

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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March 10, 2015
Start: 12:05 p.m.
Recess: 03:44 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E:
DAVID G. GREENFIELD
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ANDREW COHEN
ANNABEL PALMA
ANTONIO REYNOSO
BEN KALLOS
BRAD S. LANDER
DANIEL R. GARODNICK
DARLENE MEALY
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JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
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MARK S. WEPRIN
MARK TREYGER
PETER A. KOO

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

RITCHIE J. TORRES
ROSIE MENDEZ
RUBEN WILLS
STEPHEN T. LEVIN
VINCENT IGNIZIO
VINCENT J. GENTILE
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ

2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Good morning.

4 I'd like to welcome everyone here today. This
5 hearing is held jointly with the Land Use Committee
6 and I welcome of course members of that committee
7 and Chair David Greenfield. I'm Chair of the
8 Committee on Technology James Vacca and we're here
9 today to review DoITT's fiscal 2016 proposed
10 expense budget which totals 508 million dollars
11 including 118 million in personal services to
12 support 1,493 positions. Compared to last year
13 DoITT's fiscal budget in 2016 will increase by 20.6
14 million dollars which is a four percent increase.
15 Today we will examine all components of DoITT's
16 fiscal 16 budget including the approximately 33
17 million dollars in new needs that DoITT has
18 identified since the fiscal 2015 adopted plan. And
19 some of these needs will include a citywide
20 technology office and the small business first web
21 portal initiative. This committee hopes to hear
22 about these items today. As the city advances
23 technologically more resources are required to
24 operate and maintain our IT systems. Last spring
25 the administration ordered a suspension and

2 investigation of the emergency communications
3 transformation program known as ECTP due to extreme
4 delays and cost overruns. A critical component of
5 this project PSAC2 is currently under construction
6 in my district in fact. It's now under the purview
7 of DoITT and a major component of the department's
8 budget. We're eager for further information about
9 cost savings that were recognized since DoITT has
10 now taken over and how much longer the time frame
11 is to finish the project and what the cost will
12 ultimately be. Additionally we hope to hear more
13 specific information about DoITT's budget plan with
14 regards to new positions for open data compliance,
15 DoITT's plans going forth with the New York City
16 wireless network, plans to decrease the city's
17 reliance on technology consultants, the future of
18 3-1-1, and the progress of the administration's new
19 technology projects including the DOT New York City
20 initiative and link New York City. So I want to
21 welcome DoITT's commissioner Ann Roast. I guess I
22 should introduce members of the committee that are
23 present; Council Members Arroyo, Palma, Dickens,
24 Garodnick, Weprin, Reynoso, myself James Vacca, Ben
25 Kallos, Mark Treyger, Vincent Ignizio, and Matteo.

2 Okay without further to do Commissioner I know
3 you've submitted significant testimony but if you
4 could help us by not reading it all and giving us
5 the best you've got I appreciate. Can we have
6 order? Let's wait 'till there's everyone paying
7 attention commissioner. Okay please proceed.

8 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Okay I'll, I'll do
9 that. And I will go through the testimony just
10 highlighting what we think are the most... parts.
11 First of all good afternoon Chairs Greenfield and
12 Vacca and members of the City Council of Committees
13 on Land Use and technology. My name is Ann Roast
14 and I am the Commissioner of DoITT. And I thank you
15 for the opportunity to testify here today. With me
16 are Annette Heintz, the Deputy Commissioner for
17 Financial Management and Administration, John
18 Winker our Associate Commissioner for Financial
19 Services, and Charles Frazier our General Council.
20 DoITT's fiscal 2016 preliminary budget provides for
21 an operating expenses of approximately 508 million
22 allocating 108 million in personal services to
23 support 1,493 full time positions. Those positions
24 include 364 3-1-1 positions, 14 staff at the newly
25 formed Chief Technology Officers Office, seven at

2 the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics, 89 at the
3 Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, and four
4 at the Data Analytic Center. The budget represents
5 an increase of 24 million from fiscal 2016 November
6 budget and an overall net decrease of 27 million
7 from the fiscal 2015 current modified budget. The
8 24 million increase in fiscal 2016 January budget
9 is largely attributable to funding received to
10 support various programs including PSAC operational
11 support, OTPS funding associated with ongoing
12 maintenance costs required to support capitally
13 funded initiatives, and funding requisite to extend
14 and convert agency IFA positions. The net decrease
15 between the fiscal 2015 current modified and the
16 fiscal 2016 preliminary budget allocation resulted
17 from a drop in one time grant funding that was only
18 allocated in fiscal 2015. So keeping in mind
19 DoITT's role as an IT service and delivery
20 organization I believe that customer service is
21 really the core to what we do. It needs to be the
22 heart of what we do. And constantly to improve on
23 that job we've taken on three parallel tracks.
24 We've taken a fresh look at large technology
25 initiatives. We focused on increasing access to

2 information particularly as it relates to expanding
3 broadband availability and we've supported the
4 ongoing work of city agencies providing technology
5 and service expertise.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Commissioner...

7 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...I apologize.

9 First of all I want to thank you and we're very
10 excited to have you here. Unfortunately this is
11 only a one hour hearing and we have a lot of
12 questions. At the next budget hearing we're going
13 to have a two hour hearing. If we can ask that you
14 can just... we have the testimony, we're, have it in
15 the record. If you can just summarize it in two
16 minutes then we can get to questions thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Two minutes,
18 alright we'll do that. So, so we've had a, in fact
19 I'm not even going to use the testimony. We, we're
20 focusing on a few things. We're focusing on the
21 mayor's equity agenda, broadband initiatives,
22 equity within the agency, I think there's some
23 numbers you'll see in the testimony around the
24 agency's diversity and improvements around agency
25 diversity. I spoke here about ECTP. We recently had

2 a earring, a hearing on ECTP so I won't go into
3 that. It's all in the testimony and we can talk
4 about that more. Talked about broadband access. I
5 think an important program that gets to equity and
6 broadband access is LINC NYC and if you have
7 questions about LINC NYC we can respond to those.
8 That was a really important program and is an
9 important program for the agency. We're doing a lot
10 with our franchisees to offer opportunities for
11 broadband access to the public. A lot on that. Okay
12 New York City open data. There's been increased and
13 continued focus on open data. We recently added
14 five positions to it which are filled and we're
15 filling the other three. Dot NYC rolled out this
16 year. It has raised more than 815 thousand for the
17 city.

18 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I've got my
19 website it's wonderful.

20 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Is it? And, and I
21 think really important a thousand of the names that
22 went to bid sold for ten dollars which means that
23 it is a very affordable program. And finally
24 providing a robust infrastructure... that's really
25 the core of what DoITT does is providing

2 infrastructure and application development services
3 to agencies. And I did want to take the opportunity
4 to invite council members out to, sometime to see
5 our state of the art data center and our operation
6 center. I think you'd see the maturity of DoITT's
7 technology and this, the commitment and the skills
8 of the staff. I think there's nothing like seeing
9 the operation to really understand what it is we
10 do. So an offer to come out and see our operation
11 center in Brooklyn anytime you folks would like.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: We're looking
13 forward. Thank you very much.

14 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Sure.

15 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Chair Vacca.

16 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you. I did
17 notice in your testimony you had spoken about a
18 small business first initiative. The preliminary
19 plan includes 1.5 million in fiscal 2016 for the
20 small business first initiative. It's a citywide
21 initiative that includes several city agencies and
22 you, you will be creating and managing a web portal
23 that will help streamline this program. I think
24 it's costing around 800 thousand dollars. Is, is
25 that true?

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So the costs... yes
3 that's our initial estimate on the, on the cost for
4 the IT portion. Small business first is a broader
5 program that SBS could better address but for the
6 technology piece, the portal, that was our initial
7 estimate.

8 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I like the idea of
9 establishing web portals where all information,
10 instead of people looking all over the internet we
11 could consolidate that information through a web
12 portal and make it more customer friendly and
13 easier for people to use. I know that there was a
14 request for a web portal for young adults to make,
15 helping them to make career based decisions. Where
16 is the program they want in a college? Where is
17 there, where, where are people hiring in jobs so
18 that they can base their degree programs on that
19 information? I know that there were meetings that
20 took place with Deputy Mayor Glen and others. Have
21 you been part of any of these meetings? Are you
22 aware of this?

23 COMMISSIONER ROAST: I haven't been part
24 of the meetings and I was made aware and I want to
25 thank you from your staff who sent us a paper on

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2 it. And we're very interested in providing whatever
3 support we can and we'll work with... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Now when you say
5 support where do we start to create a web portal
6 like this? It would have to be through the Deputy
7 Mayor's Office because she's already aware of it
8 so...

9 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: ...that's where it
11 starts?

12 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yes would look to
13 the, the appropriate agencies for guidance on what
14 they would like IT to develop for them.

15 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: The Mayor's Office
16 of Operations reports to? The Deputy...

17 COMMISSIONER ROAST: First Deputy Mayor.

18 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: ...Deputy Mayor.

19 COMMISSIONER ROAST: First Deputy Mayor,
20 yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Your agency, who,
22 who, what deputy mayor do you report to?

23 COMMISSIONER ROAST: To the First Deputy
24 Mayor to Anthony Shorris.

25 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Anthony Shorris?

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Alright so I just
4 think here that there's a need to coordinate all
5 these discussions because they've been held...

6 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Mm-hmm.

7 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: So I'd like you to
8 look into where they are and let me know. Because
9 they, they did reach out and this is a good idea.
10 And I think it's something we can implement and
11 since you're doing the small business portal I
12 think this may go hand in hand and I'd like you to
13 pursue that. Okay? I, I did want to talk about
14 something... closed captioning. I noticed a small
15 amount of money in FY2016 for the Mayor's Office of
16 Media Entertainment. You allocated 270 thousand
17 dollars for closed captioning. Now am I correct, I
18 think the City TV networks, do they come under your
19 agency? The City Crosswalks I think it's called and
20 all that?

21 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So do, do you know
22 about the allocations. So DoITT... While, while the
23 budget and the staff lines are in DoITT we don't
24 generally manage the programs of MOME or the other
25 agencies within our budget but I'll turn it over to

2 Associate Commissioner Winker who can speak to the
3 allocation of funds.

4 JOHN WINKER: Yes, good afternoon, John
5 Winker. In terms of the funding that was allocated
6 it was to provide closed captioning. I believe that
7 there was a, a mandate that we have to provide
8 that. We had not been providing it previously and
9 this is really just bringing us into compliance.

10 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: The city council is
11 also on Crosswalks.

12 JOHN WINKER: Correct.

13 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Our meetings are not
14 closed captioned.

15 JOHN WINKER: Excuse me?

16 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Our meetings are not
17 closed captioned.

18 JOHN WINKER: No I don't believe that
19 they are. I think the, the programming in general
20 it covers not only channels, the cable channels
21 related to the city council testimony but also
22 channel 25 which is also..

23 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Yes.

24 JOHN WINKER: So they have to provide
25 the closed captioning on those channels. Now in

2 terms of what they're going to provide in terms of
3 city council that's something that probably the
4 commissioner for NYC media can answer those
5 specific questions in terms of how that's going to
6 be implemented.

7 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: But the commissioner
8 for New York City media reports to MOME.

9 JOHN WINKER: That, that's correct.

10 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: And MOME reports to
11 you.

12 JOHN WINKER: MOME, MOME
13 administratively reports to us.

14 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Administratively
15 reports to you?

16 JOHN WINKER: That's correct.

17 [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Close, close cap,
19 closed captioning is a civil right. And I don't
20 understand why we don't have city council
21 meetings closed captioned. We'll, we're the
22 legislative body of New York City. So I just
23 don't want to be run around the mulberry bush.
24 I'd like to know when can we get the meetings
25

2 closed captioned? This should have been done
3 years ago.

4 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So I will
5 communicate that to the Commissioner of MOME,
6 the, the interest to make sure that there's a
7 discussion set up. As John mentioned we, we,
8 administratively these agencies report in to us.
9 That means we process their payroll and we
10 process their budget. But they don't technically
11 report in to me. I don't manage the Commissioner
12 of MOME.

13 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: So they don't report
14 to you but you process their paperwork? And
15 you're putting money in, you're putting money in
16 your budget to close caption when they make
17 films in New York City basically. So we're going
18 to close caption films being made but we're not
19 going to close caption a city council meeting?

20 COMMISSIONER ROAST: It's not, yeah it's
21 not for film... [cross-talk]

22 JOHN WINKER: It's not for films. It's
23 actually for the content that's broadcast over,
24 over the NYC media channels. So it's, it's the
25 broadcast channel as well as the... [cross-talk]

2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: But the city council
3 is also broadcast over the same channels and
4 we're not...

5 JOHN WINKER: Correct.

6 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: ...close captioned.

7 JOHN WINKER: It could very well be that
8 this is, that's going to be included. I'm not
9 sure as a fact what programming is going to be
10 included but that's what this money is to, is to
11 take care of. And it's something that's been in
12 the works for some time and are just starting to
13 get on top of it now.

14 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Alright listen I'm
15 not going to belabor it. I think you know where
16 I'm coming from. This is a civil rights issue.
17 This is ADA and, and we are behind the eight
18 ball if we're not even doing this by this point
19 in time. And I, I would like it done. PSAC, PSAC
20 2, I know you've been saving some money but PSAC
21 2 which is the callback center to 9-1-1 is
22 basically going to cost the taxpayers almost
23 double of what was anticipated when it first
24 conceived. It was originally conceived as 700
25 million, we're now up to 1.8 billion dollars.

2 And I'd like to know you have effectuated some
3 savings I understand but this building now is
4 under your jurisdiction totally. Can you explain
5 to us when it will be finished and how much more
6 savings you can anticipate and what kind of
7 controls you've put in place.

8 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Okay. So I, I'm,
9 the savings I think was... misinterpretation of
10 some financial data that we provided in the
11 past. Our commitment for the project is to come
12 in within budget which was the 2.03 billion of
13 capital funding, so we will come in within that
14 budget. But I'll have John speak to what looked
15 like savings on another report in just a minute.
16 PSAC 2 will be completed, the building itself in
17 January of 2016, we'll be implementing
18 technology, servers, desktops, networks over the
19 next few months. And we anticipate an opening, a
20 first call for police in June of 2016. So we'll
21 start to effectively use the building in June of
22 2016.

23 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Operate, it'll be
24 operational by June 2016?
25

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: It, the first phase
3 will be operational June of 2016. That will be
4 police call takers and fire will move in a few
5 months after that. So as far as the savings go I
6 think I'd like to let John Winker address that.

7 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Yes.

8 JOHN WINKER: So as the Commissioner
9 stated we have a budget of 2.031 billion dollars
10 that was allocated for the, for the program PSAC
11 1 and PSAC 2. When the assessment was completed
12 we assessed all the different various work
13 streams that were going into this, whether they
14 be the actual building of the, of the
15 facilities, the, the network, you know the CAD,
16 all the different elements that go into
17 developing it. So what, what we looked at was it
18 was certain allocations that were in those
19 buckets and were allocated. So when we put
20 reductions we put plan reductions for the work
21 stream allocations. So essentially those funds
22 became free to fall back to the bottom line two
23 billion dollar allocation. So those funds could
24 be reallocated within the program. So overall it
25

2 hasn't been a reduction, it's just a
3 reallocation within the program.

4 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay. I wanted to go
5 into, now at PSAC 2 appearing to be on its way,
6 and with even our current communication system
7 my concern is hacking and I wanted to know what
8 measures you've put into place to avoid hacking.
9 And have there been recent instances perhaps
10 that we may not know of where our system has
11 been compromised by hacking.

12 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So, so we have, we
13 do have a very robust and strong IT security
14 program. It involves monitoring all of our
15 networks for, it's called intrusion detection.
16 We can detect when there's any anomaly or
17 abnormality in the traffic coming in and out of
18 the network. We scan devices. We have visibility
19 to most of the city's servers and desktops and
20 we scan the servers and desktops. We've also got
21 an educational program around cyber security. So
22 we have a very strong program. Around cyber
23 security there's always room for improvement and
24 we are always actively looking at additional
25 things we can do to protect the city. We have

2 millions of threats a month that come in to the
3 city either through email or people trying to
4 penetrate our network, service attacks. We have
5 had a few events recently so I'm not sure what
6 you are aware of and aren't aware of. Most
7 recently we had a denial of service attack that
8 affected the city's email systems. The greatest
9 impact of that, and this was just a few weeks
10 ago, the greatest impact of that was that we
11 were unable to receive some mail from outside of
12 the city email system for a period of time. So
13 the, the email systems didn't come down. It was
14 a very intense complex multiprong attack that
15 we're able to deflect for the most part.

16 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Did this happen
17 about four weeks ago?

18 COMMISSIONER ROAST: What?

19 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Was it about four to
20 five weeks ago?

21 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Three weeks ago,
22 yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Three weeks ago.

24 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yes.
25

2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Did this involve
3 city council email as well? Because we had...
4 [cross-talk]

5 COMMISSIONER ROAST: ...involved city
6 council email as well.

7 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: So the city was
8 hacked at that point?

9 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Nobody got into our
10 network. What happened is it was called a
11 distributed denial of service attack which means
12 they flood our network to try to disrupt our
13 service but nothing got into our network or into
14 our email or access to any of our data. They
15 flooded the network and that's what was
16 preventing some of the email from coming
17 through. It went on for several days although
18 the impact was shorter lived than that. We were
19 able to mitigate it and pretty much we're able
20 to continue to work despite the fact that they
21 were trying to attack us.

22 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: What kind of
23 attention do you give to cyber security? Do you
24 have people on staff addressing this? Have there
25

2 been instances where you've been concerned that
3 you could share with us?

4 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yes, we do have
5 people on staff. We have a team of cyber
6 security experts with city leadership, it's
7 made, the team is made up of both city staff and
8 some consultant staff. And we also are able to
9 call in additional resources if we need to when
10 an event occurs. And events do occur. You don't
11 hear about a lot of them because we're able to
12 successfully deflect them which is you know the,
13 the benefit of having a really strong security
14 program. So I am occasionally involved in cyber
15 incidents if something happens that looks like
16 it may affect our services I'm immediately
17 notified. Myself, the deputy commissioner are
18 responsible for cyber security are notified.
19 We'll notify city hall if necessary. Fortunately
20 most of the incidents don't rise to that level
21 that we're able to mitigate and deflect them.
22 But occasionally we do have incidents that need
23 to be reported.

24 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: One last question
25 and then I'm going to go on to members. I had

2 raised at a previous budget hearing that we only
3 had three people in your inspector general's
4 office. Now that you are in charge of PSAC 2
5 oversight and you've taken on more
6 responsibility, what number in your budget was
7 not transparent to me how many people will be
8 working as part of your inspector general's
9 office.

10 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So the inspector
11 generals... when, when I think of the inspector
12 generals I, I think about the folks who are in
13 DOI who are focused on the agency. And that
14 number is, is two and will continue to be two.
15 As part of our recent new needs we did get three
16 additional staff to add to our quality control
17 group who will be focused on P, on the PSACs, on
18 ECTP and the PSACs until that program is done.
19 Additionally we are as you know getting the
20 integrity monitor service in. So we'll have the,
21 the inspector generals, the integrity monitor
22 service and we've augmented our staff to monitor
23 and manage our processes, invoices, payments
24 around ECTP.
25

2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: It just seems to me
3 that for an agency as big as yours to have two
4 people or three people in an inspector general's
5 office is inadequate. You've taken on massive
6 responsibility when it comes to the IT systems
7 of this city. If anything we learned from the
8 boondoggle that is now being addressed is that
9 somebody should have been investigating the
10 investigators. Because how did this happen? Who
11 was asleep at the switch? And did we have enough
12 people in place to catch the corruption or, or I
13 shouldn't say corruption because there's no
14 allegation people did things illegally but there
15 are allegations that people were asleep at the
16 switch and that this became a runaway train of
17 money being spent. So I take exception, I'd like
18 you to know that and I, I, I think that as
19 Commissioner of an agency you should know that a
20 strong inspector general's office is important.
21 I'm sure you know that but I'd be interested in
22 comparing the number of people you have working
23 in your inspector general's office to what other
24 agencies have. And I don't minimize the
25 importance of your agency in that regard. Okay.

2 JOHN WINKER: If, if I may just clarify
3 one point because I was the one who answered
4 that question at the last hearing. The question
5 I was asked was how many inspector general's has
6 DOI assigned to DoITT and the answer was two.
7 That's not how many staff work for those
8 inspector generals. I have no idea what DOI
9 staffing is but they're a very large agency and
10 I'm sure there's many more.. [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: My question does not
12 go to how many people are in, working in the DOI
13 inspector generals..

14 JOHN WINKER: We don't have an inspector
15 general's office. DOI has the inspector generals
16 for all of the agencies.

17 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: So your agency has
18 no inspector general.

19 JOHN WINKER: No, no agency does.

20 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I'm sorry the police
21 department does.

22 JOHN WINKER: No they, that person works
23 in DOI. The DOI houses the inspector general.

24 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: They work in DOI
25 then, fine.

2 JOHN WINKER: Yeah.

3 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: But every agency has
4 an inspector general somewhere.

5 JOHN WINKER: Right all in DOI's office.

6 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay so how many
7 people are in that DO, are in the inspector
8 general's division of DOI assigned to your
9 agency?

10 JOHN WINKER: I do not know. I told you
11 there were two inspectors general. I do not know
12 how many people report them or are available to
13 them.

14 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Alright this is,
15 alright. We have to get to the bottom of that
16 when we question DOI I think. And lastly is
17 there any intention to improve 3-1-1? Do you
18 have any intention to look at 3-1-1 from a
19 performance point of view, a manpower point of
20 view? Do you think it's operating in a maximum,
21 to its maximum capacity right now? Do you
22 foresee other challenges? I wanted to ask a
23 general 3-1-1 question, so many of us use it all
24 the time.

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Mm-hmm. So recently
3 there was an article that 3-1-1 took more calls
4 this past year than any year in the past. And,
5 and I've seen some statistics around the number
6 of calls that our 3-1-1 takes compared to the
7 other 3-1-1 agencies in the country. And it's
8 pretty impressive the number of calls they
9 handle. Like MOMÉ I don't manage 3-1-1. They
10 report in to the Mayor's Office of Operations.
11 We handle their budget and their staffing. We do
12 handle their technology however and we are
13 shortly going to be releasing an, an RFS, or
14 RFP, a procurement to upgrade the technology
15 systems for 3-1-1. And we've been working with
16 the director of 3-1-1 and the customer agencies
17 to make sure that when we implement that
18 technology there are improvements in service and
19 usability of 3-1-1.

20 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: You're still, so
21 you, you are soon going to be issuing a request
22 for information, a request for interest... [cross-
23 talk]

24 COMMISSIONER ROAST: For 3-1-1...

25 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: ...on RFI?

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: No it's an RF, it's
3 basically an RFP, it's to get...

4 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: RFP.

5 COMMISSIONER ROAST: ...services to
6 actually upgrade the system.

7 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: To upgrade the
8 system. At what cost do you anticipate?

9 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So I'm going to
10 turn this over to Deputy Commissioner Don
11 Sunderland on the application development side.

12 [background comments]

13 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I, I can't hear you.
14 Can you say that into... can you introduce your...
15 can, can you go to the microphone, introduce
16 yourself, give me the answer.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: Alright
18 I'm Don Sunderland, Deputy Commissioner for
19 Application Development for DoITT.

20 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Yes.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: The
22 estimated cost, and we're still issuing the, the
23 RFS, it's 25 million.

24 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: 25 million dollars?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: And then you will be
3 getting request for proposals, people
4 recommending how..

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: ...to update 3-1-1?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: The 25 million
9 dollars is not just for a report, this is going
10 to be someone who's going to do the updating?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: Yes,
12 exactly... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Themselves?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: ...it's,
15 it's for, it's, it's for, it's for engaging a
16 systems integrator to work with our team to do
17 it.

18 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: It's for engaging.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: Yep.

20 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Do you, do you have
21 a set of, do you have a set of prerequisites
22 that you want? Do you have a set of ideas that
23 you, problems you see? Do you, are, are you set
24 to, have you given that to the people coming
25

2 forth with the RFPs? Have, have you issued...

3 [cross-talk]

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: Yeah.

5 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: ...a paper?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: We have
7 not released the RFS yet, however we've gone
8 through an extensive development of the RFS and
9 included in it our significant functional asks
10 and we've, we're reviewing them with the
11 agencies, with principal agencies right now. And
12 it's, it's, highly detailed and we've been
13 working to tell you the truth on a year of
14 putting, to put this document together and feel
15 that it's, it's complete.

16 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay thank you.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUNDERLAND: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay we'll go to
19 Councilman Greenfield.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Mr.
21 Chairman. I want to recognize that we've been
22 joined by Council Members Barron, Wills, Mendez,
23 Koo, Gentile, and Weprin. I'm actually only
24 going to ask two questions. I'm going to ask my
25 colleagues in round one to also limit themselves

2 to two questions and if we have time we'll do a
3 second round. If not we'll ask you to ask your
4 questions on the record and then we'll send a
5 joint letter to the commissioner for answers
6 just because we are pressed for time. Thank you
7 very much Commissioner for your testimony. I'm
8 curious about the, the November plan has an
9 inclusion of a proposal to baseline 1.8 million
10 dollars in fiscal 2016 for a new citywide
11 technology office. This would be comprised of 14
12 IT professionals who would work directly with
13 city hall. That works out to roughly 130
14 thousand dollars per new individual. Forgive my
15 ignorance but I was always under the impression
16 that your agency which is staffed with
17 approximately 15 hundred people and has a budget
18 of over 500 million dollars as you described in
19 fact was the city's technology office. So what
20 is the need for this new technology office? Have
21 you guys not been able to do the job yourself
22 and therefore you need to hire more staff? Can
23 you sort of explain why we have a need for a
24 nearly two million dollar new agency that would
25 report directly to the mayor's office?

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Sure. So this
3 structure is not unusual in government or in
4 private industry to have both a CIO which would
5 be me running the operations, the technology
6 operations and a CTO sometimes called the Chief
7 Innovation Officer as opposed to the Chief
8 Technology Officer who focuses on innovation and
9 strategy for the city. So I'm running the
10 operations. The CTO reporting into the mayor is
11 looking at innovation, civic tech engagement, so
12 how to spread you know technology engagement
13 through the city. It's a more of a strategy and,
14 and, and innovation role than what I'm in. Just
15 a little bit of history I think the last DoITT
16 Commissioner served in both roles. He was the
17 CIO and what they called at that time the CIIO.
18 So he both reported into the city for strategy
19 and innovation and ran the operations of DoITT.
20 That role was broken apart into the two, into
21 two roles to provide us with the ability to more
22 focus on our, our particular areas. We work very
23 closely together, the CTO and the CIO.

24 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay so what,
25 what I just don't understand is that you from

2 everything I've heard and read about you you
3 seem very qualified for your position and you
4 can manage a half a billion dollar agency and 15
5 hundred employees it seems like you could
6 probably do that role in house. I'm not, I don't
7 really understand why we need to have an
8 additional office spending an additional two
9 million dollars a year responding only to city
10 hall and not to you which is what it appears to
11 be when you are our chief and commissioner for
12 all practical purposes. So are you not
13 qualified, do you not have the ability to do
14 that. Do you feel like this other individual is
15 more qualified? I'm just sort of trying to
16 understand why would we have a, an appendage to
17 your agency when you run a half a billion dollar
18 agency with 15 hundred employees why we have to
19 hire another 14 folks who are going to have
20 seemingly less, seemingly out of the chain of
21 command who are going to be doing their own
22 thing directly with the mayor's office.

23 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Again this isn't an
24 unusual structure. I'd like to think that I'm
25

2 qualified to do just about anything.. [cross-
3 talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I agree with
5 you. That's why I don't understand why we're
6 wasting two million dollars on a outside
7 appendage agency to your agency.

8 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Well I would say
9 that the CTO Minerva Tantoco does have pretty
10 broad experience in the innovation space more so
11 than I do. She's extremely qualified to be out
12 looking at new ways that the city can engage the
13 technologists and technology. And I would say
14 that given the fact that we're both fully
15 occupied and very busy I think speaks to the
16 fact that we really needed both of these roles
17 in the city.

18 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: But the CTO
19 doesn't work for you. It works directly for the
20 mayor's office.

21 COMMISSIONER ROAST: That's true.

22 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: You don't think
23 that's a little unusual?

24 COMMISSIONER ROAST: I've seen it both
25 ways.

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Alright. In all
3 fairness you're commissioner for the mayor I
4 don't think you're going to agree with my point
5 but I think you understand what I'm saying. I
6 want to move on to my second question and like I
7 said I'm going to limit myself to two questions
8 for round one because there's many questions and
9 we're going to be followed by Chair Dickens and
10 then Council Member Kallos. And that is the city
11 of New York was hacked. It resulted in the
12 Department of Finance sending out fishing
13 emails. We're all familiar with this. But it's
14 not very clear to us as to what exactly
15 happened. We haven't seen a detailed report.
16 We're not very clear on the costs. And we're not
17 clear on whether in fact this hack was solved.
18 We know that other agencies for example, the
19 Department of Defense is still dealing with
20 issues three months later. So what can you tell
21 us about this? When will there be a
22 detailed report on what exactly happened? And
23 how much has this hack cost the city, obviously
24 not in reputation because certainly it has hurt
25 our reputation but in monetary value.

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Okay and monetary
3 value the cost is negligible. It was our
4 standing team who handled the attack. We did
5 bring in some extra consultant hours and we
6 engaged our, we have a service that we can
7 engage when we have a denial of service attack
8 and, and I can get you those numbers. I don't
9 have them off the top of my head but it was
10 negligible. As far as the Department of Finance
11 fishing emails I, I want to be clear that those
12 did not come from the Department of Finance.
13 They were a fishing email perpetrated by someone
14 overseas pretending to be the Department of
15 Finance. So we had actually no control and
16 visibility to those emails. We didn't have a way
17 to shut them down because they weren't
18 traversing our network. So what I... [cross-talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So, so just to
20 be clear were you hacked or were you not hacked?

21 COMMISSIONER ROAST: We were not hacked.

22 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: You were not
23 hacked?

24 COMMISSIONER ROAST: We were not hacked.
25

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay someone
3 was impersonating you?

4 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Someone was
5 impersonating the Department of Finance.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER ROAST: We were attacked
8 but they did not get in.

9 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay. And so
10 what do you do in a situation like that? And,
11 and do you plan on releasing a detailed report
12 on what happened and, and is there something we
13 can do to prevent this in the future?

14 COMMISSIONER ROAST: We haven't
15 generally produced a public detailed report but
16 I will take that back and ask about it because I
17 know that there are a lot of questions. And it's
18 generally we just don't want to expose a lot of
19 information about how we protect ourselves that
20 can actually help people who want to attack us.

21 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I don't mean
22 the protecting yourself portion obviously but
23 you know even the CIA produces reports and they
24 figure out what they can release and can't
25 release. I'm sure you guys could do the same

2 which is keep the, keep the protection part
3 confidential but just sort of explain what
4 happened at this time, this is what happened,
5 this is where it came from, here was the attack,
6 here are the details, and you know just break it
7 down so that way New Yorkers would have
8 confidence that in fact this, this was an
9 anomaly but it does lead to my final follow-up
10 question which is what can we do to prevent this
11 from happening again? Or is there nothing you
12 can do to prevent it from happening again?

13 COMMISSIONER ROAST: We will continue to
14 be attacked. I mean that's just a fact. We are
15 always looking, we learned things from this
16 attack that we're putting new protections in
17 place and that's, it's a constant process. You
18 know there's new viruses, new methods of attack
19 coming out all the time. We work really hard to
20 stay one step in front of them. I've had recent
21 communications from city hall reiterating their
22 support to provide us anything we need to
23 prevent an attack. We've got a working group
24 right now with me and a few other commissioners.
25 NYPD is involved in the conversation just to

2 come up with a report back to city hall to see
3 if there is anything else in fact we need. Again
4 we've had a pretty strong cyber security program
5 to date. We can always make it stronger.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So just to be
7 clear for the record since this mayor has taken
8 office there have not been any successful
9 attacks or hacks on any city agencies?

10 COMMISSIONER ROAST: There, there have
11 been. I'm aware of one breach.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...some long
13 silence there. Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER ROAST: I'm aware of a
15 breach.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER ROAST: That was detected
18 and mitigated quickly. And no data, we've had
19 people in to do a, we'll call it forensic study
20 to ensure that no data actually left the city
21 but there has been a breach... did get into the
22 city network.

23 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay can you
24 tell us more about that breach or what agency it
25 impacted?

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: ...know that I can...
3 I'd like to get back to you with that. It's not
4 my agency I'd really like to know what I
5 shouldn't share.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay so one
7 successful hack as far as you know no others.
8 And that hack there was no, as far as you know
9 there was no information that was taken out of
10 that hack.

11 COMMISSIONER ROAST: That's correct.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: As far as you
13 know. And you are the agency that oversees that,
14 is that correct?

15 COMMISSIONER ROAST: That's correct.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay very good.
17 Thank you. And we would ask you to please look
18 into potential follow-up and try to get some
19 more information. I think transparency honestly
20 helps everyone. And to the extent that you need
21 to keep information behind we understand that
22 for security purposes but I think people have a
23 higher level of confidence in their government
24 when government is being transparent. I'll turn
25

2 it over to Chair Dickens to be followed by
3 Council Member Kallos.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Good afternoon
5 and thank you for coming in for, for testimony.
6 Thank you Chair Greenfield. I have a question as
7 it relates to the contracts and the budget. Now
8 it is, and I'm, correct me if I'm wrong that
9 according to the preliminary plan for fiscal
10 2016 DoITT's contract budget includes a total of
11 207 million dollars for 116 contracts, is that
12 correct?

13 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So for detailed
14 contract questions I'm going to turn it over to
15 Deputy Commissioner Heinz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And this is an
17 increase from 2015 which was 183 million is that
18 right?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: DoITT
20 actually has about 300 contracts but the ones
21 that are noted in the preliminary budget are
22 only of a certain category... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: What's the
24 category?
25

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: ...600

3 services category and they tend to be the
4 standard services. So we do have other contracts
5 in addition to those. A lot of them are, so
6 citywide contracts aren't in there. Our, are
7 managed services agreements aren't in there. So
8 if you look in APT you'll get a much bigger
9 grouping than you get out of the preliminary
10 budget. But we do, those are 116 of our vendors
11 and there are multiple contracts that they
12 handle.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: How many of
14 those 116 are issued to MWBEs?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: So the,
16 what happens with the MWBE program is that not
17 every prime contractor is under local, is it,
18 needs to be in compliance under Local Law 1. It
19 doesn't pertain to intergovernmental which DoITT
20 uses a lot of, OGS the state, and GSA the
21 government. So the numbers aren't tracked
22 according to the number of vendors rather we
23 track according to the utilization of the values
24 of our total contracts. So we're doing actually
25 very well. So far we have statistics for FY '15

2 the first quarter and we had 22 percent
3 utilization rate on the value of all of our
4 contracts that were issued just during that
5 three quarters. There were 65 contracts issued.
6 26 percent of them were issued to MWBEs.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And how many...
8 When MWBEs meaning minority and, and women
9 owned...

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: All
11 inclusive, yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: How many were
13 minority, not just women owned but minority?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: You know
15 SBS breaks those numbers out and I do not have
16 them but I do know in looking at the numbers
17 that were sent many of the DoITT MWBEs are women
18 more so than minority, just the percentage
19 overall. And I think that we have seen a lot of
20 women owned IT consulting firms growing over the
21 past few years and, so that might be one of the
22 reasons why... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Well there's
24 quite a few IT firms that are growing that are
25 minority. Have you sought information from say

2 silicon Harlem which is, is a, a minority
3 consortium of businesses?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: I can look
5 into that. So SBS usually reaches out directly
6 to these consortiums so that they can encourage
7 people to get certified. So when we go to do an
8 MWBE contract we are looking at the city
9 certified list for guidance. If someone calls us
10 and expresses an interest in a contract and
11 they're not certified we will take them through
12 the process and refer them to SBS so they can
13 get certified so that we can issue them a
14 proposal or a procurement. So that's generally
15 the process but I can take that back to my
16 program director at SBS and that'd be great.
17 Also we, it was in the budget testimony we did
18 something I think for the first time ever under
19 Commissioner Roast and that is we brought our
20 largest system integrators together. This is you
21 know your IBM, your Accenture [sp?], all the 16
22 vendors that are on our, citywide system
23 integrate a list which we expect to have heavy
24 usage this year. We brought them, we had a big
25 seminar and we invited all of the minority owned

2 businesses on the certified list to come. We set
3 up tables and we had kind of a meet and greet,
4 almost like a recruiting event so that they
5 could go over and tell the system integrators
6 you know what their specialties was and meet
7 them and introduce exchange business cards. And
8 it was pretty well attended so we're hoping that
9 that will also raise the number.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Does DoITT
11 participate in the TechNYC at all?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: TechNYC?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: TechNYC, mm-
14 hmm.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Oh the
16 GovTech? Oh the GovTech yes, yes we do. And, and
17 we participate in all the SBS MWBE business
18 events.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Now there's,
20 TechNYC is about to have a huge event over,
21 right over the pier on the west side. Are, is do
22 it participating in that? No you do not?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: We do not.
24 That's for startups I'm hearing.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Well they have
3 a lot, they do have a lot of startups.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: ...startups.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: But they have a
6 lot of others as well. Tech companies that are
7 not startups. That's why I'm asking. Now the
8 prime contract... is, is there an opportunity for
9 the prime contractors to subcontract out and if
10 so how are they encouraged to participate with
11 MBEs?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: That was
13 the event that Annette just referred to, to, we
14 brought a lot of the minority and women owned
15 business in to meet with the prime contractors
16 to set up those arrangements.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Was that your
18 first opportunity to do so? And if so when is
19 the next one? And is that something you're going
20 to do regularly?

21 COMMISSIONER ROAST: That is something
22 would, it was really well attended and while
23 received we would like to do it regularly. I do
24 want to mention also that we're going to be
25 removing responsibility for minority and women

2 owned business to our, about to be appointed,
3 chief diversity officer for DoITT. That's a
4 model that we saw in DDC, the commissioner of
5 DDC put the minority and women owned business
6 responsibility under the chief diversity officer
7 and thought that it worked quite well. I can see
8 the synergy there. So we have a chief diversity
9 officer that will be starting soon, will be
10 reporting to me to work on agency diversity but
11 will also be looking at how do we do better with
12 vendor diversity.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Now is the RFP
14 process, is that issued not only to MWBEs but to
15 MBEs? Is, and what is that outreach include?
16 What is that about?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Yeah what
18 we, you know the, the certified list at SBS is
19 categorized by different types of skill. So you
20 might have consulting services. You might have
21 people that sell hardware. So all of the
22 minority certify themselves in one or multiple
23 categories. And so when we have a procurement we
24 will go to that list and select vendors in the
25 appropriate category and bid that out.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: You may not
3 know, this is the last question, you may not
4 know yet from that as to the success of that but
5 can you get back to my chair with those numbers
6 so that we can see the success or failure of the
7 MWBE outreach and inclusiveness?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Right so so
9 far, so DoITT raised its utilization goals this
10 year over last year and what's happened this
11 year is actually three of the contracts that we
12 issued to MWBEs this year have, have totaled 21
13 million dollars. So we actually have issued some
14 of the largest MWBE contracts in the city of all
15 the agencies. So we had a contract, two
16 contracts that were at nine million. We're,
17 we're two percent over the citywide average for
18 issuance to MWBEs. So, I mean, and for a
19 technology agency which tends to have the big
20 technology companies which are not always MWBE.
21 Our percentages across the board are, are
22 meeting or exceeding our goals right now so I
23 think we're so far in good shape, that's only
24 the first quarter.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Well thank you
3 so much but I'd like to follow up with that, not
4 only for MWBEs but for MBEs.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Yes. Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Chair
7 Dickens. And we're actually with the exception
8 of Co-Chairs and Subcommittee Chairs we're going
9 to institute a five minute clock just to make
10 sure that everyone has the opportunity to, to be
11 heard. And we're going to move to Council Member
12 Kallos to be filed by Council Member Treyger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Good morning.
14 I'm Council Member Ben Kallos. I'm a free and
15 open source software developer. You can tweet me
16 at Ben Kallos. In the spirit of this hearing I'd
17 like to thank our technology chair Jimmy Vacca.
18 You can tweet him at James Vacca 13 our Land Use
19 Chair David Greenfield at NYC Greenfield and
20 Chair Inez Dickens who you can also tweet at IE
21 underscore Dickens. I have three questions on
22 the record for forwarding by this committee for
23 an official response on this hearing which is..
24 Will DoITT being adopting an open 3-1-1
25 standard? And how soon can we expect a tour for

2 the council of the 3-1-1 facilities? This is a
3 request that has been outstanding since August.
4 Will DoITT agree to negotiate or renegotiate
5 franchise agreements with Time Warner, Cable
6 Vision, and Verizon to provide free or low cost
7 broadband to low income New Yorkers. Will DoITT
8 expand free transit wireless on the 4-5-6 which
9 supports one-third of all subway riders,
10 specifically stations along Lexington at 96th,
11 86th, 77th, 68th, and 59th as well as Brooklyn
12 Bridge for those of us who work down here. In
13 the list that we were provided it was noticeably
14 absent that the green line was completely
15 missing any of the free wireless except at 42nd.
16 With regard to the line of questioning which to
17 pursue in my 3:44 that remains I'd like to talk
18 about free and free Libre and open source
19 software. Doesn't mean that the free is free as
20 in gratis, it means that it comes with certain
21 liberties like the ability to see and modify
22 your code as you choose. Does the general public
23 have a right to government's general work
24 product such as documents and public meetings
25 like this one?

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: That's a huge
3 question and I'm looking forward to sitting down
4 and having a, a conversation around open source.
5 And in fact I'll turn this over to Deputy
6 Commissioner Sunderland in just a minute. But I
7 think there's more to, there's a lot to
8 consider... [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I just wanted to
10 do the quick thing of does the general public
11 own what government produces?

12 COMMISSIONER ROAST: What government
13 produces?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: So our...

15 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: ...work product,
17 so this, this document right here, does the
18 general public have a right to this?

19 COMMISSIONER ROAST: I would say not
20 necessarily.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: So just let the
22 record reflect that our, our committee reports
23 for anyone watching online you can go online you
24 can download the testimony... DoITT as well as
25 these documents and pretty much anything we

2 create here in the council belongs to the
3 public. And so along those lines I think
4 software that we purchase should be along those
5 lines. So we have these things called enterprise
6 licensing agreements. It means we choose to
7 purchase a lot of things from one specific
8 vendor. So our finance department estimates that
9 DoITT is adding, added, added 7.6 million
10 dollars for fiscal year 15 and 16 and has
11 already added 3.5 million in November 2015 plan
12 to the Microsoft enterprise licensing agreement
13 bring our five year agreement to 108 million
14 dollars just for Microsoft. Is that correct, is,
15 are we at 108 million dollars for...

16 COMMISSIONER ROAST: That, that's over,
17 that's for our, including our fifth year which
18 is ending... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: And is that
20 through...

21 COMMISSIONER ROAST: ...in September.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Subcontractors
23 or other contracts like every single dollar that
24 Microsoft is getting that comes out oat... [cross-
25 talk]

2 COMMISSIONER ROAST: But the ELA is..

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER ROAST: ...directly through
5 Dell which is a reseller of Microsoft.

6 Microsoft's not allowed to sell directly I
7 believe to anybody. So but the 7.8 million
8 included one increase for a final true-up..

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Yep.

10 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Which is where we
11 have had increases and also for the emails for
12 the police officers.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Now are you
14 familiar with the Independent Budget's Office ad
15 November 2014 report budget options for New York
16 City which it states using, use open source
17 software instead of licensed software for
18 certain applications predicting a six million
19 dollar immediate savings increasing to 19
20 million dollars. Are you familiar with the
21 document?

22 COMMISSIONER ROAST: I'm not familiar
23 with the document but I've, I've heard the
24 question before.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: How much can we
3 save tomorrow by switching from Microsoft Office
4 to Libre Office as mentioned by the IBO? And
5 additionally because I'm running out of time
6 what the Adobe Enterprise Licensing Agreement
7 which allows us to print and read documents
8 we're currently spending 2.9 million dollars how
9 much would we be saved by using an open source
10 printer such as Ghost Script coupled with a free
11 PDF reader? And last but not least would DoITT
12 support the free, free and open source software...
13 introduction 366 as well as Civic Commons
14 Introduction 365 which would allow the DoITT and
15 the city to collaboratively purchase with other
16 municipalities, states, and governments
17 throughout this country or the world to save
18 money.

19 COMMISSIONER ROAST: There were a lot of
20 questions there. One is as far as Libre Office
21 as opposed to on the Microsoft Office, how much
22 could we save, that's a big question because
23 there are still a lot of issues I think and I'm
24 looking forward to the conversation with Libre
25 Office. In fact the last study I read of major

2 city and Europe who converted had a one percent
3 error rate and the conversion and there's cost
4 to that. So I think it, we really have to look
5 closely at it. Fan of open source but it needs
6 to be thoughtful, careful and we would need to
7 do a full budget and impact assessment on that.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: My, my only last
9 question for the correspondence that we'll be
10 sending is just how much do we spend on
11 proprietary software code as a city?

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
13 Council Member Kallos. We're going to be
14 followed with Council Member Treyger and then
15 Council Member Barron. Council Member Treyger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
17 thank you to both chairs. Welcome Commissioner.
18 Commissioner I'm just going through the list
19 with Wi-Fi connected sites across the city. In
20 the NYCHA you know community, computer centers I
21 don't see anything in southern Brooklyn and I
22 happen to have actually the most public housing
23 in all of Brooklyn might say nothing in Southern
24 Brooklyn. In the connected community sites I see
25 nothing again in Southern Brooklyn for the parks

2 Wi-Fi sites. Interestingly what's missing from
3 here are the, are the sites that you have in
4 central park or prospect park that have free Wi-
5 Fi, not fee based Wi-Fi with AT&T. In Coney
6 Island we have, you have your cable vision but
7 there's a fee. It's only a half hour, and then
8 after a half hour if you, if you are a cable
9 vision customer then you can continue that but
10 if you're not, and many families don't always
11 have cable you have to pay. So we keep moving
12 forward transit nothing southern Brooklyn. I, I
13 just, so in the theme of equity why is southern
14 Brooklyn left out of most, most of these
15 programs and why are we being forced to, to go
16 through a, a fee based system in areas that
17 could really, are, certainly have higher median
18 incomes have free Wi-Fi in their public spaces?

19 JOHN WINKER: It, I'll, I'll try to take
20 all of those one at a time, NYCHA, those seven
21 centers reflect the seven places where there
22 were computer rooms but did not have internet
23 connectivity. So the fact that there are none in
24 Southern Brooklyn would suggest to me, I mean I
25 didn't do the site selection, it was NYCHA

2 obviously. But that would suggest to me that
3 those in Southern Brooklyn already had internet
4 connectivity this was to fill a gap in what was
5 already there. The connected community sites,
6 those are selected by the, by Time Warner. I'm
7 sorry by the, by the partners to us. Originally
8 they were sub-grantees under the federal BTOP
9 grant and, and now they're operating on city
10 funds that passes through Do ITT I think you
11 raised the, the AT&T program is not here because
12 that's administered by the Parks Department. We
13 don't administer that. AT&T does not do that
14 through a franchise agreement so we just haven't
15 had involvement with that.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Or, or Google?

17 JOHN WINKER: I'm sorry?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Google?

19 JOHN WINKER: You mean the one in
20 Chelsea?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: And I think
22 also something in Dumbo as well?

23 JOHN WINKER: I'm sorry I didn't hear
24 where.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I think Google
3 has some sort of Wi-Fi project in Dumbo as well.

4 JOHN WINKER: I'm not aware of that.
5 That must be only on private buildings because
6 they have no agreement with us to do that. And
7 if they're using city streets they need either a
8 franchise or a gift agreement and, and they
9 don't.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So, but you
11 have franchise agreements with Cable Vision?

12 JOHN WINKER: Cable Vision and Time
13 Warner which I didn't get to you know those
14 franchise agreements were negotiated five years
15 ago or so I will say before I got here. But the,
16 the, what they are is you get three ten minute
17 sessions for free. After that you must pay 99
18 cents a day. If you are a customer not just of
19 Cable Vision but also of Time Warner, if you're
20 a customer of any of their five consortium
21 members you get completely free access. I will
22 say that was the best way we were able to
23 negotiate with them. I will also say that when
24 they negotiated these terms they thought the
25 money that they had negotiated was sufficient to

2 cover 32 parks. We've now got 79 parks and we
3 haven't finished spending the money yet. So we
4 did quite a bit better than we thought we were
5 going to. It was really planned as a relatively
6 small pilot project and turned into, because the
7 money just, they, they had grossly over
8 estimated how much it was going to cost to do
9 these parks.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: But you, you
11 understand the disparity and the inequity where
12 you have some parks like central prospect to
13 have absolutely free Wi-Fi for their residents
14 and a community like mine in Coney Island where
15 I don't have the... [cross-talk]

16 JOHN WINKER: Yeah the, the difference...
17 [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...the highest
19 income... [cross-talk]

20 JOHN WINKER: ...the difference is...
21 [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...I, I don't
23 have free Wi-Fi.

24 JOHN WINKER: ...that AT&T did this as a
25 gift to the city and, and Time Warner Cable and,

2 and Cable Vision did it as part of their
3 customer base. They used their Wi-Fi services as
4 a, as a differentiation from Verizon.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Well I, I will
6 say that this administration likes to beat the
7 drums of equity that also applies to technology
8 and Wi-Fi access. And they'll be hearing a lot
9 more from us about that because every single
10 community in my opinion should have access.
11 This, this should be a universal issue as well.

12 JOHN WINKER: Well Link is coming.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Well again I'm
14 hearing concerns about that as well and my
15 second question is feeding off of that.

16 JOHN WINKER: Oh I, I'm sorry I didn't
17 get to Transit Wireless.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yeah.

19 JOHN WINKER: On Transit Wireless they
20 have a contract. Our franchise does not select
21 the subway stations. They have a contract with
22 MTA. They must wire every underground subway
23 station in the system, 277. And that will
24 certainly cover a lot of South Brooklyn. We have
25 no influence on how they select the sites

2 rolling that out. And it's the MTA contract not
3 our franchise that obligates them to build the
4 277 subways.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: My, my last, my
6 last question chair is the issue of, of
7 resiliency. We, we have pending, we have pending
8 legislation on this issue of you mentioned again
9 Time Warner, Cable Vision, others... when we have
10 major where there's a coastal event or some
11 emergency crisis we need to have a very serious
12 conversation about the resiliency of our
13 communication infrastructure. I know that this,
14 the, the previous administration and council
15 passed a serious of bills about food access
16 that, that, to address the issue of fuel
17 shortage but communications infrastructure is
18 also critical. I noticed that the red hook
19 initiative is here. We need to expand that model
20 and we need to hold these companies accountable
21 because if they're not shedding light with you
22 about their resiliency plans and investments to
23 make them, themselves more resilient in the face
24 of coastal storms and emergencies we need to
25 know that before the next agreement is made with

2 them, these franchise agreements. We need to
3 publically list who is being compliant, who is
4 being transparent, who is opening their books
5 and who is not because it's a matter of public
6 safety. And I, I'd like you to comment on it.

7 JOHN WINKER: ...completely agree and if I
8 may the last time and maybe it was you who asked
9 the question, I don't remember, I, I indicated
10 that most of the providers were being
11 cooperative, I mentioned one who was not.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Except Time
13 Warner.

14 JOHN WINKER: And I, I am pleased to say
15 that quite possibly in, in, as a consequence of
16 that exchange which their lobbyist I guarantee
17 you picked up. They have also joined the club of
18 being much more transparent. Now our, our
19 resiliency, Telecom resiliency unit will be
20 issuing a report. I, I don't want to put a
21 deadline on it because I don't exactly when
22 that'll be. They're working under a two year
23 federal grant we're about eight months in so it
24 has to be before two years is up.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Well I have no
3 problems yelling some more and helping more
4 people join the fight.

5 JOHN WINKER: I, I appreciate it.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you.
7 Thanks Chairs.

8 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Mr.
9 Treyger. We're going to ask Council Member
10 Barron to ask her questions followed by Council
11 Member Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Mr.
13 Chair. Thank you to the panel for coming and
14 presenting. The plan that's outlined inn your
15 budget talks about your department taking,
16 reducing the number of contracts regarding the
17 emergency communications, transformations
18 project with that projected plan what kind of
19 savings can we see and what kind of changes do
20 we, can we expect in how that plan, how that
21 program...

22 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So particularly for
23 the ECTP project we've already reduced the
24 number of consultants on the program by more
25 than a hundred. The savings will, it's like all

2 of the savings in ECTP they're offsetting costs
3 in other areas so our total budget is staying
4 the same. I think we have an estimate, estimated
5 number of how much we save per consultant, about
6 50... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So if the
8 budget's staying the same where is that savings
9 going within the budget.

10 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Well what we found
11 in the, in the ECTP report we issued in August a
12 report on the program what we found is that
13 there were requirements for implementation of
14 ECTP that had been missed. And so what we've
15 done is we've realized savings in some area of
16 the program to cover what could have been cost
17 overruns in other areas of the program while
18 maintaining the same total budget. So we've used
19 those savings to offset cost in other areas.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And in your
21 testimony you say that you have efforts to
22 increase diversity among staff and you have an
23 agency that is 37 percent white, 30 percent
24 black, 18 percent Asian or Pacific Islander, 14
25 percent Hispanic, and three percent American

2 Indian or Alaskan. At what levels of the agency
3 do these, do these, is it the management, what
4 is the breakdown in terms of.. [cross-talk]

5 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So I don't have..

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...where the work
7 gets done as to where these ethnicities are
8 located and concentrated.

9 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So we, I can get
10 you the breakdowns of where they are. I can tell
11 you that in my direct reports the diversity has
12 been increased and with some new hires that are
13 just coming in the door will continue to
14 increase. And that is making sure that we have
15 diversity throughout the agency is where, why
16 we're, we created the Chief Diversity Officer
17 position, the first ever for DoITT that will
18 report to me and we'll focus on making sure that
19 we have diversity throughout the entire agency.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And finally I'd
21 just like to say that I understood the response
22 regarding the selection of the sites was that it
23 was not done by your office, your agency, but by
24 those who were running. Is that what you had
25 said?

2 JOHN WINKER: It depends which program
3 you're talking about but yes I mean for instance
4 the, the NYCHA community centers that were
5 upgraded were those that did not already have
6 the service. So that, the selection was those
7 that didn't already have it. The transit
8 wireless they're rolling out their subway
9 stations according to their own contract with
10 MTA not according to our franchise, our
11 franchise just entitles them to put conduit
12 fiber in the streets. So it, it depends which
13 program. So the Parks..

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Parks.

15 JOHN WINKER: We work with the parks
16 department closely to, to select parks and
17 obviously with Time Warner Cable and cable
18 vision they take a number of factors into
19 account.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So I would, I
21 would offer to you that you exert more of an
22 influence in that selection side because we want
23 to see equity in how these services are
24 presented and offered to the community because
25 we know that there is a great digital divide and

2 it is reflected based on the socioeconomic
3 classes that exist...

4 JOHN WINKER: We have worked very hard
5 to do that. You think...

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And I think that
7 it would be good that we... [cross-talk] agency to
8 continue to make sure that whatever power they
9 could exercise... [cross-talk]

10 JOHN WINKER: There, there are some...
11 [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...being done.

13 JOHN WINKER: ...constraint. So for
14 instance we, we have one major beach in every
15 borough...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: We have what I
17 didn't hear you.

18 JOHN WINKER: ...other than Manhattan.
19 And... [cross-talk] Coney Island is wired, was
20 wired last spring. Rockaway is in Queens,
21 Midland Beach, and Staten Island. There's no
22 major beach in Manhattan so they lost out. We
23 tried to do Orchard Beach in the Bronx but when
24 they priced it out it would have cost a million
25 dollars just to get the fiber to the beach and

2 that would have used up a gross disproportion of
3 the funds we had available to spend and, and
4 would have been, many of our parks cost 15
5 thousand, 20 thousand dollars each to spend a
6 million on one park was just considered not
7 practical. So there, there are other constraints
8 besides where we would like to, to provide the,
9 the service.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well taking
11 those constraints into consideration I do hope
12 that this agency will fight to make sure that
13 those who have been locked out and kept out have
14 an opportunity to benefit from the free Wi-Fi.

15 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yeah and I do want
16 to add that we are working closely with the
17 mayor's council Maya Wiley on that. And, and in
18 fact we've committed resources to help her come
19 up with a plan to improve the inequity in the
20 broadband access.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER ROAST: We'll continue to
23 work with MYA and, and DoITT is committed to
24 that.

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
3 Council Member Barron, Council Member Rodriguez
4 followed by Council Member Rosenthal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you
6 Chair. First I'd like to say thank you to Miguel
7 Cabrera [sp?] who is a constituency from my
8 districts and he is finish his master degree on
9 sustainability management his Brown technology.
10 And in my district he's like one of the who
11 advocate on technology. I represent Northern
12 Manhattan, a, and as a former teacher that I,
13 that I am you know I have a lot of concern on
14 how are we doing on increasing the, the capacity
15 of our school to use their technology. Many time
16 what I hear is that principal who say we
17 appreciate that you put this capital money for
18 technology. However the broadband that we have
19 is not enough for us to functioning. What are
20 the challenges that we have as a city? And how
21 much is, how much are you working with the DOE
22 to provide the support that I need to improve
23 the technology capacity?

24 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So I, I do think
25 this question would be better directed to DOE as

2 they would drive the programs around technology
3 in the school. So I would suggest...

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: But, but in
5 your testimony it say we have supported the
6 ongoing work of city agencies by providing
7 technology and service expertise. Is DOE one of
8 those agency that you provide support?

9 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yeah so, so we do
10 support DOE in upgrading their technology but
11 again as far as the programs in the schools
12 themselves I think the DOE should respond to
13 that. We would provide support networking to the
14 schools, fiber to the schools as requested by
15 DOE but as far as... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: But how much,
17 how much capacity do we have in our own
18 community because let's say do we have a
19 capacity when it came to, to the, the broadband
20 that we have let's say in communities such as
21 northern Manhattan that we can say a school? It
22 is enough for the hospital to use the technology
23 capacity that they have at the same time. Does
24 the schools also, does a, does a community have
25 the support, the infrastructure support on

2 technology that is needed in, on the ground. So
3 for those building to say we have access to the
4 broadband and we have, we can have our computers
5 and the, wireless working as we would like to?

6 COMMISSIONER ROAST: As far as broadband
7 to the schools I mean.

8 JOHN WINKER: My understanding, I was
9 involved in this late in the Bloomberg
10 administration there was an initiative to bring
11 connections. I think every high school had
12 already been connected if I remember correctly.
13 And the goal was to bring a connection to every
14 middle school or junior high school or whatever
15 intermediate school by the end of the
16 administration. My recollection is they didn't
17 make it but they came pretty close and that the
18 rest of them were finished shortly thereafter.
19 So that's the extent of what I can tell you
20 because we were only involved in that to assist
21 and I, I actually don't know anything about
22 elementary schools or anything beyond that.

23 COMMISSIONER ROAST: But what I can
24 commit is to get back and have a further
25 conversation about...

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: That's fine
3 because I don't, I, my approach is not yet the
4 school per say. My approach is what is the
5 capacity that we have throughout the, our five
6 borough that we can say the school can have
7 access to bring the technology program that,
8 that we the council member supports it but
9 sometime he's not enough for it to, to put...
10 dollars. Is it, there's no capacity in the
11 building. There's nothing they can do. And my,
12 my next question is the city has committed a 400
13 million for the NYC... equipment in... annual
14 maintenance budget... in the annual maintenance
15 budget is, in the annual maintenance budget is
16 approximately 40 million. What percentage of the
17 NYC wireless network is currently being used?

18 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So the, the numbers
19 vary from month to month. On average it's 20 to
20 25 percent of the capacity. At peak it's 45 to
21 55 percent of capacity and you'd never want to
22 be near 100 percent but that is about what we're
23 running.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Great. First
25 of all thank you for what you're doing and what

2 you're trying to do. You know like technology is
3 one of those area where a... in communities and
4 schools and many places though there's a lot of
5 work that we have to do especially right now is
6 exposing our children to technology is one of
7 the big challenges that we have. Thanks.

8 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: If I could, If
9 I could interject the members met with
10 Chancellor Farina several weeks ago. And as
11 Councilman Rodriguez is indicating we often use
12 our discretionary money to assist schools when
13 it comes to technology many of us put millions
14 of dollars for our schools every year based on
15 request of principals or PTA presidents or
16 whatever the case may be. But I know I had
17 requested from Chancellor Farina, a coordinated
18 plan for technology. So rather than putting this
19 here and that there there should be a
20 coordinated plan to what DOE sees as the needs
21 for technology grade by grade going forth so
22 that we can assist. But not only we can assist
23 because last year we passed a very significant
24 bond issue on technology, a statewide. So there
25 needs to be a plan that we want to see and your

2 office may want to be involved in this because
3 what should be requested is something we can
4 help you with. But to throw stuff, to throw
5 money into schools where in two to three years
6 the equipment we're giving to schools can no
7 longer be used that's not relevant, it's not
8 part of a curriculum. It's not part of a
9 process. It didn't make sense to me and I was
10 hoping that we could do something coordinating
11 as Councilman Rodriguez put it another way but
12 this is the way I'm putting it but I think we're
13 on the same wavelength.

14 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Understood.

15 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Chair
16 again. Thank you Council Member Rodriguez and
17 finally Council Member Helen Rosenthal. I'm also
18 just going to point out again we're going to
19 give members an opportunity just to ask
20 questions on the record. Those questions will
21 then be typed up, sent to the commissioner
22 hopefully for a prompt response. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great. Thank
24 you so much. Commissioner it's great to see you
25 as always. Just to segway does the, does your

2 agency have any official rule in reviewing the
3 DOE technology contracts at all?

4 COMMISSIONER ROAST: No, verifying that
5 but no.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right. And is
7 that a charter separation because the Department
8 of Education is under... we'll, we'll investigate
9 why that is. Maybe our council knows. You don't
10 know?

11 COMMISSIONER ROAST: No. In fact we
12 don't review all technology contracts in the
13 city. We don't, that is not part of our role.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. Thank
15 you very much. You had mentioned just a few
16 minutes earlier that the ECTP ups and downs and
17 contract costs basically resulted in no change
18 to the budget. But I'm looking at some details
19 that our council finance staff put together
20 which seemed to indicate whatever it is it is
21 because I'm not going to jump up and down about
22 it but seemed to indicate a 19 million dollar
23 increase net net. I'm just wondering can you
24 send over the details of the ups and downs so
25 that we could see the net wherever it is. I

2 don't care it's just helpful to see where we
3 landed. Yeah we can do that. We can even sit
4 down and go over it with you if you'd like.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'm
6 available. That would be great. Thank you very
7 much. Net net we're seeing an increase in the
8 overall contract, your agency contract budget
9 from 183 million to 207 million. Are there any
10 particular drivers of that?

11 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Yes there are and
12 I'll let Deputy Commissioner Heinz speak to
13 that.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Our biggest
15 contract this year was for the building
16 management contract at PSAC 2 which was a three
17 year at 36 million which accounted for a
18 majority of the inquiries. The other big
19 increase was our Microsoft True-up for our fifth
20 year which was another eight million. And then
21 most of the other additions were for support
22 contracts that we had to put in place because
23 warranties had worn out.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Do we have a
25 list, does our council finance staff have a list

2 of those? No? Could we ask the, the 2016
3 contract dollar amounts? We do? Okay, great,
4 thank you. But actually the way that you just
5 articulated it if you could come up with sort of
6 the top five...

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Oh.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...that would
9 be very helpful... [cross-talk]

10 COMMISSIONER ROAST: The top five
11 contracts?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...with those
13 reasons. Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER ROAST: That we spend our
15 money on? Yeah, they're generally...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Mm-hmm.

17 COMMISSIONER ROAST: ...the big manage
18 services agreements for the city; Verizon which
19 is at 80 million, Motorola... we have a lot of..
20 [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right and so..
22 [cross-talk]

23 COMMISSIONER ROAST: ...large ones, yeah.
24
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...to the
3 extent that they increase or change because the
4 warranties went out or...

5 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Sure.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...whatever it
7 is that'd be very helpful. Asking with my hat on
8 as chair of the contracts committee.

9 COMMISSIONER ROAST: Okay.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And then
11 lastly as you're working on the steering
12 committee to review all contracts that you know
13 look a little bit suspects, suspect I'm
14 wondering if you've come up with some of those
15 ideas for what the triggers would be. The last
16 time I heard you testify about this it was the
17 complexity of the technology whether or not it
18 was a multi-agency contract do you have any more
19 specific thoughts about that?

20 COMMISSIONER ROAST: So we have had
21 significant discussion we're meeting quite
22 regularly we don't have anything yet that we're
23 ready to share but we did commit to come back
24 and speak to the council.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay great.
3 Thank you very much. Thank you Chairs.

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. Are
5 there any other questions that council members
6 would like to submit on the record. I will
7 submit on the record I have some questions
8 regarding NYCWiN. I specifically would like to
9 know what percentage of NYCWiN's capacity is
10 being utilized. I'm curious as to whether DoITT
11 has explored additional revenue generating
12 opportunities related to use of NYCWiN by
13 private organizations. I know the last week that
14 there was a formal request for expression of
15 interest for another company to take over the
16 system. I'm a little bit curious about that.
17 Would like to know what you're hoping to gain
18 from that request for expression. And the final
19 question that I have is just a yes or no
20 question for now is does the city intend on
21 selling NYCWiN?

22 COMMISSIONER ROAST: No.

23 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay so we'll
24 look forward to the other, other questions as
25 well. Any other members have any questions?

2 Great this portion of our budget hearing is
3 adjourned. We are going to start the next
4 portion in two minutes.

5 [pause]

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. Good
7 afternoon this is a continuation of our Land Use
8 preliminary budget hearing. And we will now be
9 hearing from the Landmark Preservation
10 Commission. This committee is currently being
11 co-chaired by subcommittee Chair Peter Koo. For
12 those who are watching at home the Landmark
13 Preservation Commission designates, regulates,
14 and protects New York City's architectural,
15 historic, and cultural resources. The LPC is the
16 largest municipal preservation agency in the
17 country comprising a portfolio of approximately
18 31 thousand landmark properties, 111 historic
19 districts. This includes 1388 individual
20 landmarks, 117 interior landmarks, and 10 scenic
21 landmarks. Looking forward to hearing from the
22 chair about the 68 new staff positions, the need
23 for a collective bargaining agreement and
24 additionally a rollover of the HUD community
25 development block grant as well. Before I begin

2 I'd like to thank our finance and land use staff
3 for their outstanding preparation in advance of
4 today's hearing. Would also like to recognize
5 that we are joined by another subcommittee
6 chair, Chair Inez Dickens and we are joined by
7 everyone's favorite preservationist Council
8 Member Ben Kallos. We are in receipt of your
9 age, eight page testimony and while we
10 appreciate your thoroughness chair we are going
11 to ask that you summarize your testimony to
12 three minutes so that way we can have members
13 ask questions and hopefully we can be relatively
14 on time for our next portion of the hearing
15 which will be city planning. So whenever you're
16 ready chair.

17 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Good afternoon
18 Chair Greenfield and members of the Land Use
19 Committee. I'm Meenakshi Srinivasan Chair of the
20 Landmarks Preservation Commission. I'm joined
21 here by Sarah Carroll our executive director and
22 Guardia Kpart [phonetic] who is our budget
23 director. Thank you for giving me the
24 opportunity to testify before the committee
25 about the commission and its fiscal year 2016

2 preliminary budget. It's a great privilege to be
3 here today for the first time as chair of the
4 commission. It's a very significant here for the
5 landmarks preservation commission. April 19th,
6 2015 marks the 15th anniversary of the passage of
7 New York City's Landmarks law and the creation
8 of this agency. So we're very excited to share
9 our progress and goals with you today. The
10 agency has been at the forefront of preservation
11 policy and a model for many municipalities all
12 over the country. I'd like to start by telling
13 you about our budget and discussing some of the
14 priorities I have for the agency. The LPC's
15 current budget for fiscal year 2015 is 5,706,710
16 dollars and for fiscal year 2016 the preliminary
17 budget is 5,556,388 dollars which comprises
18 4,977,695 dollars in city funds and 7 thousand,
19 sorry 5,780... 78,693 dollars in community
20 development block grant funding. Of the overall
21 budget 91 percent is allocated to personnel
22 services and nine percent is allocated to other
23 than personnel services or OTPS. The agency's
24 total headcount is 70 full time positions and
25 seven part time positions and they're currently

2 57 full time staff and six part time staff on
3 board. We are currently in the process of
4 fulfilling these vacancies. The community
5 development block grant funding of which 80
6 percent is allocated for percents, personnel
7 supporting important community development
8 related functions such as surveys, environmental
9 review, archeology, community outreach and
10 education, and the remainder 20 percent is
11 allocated for a grant program for low income
12 homeowners and not-for-profit organizations. On
13 the revenue side in fiscal year 2014 we we
14 generated revenue of 6,303,033 dollars thus far.
15 We have generated 4,009,760 dollars in fiscal
16 year '15. In the last two fiscal years we've
17 seen an average annual increase of 20 percent
18 each year. I'm very enthusiastic about my goals
19 for the agency that are consistent with the
20 administration's vision of government, of being
21 efficient, equitable, and transparent. My goals
22 for this year and next include implementing
23 several significant initiatives to fulfil our
24 mandate to protect and preserve New York City's
25 historic resources in a clear fair and open

2 manner. As I describe the activities of each
3 department I will outline plan changes and
4 policy procedures to advance these goals. First
5 to our research department; in fiscal year 2014
6 the commission designated two historic
7 districts, the south village, and park avenue
8 historic district, and nine individual landmarks
9 for a total of 324 buildings. In fiscal year
10 2015 to date we have designated two historic
11 districts; Central Ridgewood in Queens and
12 Chester Court in Brooklyn and five individual
13 landmarks totaling 1,014 buildings. Currently as
14 you know there are 32,743 designated properties
15 throughout the city. As chair I plan to take the
16 comprehensive and rigorous approach to our
17 designation agenda. I have developed a three
18 prong strategy which involves first identifying
19 historic resources and neighborhoods throughout
20 the five boroughs that are not well represented
21 by existing surveys or designations so that
22 diverse communities are able to claim civic
23 icons in the neighborhoods. Two, working closely
24 with the Department of City Planning and
25 stakeholders to evaluate historic preservation

2 opportunities in each neighborhood that is
3 undergoing a rezoning or neighborhood plan. This
4 includes the six neighborhoods that the mayor
5 has identified for housing oriented rezonings as
6 well as the greater east midtown area and others
7 like that that will facilitate economic
8 development. And three, increasing the
9 efficiency and transparency and fairness of the
10 designation process. The last objective will
11 include addressing the backlog of properties
12 that will be calendared or have been calendared
13 for decades in a comprehensive manner with
14 stakeholder input. It will also involve taking
15 near term action on recent calenderer districts
16 and individual sites to lay the groundwork for
17 more efficient and predictable designation
18 process in the future. In addition to advancing
19 sites that have been calendared and streamlining
20 the process for future proposals we are
21 committed to address the backlog of inactive
22 items. As you know the proposed plan in December
23 focusing on buildings and areas calendared for
24 more than five years we came up with a proposal
25 and received requests at that time for more time

2 to allow additional stakeholder input. We
3 recently announced a 60 day period in which all
4 interested parties are welcome to submit ideas
5 for addressing the sites included in the list of
6 inactive items. We encourage the council to
7 weigh in on this list to properties as well.
8 After the comment period closes we will analyze
9 the recommendations and by summer we'll find the
10 plan and strategy to address this issue. I will
11 now turn to our preservation department which
12 reviews applications and permits for proposed
13 work to designated properties. Approximately 95
14 percent of the permits are issued at staff level
15 pursuant to agency roles, rules and the other
16 five percent require review by the full
17 commission and public hearing. The commission
18 received 13,233 permits in fiscal year 2014
19 which was an 11 percent increase from fiscal
20 year 2013... 13,174 permits. To date in fiscal
21 year 2015 we have received 8,448 permit
22 applications which is approximately 1.2 percent
23 increase over the same period last fiscal year.
24 And we have issued 8,604 permits which is
25 approximately 1.3 percent increase over the last

2 fiscal year in 2014. To maximize efficiency the
3 commission has created two expedited process
4 including the false track service and the
5 expedited certificates of new effect. These
6 processes rely on the scope of work complying
7 with the agency rules and the submission of all
8 required materials. LPC allocates resources to
9 educate applicants to take advantage of these
10 programs. And approximately 30 percent of our
11 permits are expedited through these processes
12 and are approved in fewer than ten days. We
13 continue look to, for ways to improve the
14 efficiency and increase transparency in the
15 regulatory process. To that end we are currently
16 in the process of improving and expanding the
17 LPC rules to provide more certainty and
18 standards for ministerial staff approvals of
19 permits. This will streamline the process for
20 both, and the applicant as well as staff. We
21 will also be amending the rules to address
22 energy efficiency, sustainability, ADA
23 compliance, and resiliency. In terms of our
24 enforcement wing we work to ensure that the
25 owners of landmarks properties comply with the

2 landmarks law. In fiscal year 2014 the
3 department resolved 874 complaints about
4 potentially illegal work leading to 765 warning
5 letters and 265 notice of violations. Currently
6 in this fiscal year the department has resolved
7 500 complaints so far. These 500 complaints have
8 led to 484 warning letters and 125 notices of
9 violations. I'd like to move on to the community
10 development block grant funding. The commission
11 implements a modest historic preservation grant
12 program targeted for low and moderate income
13 homeowners, homeowners and a 501C3 not-for-
14 profit organizations to help restore repair
15 facades of the landmark buildings. The program
16 has an annual budget of approximately 114
17 thousand dollars... dollars which comes from a CD
18 funds. Our program staff works closely with
19 applicants to assess eligibility and explain how
20 not for profit workers can comply with the
21 program. Our program receives approximately 15
22 complete applications each year. Grants
23 typically range from 9,000 to 24,000 with an
24 average grant of approximately 15,000 dollars.
25 In fiscal year 2014 the program reviewed 14

2 applications and approved, and approved six. In
3 fiscal year 2015 we have received five
4 applications and we have awarded four larger
5 grants including three residential grants and
6 one for a non-profit and they were in the range
7 of 20 thousand to 24 thousand dollars. Once the
8 grant is awarded our staff provides technical
9 assistance to the owners which includes
10 providing documentation to assist in historic
11 restoration including working with contractors
12 to ensure that the work will be done in
13 compliance with the agencies approval and
14 conducting site visits to approve material
15 samples and completed scope of work.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Chair can I ask
17 you to wrap it up please. Thank you. We have
18 the...

19 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Okay, alright.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...testimony.
21 We're, we're referring, we're referring council
22 members the rest of the testimony.

23 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Okay great.

24 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Are you good?
25

2 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: I'm good with
3 that and I'm sure if questions come up I can
4 answer them.

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
6 much we certainly appreciate it. First I'd like
7 to recognize that we've been joined by Council
8 Member Andy Cohen and council Member Corey
9 Johnson. Wanted to get it started today first by
10 recognizing chair that you have done very good
11 work working with this agency. As you know we
12 have a long litany of complaints about the work
13 of the Landmark Preservation Commission. And
14 since you've come in we have seen some
15 significant reforms. We're very appreciative.
16 Just to be clear we're looking for more forms as
17 well and obviously some of that has to do with
18 the backlog and I'm going to allow council
19 member Koo to get us started on that particular
20 issue.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you Mr.
22 Chair. And... Thank you Chair. In February 2015
23 the Landmarks Preservation Commission release
24 request for public input on this need to address
25 the backlog of properties that have been hurt in

2 public hearings but have not been designated or...
3 The commission has asked interested, interested
4 parties to submit input by May 1st, 2015. The
5 commission's backlog includes 95 properties that
6 were placed on the commission's calendar year...
7 on, on, on the calendar, on the commission's
8 calendar prior to 2010 and currently inactive of
9 which 80 were calendar two 20 or more years ago.
10 So can you provide more details on the
11 commission's analysis and review process for
12 these proposals?

13 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Thank you
14 again. Good to see you Council Member Koo. First
15 of all I'd like to say that this agency, myself,
16 are very committed to dealing with this backlog.
17 And as you noted we did come up with a proposal
18 I December. We heard considerable response from
19 various stakeholders who ask for more time. And
20 in response to that we have recently come out
21 with a notice to all stakeholders to comment on,
22 on this... the idea of addressing this backlog. We
23 hope it's going to be a very productive process.
24 We've given them two months. And really the
25 process or the analysis is going to take place

2 after we receive comments in two months. We have
3 staff including one of the positions that our,
4 that our budget is asking for will take the lead
5 in analyzing the recommendations that we receive
6 and looking towards consensus in areas as to how
7 to address this backlog. We're committed to
8 working and reviewing this material over the
9 summer. And hopefully by the end, the end of
10 the summer we'll be able to have a plan and a
11 strategy as we move forward with these
12 properties.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Okay yeah. I
14 recall, I read in the paper there was a police
15 station in Brooklyn that were landmark and you
16 were, years ago you were hand it over to some
17 non-profit organizations but it was under
18 disrepair. So can you give me a status on, on
19 that building, the one the police stayed in, in
20 Sunset Park, somewhere there or...

21 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Yes, I'm going
22 to ask our council to speak to that issue if
23 that's okay. Mark Silverman.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mm.

25 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Yes.

2 MARK SILVERMAN: Mark Silverman, general
3 counsel of Landmarks Commission. The police
4 precinct building in Sunset Park has been
5 subject of a demolition by neglect, sort of
6 actions by the omission for some time. We worked
7 closely with the existing non-profit that had
8 purchased the building in the late 90s, and
9 early 2000s. That, after repeated attempts to
10 get them to address the work they submitted
11 partial plans to try to do that. It became clear
12 they were incapable of doing the work. We
13 continue to pressure them and they have sold the
14 building. And so we have, we have met already
15 with the new purchaser which just purchased the
16 building a few months ago and they are, will be
17 coming back to us to discuss their ideas for the
18 adaptive reuse of these two buildings.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Okay thanks.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Chair
21 Koo. Chair I wanted to ask you about the
22 increase in staff. It's a rather modest
23 increase. You had 68 staffers. You're going to
24 be going up to 70 staffers. The first is just a
25 general question. Do you feel like your staffing

2 levels are enough. And I ask that of course due
3 to the issues that we've had in the past in
4 terms of backlog and obviously it's a relatively
5 small agency considering the amount of
6 properties that you're dealing with.

7 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: I think that
8 having worked with OMB and with this council I
9 know all of you have been very supportive. And I
10 think at this point we do have several vacancies
11 that we're planning to fill in the next couple
12 of months. I think that will help us address any
13 workload issues within the agency. So in general
14 I think that the plan as we've seen and for
15 fiscal year '16 would address our concerns. As
16 you know we are requesting two new positions.
17 The position for the... it's, it's...

18 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Director of
19 Special Projects.

20 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Directors...
21 [cross-talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Is this, is
23 this the person who's going to be in charge of
24 this, the rumor I hear about the great 50th
25 anniversary part that LPC is going to be having?

2 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: I know that,
3 that's, we, we lost that person to take care of
4 that as well.

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: What is this
6 person going to do?

7 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: So the Director
8 of Special Projects and strategic planning I
9 think plays a very critical role. So it's a
10 senior management position it's related very
11 much to our strategic plan. The person will be
12 the lead who will be supervising and managing
13 major projects that the commission is
14 initiating. And this is sort of I think an
15 unusual step for this commission that we're
16 looking at these comprehensive plans as they
17 relate to the city's comprehensive plans as
18 well. So there are several things that they'll
19 be working on. They'll be addressing the backlog
20 and really coming up with a strategy and
21 framework. So that's one thing. The second thing
22 is that as we move forward we are interested in
23 identifying potential designations in areas that
24 are underserved and this would dovetail with the
25 administration's goals of equity and, and

2 transparency and efficiency. So this would allow
3 different communities that have not received the
4 agencies attention. So we'd like to look at that
5 as well.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: That's, so
7 that's something that you identified I think in
8 item one in your testimony.

9 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Yes, exactly.

10 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Let, let me ask
11 you... Yeah, sorry.

12 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: And yes, and
13 the third is that we have, we're embarking on
14 many and we've actually started several
15 interagency initiatives working closely with
16 city planning we're aware and support the
17 mayor's affordable housing program. And I think
18 we're confident that we'd be able to integrate
19 the preservation aspects with growth and
20 development as well. And so this position is
21 going to be overseeing these projects.

22 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Got it. Let me
23 ask you a little bit more about that last item
24 that you just mentioned. So when you're looking
25 at these six neighborhoods are you looking at it

2 from both perspectives, from the perspective of
3 you know if we're trying to rezone this is a
4 historic piece of property that we may need
5 perhaps to have a waiver on as well as perhaps
6 the other perspective which is what do we need
7 to protect so that we're not going to lose a
8 valuable historic piece of property to
9 overdevelopment. It is a dual examination?

10 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: It's, it's
11 actually, I would say it's a dual thing that,
12 but, but initially our approach would be to look
13 at resources which are architectural or
14 historical resources within these areas. We do
15 that as a part of an environmental review but
16 that's sort of more of a general threshold
17 analysis. But in this particular case we think
18 that we can do a much more in depth analysis and
19 I think that in terms of community planning it
20 works to both have preservation opportunities
21 and that be a part of the larger goals of
22 development. So to answer your question I think
23 our approach would be to look at both.

24 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: And also I, I
25 certainly want to congratulate you on the rapid

2 pace. I know the Chester Court was countered,
3 heard, and designated within two months.

4 Certainly a, a significant improvement over the
5 old 50 year process so we're very pleased about
6 that. And to say the least I, I do want to ask
7 you just had a thought and I was curious about
8 this thought and maybe something that your new
9 Director of Special Projects can work on and
10 that is that you know with the multitude of, of
11 designated landmark properties that we have in
12 New York City perhaps there is a way to better
13 integrate or better advise both locals and
14 tourists on these locations and the history of
15 these locations perhaps to do an app or a
16 website or something like that. Is that
17 something that you perhaps thought of in honor
18 of your 50th anniversary? And perhaps we can give
19 this to the Director of Special Projects as
20 well?

21 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: We have in fact
22 embarked on several initiatives that, that
23 relate to what you are asking about. First of
24 all I think the agency is very very committed to
25 educate the public and I think it will enhance

2 appreciation for landmarks in general and I
3 think it'd be good for the city overall. So the
4 50th anniversary is one area that we've seen as
5 an opportunity to do that.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Don't, don't
7 forget the party though. It's very important.

8 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: I know Council
9 Member and you will be the first person invited..
10 [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.
12 Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: And maybe the
14 guest of honor.

15 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...a good party.

16 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: So we have, we
17 have a dedicated website for our 50th anniversary
18 in which we really want to showcase landmarks
19 and historic districts in all the five boroughs.
20 We have partnered with different organizations
21 in those five boroughs in order to allow for low
22 cost or no cost admission. So it's almost like
23 50 landmarks for 50 weeks. So every week we're
24 introducing a particular designation in one of
25 our buildings or neighborhoods and are inviting

2 people to go. As a part of that it would include
3 educational materials so people will be able to
4 understand that as well. We have walking tours
5 and we think that's another area that people can
6 access and will learn... you have walking tours
7 and all kinds of tourist information but I think
8 this one is specific to the historic nature. So
9 I think we see the site as something that will
10 happen the 50th anniversary year but we also see
11 it as ongoing as well.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Great and I
13 also want to, appreciate that you recognize that
14 there are five boroughs...

15 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Yes there are
16 very much five boroughs.

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...in the city of
18 New York because I think the prior chairs have
19 only thought that there was one borough,
20 specifically Manhattan. And I know while Council
21 Member Kallos would seek to make the entire
22 borough of Manhattan a historic district
23 certainly that would be irresponsible and the
24 appreciation that we have five boroughs in the
25 city New York and other boroughs have some

2 things worth for consideration... And in fact I
3 know Council Member Treyger who has joined us
4 has some very strong opinions about Coney Island
5 that he's probably going to share with us
6 shortly. So I just want to recognize that point.
7 It don't... Chair Kallos we'll give you plenty of
8 time for a rebuttal shortly but for now I want
9 to hand over to our Chair Inez Dickens.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you
11 Chairs Greenfield and Koo. And thank you for
12 coming down to give testimony. I want to ask
13 specifically about the Mount Morris Park
14 historic district. Just two quick questions. One
15 is have you met with the owners in the study
16 portion that, for the extension that you're
17 considering? Have you met with those home
18 owners?

19 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Yes we have. I
20 think over the past several years our staff has
21 gone out and had meetings with all the property
22 owners and more recently we have met with the
23 leadership of Mount Morris Park Civic
24 Association as well as the member of the
25 community board. We've committed to advance this

2 particular proposal. We know it's been in the
3 works for some time. And we intend to calendar
4 the public hearing in April and start it on its
5 designation process.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Well the, the,
7 because this extension is in community board 10,
8 not several. So, but the community board I
9 understand is supportive of this.

10 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Yes that's
11 correct.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: But I, I just
13 wanted to ensure because I've called several of
14 the owners because I didn't, was, didn't know
15 about the meetings that you had with the home
16 owners. But in calling some of the home owners
17 I, you know I didn't know whether you had shared
18 with them not only would the, the benefits of it
19 being landmarked in a landmarked district, a
20 historic district but the cost that comes, and
21 if they have to renovate or refurbish or, or
22 replace any of that existing stone whether the
23 cost was, was discussed with them including
24 something like windows where they're unable, if
25 they have existing wooden windows, they can't,

2 the wooden windows you've at least come up with,
3 at least for the Striver's Row for the St.
4 Nicholas historic district I don't know whether
5 that is across the board. You've come up with a
6 new window encasement that allows the home
7 owners to put in, instead of just strictly the
8 wooden which was very porous, allowed a lot of
9 area but the cost is excessive. Was that
10 discussed with the homeowners?

11 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Okay so I can't
12 speak to whether windows in particular was
13 discussed with the home owners. In general when
14 do outreach we try and explain to them what are
15 the implications and the responsibilities
16 associated with landmarks. But I think the other
17 side is that we have a very active staff that
18 works with homeowners who are in designated
19 districts. And I think that clearly some
20 applications... majority of the applications can
21 actually be approved at staff level about five
22 percent will come before the commission. But our
23 staff is available to work with them in terms of
24 addressing issues of window replacements and
25 alternative materials as well. If it comes

2 before the commission I think the commission
3 again recognizes that there may, may be, may be
4 instances when it's appropriate to allow for
5 something that addresses issues of cost. And
6 while strictly speaking it's not a part of our
7 findings. However I think the commission is well
8 aware that different neighborhoods have
9 different needs and beans and we will take that
10 into consideration.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: When you say
12 not a part of your findings what specifically do
13 you mean. Are you referring to the windows? What
14 are you referring to, I'm sorry?

15 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Oh well the,
16 the way that Landmarks Law is drafted and when
17 we are reviewing projects to see if they're
18 appropriate it's really related to the historic...
19 fabric of the, of the neighborhood and its
20 consistency with that. So when you have
21 situations where there may be a change of
22 material the fact that an applicant wants to
23 change the material for cost reasons is not
24 necessarily what the commission has to look at.
25 The commission has to look at whether that

2 change in material is appropriate. And I think
3 there are different ways to make a change of
4 material a substitute material appropriate. And
5 so that's what the commission will work with.
6 And so again our staff leaving aside the
7 commission body itself our staff regularly meets
8 with applicants to try and find solutions. I
9 think in general we try and be a very user
10 friendly group. There's a, you know a huge
11 number of applications that we receive. We
12 recognize that there's an added layer because
13 it's a landmark district and our general
14 approach is to try and get home owners to make
15 the kind of changes they want to in the best
16 possible manner.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Well I
18 appreciate, I know it's a lot of work. I do, the
19 chair is, is, has mentioned his concern about it
20 being a five borough city and not just a one.
21 And unlike Council Member Kallos I welcome them
22 to look at the other four boroughs to become
23 historic districts because I get, in fact I just
24 was given a note from someone in that specific
25 in the Mount Morris Park historic district

2 that's in the study part of the district who was
3 extremely concerned about the cost being
4 prohibitive if she has to replace windows.

5 Because at the Striver's Row which is where I
6 live the homeowners were very concerned because
7 finally the, the, the Landmark Commission did
8 come, thank you so much, into the 20th century as
9 far as the windows was concerned we're looking
10 forward to you coming to the 21st century to, to
11 help with those owners. And when they do have to
12 do things such as replace doors, replace windows
13 to be cognoscente of the excessive course. Is
14 there any program by the way in, in Landmark
15 that assists budgetary wise with homeowners when
16 they have to do a major renovation of their
17 building?

18 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: We do have a
19 grant program which I mentioned during the
20 testimony. It's about 114 thousand dollars and
21 in fact I would say in fiscal year 2014 as well
22 as 2015 there have been a few applicants who
23 have received grants in Mount Morris Park
24 historic district. I just want to say that two
25 issues, one has to do with the windows

2 themselves. So the staff rules do allow
3 replacement windows from wood to aluminum so
4 that's where you can save costs. And that does
5 not have to go before the commission and I think
6 the second issue is that calendaring this
7 historic district is one aspect of the
8 designation process. We have the public hearing
9 process as well and we receive comments and I
10 think that we would like to take that that
11 process much more effective. And so one of the
12 things that we're planning to do moving forward
13 and we actually did with, with the historic
14 district last year which is to provide property
15 owners with a package of information including
16 the descriptions and building entries for each
17 of their properties along with informations like
18 a fact sheet saying what can be done, what is
19 designation..., what are the, the positives and
20 what are the regulatory implications of that as
21 well. And so property owners let's say we had a
22 meeting and someone couldn't show up and miss
23 that we believe that during this public hearing
24 process and the fact that we're proving this
25 pack of of information will inform them and then

2 at the public hearing if they have concerns and
3 depending on where they're located and what
4 those issues are we can take that into
5 consideration when we think about how to
6 designate the district.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you so
8 much for your answers. And by the way why is it
9 that the study was short approximately 40 feet
10 from Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard recess back
11 towards Malcom X Boulevard, is there a reason
12 for that? I don't want you to extend it, I just
13 want to know was there a reason why that 40 feet
14 was omitted?

15 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: We'll do a
16 couple of things. I think that when the
17 commission was approached to look at this area
18 there were are as perhaps boundaries larger than
19 what we have right now. And I think you know
20 the, the agency typically will go out DoITT's
21 researchers identify the building styles and at
22 least a threshold look to see whether they have
23 alternations that are, have taken place. I think
24 it's very commonplace for the commission to then
25 kind of identify what would be a reasonable

2 boundary where they have the most intact
3 buildings that can move forward.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: This, this
5 leaves it off like in the middle of the block
6 almost. That's why I was asking. I'm looking at
7 your map here and so I was wondering it leaves
8 it like in the middle of the block. Was there a
9 reason why that was done or because the
10 buildings on Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard were
11 not, maybe brownstones or limestones is that
12 what the...

13 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Alright there
14 could be a, I, since I don't have the map in
15 front of me there could be a couple of reasons..

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Would you like
17 to see my map?

18 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Yeah actually
19 that'd be great.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Of course I'd
21 be glad to share it with you. That has both the
22 current map as it is...

23 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Chair?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: ...and the..

25 [cross-talk]

2 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Yes okay, yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Chair can I ask
4 you a question? If you don't mind in the
5 interest of, in the interest of, of time is it
6 okay if we allow the commission to get back to
7 you in writing on that particular question?
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: We can reach
10 out to you directly.

11 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: We, and then as
12 a thank you, thank you chair, do you have any
13 other questions?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: No I, I think
15 you I just wanted to get that on the record.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Ad so as is our
19 practice in fact we're going to have it, we're
20 going to put every other member aside where the
21 chairs are on a five minute clock. And we're
22 going to start the clock early because Council
23 Member Kallos is about to start. And so before..
24 I'm, I'm teasing but the other, the other
25 practice that we have is that if you one at a

2 time just ask a question on the record and the
3 question will in fact be sent to you and then we
4 hope to get a response in those questions. I'm
5 going to ask Chair Kallos to ask his questions
6 followed by Chair Johnson. Chair Kallos I just
7 have one question before you start. What is your
8 twitter handle?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: My twitter
10 handle is at Ben Kallos. Thanks for asking.

11 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Excellent. I'm
12 at NYC Greenfield. And then please by all means.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you for
14 any of those watching this. Please feel free to
15 join in the conversation with me at Ben Kallos
16 or at NYC Greenfield depending on which side of
17 the landmarks you're on. And please do be sure
18 to use hashtag landmarks. And so I, I do join
19 with my colleague Inez Dickens in saying that we
20 are in favor of equity and making sure that we
21 landmark all five boroughs together. That, that
22 being said in all seriousness not so much land
23 marking all of Manhattan but preserving what we
24 do have landmarked earlier this year there was a
25 proposed D calendaring and so I wanted to ask is

2 there currently any plan to have another D
3 calendaring in mass?

4 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Alright we did
5 put that on hold and I think one of the things I
6 was referring to earlier is that we, it's, right
7 now we have a comment period. We've asked
8 stakeholders to provide their input. And that
9 goes on till March first and after that the
10 agency will take in all those comments, look for
11 consensus, and come up with a plan and, probably
12 by the end of the summer. So the plan, I suspect
13 the plan is going to be much more nuance than
14 what we initially planned.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Right now we're
16 in the budget hearing. You made a very modest
17 request for additional staff... Why isn't LPC or
18 you putting in a request for more staff or
19 temporary staff in order to get through the
20 calendar backlog so that every single landmark
21 that has been calendared can be appropriately
22 reviewed and addressed. We've got, we've got a
23 great chair and our, our landmarks Chair Koo
24 we're happy to go through hundreds if not
25 thousands of landmarks with you and get them all

2 voted through and approved. So I guess why not
3 ask for additional resources now as part of the
4 budget?

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: No, no, no I'm
6 not happy to do that just for the record.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I, I was
8 speaking to our landmarks chair Koo and we've
9 got a lot on the calendar, why not follow the
10 due process that was associated with them when
11 they were calendared.

12 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Alright. I
13 think, I guess there were a couple of things.
14 One is it's always good to have more resources
15 than that could take part of it. But I think
16 there's some recognition that in fact these
17 buildings have been inactive for a period of
18 time and there's a reason for that. I think that
19 it's not just the resources of the staff, it's
20 the resources of the commission as well. We have
21 volunteer commission and it has, we have a
22 significant amount of work load. And every
23 calendar or public hearing that we have is full.
24 So I think we're, we recognize that there may be
25 buildings within that group that should proceed

2 and be designated but I think we'd first like to
3 find out what this framework is that would work
4 and then if we need additional resources. Then
5 at that time we'd be asking for them.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: So, so within
7 the comment period at this, may this serve as my
8 official comment that I'd like you to bring on
9 the appropriate staffing so that each and every
10 calendared item is actually reviewed
11 appropriately and voted on by the body versus
12 just an N mass de-calendaring?

13 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: If you would
14 like to put that on record yes I, I understand
15 that.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Perfect. Thank
17 you. And then well I, I'm friendly to all of my
18 colleagues who may wish to bring Landmarks of
19 preservation into their district. I am
20 particularly concerned about my district. We, I,
21 I grew up in Yorkville. My grandparents came
22 over from Hungary when they were fleeing anti-
23 Semitism in pre-war Europe and luckily they are
24 the ones who survived and that's why I'm here.
25 And so the upper east side, some people know it

2 as one thing... the portion I represent from
3 second avenue and over is known as Yorkville. It
4 was settled by Germans and Hungarians. And we
5 have a lot of these six-story brownstones all
6 over the place and walkups with rent regulated
7 apartments where a lot of seniors live, a lot of
8 people who speak German and Hungarian live and
9 we'd really love to see that area landmarked.
10 I'm quite jealous of the Park Avenue historic
11 district, would love to have a Yorkville
12 historic district so that we can have some ties
13 to the landmarks that made our neighborhood what
14 it is today.

15 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: We can take a
16 look at that.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you very
18 much. Turn it back to our chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.
20 Council Member Johnson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you Chair
22 Greenfield, thank you Chair Koo. It's good to
23 see you commissioner.

24 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Council Member.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: So I wanted to
3 just dig a little bit more into the De-
4 calendaring.

5 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Okay.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Why was that
7 decision made and then why was it pulled back?
8 What, what, what made LPC decide you know this
9 isn't the right move. We actually want to change
10 course a little bit and pull it back. Why did
11 you all decide that?

12 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Alright. I
13 think that the original proposal that we would
14 put, we put forward was really an administrative
15 action. It was something that the commission had
16 done before but not for the last 20 years. And
17 we were looking at a group of properties that as
18 noted before 85 percent of them had not been
19 active for 20 years. So our proposal was to take
20 them off the list through an administrative
21 action by the commission but allowing them the
22 possibility of coming back if they became a
23 priority. We heard a lot of concerns about that.
24 And for that reason we decided to pull back.
25 There are different ways of approaching this.

2 And it wasn't the face that people would like
3 us, would like additional time to look at this
4 that we decided that we could wait. There was no
5 hard and fast period that we had to do it in
6 December so the idea of stepping back seemed
7 reasonable.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: That's helpful
9 to hear. I, I'm glad you made the decision to
10 figure out a common period to take further
11 feedback, to understand which sites actually
12 should may be given closer attention and greater
13 look at, to... And I would just say that as this
14 comment period comes to a close I think it would
15 be helpful for LPC staff to reach out to
16 individual council members to talk about...

17 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: I think we can
18 definitely do that. And we'll keep you informed
19 about what happens on May 1st and what kind of
20 feedback they... and then as we move forward with
21 analyzing that information.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And I would
23 hope that it's just not a presentation of this
24 is what we're going to do but actually a
25 conversation about here are the identified

2 properties, what are you hearing from your
3 community, what expertise do you have that, you
4 know that may be helpful to us.

5 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Absolutely. I
6 think there's no problem with that, we can do
7 that.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: So you know you
9 and I are, have plans to get together to talk
10 about the south village which I look forward to
11 doing. It's very important to me. I'm really
12 grateful that LPC was able to designate phase
13 two of the south village last year and the
14 council voted on it. I, I wanted to see when,
15 when you and I met last year we talked a little
16 bit about cultural landmarks and looking at
17 cultural landmarks. There have been a
18 significant number as I told you before of sites
19 that were historic for the LGBT community in
20 Greenwich Village and in other places that were
21 lost because they did not have any protection.
22 The, the Department of the Interior has been
23 doing a survey to look at historic sites in New
24 York City and across the country. I wanted to
25 see if you had any update on what LPC is doing

2 on culturally significant sites and what
3 protections could be put in place to save some
4 of these sites before we lose more of them.

5 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Alright. I
6 think that when we do look at potential
7 designations we do take into consideration the
8 counselor history as well. It is an interesting
9 question for the commission in terms of a
10 building which is culturally significant but not
11 architecturally significant. And what would it
12 mean for the commission to regulate those
13 buildings? Because whatever we designate comes
14 before us. What we've done up till now is that
15 at least more recently when we've been doing our
16 research for designated historic districts we've
17 been very very focused on ensuring that the
18 cultural history is also included. So the more
19 recent reports that you'll see for example in
20 the South Village or in Bedford Stuyvesant or in
21 the east village we will incorporate that within
22 our reports. We have situations where reports
23 were already drafted 40 years ago and there's
24 been overlays since then of cultural
25 significance and I think one of the challenges

2 that we continue to look at to see how can that
3 be recognized in different ways.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Can those
5 reports be amended?

6 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Well we have
7 thought about that and we were also thinking
8 about what would be the process for a mandate
9 whether it's something that could be done in a
10 more simple manner or is it something that has
11 to go before the commission. It's one, it's one
12 of the things that we're looking at.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And when will
14 you have an answer on that? When, when will
15 there be an actual thought out policy on, that
16 you're ready to announce on what's going to be
17 done in these places?

18 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Well I know
19 that we have a very full agenda right now. But
20 we can try and, I, I can't give you a timing
21 right now but we have to sort of see how it fits
22 in with the priorities but we will look at it.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Well ask, as
24 Council Member that represents a district with a
25 significant amount of landmark properties and

2 different historic districts in both the south
3 village, Greenwich village, west Chelsea, I am
4 grateful to have landmarks. And I want more
5 landmarks. So I am all into preservation and I
6 look forward to working together with you on
7 more individual properties and more districts. I
8 look forward to getting together I think next
9 week. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: ...next week.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

13 Council Member Cohen to be followed by Council
14 Member Treyger.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you Chair
16 Greenfield. Welcome Chair.

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Oh, oh sorry,
18 sorry Council Member Cohen was first. Apologies.
19 We're going to get to Coney Island I promise.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I would, I would
21 have been, I would have gladly deferred but...
22 Thank you Chairs Greenfield. Thank you Chairs
23 Koo. Thank you for your testimony. I will say as
24 a Council Member who represent the district
25 outside of the borough of Manhattan and has a

2 significant historic district that careful what
3 you wish for everybody. I also have a question
4 regarding the, the calendaring. Just, you
5 described items on the calendar as inactive. I
6 want to know why a item would be inactive if, if
7 people are, if there, if no one is aggrieved by
8 that what is the status of an item that is
9 inactive on the calendar. What are the
10 implications of that?

11 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: The
12 implications are that essentially they are, they
13 have, so if you're talking about buildings or
14 districts that are so-called inactive and, and
15 haven't, they're not... our agenda in the last 20
16 years it means that either there hasn't been
17 support, there hasn't been clearly interest
18 which is asking us to take a look at it and take
19 it to fruition and it's been kept aside and that
20 with changes of administration they haven't gone
21 back to that list and say okay fine we want to
22 move these forward. So I think inactive is just
23 a reflection of the practice by the... not only
24 the agency but constituents as well. So I don't
25 know if that answers your question but I think

2 it's a suggestive recognition of the fact that
3 these have been languishing without much
4 interest by the overall community and moving
5 them forward. If there was then I think the
6 commission would have picked that up and moved
7 it forward.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I mean my own
9 experience you know is that, if, if there is
10 somebody who's asking for a hearing they
11 generally speak and get a hearing relatively
12 promptly. What is the normal rate for a hearing
13 if, if I want to modify a project or, or do with
14 some action in, in a landmark district?

15 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Alright well I
16 think the designation process for individual or
17 historic districts has, is, there's several
18 stages so we received requests for members of
19 the public through a request for evaluation
20 proposal. So we look at that and see if it has
21 merit. We do surveys all the time and in fact
22 our agenda right now is to many surveys in all
23 the other boroughs and those which relate to
24 rezonings. And we get requests from council
25 members and community boards. So we take a look

2 at all this and then we try and prioritize it.
3 Once we have sort of identified that something
4 should move forward then we will start the
5 designation process which includes doing more
6 research, and doing a significant amount of
7 outreach. So if we're, if agency has identified
8 something that it wants to advance then we do
9 the outreach to either a group of homeowners in
10 the historic district or individual property
11 owners. And usually during that same period we
12 would reach out to the council members as well.
13 Then there's the process itself which is it
14 goes, it's calendared, we have a public gearing
15 and then it goes towards designation. So
16 several, the several pieces of work that is done
17 prior to entering into the designation process,
18 I know the designation process itself is several
19 mind stones, milestones that have to be met.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I, I guess just
21 the way I read it in, in the media it sounds
22 like you know people are not getting due
23 process. But it doesn't exactly I think as a
24 practical matter that's not really the case
25

2 because nobody seems to care about these items
3 on the, that's why they're inactive. Is that...

4 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: It, it has not
5 been in the consciousness of people until I
6 think now when we had been talking about it now
7 of course people are looking at those buildings
8 again.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. The
11 moment you've all waited for. Council Member
12 Mark Treyger of Coney Island Brooklyn.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I, I, I get
14 double the time right chair? No. Welcome, thank
15 you chair and welcome chair as well. So I think
16 it's pretty well known that we, we, we've, my
17 office did send a letter asking for the
18 designation of a scenic landmark status for the
19 Coney Island Boardwalk. And I'll say even though
20 the letter was not signed by you I will say that
21 I, as a, as a history person, as, as someone who
22 taught history I found the letter to be actually
23 insulting and, an very offensive and I'll tell
24 you why chair. First of all there's like a
25 boiler plate template letter, couple of

2 paragraphs along. And the two main points in it
3 I'd like to, the two main points I heard against
4 the designation were number one that the,
5 according to your, to your commission that the
6 most significant period of Coney Island's
7 history predates the boardwalk and the second
8 point was that the, the structure has been
9 altered and changed over the course of decades.
10 I'd like to address both points first. And this
11 is, I worked with a Coney Island historian,
12 Charles Denson who you might know who is an
13 incredible asset in our community. He says I
14 find their quote about the most important period
15 of significance prior to the boardwalk extremely
16 troubling. Coney Island's beach was private
17 before the boardwalk was built. Coney became the
18 people's playground only after the city bought
19 the beach front and turned it over to the
20 public. This act was incredibly significant,
21 maybe the most important ever event ever in its
22 entire history. Remember Jews were not allowed
23 to stay at hotels in the east end. And African
24 American's were required to bathe in separate
25 bathe houses. The boardwalk was a liberating

2 event and changed all that forever, a momentous
3 event in the history of not just Coney Island
4 but of New York City. The second point about the
5 structure that was altered and changed. Other
6 scenic landmarks if I'm correct Prospect Park
7 Central Park, prospect and central park have
8 been altered many times. Roads that were
9 cobblestone were paved. Ice rinks were built in
10 both. The metropolitan museum recently expanded
11 into the park and restaurants were built, ball
12 fields added and, and removed. Eastern Parkway
13 and Ocean Parkway were originally unpaved and
14 had been repaved many times with difference
15 surfaces. Ocean Parkway also had its bridle path
16 removed, bike paths added, and was connected to
17 Prospect Expressway significantly altering its
18 connection to Prospect Park. The type of wood on
19 the boardwalk should not be the issue. So
20 clearly there has been, there have been
21 alterations made to other structures and other
22 scenic landmarks during the course of their
23 history just like what's happened to the
24 boardwalk. And that is a jewel in Southern
25 Brooklyn that has welcomed commute, our

2 community. It has shaped the development of
3 Southern Brooklyn. It has been a liberating
4 experience for many immigrants all particularly
5 from the eastern, eastern Europe, eastern Europe
6 who came to, to Brighton Beach and to Coney
7 Island where they left behind tyranny and
8 oppression to find this liberating experience of
9 warm water access and a beautiful structure
10 that, that they enjoy. And I again gave you the
11 two points that I raised in the beginning. I'd
12 like to hear your response chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Alright I'm
14 going to take the second point first which is
15 about the level of ultration [phonetic]. It is a
16 standard that we use. And I think one has to
17 look at this sort of comprehensively which is
18 yes there may be changes and other scenic
19 landmarks which is prospect park and central
20 park, paving. We look at it in, in terms of how
21 much alteration has taken place vis-a-vis the
22 entire area that's being looked at. So my
23 understanding of this is that the materials have
24 changed and if that's really what is required to
25 be protective then there may be some dissidence

2 with the criteria that we use. You may not agree
3 with it but the criteria that we use for
4 identifying whether something should be
5 designated. The second issue about historically
6 and what, what is the significance of this, of
7 this, of the boardwalk. I think that's an area
8 which is based on research. So if the commission
9 or our staff receives new information which
10 identifies a different way of looking at it then
11 our researches will take a look at it. Sometimes
12 we're responding to a, a particular request
13 which is limited in terms of the information
14 that they provide us and then we do our research
15 in our best efforts. Often we may get historians
16 who will come in and give us more information
17 and then I think the research department will
18 take a look at that.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: so which
20 historians did you consult with to discuss this
21 boardwalk because they completely... [beeping] The
22 people's playground known as Coney Island became
23 the people's playground after it became a public
24 beach. Prior to that I, I told you before there
25 was segregation... had access to this waterfront.

2 So the, the boardwalk in many, in many ways was
3 like the stamp of liberty and integration for
4 that community in accessibility and
5 affordability. So I would argue that it is a,
6 incredible, incredible historically significant
7 thing built post World War 1 in the roaring 20s.
8 So I, I'm a history person. I would love to
9 speak to people what, that you consulted with
10 come on down to Coney Island. I would gladly
11 discuss. But number two I chair I'll
12 respectfully disagree Prospect Park, Central
13 Park, Ocean Parkway, Eastern Parkway have been
14 altered many times, materials... Ocean Parkway was
15 made of wood, of, of dirt and rocks. And now
16 it's, and now it's, it's a parkway. And the
17 boardwalk yes it's going through some, some
18 modifications which we're trying to also
19 address. To us we're trying to preserve the
20 structure. So I'd really like to follow up with
21 you about this and not have the door closed. Is
22 that fair?

23 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: That's fair.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
3 Council Member Treyger. Thank you Chair

4 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: and with that I will
5 remind colleagues if you have any other
6 questions that have been unanswered please give
7 them to committee council. We will send the
8 letter to the chair, I'm sure we will get a
9 prompt reply. We appreciate your testimony. And
10 with that we will take a two minute break before
11 starting the next portion of this hearing which
12 is the Department of City Planning. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Thank you
14 Committee and Chair Greenfield.

15 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. Good
16 afternoon. We now continue the Land Use
17 preliminary budget hearing. We are co-chairing
18 this portion of the hearing with Committee Chair
19 Mark Weprin. Thank you Council Member Weprin.
20 And I also want to recognize that we are joined
21 by Council Member Cohen. This is always the most
22 entertaining part of our preliminary budget
23 because nobody ever asks the chair any budget
24 related questions. So fair heads up Mr.
25 Chairman. Department of City Planning for those

2 of you watching at home promotes housing
3 production and affordability as well as
4 fostering economic development and coordinating
5 investments to support resilient and sustainable
6 communities across New York City. DCP in
7 conjunction with city planning, commission
8 review over 500 land use applications annually
9 overseeing actions for zoning changes,
10 dispositions of city property. Preliminary
11 report of FY 2016 provides for several new
12 initiatives including some moving related
13 expenses for a new office in lower Manhattan
14 funding for adjustment for HUD's community
15 development block grant, a head count increase,
16 new needs for a collective bargain increase and
17 proposals projects to promote housing and
18 economic opportunities with carter studies and
19 rezonings. Before we begin I'd like to once
20 again thank the finance and land use staff for
21 the diligent preparation. I want to also
22 recognize that we have a lot of work done by our
23 subcommittee chairs and of course that's Chair
24 Inez Dickens, Chair Peter Koo, and Chair Mark
25 Weprin who we already recognized and I want to

2 thank you Mr. Chairman Carl Weisbrod for joining
3 us this afternoon whenever you're ready.

4 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Thank you very
5 much Chair Greenfield and chairs, subcommittee
6 chairs Weprin and Dickens and Council Member
7 Cohen and other council members who may be
8 joining us. I just want to introduce to you the
9 leadership team at city planning on my left
10 Purnima Kapur who I don't think needs any
11 introduction to any of you our distinguished
12 executive director on my... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Is, she's
14 infamous.

15 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Infamous and
16 distinguished which is a great combination. On,
17 on my right Anita Laremont our general council
18 who is also distinguished and comes to us after
19 a, a long and distinguished career as general
20 counsel of the state, Empire State Development
21 Corporation and a partner in a private law firm.
22 And on my far left Jon Kaufman who is our Chief
23 operating officer and comes to us from Bain and
24 Company where he was a partner. I thank you for
25 the opportunity to be here today to discuss the

2 Department of City Planning's preliminary fiscal
3 year 2016 budget. The Department began FY 2015
4 with an expense budget appropriation of 28.4
5 million dollars which consisted of 52 percent or
6 14.8 million in tax levy funds and 48 percent or
7 13.6 million in federal and other funds. Of this
8 20.3 million or 71 percent of the total budget
9 is allocated for personal services and supports
10 salaries of 262 full time staff and 12 members
11 of the city planning commission itself. For the
12 full time staff 88 are tax levy funded, 174 are
13 funded by federal and other grants. The balance
14 of the total budget 8.1 million or 20 million
15 percent of the total is allocated to OTPS. Since
16 adoption the Department has undergone two modest
17 financial plan changes pursuant to direction
18 from OMB. First as in the past due to staggered
19 federal city and state budget cycles the FY 2015
20 budget at adoption reflects only a portion of
21 the anticipated total federal and state grant
22 funding for the fiscal year. As part of the
23 November financial plan the department's federal
24 and state grants budget was updated to include
25 3.4 million in funding along with 20 positions

2 bringing the agencies active full time headcount
3 to 282. The majority of this funding came from
4 the federal community development block grant
5 disaster recovery funding which allowed the
6 department to increase headcount by 18
7 positions. The department also received 926
8 thousand dollars to cover collective bargaining
9 increases. Second the January plan decreases the
10 department's FY 2015 OTPS budget by 3.4 million
11 and reallocates that funding to the out years.
12 3.1 million in funding was at, that was included
13 in the FY 2015 plan to pay for rent for the
14 department to relocate its office space from 22
15 reed street that's been reallocated to FY 2016
16 and beyond to reflect our updated moving
17 timeframe which I'll discuss in a minute.
18 Additionally 300 thousand dollars of unspent
19 training funds were rolled over to the out years
20 when it will be needed. As a result of these
21 changes in the February financial plan the
22 department's FY 2016 preliminary budget calls
23 for a total allocation of 29.9 million dollars,
24 tax levy funds constitute 49.2 percent or 14.7
25 million of the proposed budget while federal

2 funds constitute 50.8 percent or 15.2 million of
3 the proposed budget. And this provides a 280
4 budgeted staff ADA tax levy positions at 192
5 federally funded positions. The department has
6 been and continues to be successful in winning
7 grants to fund important projects for the city
8 of New York. The department has been and
9 continues to be successful in winning grants.
10 Currently the department is working on five
11 competitive grants that fund a wide variety of
12 planning efforts at DCP including transportation
13 and congestion studies as with mitigation and
14 waterfront planning. We are also engaged in
15 resiliency efforts funded through a special
16 grant to the city of community development block
17 grant disaster recovery funding in total grants
18 account for six million plus in FY 2015. Of that
19 total two and a half million is related to
20 CDBGDR funding. All of the grants are included
21 in our FY 2015 budget. On the revenue side the
22 department is projecting 1.7 million to be
23 realized in FY 2015 from income generated by
24 ULERP and seeker application fees as well as
25 revenue from publication and subscription sales.

2 These from ULERP and seeker applications
3 represent 95 percent or 1.6 million of total
4 projected revenue. As I testified last year the
5 department has been working with DCAS and OMB to
6 complete our move out of 22 Reed Street. DCAS
7 has determined that the condition of the
8 department's headquarters is deplorable and
9 anyone who's been there I think will attest to
10 that. And it is critical for the department to
11 relocate to acceptable offices as soon as
12 possible. DCAS had planned to move the
13 department to the municipal building at 1 Center
14 Street. However lack of adequate space forced
15 DCAS to seek out alternatives. With all of this
16 in mind DCAS recently advanced an application to
17 lease privately owned office space at 120
18 Broadway. As you're aware the City Planning
19 Commission holds multiple meetings and hearings
20 monthly that members of the public attend and
21 where they often testify. DCAS has determined
22 that this new location is unique in that it
23 provides publically accessible space for our
24 commission meetings and for other agencies that
25 are likely to use the hearing room including the

2 Board of Standards and Appeals and the Mayor's
3 Office of Contract Services. This space has
4 doubled the capacity, will double the capacity
5 of our hearing room at 22 Reed Street. 120
6 Broadway is also currently the home of both
7 public entities and non-for-profit organizations
8 and has superior transit access. And we hope to
9 execute a lease there in the near future. And
10 now Mr. Chairman rather than read the remainder
11 of my testimony we've all of you and the
12 committee the opportunity to ask us questions. I
13 will just submit the rest of my testimony and
14 allow you to question us and our hopes, our
15 dreams, and our nightmares.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. I...
17 hear about your nightmares actually. But we, we
18 appreciate your testimony, we appreciate the
19 opportunity to ask questions. I'll, I'll, I'll
20 start us off with just one question and then
21 I'll pass it off to Co-chair Mark Weprin. So you
22 know when, when we chatted last year the, the
23 timing for getting these new neighborhoods to,
24 both certified on your end and to us in the city
25 council was around this time this year. And

2 obviously that's, that's not happening. So my
3 question is really two fold. What has been the
4 challenge from your perspective with these six
5 neighborhoods but specifically focusing on the
6 first neighborhood for inclusionary zoning which
7 is East New York? And are you concerned that the
8 delay in timing will impact your goal of
9 creating and preserving 200 thousand units of
10 affordable housing?

11 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well I, I believe
12 when I testified last year I, I didn't commit to
13 a particular period of time when these various
14 neighborhood studies would result in, in formal
15 applications. But I did say we wanted to get
16 these studies underway as soon as possible. When
17 I was here last year I believe we had identified
18 just one neighborhood which is east New York now
19 we've identified six neighborhoods where we are
20 undertaking zoning studies, at least one in each
21 borough and we will have several more in the
22 weeks and months to come. I would say that we
23 want to work and made a commitment when I was
24 here last year that we wanted to work very very
25 closely with communities and with members of the

2 council. And so before we announced an area
3 where we are undertaking a study we do talk to
4 the council member or members who are
5 responsible and who, whose jurisdiction those
6 neighborhoods are so that they fully understand
7 what we're about to embark on. And then we work
8 as closely as we can with, with every community
9 and, and certainly that's been the case in east
10 New York and continues to be the case in each
11 New York. We do anticipate that east New York
12 will be a formally certified into the ULERP
13 process this spring and other neighborhoods will
14 follow. But rather than put a specific time
15 limit on it we want to make sure that we are
16 working as closely as we can with both you as
17 members of the city council and other elected
18 officials and, and with the neighborhoods
19 themselves.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: And we
21 certainly appreciate that and we commend you for
22 that quite frankly. So thank you very much. I'm
23 just curious about whether the, the fact that it
24 is taking a significant amount of time will in
25 fact have an impact on the projections of the

2 amount of both new housing which I believe the
3 mayor announced that he had a, a goal of
4 creating overall housing within the city at his
5 state of the city and also the mayor's
6 previously announced goal of building
7 specifically 80 thousand new units over 10
8 years.

9 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I certainly hope
10 it will not. We would like to move these
11 obviously as expeditiously as possible but there
12 is a balance here between moving expeditiously
13 on the one hand and engaging with communities on
14 the other hand and we are, we believe we're
15 striking that appropriate balance. I, I will say
16 that a large part of the Mayor's plan as you
17 know is both to preserve 120 thousand units of
18 housing and to some extent, to a large extent
19 that can go forward separate and apart from,
20 from our rezoning efforts and our neighborhood
21 development efforts. And in fact as they move
22 forward and, and take hold in communities I
23 think it, it, it makes it somewhat easier for us
24 to achieve our, our, our neighborhood planning
25 and community development goals as, as

2 communities appreciate that, what we're trying
3 to do is, is keep and preserve the existing
4 affordable housing and keep, and keep
5 communities and people who live in those
6 communities in place.

7 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. I
8 will pass it over to co-chair Mark Weprin to be
9 followed by Chair Dickens.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you Mr.
11 Chair. Mr. Weisbrod nice to see you and nice to
12 see you all. So when, when are you moving to 120
13 Broadway? What's the...

14 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I'm sorry?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: What's the
16 status of the move to 120 Broadway?

17 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well that's,
18 that, that is in the hands of our sister agency
19 DCAS who, which, our lease has not yet been
20 signed but it's been approved and I think I can
21 speak for everyone at city planning as well as
22 people who from time to time visit us that it
23 can't happen soon enough.

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Right do you
3 expect six months, two months, eight months, a
4 year, you don't know?

5 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I, I, I, I will
6 say this, that if it doesn't happen before next
7 winter we're going to see a lot of people in the
8 infirmary next year so...

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay duly noted.
10 Okay. So I know Chair Greenfield talked about
11 the, the, the different, the six, the five areas
12 you mentioned in different boroughs. And what,
13 where does the, what is the line up for that
14 right now? How, what do we see happening first
15 and what is the status. I know there's been
16 meetings in east New York but is that the first
17 big project coming down east New York and what
18 is the status of that?

19 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yeah east New
20 York is, we've been working in east New York for
21 some time now. And as I indicated I do
22 anticipate that we will be entering the formal
23 ULERP process this spring.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: This spring?
25 [cross-talk] first couple months?

2 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yes. And that on,
3 on the others I think we are not 100 percent
4 certain yet what the specific target dates are.
5 I believed I testified. Here a few months ago
6 an, an oversight hearing saying that the typical
7 area wide land use process generally takes
8 between two and three years depending on the
9 complexity of them and you know I, I don't, I
10 don't have to, to tell anyone on this committee
11 that there is, and it's been obvious in, in the
12 press that there is a, a great deal of wariness
13 about rezonings in neighborhoods. I think we
14 have a lot of work to do in every community to
15 A, assure that we want to protect the tenants
16 and residents in place, B, that as neighborhoods
17 change they're changing for the better and they
18 are accompanied by the kinds of public
19 investments that are crucial to neighborhood
20 growth and that the quality of life for the
21 people who are living in these neighborhoods is
22 going to get better. And that has historically
23 not always been the case and it's important for
24 us to make sure that is the case now. And that's
25 one of the reasons why we're working so closely

2 with communities. It's not an easy process.

3 There are lots of different points of view and
4 there's a lot of wariness but, but that's our
5 goal.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: So east New York
7 is first going to be certified hopefully in the
8 next couple of months. Do we know what's next
9 that when you say it takes two to three years
10 has the clock started on any of those other
11 projects, are you building..

12 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well the clock,
13 the clock is..

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: ...the work you've
15 done already.. [cross-talk] time.

16 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: The clock is
17 started on all of those five neighborhoods and
18 we'll start on others as, as, as we announce
19 them. And the first step is always engaging with
20 the communities after, after alerting and
21 working with the elected officials, particularly
22 the council members in these neighborhoods,
23 working with communities, understanding what
24 their needs are, identifying the various public
25 investments that have to be made, beginning the

2 formal environmental review process, all of
3 which has to be undertaken before we enter into
4 the formal land use certification process which
5 formally starts ULERP as you know.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Let me ask
7 another question. Because this comes up a lot in
8 my neighborhood. I have a lot of different
9 ethnic communities and it comes up in all of
10 them. The idea of senior housing... is there talk
11 about making senior housing a part of those 80
12 thousand units that you're talking about
13 building for affordable housing and if so what
14 exactly are the efforts to help build senior
15 housing in this city?

16 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well indeed there
17 is more than talk about the importance of senior
18 housing over the next 25 years the senior
19 population in the city is going to grow we
20 project by 40 percent. So, so senior housing is
21 a, a major goal and speaking for myself I would,
22 I've, I've strongly want to see senior housing..

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: You want to be
24 roommates?
25

2 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: ...plentiful for me
3 and my friends. The, the mayor's housing plan
4 assumed and projected that of the 80 thousand
5 new units of affordable housing, I think 10
6 thousand of them would be for seniors. So senior
7 housing is definitely part of, of the housing
8 plan. But beyond that we have recently proposed
9 a series of text amendments that are
10 particularly focused on senior housing and in
11 making senior housing less expensive to build
12 removing some of the barriers to a range of new
13 models of senior housing we recognize that New
14 York City is gotten an acute shortage of nursing
15 home beds. And we, we are literally now in the,
16 in the process of speaking to communities
17 throughout the city about these text amendments
18 that will we believe greatly reduce the cost of
19 senior housing, increase the range of
20 possibilities for senior housing, recognizing
21 that seniors today are, are very, have a very
22 broad range of needs ranging from minimal to
23 quite extensive and.. so that's a very important
24 goal for us.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Mm-hmm. Because
3 it, it is something I do hear about a lot. I'd
4 like to see us advocate more. It's not something
5 I've seen a lot of in my time here where we push
6 for affordable housing rarely has it been where
7 we designated some for senior housing. So I, I
8 just was curious obviously.. believe in. I
9 haven't seen it yet. I don't, I don't even know
10 what it's going to, how it, what it looks like.
11 I mean is it, is it something that has to be
12 done different. Is it something, does it need a,
13 a change in law or is it just something that
14 when we do a development, when you certify a
15 development you know you're, you're trying to
16 get developers to put up front 20 percent
17 affordable housing might you at that point say
18 and we want to make sure five percent of that is
19 senior housing or all of it for that matter?

20 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well I, I think
21 it's, it's a, a variety of, of those things.
22 It's all of those, all the strategies that you
23 mentioned really. There are you know seniors
24 that live in housing where people of all sorts
25 of ages live in. There are seniors who need

2 exclusive senior housing, affordable senior
3 housing because many seniors don't, are living
4 on fixed incomes and, and don't have the means
5 to, to, to pay for market rate units. And one of
6 the things that we're proposing is reducing the
7 minimum size of senior units reflecting the fact
8 that, that seniors frequently live alone or with
9 perhaps with one other person. Two, removing
10 density requirements so that we can have more
11 units in the same amount of allowable
12 development. Three, reducing parking
13 requirements so that affordable housing is less
14 expensive to build. Our analysis has shown that
15 seniors who qualified for affordable housing
16 have a very very low incidence of car ownership,
17 particularly those living close to mass transit.
18 So all of these are part of our, of our effort
19 to reduce the cost of senior housing and
20 concentrate on this population that is, is
21 growing very rapidly.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Great. Well
23 alright I'm going to let other people I know
24 have questions. But I would love to be more
25 involved in this issue as it comes forward. I

2 think senior housing should be a priority and as
3 long as you're willing to include that as part
4 of the 80 thousand and that's great that you
5 have an incentive to make sure we build these. I
6 think there's a lot of issues that the seniors
7 have whether it's accessibility and other things
8 that need to be done. But it's an issue that
9 comes up all the time and I think it would be a
10 great issue for the mayor to undertake and for
11 you to work with and I'd be happy to help anyway
12 I can because I do think it's an important issue
13 for the city and the future of the city. [cross-
14 talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Thank you. And,
16 and I will say our, our proposed housing text
17 amendments are now on the city planning website.
18 I urge you to take a look at those proposals.
19 We'd be happy to discuss them with you and, and
20 every member of the committee and meet all
21 council members in detail the, we've discussed
22 them with the staff of the land use committee
23 and I think it, we believe it really addresses
24 this, this acute, acute challenge.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay thank you.

3 Thank you Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I have one
5 quick follow-up question before I turn it over
6 to Chair Dickens. Thank you Chair Weprin. And
7 that is you had a, a brief discussion about
8 infrastructure and other investments that would
9 be made in these neighborhoods. Can you give us
10 some details on your role in preparing for the
11 preliminary ten year capital plan and how you
12 develop those priorities in terms of possible
13 capital spending.

14 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yes we've been
15 working with the office of management and budget
16 on the ten year capital plan obviously OMB is
17 aware of the neighborhoods that we are working
18 in. We don't yet have very very specific
19 identify projects in any of these neighborhoods
20 because a little bit in, in east New York. But
21 in most of these neighborhoods they are just
22 being elicited now. So the goal in the ten year
23 capital plan is to assure that there will be
24 funds available as needs are identified. And
25 then the, to be, to be most importantly to be

2 sure that those investments are made at the
3 proper time, not ten years after. It's, this is
4 certainly affects issues like schools and open
5 space and, and, and transit, street
6 beautification, and related activities, so this
7 has been a, a much more open and different
8 process with OMB. And, and I should say also
9 very much in collaboration with our sister
10 agencies, HPD, DOT, Department of Small Business
11 Services, a very important element in many of
12 these neighborhoods and sewers and so the
13 Department of environmental Protection, EDC
14 obviously. And so this is really a, a, a highly
15 collaborative effort that is I think quite
16 different from what's happened in the past.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Well you,
18 you mention an interesting point in terms of
19 collaborating with other agencies. At least two
20 of the agencies that you mentioned it takes them
21 many many many years to get things done. I'm
22 going to point out particularly to Parks and
23 anything in the transit related world. I think
24 we've got a project going on almost 100 years
25 that was transit related and in the Parks

2 Department five years is, is, is, is considered
3 to be a gold star for them. Are you concerned
4 about, about, about that. And what ability do
5 you have to sort of influence that process to
6 expedite what, it's not really related directly
7 to what you're doing but it is in fact a very
8 lengthy process at at least several of our city
9 agencies.

10 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yes we, we do
11 hope that we'll be able to influence that. I'm,
12 I'm optimistic that we will. I would just add
13 the, the Department that probably needs the most
14 lead time is Department of Environmental
15 Protection because they have such a, a, a lead
16 time in terms of assuring that appropriate sewer
17 capacity is available in neighborhoods. But so
18 far we have had a, extraordinary cooperation
19 from both, by, from all both from the agencies
20 themselves and from OMB. And so it may not be
21 possible to identify in the ten year capital
22 plan specific projects. Because as I said these
23 will evolve as we, as we work with, with
24 neighborhoods. And as work with members of the
25 city council. But, but we do want to at least

2 make sure that the resources will be there so
3 that when the appropriate projects are
4 identified that they can be deployed quickly.
5 And that's the goal. It's a, it's a very
6 different way of, of doing business. But I, you
7 now again I have the 10 year, the, the unlike
8 the four year capital plan or the one year
9 capital plan the ten year it's, it's, the ten
10 year capital strategy is a strategy, it's not a
11 budget. And so we do believe that, that this is
12 exactly what, what the ten year capital strategy
13 should be doing.

14 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So effectively
15 just to be clear you're looking at a set aside
16 pot of money that could be accessed later once
17 we have more specific details?

18 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I, I think
19 exactly how this will work is still being
20 discussed but I, I think we just want to make
21 sure that we have the resources necessary to
22 provide the commitments that we have to provide
23 if this process is going to work. And if it
24 doesn't work, if it doesn't work in the earliest
25 neighborhoods that, that we're engaged in it's

2 just going to be a lot harder to do the later
3 neighborhoods we're engaged in. So it's, it's
4 success begets success and failure alas begets
5 failure.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
7 chair. I'm going to turn it over to Chair
8 Dickens to be followed by Council Member Cohen.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you Chair
10 and thank you for coming to testifying today and
11 it's good to see you Carl.

12 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Good to see you.
13 My question is... I have two questions. One is on
14 the community development block grant the
15 disaster recovery and that they in, in the 2015
16 budget 2.1 million was added in federal funds
17 which allowed 18 employees to be hired. Has,
18 have those 18 been... [cross-talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yes we are chalk
20 full. We, we have, I don't believe there's a
21 single vacancy in all of city planning right
22 now. Everyone is working at more than 100
23 percent capacity right now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: So when you
25 talk about head count of an increase of 18

2 budgeted positions you are still referring to
3 that same 18 for a total of 262 positions.
4 Alright well that's, that's great. Now how does
5 that impact upon the, those that are directly
6 affected by the superstorm Sandy considering t
7 that we're having a lot of complaints from Far
8 Rockaway and the Coney Island area concerning
9 the disposition of their case.

10 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: The, the
11 disposition of...

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Of their cases...

13 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yeah.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Their, their,
15 their... the fact that they had lost properties
16 and hopes have been destroyed.

17 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: So, so we, we
18 have worked very very closely with Build it Back
19 and the Mayor's Office and with HPD. We're,
20 we're really mostly responsible for the planning
21 side of that and although we also have tried to
22 help specific homeowners we, we published a, a
23 manual this past year on how homeowners can
24 retrofit their buildings and how property owners
25 can retrofit their buildings to deal with the

2 issues of global warming and rising , and rising
3 sea levels and the fact that the 100 year flood
4 plain is just expanding significantly and
5 affecting the city greatly. But the actual
6 responsibility for dealing with individual
7 homeowners...

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: It's not true
9 as I understand that. But, but you do have staff
10 that is supposed to be doing oversight and
11 looking to see what needs to be done in these
12 areas?

13 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yes we do.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Alright now the
15 other, the second question is about I think I
16 understand that DCP has reviewed and the
17 reviewing of your zoning actions has gone down,
18 is that correct?

19 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: No I would say
20 for the past, for the mayor's preliminary
21 management report we showed a slight decrease in
22 the percentage of applications that we completed
23 in six months. And that's based on between 2013
24 and 2014.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: How could that
3 be when we have such a, the mayor has such an
4 aggressive housing plan for affordability which
5 since land is finite it means that zoning,
6 upzonings would have to occur in all these
7 neighborhoods.

8 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yeah.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I know nobody
10 wants to hear that but that's exactly what it
11 means.

12 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Indeed.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And so you know
14 how, how was it that, that the, the reviews have
15 gone down when in fact it should be going up?

16 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well first the,
17 the rezonings that we're undertaking is not part
18 of this... just really only affecting private
19 applications. But remember that we're comparing
20 a very short period of four months in 2013 to
21 four months in 2014. And the four months in 2013
22 were the last four months of the Bloomberg
23 administration where they were doing everything
24 possible to get everything out the door as
25

2 quickly as possible and had resources that were
3 embraced from... [cross-talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I understand.

5 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: ...all over. But,
6 and it's also very small sample size. That said
7 we are really committed to expediting private
8 applications as well as public applications. And
9 I am confident that you will see that data
10 change..

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Now Chair
12 Weprin had raised the issue about senior housing
13 by the way. And just yesterday in fact in, out
14 of my committee for ULERP UDAAP action we went
15 from an R6B to an R6 which increased the FAR and
16 it's 100 percent senior housing. Does the CP
17 work with HPD for SARA which is a program for
18 senior affordable housing. Do you work with,
19 with HPD, do you apprise the council members
20 about SARA, that it would require an upzoning to
21 increase the FAR but it would be for, for senior
22 housing only? Because that's what it's for.

23 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I, I, I, I think
24 it's, we only are involved if there is a land
25 use action involved specifically and if there,

2 if there isn't HPD we'll just proceed on its
3 own. But as I indicated my response to Council
4 Member Weprin I think our text amends will, are
5 really designed to increase viability and
6 quantity of senior housing.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Would, would,
8 would you, would, would DCP consider going from
9 say an R7 to an R8 with Sarah if it was a city
10 action?

11 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I think we'd have
12 to look at the area. I'll, I'll ask Ms. Kapur if
13 she wants to add to that but we, we, I, I would
14 say, I would say council member that we are
15 always receptive to looking at anything that is
16 likely to increase housing production...
17 particularly affordable housing production.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Alright. Well
19 thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: thank you Chair
21 and we're going to pass it to Council Member
22 Andy Cohen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you Chair
24 Greenfield. Thank you Chairman for your
25

2 testimony. You mentioned that, that the agency
3 headcount now is at 282?

4 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Could you... how
6 are those people deployed, how many are at Reed
7 Street? I, I been to the, to the Bronx borough
8 office. I, I assume you have offices in the
9 other boroughs how those people are deployed.

10 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I don't know if
11 we have it with us but we will get back to you
12 with an exact count on who's in what office and
13 how many people I should say in what office. I
14 would say the average size of one of our borough
15 offices is about 8, 15 people, 15 to 20.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: 15 to 20 per
17 borough? I'm curious in terms of this ambitious
18 agenda and, and, and rezoning these
19 neighborhoods what the impact has been on, on...
20 the normal course of business. How are we
21 striking that balance and getting other things
22 done.

23 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well it's, it, it
24 is, we're trying to do both. We did get some
25 additional resources last year and those

2 additional young staff are now ramping up and,
3 and, and the vast majority of them were assigned
4 to our borough offices so they are now reaching
5 a stage where they are able to handle some
6 applications on their own with less supervision.
7 It is, it is a challenge to be sure or one of
8 the things that we are looking at is how we can
9 take actions that currently are discretionary
10 but really in most respects are ministerial and
11 make them more as of right so we can free staff
12 up to do more complex applications and real
13 neighborhood planning which is really what we
14 should be doing. So... and one of the areas is as
15 you probably know Council Member that we are
16 looking to that is with a special natural,
17 natural area of the districts. And we've begun
18 to talk to, particularly to, to you and your
19 district and, and, and Staten Island where the,
20 the burden of, of these reviews is especially
21 acute, a vast majority of our staff in Staten
22 Island. That's what they do with and, and we
23 really have to free that staff up to be able to
24 do serious applications and, and, and community
25 based planning.

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Just on, on
3 that topic I, I would say I'm not sure though
4 that, that the, that the Bronx... is quite as,
5 generates as much business as the Staten
6 Island's... so maybe we should..

7 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well it's a much
8 smaller area in the Bronx and, again I don't, I,
9 I think there are, no doubt are, are differences
10 in topography that have to be taken into
11 account. But the goal is really the same which
12 is how can we take not the complex actions
13 because they'll always require a discretionary
14 review but the applications that should really
15 be ministerial and, and make the ministerial and
16 that's going to be good for applicants, for home
17 owners. It's going to be good for freeing up our
18 staff to do what they should be doing. And
19 frankly probably reducing a degree of grief
20 among all of us.

21 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Well that, that
22 I certainly support. I don't know if that's a,
23 it, it, in the increase in, in budget last year.
24 It seems that it went mostly to OTPS as opposed
25

2 to PS... well what, what... what were those
3 resources used for in sort of general terms...

4 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I, I think last
5 year the increase that we actually got was
6 largely in the PS department and I think... What?
7 Yeah the, the, the initial budget from last year
8 was as I indicated in my opening testimony
9 included an amount for OTPS for rent which we
10 did not spend this year because we didn't move
11 so that's being rolled over to the out years.
12 But the amount that we actually spent last year
13 was, was almost entirely on the PS side with the
14 exception of additional funds for necessary
15 environmental impact.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Just, if I'm
17 looking at the chart correctly in 2014 you had
18 18 million. In 2015 you have 20 for PS and then
19 two, 2-8 and then it goes up to 8-1, am I
20 reading that correctly? The front page of the...
21 [cross-talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well...

23 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...chart.
24
25

2 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yeah. It really
3 went up to on the PS side from, from, from 18 to
4 23 because as I indicated.. [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I... [cross-talk]
6 I see, I understand the, the.. [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: ...the, the, the CD
8 funds didn't kick in 'till later.

9 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I see, I
10 understand. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: You're welcome.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. As
13 is our practice we're going to ask members to
14 restrict their questioning to five minutes. But
15 if members have other questions we ask them to
16 either ask it on the record and we or inform
17 council afterwards and we will send a letter to
18 the chair for any questions that have not been
19 able to be answered in that time. With that I
20 turn it over to Council Member Reynoso to be
21 followed, followed by Council Member Johnson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you Chair
23 and Chair Weisbrod for being here.

24 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Thank you Council
25 Member. Good to see you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I'm going to
3 try to be quick because I got five minutes and I
4 have so many things to ask. So also..

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: That's, that's
6 two minutes more than most other committees.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: You are right.
8 My committee was two minutes at one time.

9 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I'll try to be
10 very short in my answer so..

11 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Alright so.. You
12 said in your statement that time is money for
13 businesses and developers and speaking to trying
14 to cut the red tape and just try to get these
15 processed, to move faster. I just want to say
16 that many neighborhoods look to planning to
17 combat displacement and maintain neighborhood
18 contacts. And private development has made time
19 the enemy for many rent stabilize and long term
20 residents in a lot of these communities. So time
21 also is valuable or DCP is also valuable in
22 neighborhood communities. And I just want to
23 see.. I don't, I don't feel that that's the
24 context in which DCP plays right now. I wanted
25 to ask does DC play, does, has DCP began or

2 supported any local community initiated ULERPs
3 that are not part of the mayor's plan?

4 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I don't, I'm, I
5 don't believe... I'll ask Ms.... to respond but I
6 don't believe we have received any neighborhood
7 initiatives since I've been chairman.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Right so
9 neighborhood, neighborhood based initiatives
10 take, it's a long process to, to start it. It
11 takes a lot of community input, community
12 development. So how about... are there any
13 resources that DEP is supplying for community
14 based, or community initiated ULERPs? Because
15 what I see right now happening is if it's not in
16 the mayor's plan it's just not a plan at all. So
17 I just want us to know what role do you guys
18 play in supporting neighborhood based ULERP
19 processes.

20 CHAIRPERSON SRINIVASAN: Sure. So I
21 think in terms of actual ULERPs the one that we
22 have done in the last year is the one in Chelsea
23 that was initiated by the community. It was a
24 small follow up to another rezoning that the
25 department had undertaken but we have been

2 engaged with communities in coming up with
3 planning frameworks and planning principals. And
4 I know in many areas you know the council has
5 taken leadership in Brooklyn. In particular
6 we've been working with Council Member Lander
7 and I know that our Brooklyn Office has been
8 also involved in your efforts in Bushwick in
9 bringing the community together towards a
10 neighborhood based planning process.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Right but is
12 there, but is there, there's no commitment
13 though right? It's kind of we bring the
14 resources but there's no commitment that we
15 would pursue or make this community initiated
16 plan a priority. If it doesn't fall within the
17 mayor's housing plan it's, it, it really falls
18 to the bottom of the pile. I want to know if the
19 neighborhoods mean something and whether or not
20 they will be prioritized.

21 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Let me, let me
22 say while housing and, and meeting the acute
23 housing needs is certainly a very very high
24 mayoral priority and something that we are
25 deeply committed to and is a high priority for

2 us. It's not our only priority. We are engaged
3 in a number of other efforts throughout the
4 city. In my formal testimony I, I talked about
5 our work in east Midtown and Vanderbilt, Carter.
6 We are also looking, now working with council
7 staff to identify ways that we can work together
8 on industrial policy and as I, I, I think I
9 indicated in response to Chairman Greenfield's
10 question at the very beginning there are really
11 two different kinds of, of, of efforts that
12 we're undertaking. On the one hand we are,
13 neighborhoods that we have identified for, for
14 potential community development and where we are
15 working with council members we are doing it, we
16 want to do it expeditiously but we're also doing
17 it with a full engagement with relevant
18 communities because we want this to be a joint
19 process. When I talk about, about our need and
20 time is money I'm really responding to private
21 applications before us that, that..

22 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Right I just
23 didn't see... And I'm sorry the time is running
24 out. I just didn't see any of your testimony
25 speak to that neighborhood base planning. And I

2 think that we need to start talking about that.
3 And you mention industrial... manufacturing zones.
4 We really need to work on, I'm going to just
5 quote some, someone that I think is a good
6 person. To allow these firms to grow and thrive
7 we must tighten restrictions in the zoning codes
8 to strengthen the city's 16 industrial business
9 zones, change zoning laws to meet the surging
10 demand for live/work space and mixed use
11 development. And that quote is from Mayor de
12 Blasio in October of 2013. And I just want to
13 say what we've seen so far has not necessarily
14 reflected that mind, that mindset. And if
15 anything we're looking at comments and
16 statements being made by the administration that
17 speak to weakening industrial business zones and
18 looking to residential development industrial
19 business zones instead of figuring out ways to
20 promote economic development and restrictions on
21 use which is very important. So just want to
22 know what your, what your idea is manufacturing
23 is. And that is my last question chair.

24

25

2 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I'll, I'll say
3 three things very quickly. One, I hope I'm not
4 taking your time now..

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: We get another
6 round?

7 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Council Member
8 is out of time so not to worry.

9 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: One as the mayor
10 indicated last week he is going to be making a
11 major policy statement on industrial policy in
12 the upcoming very soon, upcoming weeks and
13 months. Two, there are clearly and we've said
14 and I've said there are clearly areas where,
15 where use restrictions and other restrictions
16 should be tightened. There may well be areas
17 where they should be changed in order to further
18 encourage manufacturing and related business
19 activity. There is not in my view one size fits
20 all. But as with, as with housing policy it is
21 area dependent and it's going to depend actually
22 on what makes sense in, in each area. And, and,
23 and I, I think the mayor will be speaking to
24 this directly in the next few weeks or months.

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
3 Council Member. With that I'll pass it over to
4 Council Member Johnson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Good to see you
6 Carl. Good to see you... Thank you for being here.
7 It's a pleasure to work with you all on a very
8 regular basis and Danielle as well. I want to
9 just... there are many projects working on
10 together. I don't actually don't want to talk
11 about those, we talk about those enough. I, I
12 want to just express that I am hearing
13 significant concern about the potential
14 weakening of neighborhood zoning protections and
15 height limits which I mentioned to you before
16 Carl as part of the city's recently released
17 zoning for equality and affordability proposal.
18 Under the plan if I'm correct height limits in
19 contextual districts and for quality housing
20 developments in non-contextual districts would
21 be lifted by as much as 20 percent across the
22 board. And by 30 percent in inclusionary
23 districts from market rate developments which
24 include 20 percent affordable housing, no.

2 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: I, I, I think
3 it's a significant overstatement about how much
4 we would be increasing height limits. First of
5 all I don't think we would see... other than in
6 very very high bulk density zones like R9 R10
7 districts, other than those I don't think we
8 would be seeing anything beyond a, a one or
9 maybe two story increase at maximum. And again
10 it's not to increase FAR. It's to accommodate
11 the FAR that was projected at the outset and to
12 assure that developers produce the amount of
13 affordable housing that inclusionary zoning was
14 designed to produce. It may be a little higher
15 in R9 and R, R10 districts. But I think also in
16 addition to guaranteeing that we will get the
17 amount of affordable housing that we initially
18 expected in, under inclusionary zoning I also
19 think that what this will do is make buildings
20 that are built much more attractive, much more
21 appealing. We want to be able to accommodate
22 retail stores and retail stores now because they
23 get squashed in under existing height limits are
24 the first to suffer. And the second to suffer is
25 affordable housing.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I, I under...

3 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: So, so I think...

4 And then, and then the other, one other point I
5 would make is that special districts are going
6 to be looked at on a case by case basis so... So
7 I, I think that when, when you look at the
8 entire text in it and proposal for the housing
9 amendments. I think most communities will be
10 pleased with them rather than disappointed but
11 we're, but we're more than willing to discuss...

12 [cross-talk]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Well I look
14 forward to working together because I want to
15 ensure that during the scoping that's going to
16 take place that it's wide enough to look at some
17 particular concerns you know in many of these
18 neighborhoods. I can talk about West Chelsea
19 residents fought for years if not decades to
20 achieve certain height limits and there were
21 trades involved. We're going to give you 70 feet
22 in west Chelsea but we're going to upzone sixth
23 avenue where now there are 40 story buildings.
24 And in many of these communities that height
25 limit has been sacrosanct and so it all of a

2 sudden... even if it's just a ten feet increase to
3 80 feet or to 85 feet or to 90 feet, whatever it
4 is I want us to be sensitive that many of these
5 zoning districts in special districts that we've
6 been able to achieve were part of many different
7 trades, years of planning. And so they were only
8 really secure through tradeoffs. So to remove
9 the rules through potentially, though I could be
10 wrong a one size fits all zoning action, I'm
11 glad it's not going to be that. Sort of, I don't
12 want that to insult the hard work and the
13 careful balancing that lead to the
14 implementation to begin with.

15 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: No I, I fully
16 appreciate that Council Member. And having been
17 on the side of negotiating very very carefully
18 on behalf of a community... very delicate
19 balances. It's certainly something we want to
20 maintain. But I think that you will find that
21 this is not going to be some sort of open season
22 or anything like that. This is carefully
23 calibrated and that the tradeoffs involved are
24 very limited on the one hand but produced on the
25 other hand two things that I think all

2 communities want which is affordable housing ad
3 achieving the full affordable housing that was
4 originally intended and a much better
5 streetscape and retail environment.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Well I, I want
7 both of those things and I would just ask that
8 given what the proposal, given what the proposal
9 currently is it would be helpful if you all
10 potentially mapped out depending on the
11 neighborhood and the district and the
12 inclusionary zones how it's going to affect each
13 one of our districts. So I specifically
14 understand what's going to happen in an R9
15 versus an R6 and how it's going to affect that.
16 And we actually get that information before this
17 actually gets considered. Because what I don't
18 want to happen is the years' worth of council
19 members negotiating on that certain zoning
20 districts to be then thrown out the window in
21 some ways. I don't want to cut community boards
22 or council members out of the process.

23 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: We're happy to,
24 we're happy to go through that with you very
25 specifically in your, we're, we're really at the

2 beginning stages of talking to borough... talking
3 to council members, talking to communities. So
4 that's why we put this on our website and that's
5 why we're ready to engage in conversation.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: You're welcome.

8 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
9 Council Member Johnson. Actually I have a
10 follow-up on Council Member Johnson's point. I
11 know that you engaged a firm to study the entire
12 issue of mandatory inclusionary zoning. I'm
13 wondering where is that study at and when do you
14 plan on sharing it with us and the council for
15 some feedback?

16 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: My understanding
17 is it's near being finalized. It's not quite
18 final yet. But once it is we are, look forward
19 to sharing it with you. It's, I would say it's a
20 matter of weeks. But that's my understanding.
21 But we certainly intend to fully share it with
22 you once it's finalized.

23 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. And
24 I just have a following, follow up question
25 regarding something that Council Member Reynoso

2 mentioned and that is the, the council actually
3 put out several months ago our internal proposal
4 for manufacturing and industrial districts. Did
5 you have a chance to look at that? Do you have
6 any thoughts on that and do you plan on, on
7 having a response to that in a formal way?

8 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yes we have
9 looked at it. We thought that there was a lot in
10 there that was common ground with the way we
11 were thinking about industrial policy. As I
12 indicated to Council Member Reynoso the, the, I
13 think the, the, the issue is really in this, as
14 always with these kinds of things the issues are
15 in the specifics, where how. And we are now
16 engaged in a conversation with council Land Use
17 staff about how we can work together to identify
18 at least one, one or two areas where we might be
19 able to pursue the ideas that you've expressed
20 in that, for the most part we find worth
21 pursuing.

22 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Is there, is
23 there a timeline on, on your end for that?
24 Obviously you're dealing with a lot of issues
25 but this has been a very important point for

2 many council members who have large swaths of
3 manufacturing industrial zones in their
4 district.

5 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well we started
6 engaging with the council. I can't say exactly
7 what the timeline is for what but it's very high
8 on our agenda. We do have a very, we do have a,
9 we're overwhelmed right now but resources are
10 always a problem for us but we understand this
11 is of principal concern to the administration
12 and to the council and so we certainly expect to
13 engage with you very quickly.

14 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay great so
15 you know we actually intend on having a hearing
16 on the issue within the next few months. So it's
17 a vitally important issue that we hope to work
18 together with you to try to come to a
19 resolution. Thank you. And finally battling
20 cleanup for us is going to be Council Member
21 Brad Lander.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Mr.
23 Chair and it's great to see all of you here.
24 I'll just associate myself with the remarks of
25 course around manufacturing of both the chair

2 and Council Member Reynoso as you know that's
3 an, an issue both citywide but also in the
4 Gowanus area that we're very interested in and
5 have already started good conversations with you
6 and hope to continue those. I guess I, you know
7 I'm coming in at the end so you may have spoken
8 to some of this but I, I certainly appreciate
9 that you're overwhelmed because the volume of
10 work that you're doing is, is extraordinary and,
11 and that's great. Are, do you need.. I mean..

12 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Great for you but
13 I don't know about for us but..

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And so I guess
15 that maybe you were asked. I mean do, do you
16 have... and that, look there's only one you know
17 the management always has to deal with a lot..
18 but are mean are there the resources in the
19 budget to do these things because you know I, I
20 hear you that you've got a lot going on in there
21 for, has made sense for example that
22 manufacturing wasn't as high a priority as
23 getting the affordable housing moving at the
24 same time for those of us that want to be able
25 to do both those things if that takes more

2 resources help us understand that so we can
3 advocate in the budget for the resources that
4 the city needs.

5 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: We definitely
6 appreciate that you know last year I, I, I, as I
7 think this committee well knows for five or six
8 years prior to last year there was a constant
9 shrinkage of resources at the department of city
10 planning and it was, we were really in very very
11 very difficult straights. Last year Mayor de
12 Blasio did increase our resources for the first
13 time in five or six years. That new staff that
14 we brought on is beginning to now have an impact
15 that takes them a while obviously to get trained
16 and understand what we're doing our workload has
17 if anything increased exponentially even from
18 the time we were here last year as you know. So
19 our additional resources necessary where, the,
20 the, we've begun talking to OMB about what our
21 needs are and hopefully they will be responsive
22 to that. And we would be happy to let you know
23 the progress of those conversations.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So there's
25 conversations that might resolve between

2 preliminary and exact and additional resources
3 at city planning to meet... We'll see. I mean as
4 with, at, you know the, the, we understand the
5 city even in the good times we're in relatively
6 speaking is always resource constrained and
7 we're not the only, every agency is... [cross-
8 talk]

9 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: ...planning is a
10 you know...

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: But speaking for
12 ourselves we are of course resource constraint.

13 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: For, for the
14 record Brad we increased their budget last year.
15 We gave them new offices and I think we even
16 through in a coffee machine. So so far so good.

17 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: ...new offices
18 though so...

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...haven't seen
21 the coffee machine yet but...

22 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Well it takes
23 some time for procurement. I think we, five to
24 seven years you'll get that machine.
25

2 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Well the
3 procurement process is extremely slow, it's true
4 but...

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Now what area
6 that I, I'm guess you touched on a little is the
7 community engagement process in the
8 neighborhoods that you're working in? Are there
9 resources that are dedicated or contributing to
10 that. I mean obviously you've got more staff and
11 staff route in those neighborhoods. But as you
12 know doing that well means helping community
13 organizations and people in those neighborhoods
14 really engage we're moving quickly but are there
15 resources here? Have you thought about
16 resources? Are you helping private you know
17 foundations provide, is there something we can
18 do to make sure that, that we, this is a robust
19 community engagement... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Yeah I, I, I
21 testified a little earlier that we're working
22 very very closely with our sister agencies on
23 this. And particularly with HPD, EDC, SBS I'd
24 say those are the parks, those are the major
25 agencies. DOT, those are the major agencies

2 we're working with on, on, on this. We have
3 talked extensively to various foundations about
4 how they can help in these efforts and, and many
5 of those foundations are now actively engaged.
6 Ms. Kapur and I have met with probably
7 collectively maybe 20 different foundations in
8 terms of the kinds of resources they can
9 provide, not just went out looking for resources
10 for ourselves so much as resources that can be
11 deployed in neighborhoods. So...

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...just suggest
13 this as an area that we think about and I'm
14 actually... suggest this to the chair as well.
15 Obviously in those neighborhoods council members
16 have very close relationships with the
17 grassroots and community organizations with
18 technical assistance providers and it might be
19 something where both that kind of knowledge and
20 expertise council members have or potentially
21 for us to think about from a resource point of
22 view. Obviously we need the city agencies to
23 have the capacity to do the collaborative
24 planning but we also need our, you know the
25 community organizations... partners on the ground

2 to have resources to engage in, and in the most
3 open and, and collaborative... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: It's a really
5 good idea. We would actually welcome your help
6 in that regard and we may be able to help
7 identify potential areas where foundations
8 particularly could be helpful.

9 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Sure. And as
10 just a follow up to that we have in fact offered
11 council members and have had staff go out to
12 meet with different organizations and community
13 boards and we, we have put that offer out there
14 to any council member who has any project, not
15 simply a more complicated rezoning that we'd be
16 happy to go in there and meet with them and give
17 them as much feedback and advice as necessary.

18 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: And, and our
19 staff are fantastic and I have used that before
20 already and I'm sure I will again. I think there
21 might also be a role either with private and
22 philanthropic funds or council initiative type
23 funds so that the, those local community
24 organizations that are already up to their gills
25 you know in a lot of these neighborhoods dealing

2 with tenant displacement and now they also have
3 to like spend six months spending a lot of their
4 time engaging in a planning process perhaps
5 there be some way to help provide some resources
6 that would better enable them to... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Or perhaps we
8 should consider increasing the funding of the
9 land use committee staff so that we can match up
10 with the resources that have been provided to
11 other fine city agencies like city planning.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Can I ask one
14 more question Mr. Chair?

15 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: But you support
16 that right?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: 100 percent.

18 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Oh okay sure.
19 Yes final question.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Glad to see the
21 work is proceeding at pace on the capital plan
22 and that I guess that exec will see a capital
23 plan that reflects this process the
24 administration has been engaged in. That'll be
25 new for us as well. And I, I think it's just

2 worth thinking about. And Mr. Chair maybe this
3 is just again I kind of flag for the executive
4 budget where and how the council thinks about
5 and engages with this more, I don't know what to
6 call it, coordinated more proactive capital plan
7 that's got land use elements, it's got finance
8 elements. It's got all, you know so city
9 planning is the agency lead on that or... [cross-
10 talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: No I, I, I...

12 [cross-talk] look the lead on the, on, on, on
13 the capital and the expense budget is and always
14 will be OMB. So, but we are playing an increased
15 role as is the mayor's office of operations, as
16 is the mayor's senior advisor for infrastructure
17 this is new territory for everyone, at least new
18 territory for the last 40 years. And so it is a,
19 a learning process and we're all going to learn
20 together.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And we, I

22 certainly welcome it. We should just think as we
23 start to move toward the executive budget how
24 we're going to see it, engage it, receive it,
25 talk about it. It might be more than just a, you

2 know I think if we just let it get tacked on to
3 the OMB hearing it'll get short shrift of what
4 is needed so...

5 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Oh sorry I said
6 at the outset this is, I, I think as a general
7 rule very important for the city to be able to
8 use its ten year, is a reason why it's called
9 the ten year capital strategy as opposed to ten
10 year capital budget. And planning as a general
11 proposition should play a role in how we
12 allocate our resources over the long period of
13 time and then more closer to home for us. We do
14 want to be able to ensure as we do community
15 development in neighborhoods that the resources
16 and investments that are necessary are provided
17 in the timely fashion. So...

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. Thank
19 you Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
21 Council Member. I will just point out actually
22 we have asked staff to request a longer hearing
23 for the executive budget so that we can delve
24 into similar issues because the preliminary ten
25 year capital strategy has not been finalized as

2 of yet. And so we're looking forward to the
3 finalization and the opportunity to review it a
4 little more in the, in the executive budget. Are
5 there any other questions that council members
6 would like to ask on the record, not to be
7 answered at this point but simply so that we can
8 forward it to the city planning commission?
9 Hearing none if you have any please contact our
10 council. I want to thank you Chair. I want to
11 thank your entire executive staff for the hard
12 work that you're doing. We know that you're
13 working overtime these days. And certainly we
14 know that the executive level you don't get time
15 and a half so we appreciate those efforts. We
16 look forward to seeing you back here. Thank you
17 very much.

18 CHAIRPERSON WEISBROD: Thank you very
19 much Mr. Chairman and subcommittee chairs and
20 members of the council. We look forward to our
21 ongoing work with all of you. Thanks.

22 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
23 Chair. And with that we are now going to open
24 the public portion of the testimony here today.
25 We have two individuals who are signed up. If

2 you have not signed up please approach the
3 Sergeant of Arms. This is your final opportunity
4 to do so. And that is if I'm reading it
5 correctly Elaina Conte from the Pratt Center for
6 Community Development and Margerie Parker from
7 Jobs First NYC. We'd ask both of you to come up
8 and have a seat when you have a chance and we
9 will begin the public portion of our testimony.
10 Thank you. I just want to ask once again if
11 there were any other members of the public who
12 are, wish to testify please approach us. If not,
13 if not we are going to proceed with the
14 testimony of the two individuals. And just to
15 remind you we have a three minute clock on your
16 testimony. If you have written testimony, either
17 one of you, we ask you to please submit it to
18 the Sergeant of Arms who will then distribute to
19 us as well. Whenever you're ready either one of
20 you can start.

21 ELAINA CONTE: Hi, thank you Chair
22 Greenfield and members of the committee for the
23 opportunity to testify today on the community
24 planning for neighborhood rezoning initiative
25

2 that we at Pratt Center along with our partners
3 are proposing... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I, I apologize
5 for interrupting. If you can just tell us who
6 you are for the record and then you can continue
7 with your testimony. Thank you.

8 ELAINA CONTE: Just getting there. Thank
9 you so much. Elaina Conte with the Pratt Center
10 for Community... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
12 much.

13 ELAINA CONTE: So yes the community
14 planning for neighborhood rezoning that Pratt
15 center and plus our partners are proposing for
16 this upcoming fiscal year. As we just heard
17 extensively everyone agrees that affordable
18 housing is critical to New York's future and a
19 central element of the mayor's equity agenda and
20 of course the ten year housing plan outlines the
21 administration's goal to create and preserve 200
22 thousand units of affordable housing. And to
23 achieve that the administration intends to
24 rezone 15 neighborhoods across the city to allow
25 for increased density. In return for the right

2 to build higher the HPD will for the first time
3 routinely require the inclusion of affordable
4 units in new development and the administration
5 has already begun to hold community based
6 planning, workshops, and sessions to address
7 local needs in east New York and elsewhere and
8 has promised to do the same in each of the
9 selected neighborhoods. In order to have an
10 effective seat at the table however local
11 communities need access to the tools, resources,
12 and expertise to meaningfully participate in the
13 redevelopment of their neighborhoods. The
14 implementation of the housing plan will bring
15 substantial ne construction, significant
16 population growth, and increase pressure on
17 existing infrastructure in those 15
18 neighborhoods. And as a result communities are
19 rightfully concerned about rising rents,
20 speculation, insufficient city services such as
21 schools, transportation, open space, and the
22 displacement of existing residence and
23 businesses. So the community planning for
24 neighborhood rezoning initiative will actually
25 enable local stakeholders to engage in the

2 planning process with support and expertise from
3 a skilled group of citywide and community based
4 non-profit organizations. Five citywide
5 technical assistant providers; ANHD, Pratt
6 Center, Urban Justice Center, Hester Street, and
7 the Center for Urban Pedagogy will serve as
8 program coordinators and technical advisors and
9 will facilitate community based planning
10 activities in each of the 15 communities that
11 are selected for rezonings. And working hand in
12 hand with the local CBOs the five partners will
13 empower the community to participate in the
14 rezoning process from the ground up. Some
15 description about the technical assistance is
16 included there. But just to break down the
17 request right it is a request for 2.5 million
18 dollars in this upcoming fiscal year where 30
19 percent of the initiative will go to support the
20 five citywide technical assistance organizations
21 and 70 percent of those funds, 1.75 million
22 would go across the 15 neighborhoods to directly
23 support local non-profit organizations that are
24 selected for the rezoning. And those groups will
25 be selected in consultation with the communities

2 and their representatives based on their
3 experience, capacity, and roots in the
4 community. Now we know that this is a
5 significant ask but nothing could be more
6 important for our future, the city's future than
7 to get this right, to meet the need for
8 affordable housing for all New Yorkers that
9 truly reflect their community's unique needs,
10 characters, and aspirations. And we thank you in
11 advance for your consideration of the support.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
13 Elaina. Margery Parker whenever you're ready.
14 You need to press the little red button please.
15 There you go.

16 MARGARIE PARKER: Can you hear me?
17 Great. So I'm not, I'm not going to take up a
18 lot of your time. My name is Margery Parker. I
19 am with Jobs First New York City. We are a
20 nonprofit intermediary focus exclusively on the
21 youth, on, on the issue of young adults or out
22 of school, out of work, or employed in low wage
23 jobs. The reason that I'm here today is to talk
24 to you about our proposal to create a
25 centralized mobile friendly career, web portal

2 that city has told us is too expensive to do.
3 Young adults in New York City face enormous
4 challenges when they try to connect the dots
5 between occupations and training and education
6 available to qualify them for it. For example
7 young adults in central Harlem might never find
8 out that free help drafting a resume or
9 preparing for a job interview were available
10 locally at an organization like Strive unless he
11 walked past that building. We have an untapped
12 workforce of more than 300 thousand young adults
13 who are not in school are either stuck in low
14 wage jobs or not working. This amounts to an
15 astounding 35 percent of young adults in New
16 York City between the age of 18 and 24. De
17 Blasio administration has proposed new programs
18 aimed at boosting educational levels and
19 expanding skills training. But unless you know
20 where to find those then you won't be able to
21 access it. There are multiple workforce 1
22 centers; job centers, high school referral
23 centers, but none provides a comprehensive
24 information concerning potential careers,
25 occupation, sources of education and training,

2 or organization that help young adults to become
3 gainfully employed. A one stop web portal could
4 provide access to this information and could
5 also link to job openings and other training. A
6 comprehensive geomapping which the city tells us
7 is really expensive this tool can show available
8 location and resources where people can access
9 services in their neighborhood. This site could
10 allow easy access to information about CUNY and
11 low cost training or other free training and
12 education programs. It is not a new idea. This
13 has been done in places like Wisconsin and
14 Virginia. And we can build on this because we
15 already have a system in place and I miss the
16 DoITT folks who were here earlier. We have 3-1-1
17 and if you ever just go on and sign on 3-1-1 it
18 jumps you to all kinds of resources. Most New
19 Yorkers know 3-1-1 as a place you go to for
20 other than 9-1-1 services. Well we think that
21 this could serve as a platform for connecting
22 these various services offered by the city that
23 a young adult, young adult friendly could go on
24 one website and find everything they need to,
25 to, to require, to do the search they need, to

2 find the information they need so that they can
3 access training. They can access information
4 about SYP. They can access information about all
5 publically funded training program. Right now
6 you have to go to, to every city agency website.
7 What we're talking about is bringing all of this
8 resources one place, create a section that is
9 young adult friendly so that if you get services
10 through DYCD but you also can get services
11 through HRA, young adult services you don't have
12 to go to five different places to find it. We've
13 talked to the city about it, the, we raise funds
14 and pilot projects. They told us we should raise
15 the money and if we have some money then we can
16 come back to the table. We say that the
17 infrastructure's already there and the city
18 needs to examine and look at it to figure out
19 what that would cost to get it done and that if
20 it can be done in places like Wisconsin then we
21 can do that here and that what we're asking the
22 city council to do is ask the administration to
23 really examine and cost... or we can cost it out
24 for you if anyone wants it, what it would cost
25 to really centralize the services so that when

2 young adults... And it bears evidence for the
3 larger system as a whole to bring this all
4 together so that you can access information more
5 readily and more easily in New York City.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you both.
7 Thank you Margery. Thank you Elaina. We
8 appreciate it and this concludes the public
9 testimony of the Land Use Committee hearing and
10 also concludes the preliminary budget hearing of
11 the Land Use Committee. The Committee is hereby
12 adjourned.

13 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date March 26, 2015