOI's budget and who work for DOI through various arrangements with other city agencies for a total of approximately 470 staff. These additional lines will allow DOI to carry out its mission more effectively and support the agency's proactive work to find corruption before

1 advances. DOI's goals remain constant; safe,  
2 safeguard taxpayer funds, root out conflict of  
3 interest in fraud against the city, and ensure that  
4 New Yorkers are best served by their city  
5 government. Each of these support good governance,  
6 and good governance is the core of a strong city.  
7 At this time I'm happy to take your questions.  
8

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you very  
10 much Commissioner. I want to talk about and I know  
11 this was brought up in the preliminary hearing  
12 about your units of appropriation and the four  
13 divisions. Have you considered the council's  
14 proposal for a better description of your units of  
15 appropriation? Your agency budget has four units of  
16 appropriation, units of appropriations 001 002  
17 cover the PS and OTPS and then you have a 003 and  
18 004 are PS and OTPS ready inspector generals. As we  
19 mention at the preliminary budget hearing and  
20 called for in the budget response this description  
21 used for the units of appropriation is confusing.  
22 The description of these unit, of appropriation  
23 should align with your agency's operations. Well to  
24 some extent I think part of this is a question for  
25 OMB. The way that we as an agency view this is by

1 headcount. There are approximately 470 people who  
2 show up for work every morning and take direction  
3 from me either directly or through the various  
4 deputy assistant Commissioners and IGs. And so we  
5 tend to think about this in terms of the number of  
6 people who show up for work every day and are  
7 available to do these investigations and the funds  
8 that we have available to pay for the equipment  
9 necessary to do it. In terms of how those funds are  
10 characterized whether they are characterized as  
11 lines given to us by other agencies or direct  
12 appropriations that is as I understand it sort of a  
13 historical anomaly and frankly on that as long as  
14 we have the bodies to do the work how those bodies  
15 are labeled is something that I leave to OMB.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Well I hope that  
18 you can engage with us and OMB one of the goals of,  
19 of this council since I'm chair of this committee  
20 it's definitely bringing more transparency through  
21 this... [crosstalk]

22 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Mm-hmm.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...process because  
24 UofAid is how we vote on the budget. And we're  
25 trying to bring more transparency to that. So I'm

hoping that I can work with you and, and OMB to get  
to more clarity and transparency.

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Certainly and to  
the extent that there are and as I said at the  
preliminary hearings we are happy to. And we had  
recently sent a letter to Chair Gentile provide  
whatever information you need about the staffing  
that we have and the staff requirements that we  
need.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Fantastic. I just  
have two other questions before I give it over to  
Chair Gentile. In your original, in the preliminary  
budget you had asked for 50, five million dollars  
for 50 staffers. And in the executive budget we  
have for fiscal is three million dollars. The  
preliminary budget included three million dollars  
for 30 staffers. You originally asked for five  
million dollars for 50 staffers. Why are you only  
provided with a staff of 43 and funding of 3.7  
million dollars?

COMMISSIONER PETERS: The answer is  
there are a couple of reasons for this. O the  
number of staff we asked for approximately. We got  
43 but that is because there are some... although

there will be an absolute division between the NYPD  
IG and the rest of DOI as investigate, as  
substantive of investigative matters go, as there  
should be so because DOI works with the police,  
NYPD IG is investigating that. And so there will be  
an absolute... There upon review there are certain  
purely administrative functions. Things like,  
things like payroll and other similar functions  
that we have determined can be best handled,  
although there is a need for some additional staff  
there they can best be handled all through DOI and  
more efficiently. So there are 43 more staff. There  
are actually a couple of additional staff going to  
DOI who will in part take that up. And that allows  
us what was the difference between the 50 which I  
think actually was 48... the difference between the  
48 request and the 43 if you look at it you'll see  
is almost entirely the fact that some of the  
administrative functions which are necessary in an  
agency of that size will be handled by DOI. But  
those are purely administrative functions. They  
have nothing to do with the investigations. And on  
that the staffing numbers are largely what we  
requested.



2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay. And hints  
3 why we need a transparency because...

4 COMMISSIONER PETERS: I, as I said I am...

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...if you or I  
6 aren't here and someone's reading this document  
7 they won't be able to read this transcript which  
8 perfectly explains it but that's one of the reasons  
9 why we need this transparency. I'm going to ask my  
10 last question and then I'll give it over to Chair  
11 Gentile. In the, the budget reflects, FY15's budget  
12 reflects a onetime increase of 45 thousand dollars  
13 in intra-city funds for universal pre-k. Can you  
14 explain to me the roll of DOI in universal pre-k?

15 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Certainly. In  
16 order to make sure that universal pre-k is set up  
17 in a completely safe fashion there are all sorts of  
18 checks that we, that need to be run on vendors.  
19 Remember many of the universal pre-k seats are  
20 being set up by not-for-profit corporations. In  
21 order for us to do the various background checks  
22 that we needed to do on those... and there are checks  
23 being done by other agencies also but there are  
24 some checks that we need to do... given that we're  
25 talking about setting this up a huge number of

seats in a very short time span bluntly I had to have several investigators work considerable overtime to get through all those checks and get them done in enough time so as not to slow down the process. That was overtime that we had not counted on when the 2014 budget was created obviously and so OMB sent us a onetime transfer to cover those overtime costs.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Chair Gentile.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you Madam Chair. Okay, okay. Joining us, additional members that have joined us; Council Members Dinkins, Dickens, Menchaca, and Rosenthal. Oh, okay, great. And each of you should have a copy of the Commissioner's response to our first preliminary hearing and a summary of that first preliminary hearing. If you don't our, our council here, our financial analyst here has those copies. Let me ask you Commissioner and thank you for being with us. Earlier this week we, we heard that the NYPD is starting to use algorithms. Now today you tell us you're doing data mapping so... [crosstalk]

2 COMMISSIONER PETERS: ...we all paid  
3 attention in High School Algebra.

4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So give us, give  
5 us some kind of hypothetical example that would  
6 include data mapping to give us a sense of what  
7 that is.

8 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Sure. Let's assume  
9 hypothetically that we have an agency... let's see if  
10 I can make the map all come out correctly in my  
11 head. Let's assume we have an agency that has  
12 offices all over the city and has contracts with  
13 various independent contractors to service computer  
14 sites. And let's assume for a moment that the  
15 agency spends roughly 100, 100 million dollars a  
16 year and has 10,000 separate contracts with  
17 contractors to service various computer sites. What  
18 data mapping does is it says we traditionally pre  
19 data mapping. The only way to determine whether  
20 there's any corruption, for example whether some  
21 some low... and let's assume that the contracts allow  
22 for the payment of these services by fairly low  
23 level workers. The question then becomes how do you  
24 make sure that some low level worker doesn't  
25 basically have his brother in law create a dummy

corporation and then give his brother in law a million dollars' worth of these contracts to really do no work right. Traditionally before data mapping there were only two ways to do this. You either relied on a tip, tip or you could have because your finite resources investigators go out and say do 200 random checks. The problem is the first relies on, on lock, a tip, somebody coming forward, and the second is that if you're going to do 200 random checks on 10,000 contracts your chances of hitting this are pretty small. What data mapping says is let's do this. Let's take the 10,000 contracts and upload them into the computer. Let's now compare that list to a list of licensed registered service providers and let's eliminate those because it seems unlikely that those are going to be corrupt. And let's now also compare it by geography. Let's see is there, of the people remaining are, is there a servicer who is on the same day being, it's claiming that he looked at computers in both the Northern Bronx and Southern Brooklyn. And let's further see are there a certain number of agency workers who seem to be asking for a lot of these services on the same day. And what you do is you

1 take that list of 10,000 contracts and by doing  
2 this kind of data mapping you end up with say 700  
3 contracts that seem suspicious. You don't know  
4 there's anything wrong but it seems suspicious. Now  
5 if I go out and do 200 random investigations of  
6 those 700 contracts the chances that I am going to  
7 find the number that are in fact corrupts has just  
8 exponentially increased. That's data mapping and  
9 that's what we propose to do. It is by the way I  
10 should say infinitely more complicated to do than I  
11 have just... I've, you know I've just described it  
12 you know. But that's the basic idea. In fact  
13 setting up these processes are very very  
14 complicated but we're in a position to do it. We  
15 have access to every scrap of data anywhere in the  
16 city of New York from a city agency. And in a  
17 computer era we have the ability to get at that  
18 data very easily and often without even having to  
19 notify the agency. We now have, there now exist in  
20 the world the computer technology to do this work.  
21 And through a use of city funding and federal  
22 forfeiture funds we propose to begin building the  
23 capability to do this work. It will probably take a  
24 significant amount of time to build the capability.  
25

But that's what we're doing because once you have that capability the chances of finding corruption increase exponentially.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Understood, understood. It's, it's really a, a whole new world I guess in, in that regard. Let me, let me just go on to the, the NYPD IG unit. You, you mention that the police IG begins in about five days, he begins...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: ...his work on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Has the unit been formulated at all? Any hires, any...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Oh.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: ...transfers?

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Sure. The answer is obviously Phil Eure is starting next week and as I said a big chunk of his job for the next couple months is hiring people. We have received numerous resumes as you could imagine. He has in fact had a number of meetings and a number of interviews to begin filling the senior most positions. I think we are fairly close to being able to name his deputy. He has had meetings with people to fill out the senior most positions. That's going to be his first

order of business with the... now clearly before you can begin hiring the individual investigators and the individual data analyst you need to hire the chief of investigations, you need to hire the chief of policy and data analytics. Phil is already working on that. I hope he will be able to do that in the short order and then we can begin filling it all out. But in all candor, and I have said this at every meeting I had been at, and every community meeting I've been at I have in fact as you know said this to you and your colleagues in many meetings to assume that something as big as creating an entire new, roughly 50 person agency can be done overnight is impossible. And I think that we should assume that the next three months, June, July, and August will be largely spent building the staff before we can even really begin fulfilling the promise of the law. And I think we just ought to assume that going forward.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay, understood.  
I, I believe this was asked at the preliminary by one of the council members...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: ...your, the  
institution of the police IG has a fiscal impact or  
potential fiscal impact on the, on the Police  
Department. And although it's not your agency you  
did indicate at the preliminary hearing that you  
were having discussions with the police as to the  
impact or the cost to the police of the formulation  
of the IG within...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Mm-hmm.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: ...DOI. Have those  
discussions continued and, and are there...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: ...and, and is that  
impact something you could discuss?

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Sure we, we've  
had, both I and Phil Eure had meetings both with  
Commissioner Bratton and with a number of his  
senior staff to begin discussing this. I will leave  
to Commissioner Bratton and his testimony to talk  
about the specific fiscal impact in numbers but  
we've had a number of productive meetings, the  
result of which is that I believe we will be able  
to manage this process in the most efficient way  
possible. There is simply no doubt that the police,



Commissioner Bratton and the Police Department will need a certain amount, number of staff to be able to respond to the data and other requests that we have. I think that we will and I, I would hope that, I'm fairly confident Commissioner Bratton feels the same way we are working very collaboratively to make sure that that's done in an efficient way, to make sure that it's done efficiently vis-a-vis us, vis-a-vis the federal monitor, vis-a-vis the CCRB so that the number of staff necessary to do this will be you know as efficiently dispersed as possible. And we are working on that right now.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay. [crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER PETERS: And I will say that the NYPD has been enormously cooperative and I am very grateful both to Commissioner Bratton, to his staff for the tremendous level of cooperation we've gotten from him.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Great, that's good to hear. Back to your budget. During the preliminary you mentioned and said today that the office has four investigative squads and that each squad has, covers several different agencies. Now

1 the new budget, the executive budget has 14  
2 additional staff members... testified to and a cost  
3 of 103, 100, well 1.03 million dollars for the  
4 expansion of the investigative division. So does  
5 that suggest that there will be another IG added or  
6 does it suggest that we might have the return of a  
7 unit like the fraud prevention unit?  
8

9 COMMISSIONER PETERS: I, I've had a  
10 bunch of meetings with my senior staff. I believe  
11 that, that, assuming that the council approves the  
12 budget we believe that we will be able to with the  
13 addition to these lines and some additional, some  
14 additional reassessment of, of lines and, and  
15 shifting to investigators we are, we believe that  
16 we will be able to go to six squads instead of  
17 four. What this means is that for example right now  
18 both the Department of Correction and the Fire  
19 Department are in the same squad. This means that  
20 the same people are in charge of dealing of,  
21 reviewing incidents as Riker's including as we've  
22 been reading in the newspapers a number of  
23 incidents involving mental health. Units in Riker's  
24 both a tax by inmates on staff and frankly the  
25 deaths of a number of inmates because of the

1 treatment circumstances. The same people who are  
2 busy investigating those issues and looking at  
3 those issues are also tasked with looking at the  
4 Fire Department and the 911 response system. With  
5 the new budget those two agencies will be split  
6 into separate squads. So there will be a squad  
7 dealing with Department of Correction and several  
8 other smaller agencies and a different squad  
9 looking at the Fire Department. We will also have a  
10 squad that will be able to handle certain  
11 particularly large cases and that squad for example  
12 will get the 911 system, well again another squad  
13 can have the rest of the Fire Department. So what  
14 this budget allows us to do is to go from four  
15 squads to six and in that process divide out  
16 certain agencies so that frankly I'll be blunt,  
17 what happens is something happens big at Riker's  
18 and everybody stops thinking about the Fire  
19 Department for two weeks and vice versa and this  
20 allows us to be able to proceed on multiple tracks  
21 at once.  
22

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So more squads but  
24 not necessarily another IG?  
25

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Each squad has two  
IGs. [crosstalk] The way a squad is set up is every  
squad has two IGs. A couple of them have three. And  
then they have you know inspectors, law enforcement  
officers, lawyers, analysts working for those IGs.  
And the reason for this is that rather than having  
each IG have a certain number of agencies, by  
having two IGs one it means that you've got two  
people who can be talking to each other at a senior  
level which is helpful. And two it allows slightly  
a better allocation of resources because for  
example in the past what really happened is one of  
the IGs thought about Riker's and one thought about  
the Fire Department but they both thought about  
each agency when something particularly important  
was going on. I believe that the model of a squad  
with two IGs is the most efficient way absent and  
absent... increase of funding such that there could  
be an IG for every agency which would require not  
an increase of 63 headcount but probably an  
increase of three or 400 which if the council would  
like to offer we'll happily accept. But absent that  
I think this is the most efficient way to do this  
and guarantees that there are multiple people

1 watching every agency and giving every agency the  
2 baseline support they need.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Your explanation  
5 actually segways into my next question. I only have  
6 two final questions but what you, you described to  
7 us on how that is set out is similar to what you  
8 were saying when you give us a staff breakdown in  
9 your response letter. But at the preliminary  
10 hearing and several members I think Council Member  
11 Rosenthal talked about this, about maybe having an  
12 organizational chart and sending us... even if it's  
13 in the state of flux...

14 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Mm-hmm.

15 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: ...is that something  
16 that you considered based on our first hearing?

17 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Oh, I'd be happy  
18 to provide you with an organizational chart if  
19 you'd like one. My suggest, my suggestion is that  
20 with this budget we're going to change that  
21 organizational chart in the way that I described so  
22 I think it's better to get the new one. But I'm  
23 happy to provide you with the prior organizational  
24 chart if you'd like, and we'll have that sent over  
25 tomorrow.

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, that's  
3 great.

4 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Sure.

5 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: My, my final issue  
6 is what if any impact does the, the mayor's call  
7 to, to give you an independent investigation of the  
8 911 call center. Does that have any fiscal impact  
9 on, on, on you as an agency number one? And number  
10 two does your involvement given the fact that  
11 you've been asked to conduct an independent review  
12 and to take immediate corrective action does your  
13 involvement suggest more than just an  
14 administrative or managerial investigation?

15 COMMISSIONER PETERS: ...two questions...  
16 let me take them in order.

17 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER PETERS: As to the first it  
19 absolutely does have an impact and frankly the  
20 addition of lines and the ability to go to six  
21 squads is what makes it possible. If the mayor, if  
22 the mayor had not proposed the additional lines or  
23 to allow us to have additional squads I would never  
24 say that we would not be able to do anything we are  
25 asked to do but it would be an organization on

1  
2 investigative challenge far greater than anything  
3 and we've had... have to think about. With the  
4 additional lines and the ability to split up into  
5 squads that's what makes it possible not only for  
6 us to do this but for us to tackle any other large  
7 issue like this that the mayor or the council may  
8 ask us to look at. Since as you know under the  
9 charter... the mayor, the council may make those  
10 requests. So on the impact it absolutely does and  
11 in a sense it anticipates our, the budget  
12 anticipates our need to do this and other like  
13 projects over the next four years.

14 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Great.

15 COMMISSIONER PETERS: As to, I'm sorry...

16 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: No, no...

17 COMMISSIONER PETERS: ...as to your second  
18 question.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: ...good.

20 COMMISSIONER PETERS: First of all let's  
21 remember that DOI's charter says in fact I think I  
22 actually mentioned it in the testimony that we are  
23 to investigate and prevent not only corruption, and  
24 not only criminal activity but conflicts of  
25 interest, unethical conduct, misconduct, or

1 incompetence close quote. So first of all there  
2 does not need to be any corruption or criminal  
3 activity for our jurisdiction to be triggered. Our  
4 jurisdiction is triggered by misconduct and, or  
5 incompetence. But second of all I think it is  
6 premature at this point for me to suggest what  
7 we're going to find. We, two, three days ago the  
8 mayor asked us to conduct a preliminary, an  
9 independent investigation. Two days ago we sent  
10 over to city hall our first of what I suspect will  
11 be several document requests. I expect we'll be  
12 getting voluminous documents. We are in the  
13 process of gearing up both to get the documents  
14 and review them. Once we have done that we will be  
15 able to take a better closer look. So I think it's  
16 premature now to tell whether this is going,  
17 whether we are going to find incompetence,  
18 misconduct, or some kind of criminal activity.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Will you give... a  
21 time table as to how, when to conduct or when to  
22 have some results of investigation?

23 COMMISSIONER PETERS: As soon as  
24 possible.



CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay, thank you.

Thank you Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Certainly.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you Co-Chair. We will hear from Council Members Rosenthal followed by Council Member Dickens. For my, to my members there's a five minute clock. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

And thank you Commissioner for coming today. I, I do want to sort of follow up on Council Member Ferreras question about the UofAids and it's very much tied to the issue about the staffing chart that Council Member Gentile just referenced. So the reason that I would urge you not to pump this over to OMB is because OMB doesn't, could never, OMB could never come up with the categories that are as meaningful to your agency as you can. You're the one who knows DOI inside out and the functionality of all the employees.

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: We're not ask, although it, it seems like it's a, it seems like it's in the context of the budget because it's part of the budget document this is where the

marriage of policy and budget takes place. And as I listen to you I'm hearing that you think about your agency most importantly in terms of the squads which are, sound phenomenal. They're each squad is made up of the various type of staff you need to do the investigations you need for different agencies. We're at a point in history where you, things are happening in the city such that you're increasing from four to six squads because we should now separate out this, these two agencies. I am, while I respect and acknowledge your wanting to be nimble within your agency with staff members this is something that is part of... what we're asking for is part of our city council oversight responsibility and can only imagine is not different than how you think about things internally in terms of your agency right. You have administrative staff, you have these squads, maybe you have other things. So all I'm asking and all we're asking is help from you, not from OMB who's just slamming things into codes depending on a myriad of other unrelated factors and can't possibly know every single agency and what their functionalities are. That's why we're asking for your help. Does that make sense?

COMMISSIONER PETERS: It certainly does  
and I am, I'm happy to be helpful and I, I wouldn't  
want you to think that I was somehow punting  
something over to OMB. I am absolutely, you know I  
have, we sent a letter which I think addressed a  
lot of this... the, Chair Gentile asked if we would  
send an order chart along with it. I'm happy to do  
that. You'll have that in short order. So yes I  
think about this agency as a series of squads. It  
will be six plus certain other entities we have a  
NYCHA inspector general which is separate but is  
almost functionally as though it's its own squad.  
We have the special Commissioner of investigation  
who deals with the school system, that is you could  
view that I suppose in a sense as a separate squad.  
So for us there are a series of squads that have a  
series of agencies and then there are  
administrative personnel who just... the lights on  
and there are some very senior management who, well  
try to figure out what we do. Right. That's how I  
view it and we'll get you the, the org chart  
although as I said the, the org that we're going to  
send you is about to become completely outdated.  
And we'll send you the new one too. As to how these

1 things are labeled in the budget that's not  
2 something, we don't label them in the budget. We,  
3 somebody else labels them in the budget. We just  
4 say I need this many bodies and I'm slotting them  
5 into these squads. Bluntly how OMB lists them in  
6 the budget as long as the people show up for work  
7 on Monday I'm fine. You know I'm, I'm only interest  
8 in how they, they show up, how they show up for  
9 work on Monday. And I get the feeling I'm not  
10 being, I'm not answering...

12 [background comments]

13 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Great thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council  
15 Member Rosenthal. Council Member Dickens.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you  
17 Chairs and good afternoon Commissioner it's good  
18 seeing you again.

19 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Good to see you  
20 too.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Now that we're  
22 talking about squads I'll talk about the NYCHA  
23 squad. At the preliminary budget hearing I had  
24 asked the question about DOI's oversight over the  
25 NYCHA budget including the reports that should be

1  
2 coming but have not been coming to the city council  
3 as it relates to financing, spending, procurement,  
4 and contracts.

5 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Mm-hmm.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And, and the,  
7 from your office the May 21<sup>st</sup> response by your  
8 deputy Commissioner of operations addressed the  
9 capital program.

10 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Mm-hmm.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: But as part of  
12 the answer, which was only part of it, but part of  
13 the answer said substantiated reports are variable  
14 to a freedom of information requests. Is that to  
15 say that the city council and the, the chairs that  
16 have oversight over NYCHA as well as DOI would have  
17 to put in for reports to a freedom of information  
18 requests? Is that... [crosstalk]

19 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Well of course  
20 not. No, well I don't have the language in front of  
21 me. No, those reports are available to the public  
22 through a freedom of information act request. They  
23 are available to the chair of, to Chair Gentile as  
24 the chair of our Oversight Committee bluntly  
25

2 through his sending me a letter saying could I see  
3 the following reports.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Alright,  
5 because that wasn't clear. Because the answer in  
6 the response letter did not really address what my  
7 question was at the preliminary hearing. And then  
8 that was the last thing that was added. And so I  
9 wasn't quite sure... [crosstalk]

10 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Oh, I at the  
11 preliminary hearing you had asked me a question  
12 about review of NYCHA's capital spending.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: At, the, the  
14 budget as well as procurement and financing as it  
15 relates to particularly the funding, the funded  
16 projects that come through the council.

17 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Right, so as to  
18 the capital program which is, which, and if I only  
19 heard half the question my apologies. I remember  
20 the exchange about the capital program. The biggest  
21 piece of the capital program now is what's called  
22 Bond B. We have a, and we are monitoring Bond B. We  
23 will be getting, once that is up and running we  
24 will be getting reports on Bond B to the, once  
25 those reports are both final and to the extent that

1 they do not contain you know classified  
2  
3 investigative materials. We will of course be happy  
4 to make them available to, to you and your  
5 colleagues. That's, and that's the biggest piece of  
6 capital work right now. The other piece of capital  
7 work involves, I know the replacement of boilers...  
8 We will be monitoring that as well but that just  
9 hasn't started yet. Once that gets started we will  
10 be similarly monitoring that, similarly getting  
11 reports. It hadn't started yet so there's nothing,  
12 there's nothing to report on. But we, there, we're  
13 getting ready to do that as well.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Alright because  
15 there's a new RFP that was just, that was just won  
16 that concerns in, in, throughout the city major  
17 capital improvements including elevators and  
18 boilers and, as it relates to Sandy which is mostly  
19 going to be in Red hook, Staten Island, etcetera.

20 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Sure.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And so there is  
22 concerns since we have historically not been able  
23 to get reports on the spending in budget whether we  
24 were going to be able to get it and if it was done  
25

1  
2 through your office that you had oversight through  
3 it, for it... [crosstalk]

4 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Well the...  
5 [crosstalk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: ...those.

7 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Sure. The  
8 oversight that we have, the, the capital, the Sandy  
9 capital spending which is, as I understand it but  
10 I, I would defer to the NYCHA chair but my  
11 understanding is the biggest piece of that is the  
12 boiler replacement. But again allow me to differ to  
13 NYCHA on, on exactly that. Our oversight is not  
14 over NYCHA's decision to do that. Our oversight is,  
15 since you wouldn't do policy we don't get to say we  
16 think you should have a capital program for boilers  
17 right. We don't get to say this who you should  
18 choose. What we get to do is once you've decided to  
19 have a capital program and spend X dollars on  
20 boilers and you've entered into a contract with Y  
21 provider to do the work then our oversight says we  
22 know we'll make sure that well you have a contract  
23 with X provider to spend Y dollars on boilers we  
24 will make sure that the money got spent, the  
25 boilers got, you know the, the requisite number of



boilers got put in, the requisite amount of money  
got paid for it etcetera.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: That is exactly  
what I was referring to.

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I did not  
expect for, for DOI to have oversight over how it's  
spent but once the contract is signed...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Such as in this  
RFP that it would, that you would ensure that the  
work was actually...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: ...done because  
historically there's been problems there.

COMMISSIONER PETERS: I...

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And, and...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: ...agree.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: ...so that with,  
particularly with that agency. So that's why I had  
raised the, the question.

COMMISSIONER PETERS: I, I couldn't  
agree more. There certainly have been. We will be  
looking at it. My understanding is on the Sandy

1  
2 work that it has, my understanding, this is not my  
3 understanding, my absolute knowledge is that the  
4 work, and therefore the spending of money hasn't  
5 started yet. So, but when it starts we are already,  
6 have had conversations with NYCHA. We will be  
7 monitoring that. And once that work starts which it  
8 hasn't yet. We will be monitoring it. We will get  
9 reports. And I am happy to provide them to the  
10 committee as I, as they're finalized, as I have  
11 them.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Alright. Thank  
13 you so much Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER PETERS: Certainly.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And thank you  
16 for your testimony. Thank you Chairs.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you  
18 Commissioner and thank you for your patience. And  
19 know we are running about 45 minutes or an hour  
20 late today. So I thank you for your patience...

21 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Commissioner again  
22 thank you for time and, and these things are sort  
23 of estimated time so when, when we all testify. And  
24 so thank you for, for waiting. And if you can get  
25

back to us on the items that you, we spoke about  
today I'd appreciate that and...

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: ...certainly look  
forward to an exciting and productive months ahead.

COMMISSIONER PETERS: Terrific, thank  
you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you. We're  
going to take a two minute break before we start  
with COIB. Just a reminder if anyone has public  
testimony that they'd like to submit they can  
submit it to [NAnderson@Council.NYC.gov](mailto:NAnderson@Council.NYC.gov) via email to  
be entered into this testimony. Thank you.

[long pause]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We will now  
resume the city council's hearing on the Mayor's  
executive budget FY 2015. The Finance Committee  
will now be joined by the Committee on Standards  
and Ethics chaired by my colleague Council Member  
Alan Maisel to hear from the Conflict of Interest  
Board. In the interest of time I will forego an  
opening statement and turn my mic over to my co-  
chair Council Member Alan Maisel for a statement.

CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Thank you very much. And first let me thank all the people who are here. You've shown unfathomable dedication to the process. Good afternoon and welcome to the fiscal 2015 executive budget hearings for the Conflicts of Interest Board. The Conflicts of Interest Board is made up of five mayoral appointees with advice and consent of the council. The board is charged by the charter with interpreting and implementing and enforcing the City's conflict of interest laws contained in chapter 68 of the city charter. They also educate and train city employees and public officials on the charter's conflict, conflict score and issuing advisory opinions to perspective, current, and former city employees. The Board's training mandate has been expanded to include training all city employees on the City's conflict of interest laws and rules every two years. The board also is responsible for overseeing the City's financial disclosure program for elected officials and other high level city employees. In fiscal 2015 the executive budget of 2.1 million for the board increases by 84 thousand dollars from its fiscal 2014 adopted budget. This change is due to a PS

1  
2 increase of 50 thousand dollars and OTPS increase  
3 of 34 thousand dollars. The total authorized head  
4 count for the board remains stable at 22. I look  
5 forward to hearing more about how COIB's work is  
6 reflected in the executive budget. Today we'll be  
7 hearing from Mark Davies Executive Director of the  
8 Conflict of Interest Board and members of his  
9 staff. Thank you very much.

10 DIRECTOR DAVIES: Thank you Mr. Chair.  
11 For the record my name is Mark Davies. I'm the  
12 Executive Director of the New York City Conflicts  
13 of Interest Board and I have with me this afternoon  
14 our Deputy Executive Director and General Council  
15 Wayne Holly and our Director of Administration  
16 Buruney Bogwant [sp?] and other members of our  
17 staff to help answer any questions you have. As  
18 requested my testimony will be limited to the  
19 executive budget. The board has no written  
20 testimony and my oral testimony will be quite  
21 short. The executive budget as the chair noted  
22 increases the board's PS by 50 thousand and the  
23 board's OTPS by 34 thousand. The PS increase  
24 supports a structural deficit in our budget, fixing  
25 the structural deficit allows us to maintain our

current headcount. The increase in the board's OTPS is dedicated entirely to the substantial increase that DoITT has made in the board's bill for phone services. It is simply a pass through. We have no control over the amount and we are working with DoITT as I understand the council is now to switch over to a voice over IP which DoITT informs us will be far more cost effective and saves about 50 percent of the 75 thousand that we are currently charged for our phone services. I would like to discuss one final and very important point. But first just to give you a hit of what we have accomplished over the past few years because, and I know a lot of you are new to the Conflicts of Interest Board I would ask if you could turn in the handout that I, that I passed out there on the, on the second page, it's numbered at the bottom 29. This is exhibit one from our annual report, our annual report is available online. And I'm just going to be comparing to give you an idea the 2001 column and the 2013 column. So since 2001 if you look at the second line there you'll see that our staff has actually decreased over the past several years from 23 and three-fifth to 22. Our telephone

calls going another couple lines down have increased from 1650 to 30, 35, 36. That is they've more than doubled in those years. And currently our calls for this year which is a credit I think to the new council and the new administration are running 50 percent ahead of last year. Complaints, if you drop down to enforcement you'll see our, new complaints received have more than quadrupled since 2001 from 124 to 506. Going down a couple more lines you'll see our, our dispositions imposing fines have increased from nine in 2001 to 62 last year. The public warning letters, these carry no fines... public from two to 26 last year. The amount of fines imposed from 20,000 to last year 124,000. If you go over to the next page, that page number 30 there you'll see our training sessions have increased from 2001 190 to last year 542. That's with four trainers. Actually fewer than we had in 2001. Four people have trained 542 train, training sessions, about 22,000 employees. If you go to then finally to the next page, 31 under annual disclosure and if you drop down there under annual disclosure about five lines down you'll see the review. Reports reviewed for conflicts of interest.

We're supposed to review every report for conflicts of interest. In 2001 we reviewed only 38. Last year 6,661. So all of that has been done with a smaller staff than we had in 2001. But these results come with a price, namely the highest quality staff in city service. Because we must never forget that the purpose of chapter 68 and the mission of our agency is not to punish dishonest officials. Our mission is to guide honest officials thereby promoting both the reality and the perception of integrity in government by preventing conflicts of interest violations from ever occurring. In other words we are in the prevention business, not in the punishment business thus perhaps most importantly the board reiterates a concern that is expressed for many, many years the lack of an independent budget. As you know the speaker, the mayor, and the council had been supportive of the work of the board not only substantially but financially. But no assurance exists that some future mayor or future speaker or council will be similarly supportive. In fact we can all pretty much count on some future mayor or some future speaker or council perhaps you know 10, 15 years from now slashing the



board's budget and effectively destroying the work  
of the Conflicts of Interest Board in ethics  
enforcement, and ethics advice, and ethics training  
and annual disclosure in the city of New York.

Those who downplay the possibility of such  
draconian cuts always cite the political  
implications for appearing to be against ethics in  
city government but as we all know public support  
for government ethics nowhere near approaches  
public support for education and police and fire  
and sanitation and so forth. I mean when is the  
last time any of us saw a protest on the steps of  
city hall for more money for ethics regulation. It  
doesn't happen. In gutting the board in the early..

[background comments]

DIRECTOR DAVIES: Yeah, there we go.  
We're ready. In gutting the board in the early  
months of an elected official's term would probably  
have little impact you know four years down the  
road. In deed in the past even elected officials  
who are dedicated, who have been dedicated to  
ethics have cut the board's budget in the face of  
citywide budget deficits. But a ten percent budget  
cut in the Conflicts of Interest Board which many

other agencies can sustain. But a cut of 10 percent at our board means laying off at least three staff, 14 percent of the agency. A citywide budget deficit resulting in just one single peg for the Conflicts of Interest Board can hurt the COIB and hurt it badly. And these are the hard truths about the maintenance of ethics in the city of New York. So finally then in addition virtually alone among all city agencies the Conflicts of Interest Board has the power to prohibit interest or conduct or sanction violations of the law by the very officials who set the board's budget. Sometimes at the very time they are setting the board's budget. This we find be an unseemly conflict that can only undermine the board's perceived independence in the eyes of the public and of public servants. In this conflict we believe to be reactivated through a charter amendment removing the board's budget through, from the discretion of the public officials who are subject to the board's jurisdiction and therefore the board's highest priority, legislative priority for over 20 years has been a, a charter amendment providing the board with an independent budget. And this amendment

1 because it's a 2602 of the charter would require  
2 either referendum or state legislation but remains  
3 our most critical legislative priority and I have,  
4 that handout there contains the board's proposed  
5 charter amendment in regard to an independent  
6 budget. That's all I have. Again, thank you we're  
7 glad to be here. We're glad to be a part of this  
8 new, this new team and we're happy to answer any  
9 questions that you have.  
10

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you very  
12 much. And thank you for your testimony. Obviously  
13 your recommendations for charter reform is  
14 something that is a bigger conversation and  
15 probably I can't give you the answer right now.  
16 We're a body of 51 with two members right here  
17 right now. But I wanted to talk about, I know that  
18 in your testimony you expressed that this year's  
19 FY15 funding is just enough to maintain where you  
20 are now.

21 DIRECTOR DAVIES: Mm-hmm.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: And as you've  
23 proven there's been great number of growth in  
24 outreach which obviously is done effectively by  
25 your team especially in training out members and

1  
2 staff and agencies. Can you give me an idea of what  
3 would bring COIP to full, to, to be able to provide  
4 and carry out your mission or your core value, your  
5 core functions, what would that number look like?

6 DIRECTOR DAVIES: I know you don't often  
7 hear this but quite frankly right now we're just  
8 about at where we should be.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Very good.

10 DIRECTOR DAVIES: I mean I know it's  
11 hard to believe.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: I don't hear that  
13 ever actually...

14 DIRECTOR DAVIES: Yeah...

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: I've sat in...

16 DIRECTOR DAVIES: I...

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...many, long days...

18 DIRECTOR DAVIES: Yeah...

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...in the last  
20 couple of weeks.

21 DIRECTOR DAVIES: We're just about,  
22 again with this, this little additional money which  
23 is basically technical stuff we're just about at, I  
24 think of this in terms of staffing levels and so  
25 forth, as long as we can maintain the quality of

the staff. Now of course maintain the quality of the staff is always a struggle because we require so much from our staff as you can see. And when we start to slip behind other agencies in terms of salaries and so forth then, then we have trouble maintaining staff and so on. So that's, that's probably a conversation for another day. But I think that overall apart from that caveat, which is a caveat but apart from that I think we're, we're just about where we should be. In terms of staffing I think we're just about where we, where we should be.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Something that has been brought up especially with this administration is the coordination of agencies and communication between agencies. 2013 annual report indicates an increase in cases referred to DOI from 2012 to 2013 and a decrease from 137 to 108 in, in reports from DOI. Would you be able to share your thoughts on these changes and is there any impact on your daily operations?

DIRECTOR DAVIES: Not, not really. The, that's largely a function of the fact that cases are referred in one year and then you get a report

1  
2 in the next year. I mean they overlap the calendar  
3 year. This is a calendar year report of course. And  
4 so it'll vary from year to year in part just  
5 because it's, it's, it's referred to DOI in one  
6 year and then you get it in the next year. So the  
7 numbers refer, the numbers you get back are real,  
8 are not the same cases.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay.

10 DIRECTOR DAVIES: So that, that really  
11 doesn't. You know it's, I mean a statistic but it  
12 really doesn't tell you very much.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Okay well it's  
14 clarity for the, and transparency for this  
15 committee...

16 DIRECTOR DAVIES: Yeah, yeah.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: ...for us to better  
18 understand your case load and roll out. And I will  
19 now give it over to my Co-Chair Maisel.

20 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Thank you very  
21 much. I have two questions. The first one is the  
22 legislative route to getting a fixed budget. Has  
23 that been done before?

24 DIRECTOR DAVIES: It, it's never been  
25 before Albany before.

CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: In other words, but in general can Albany legislate something that was already in the charter?

DIRECTOR DAVIES: Yes, I believe that's true yes. As my understanding the answer is yes that they could add, add something to the...

CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: So why, so why haven't you done it. I mean it seems like a simple thing to get someone to introduce a bill.

DIRECTOR DAVIES: Well you know I mean we're, we're a non-mayoral agency. I'm not sure that there's anybody in Albany... We in fact proposed this a couple of times in conversations but you know it's, it's usually a minority member of, of the, of the Senator Assembly that proposes it. You know... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: I got some connections up there. Maybe we can work something out.

DIRECTOR DAVIES: You know it'd be great I mean.

CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: I'd love to talk to you about it.

DIRECTOR DAVIES: Yeah absolutely.

2 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: The other, other  
3 question I had, you must be doing a good job  
4 because I noticed that last year, 2012 you opposed  
5 187 thousand dollars in fines and in 2013 there was  
6 124 thousand dollars in fines. That's a big  
7 difference. Could you explain what the, is just  
8 less people need to be fined or...

9 DIRECTOR DAVIES: It's, it's partly I  
10 think a function of the number of cases because  
11 you're not dealing with large numbers of case, if  
12 you're dealing with hundreds of cases you probably  
13 have, it'll be similar from year to year but... Just,  
14 just a couple cases can, can change the number  
15 dramatically because there's relatively few cases.  
16 In addition we are extremely aware of the fact that  
17 we can never ever be in the, in, in the, in the  
18 position where we are fining people in order to get  
19 revenue.

20 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Well I...

21 DIRECTOR DAVIES: That's just wrong.

22 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Yeah.

23 DIRECTOR DAVIES: And so consequently, I  
24 mean occasionally, it doesn't happen very often but  
25 occasionally staff will go to the board with a



1 settlement and the board will say that's too high,  
2 cut it back. You know not too often but it you  
3 know, it has, it has happened. So I mean It's very  
4 much a, a goal of this, of this agency to do the  
5 right thing. You know it's not just to win cases,  
6 it's to do the right thing. And so consequently  
7 you'll, you'll see changes in part for that reason  
8 from, from year to year. And again because they,  
9 they, they straddle years like with the reports to  
10 and from DOI and in, and in part because if you get  
11 a 25 thousand dollar fine in one year well the next  
12 year you don't get a 25 thousand dollar fine you'll  
13 probably... 25 thousand dollar difference because  
14 there's just relatively few cases. You're only  
15 talking about 62 fines.

17 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Okay thank you. I  
18 have no more questions.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you. We  
20 will call this hearing to a close.

21 [combined thank you]

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you for  
23 coming today and testify. This concludes our  
24 hearings for today. The Finance Committee will  
25 resume executive budget hearings on Tuesday May

27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The hearings will be held in this room. On Tuesday we will hear from the Medical Examiner, the Health and Hospital Corporation, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. As a reminder the public will be allowed to testify on the last day of budget hearings June 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at approximately 4:00 p.m. The public session will be held in this room. For members of the public who wish to testify but cannot make the hearing you can email your testimony to Nicole Anderson and she will make it part of the official record. Her email address is Nicole Anderson@Council.NYC.gov. Thank you for this hearing and I'd like all, to also send a safe and commemorate in honor those that we've lost in war for this memorial day weekend. Be safe. This hearing is now adjourned.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date         June 12, 2014