

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH SERVICES, COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION,
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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May 29, 2015
Start: 11:42 a.m.
Recess: 01:50 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:
JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND
Chairperson

MATHIEU EUGENE
Co-Chairperson

INEZ D. BARRON
Co-Chairperson

MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO
Co-Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

COREY D. JOHNSON
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
I. DANEEK MILLER
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER
LAURIE A. CUMBO
MARK LEVINE

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

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FERNANDO CABRERA
JAMES VACCA
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
ALAN N. MAISEL
ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY

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

Richard Buery
Deputy Mayor
Strategic Policy Innovations

James B. Milliken
Chancellor
City University of New York

Bill Chong
Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community Development

John Mogulescu
Founding Dean
CUNY Schools of Professional Studies

Judy Bergtraum
Deputy to Vice Chancellor
Office of Facilities Planning Construction and Management

Allan Wernick
Professor
Baruch College

Frank Sanchez
Vice Chancellor Student Affairs
City University of New York

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2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Good
4 morning an happy Frida. Welcome to the city
5 council's seventh day of hearings on the mayor's
6 executive budget for fiscal 2016. My name is
7 Julissa Ferreras-Copeland and I am the chair of the
8 Finance Committee. We are joined by the Committee
9 on Youth Services Chaired by my colleague Council
10 Member Mathew Eugene and the Committee on Community
11 Development Chaired by Council Member Maria del
12 Carmen Arroyo. Today we are here, today we will
13 hear from the Department of Youth and Community
14 Development and the City University of New York.
15 Before we begin I'd like to thank the Finance
16 Division staff for putting this hearing together
17 including the Director Latonya McKinney, the Chief
18 Counsel Tanisha Edwards, Assistant Counsel Rebecca
19 Chasan, Deputy Directors Regina Poreda Ryan and
20 Nathen Toth, Unit Heads Iesha Right [sp?], Senior
21 Finance Analyst Jessa [phonetic], Jessica Ackerman,
22 and the Finance Division Administrative Unit Nicole
23 Anderson, Maria Pagan, Roberta Cotorano [sp?] who
24 pull everything together. Thank you all for your
25 efforts. I'd also like to remind everyone that the

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2 public will be invited to testify on the last day
3 of budget hearings on June 9th beginning at
4 approximately 1:30 in this room. For members of the
5 public who wish to testify but cannot attend the
6 hearing you can email your testimony to the Finance
7 Division at finance testimony at council dot NYC
8 dot gov and the staff will make it part of the
9 official record. Today's executive budget hearing
10 starts with the Department of Youth and Community
11 Development. The department's fiscal 2016 executive
12 budget totals 536.8 million dollars which
13 represents a 44 million dollar decrease from fiscal
14 2015's adopted budget. I'd like to begin by
15 welcoming Deputy Mayor Richard Buery to today's
16 hearing to discuss some news that is both welcome
17 and in my opinion long overdue regarding the 17
18 thousand middle school summer after school slots
19 that had been cut from the executive budget. I am
20 excited that the deputy mayor is here today to make
21 a brief statement and then to answer questions for
22 20 minutes before we proceed with the remainder of
23 the hearing. Because the deputy mayor's only here
24 for a short time council member's questions for him
25 will be limited to two minutes each. Just to recap

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5 this is a very important issue as you all now 27.7
6 million dollars for summer middle school
7 programming was reallocated from DYCD's budget to
8 the Department of Education's budget for renewal
9 schools. The cut was made after 17 thousand
10 students had already been informed that they had a
11 spot in a summer program which meant that thousands
12 of families who were relying on these programs had
13 to be informed that there was no space for their
14 children after all. This understandably cause mass
15 confusion and frustration in our communities. But
16 on the good... but on that, onto good news at the
17 strong urging of the council the administration has
18 decided to restore the funding to DYCD for the
19 summer program slots. The families of these
20 students can now rest assured that the program
21 spots they had been promised are available to them.
22 The council is very grateful for the
23 administration's willingness to listen to the
24 concerns of the community and this council and to
25 work with us to find a mutually agreeable solution.
With respect to other items in the DYCD budget I'm
glad to see that the executive budget includes
funding for a hundred new shelter beds for runaway

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5 and homeless youth as requested by the council as
6 well as increased funding for mental health
7 services for these youth. However I am disappointed
8 that there is a lack of commitment to youth
9 employment in the executive budget. In our budget
10 response the council's proposed increase the
11 number of summer youth jobs to 50 thousand but the
12 insufficient funding included in the budget still
13 leaves a shortage of 10,836 slots for this upcoming
14 year. In addition the council proposed creating a
15 new year-round youth employment program that the
16 administration did not include in the executive
17 budget. I believe that this is incredibly
18 important, is, this is an incredibly important new
19 program that must be included in the adopted budget
20 in voluntary unemployment among 16 to 24 year olds
21 has been shown to, [coughs], excuse me, to
22 correlate with lower lifetime earning potential in
23 greater likelihood of future unemployment leaving
24 large segments of the population at risk for
25 involvement in the criminal justice system. The
 council's proposed program could create 8,000 youth
 jobs with up to 192 hours of employment per year at
 an hourly rate of \$9.00 per hour. I look forward to

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5 continuing our negotiations with the administration
6 to make sure that this is included by adoption. I
7 will now turn the mic over to my co-chairs, first
8 Council Member Arroyo and then Council Member
9 Eugene for their statements. And then we will hear
10 from Deputy Mayor, from the Deputy Mayor. After
11 that we will hear from the DYCD commissioner after
12 commissioner... testimony the first round of
13 questions for the agencies will be limited to five
14 minutes per council member. And if council members
15 have additional questions we will have a second
16 round of questions to three minutes per council
17 member. Council Member Arroyo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: It's, it's
19 stuck. Good morning every, every one. Thank you
20 Madam Chair. I want to welcome our co-chair Council
21 Member Eugene and thank all three committees for
22 the work in getting us prepared for this hearing. I
23 am Maria del Carmen Arroyo. I chair the Committee
24 on Community Development. I would like to thank the
25 members of all three committees for joining us
 today and they will come through as the hearing
 goes on. We have competing hearings going on. I
 want to thank the Deputy Mayor for joining us this

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5 morning and look forward to your testimony.

6 Commissioner thank you for joining us. And I'm
7 pleased to have this opportunity to hear from both
8 of you and look forward to a productive
9 conversation as that is what we always strive to do
10 during these hearings. DYCD is one of our city's
11 most reliable and trusted supporters of positive
12 development in our children, in our families and in
13 our communities. This agency is certainly the
14 council's go to agency for everything from after
15 school programming to GED programs. This is why I'm
16 concerned that one of its staple services offering
17 adult literacy programming to undocumented
18 immigrants has been transferred out of this
19 agency's competent hands and into another agency
20 whose competency I'm not questioning. I just don't
21 see why we need to change something that's not
22 broken. In two years DYCD's literacy services under
23 the deferred action for childhood arrivals program
24 has enrolled more than 7,000 participants offering
25 English language courses and job... one of the city's
 most vulnerable populations. They have been on
 track to exceed their targets for the year and have
 overall demonstrated great success with this

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2 program and I'm anxious to hear the commissioner's
3 opinion about this change. While I understand and
4 respect the administration this desire to
5 consolidate the city's legal services into one
6 office I wonder whether removing all of DYCD's
7 docket programming including its ESOL program is
8 necessarily our best option. I look forward to I
9 can turn it over to our co-chair Council Member
10 Eugene. Hearing from the commissioner and, and his
11 take on the situation and seeing whether something
12 can be done to preserve these incredibly valuable
13 and important literacy services as we have become
14 accustomed to their delivery in our communities.
15 Before we begin and hear from the deputy mayor I
16 want to take a quick second to thank my committee
17 staff who have worked really hard to get us
18 prepared for this hearing Alex Paulenoff my legal
19 counsel... both whom sitting back there... and Jessica
20 Ackerman whose done all the number crunching. Thank
21 you Jessica emailed me last night at 11:00. I don't
22 know why we're making our staff work at 11:00 but
23 thank you Jessica. You have all worked very hard
24 and now Madam Chair if I may I can turn it over to
25 our Co-Chair Council Member Eugene.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: thank you very
3 much Madam Chair Ferreras. And thank you Co-Chair
4 Arroyo. Thank you very much. I'm Council Member
5 Mathieu Eugene and I'm the Chair of the Committee
6 on Youth Services. I would also like to thank
7 Council Member, again Council Member Arroyo and the
8 Madam Chair of the Finance. And I want to thank
9 also everyone for coming to this important... today
10 to review the administration fiscal 2016 executive
11 budget for the Development of Youth and Community
12 Development. I'm pleased also to welcome both the
13 deputy mayor and the commissioner... this morning and
14 I look forward to hearing from both of you. I know
15 that the many of us here are very interested to
16 hear about the plan for... summer programing and we
17 will do so very shortly. But we also have questions
18 about the recent RFP for after school programming
19 that use... to be supported by the city council. The
20 additional support supervision and... that children
21 receive through the after school programs is not
22 only a vital part of the development but also
23 ensures that there safe and well care for while the
24 parents are at work. We want to ensure that these
25 services are available to everyone who needs it.

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2 And when the... where they're admitted... I'm also very
3 interested in discussing opportunities for all the
4 children and young adults. The summer youth
5 employment program as we all know receive more than
6 130 thousand application. But this year there's
7 only money for 49 thousand jobs. Last year we
8 worked together. We... to increase the number of job
9 to 45 thousand... jobs. Now we are going backward.
10 The council also requested fund for a new year
11 round jobs program to support another 8,000 young
12 people but we see nothing in the budget for this.
13 We have a moral obligation to our young people to
14 ensure that they not only have opportunities to
15 stay out of trouble but also to prepare them as
16 fully as possible to enter the workforce and find
17 good jobs. This what ASYEP is all about. In fact
18 the... started reveal that youth... in the SYEP were
19 not only more likely to achieve at a greater
20 academic level and find greater success in the
21 workforce than those who never had the, enjoy this
22 experience but that the rate of mortality among
23 SYEP participants over the course of time was less
24 than the rest of the population. SYEP not only
25 improves the life but also it actually saves lives.

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2 I appreciate that the mayor has new plan for
3 offering summer jobs, internships, and mentorships.
4 And I look forward to reading about these as well.
5 But we must also focus on the opportunities that we
6 be available now this year for our young adults. We
7 must never forget that all youth are the future
8 leaders on this city and also our country. There,
9 they, they's no better investment that we as a
10 society can make than in programs that enrich the
11 learning process for our young people and provide
12 'em with the skills... and discipline... academically
13 and go on to lead highly successful and a
14 productive life as adult. We must also do more for
15 the hardworking parents of our youth in this city.
16 So many of them work day and night to provide for
17 their children never having the opportunity to take
18 time off from work and go away on a vacation or to
19 send the children away to a weekend and retreate a
20 summer camp. For all this parent we make great
21 sacrifices on behalf others of their sons and
22 daughters and also on behalf of the city of New
23 York... contribute to the economy of the city of New
24 York. We as a city, we must guarantee that we will
25 always have the resources in place to guarantee

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2 that their children are always ensure. ...safe place
3 to be after school hours. In the good city of New
4 York we certainly have the resources to make this
5 happen. Before I turn it, I turn the floor over to
6 my co-chairs I would like to thank the staff who
7 have contributed to today's hearing. And I would
8 like also to thank the members of our taskforce
9 Kimberly Williams, Michael Benjamin, Frasier Ali,
10 and Jessica Ackerman. And I would like also to
11 thank my staff... and Vanessa... for all their hard
12 work and their help and to make this possible. Let
13 me take the opportunity also to thank all of you,
14 my colleagues who sign the letter that I sent to
15 the mayor asking the restoration of the money for
16 the summer program. And I want to thank also all
17 the advocate and the wonderful people for the
18 campaign for, for children. Thank you very much for
19 your participation, your continued effort, thank
20 you very much because what happen... the restoration
21 of the funding is not only a victory for the
22 children for the parents but it is also a victory
23 for the city of New York. It is also a victory for
24 the Mayor de Blasio. Thank you to all of, all of
25 you. Let's continue to work hard and together. It

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2 was a team effort. Let's continue to make the team
3 effort to ensure that all children receive the tool
4 and also every opportunities that they need to
5 become the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you very
6 much, very much. Madam Chair, thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank

8 you Chair Mathieu. We will now have the opportunity
9 from hearing from Deputy Mayor Buery, Buery, sorry.

10 And again we, we, we do want to recognize that this
11 is a moment that doesn't necessarily happen where
12 we're able to answer budget questions after a great
13 rally. And you know and after some serious
14 questioning of our chancellor. So I'm very
15 appreciative to the administration, to the campaign
16 for children, and all of its advocates. Chancellor
17 Farina was put in a very tough position yesterday
18 so I'm glad that you were able to respond in the
19 way that you have. So I'm looking forward to
20 hearing your testimony. We'll have a few questions.

21 Again we had the Deputy Mayor here before the
22 commissioner comes on. Because the commissioner,
23 you are going to have to answer these questions so
24 I'm glad the deputy mayor's here. And then members
25 we're going to put the clock on for two minutes

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2 because the deputy mayor's only here for 20 minutes
3 so that way we all have an opportunity... And he's
4 going to very specifically talk about the
5 restoration of the summer slots. Right here. And
6 we've been joined by Council Members Chin, Cornegy,
7 Miller, Mealy, and Rosenthal. And Deputy Mayor you
8 may begin.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: ...that work? ...on?

10 Alright. Good morning chair Ferreras, Chair Eugene,
11 Chair Arroyo and also all the members of the
12 Committee of Finance, youth services, and community
13 development. Good morning to all of you Councilman
14 Miller, Chin, Cornegy, Rosenthal, and Mealy. My
15 name is Richard Buery, I'm the Deputy Mayor for
16 Strategic Policy initiatives. And on behalf of
17 Mayor Bill de Blasio I want to thank you for
18 allowing me this opportunity to testify before you
19 today regarding middle school summer enrichment
20 programs. As Chair Ferreras just articulated
21 Commissioner Chang, Commissioner Chong will then
22 present testimony on the entirety of DYCD's fiscal
23 year 2016 executive budget plan. We have heard loud
24 and clear the concerns raised by parents, providers
25 and advocates about the loss of slots in the middle

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2 school summer program. And I am pleased to announce
3 today that the administration will fund the full 34
4 thousand middle school seats for the upcoming
5 summer. These programs will continue to provide
6 quality enrichment programs in art, dance, sports,
7 and stem throughout the summer. Last year the
8 expansion of the summer program was intended to be
9 for one year only. This year we determined that the
10 greatest funding need... the renewal schools. However
11 providers were prematurely notified in March that
12 they could begin enrollment for the upcoming
13 summer. The continuation of the funding for the 34
14 thousand seats is for one year only but will ensure
15 that no family... provider left hanging when the
16 school, when school ends next month. DYCD is
17 working with city hall on details of the
18 implementation of the funding restoration and we'll
19 be back in touch with the council and providers
20 around full details next week. We remain committed
21 to a successful summer program and we'll work
22 closely with providers to make sure that we have
23 one. Again I want to thank you for the opportunity
24 to testify today. I'm happy to take a few questions

25

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2 on the restoration of the summer program and then I
3 will turn it over to commissioner Chong.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
5 you Deputy Mayor. Obviously the council's very
6 excited to hear the administration has listened to
7 the community's concerns and the council's concerns
8 and decided to restore the funding for the summer
9 after school slots. But since the administration's
10 reversal is coming so close to the start of the
11 summer programs. I have a few operational questions
12 that I hope you'll be able to address. I know that
13 you say you're going to get back to me next week
14 but as much as you can answer now I would
15 appreciate it. Where is the funding to restore the
16 summer slots coming from? And will the funding
17 shift cost any other programs or services to be cut
18 or reduced?

19 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Thank you. So I do
20 want to commit that no other initiatives will be
21 affected by this restoration. All of the resources
22 will come from efficiencies citywide and again
23 we'll be able to provide you more details later but
24 all the resources to fund these summer slots will
25 come from efficiencies through city government. I

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2 just want to repeat no initiatives will be cut in
3 order to fund this restoration.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: While
5 I'm really happy to hear that and that you've put
6 that on the record we're in the middle of a process
7 that I've been a very big stickler on if
8 transparency. So we, you just submitted a savings
9 program or an efficiency program so I'd like to
10 know where else those efficiencies are going to be
11 and I would hope that they're going to be submitted
12 in a formal way to this committee, expeditiously.

13 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Yeah, thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.
15 Now that the funding is being restored will DYCD
16 have the time and capacity to get all the slots up
17 and running for this summer? And will all the
18 students who have a spot, who had a spot before the
19 funding was cut and I'll be eligible to get their
20 spots back.

21 DEPUTY AYOR: So again DYCD will work on
22 operational details... in close touch with providers
23 to make sure the program can be run fully, have
24 every confidence in DYCD and providers will be able
25 to do as you say and again at the full restoration

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5 of the number of slots that providers were
6 expecting and so the full 34 thousand slots will be
7 restored ad again providers working with DYCD will
8 make sure that it happens in a way that makes the
9 most sense for families and communities.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Great.

11 So as a, someone who've ran a DYCD funded program
12 for many years as a former beacon director I can't
13 tell you how challenging it is to get registration
14 forms, pull them back, bring them... like that is
15 just a daunting process for the providers. So I'm
16 hoping that DYCD will have all the support
17 necessary and understand that providers will have
18 to have additional time to get forms out. We may
19 even have to go back. You know every organization
20 is going to have to develop their own, new system
21 now because the letters win out. You have the
22 program, you don't have the program. And now we're
23 saying you have the program. So this is an, an
24 operational nightmare now for some of these
25 nonprofits.

26 DEPUTY AYOR: Well let me say they have
27 also spent many years running DYCD funded programs.
28 So I understand the challenges involved. Again

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2 this, DYCD understand that this was an error on
3 their part. And again DYCD will be... out to
4 providers very closely and working with providers
5 to make sure that we get to the bottom line which
6 is that those young people have a tremendous
7 enriching, rewarding and safe summer and DYCD will
8 do whatever it takes to make sure that that
9 happens.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Great.

11 And before I open up to questions of, for my
12 colleagues that great enriching and rewarding and
13 safe experience is also needed in FY '17. So I'm
14 just saving this spot of engagement right here
15 saying the same excitement that we have now we're
16 going to bring to the fight for FY '17 funding.

17 DEPUTY AYOR: Well again look the
18 administration fully embraces the importance of
19 summer programs. We are only, we are making a one
20 year commitment for the funding for the summer and
21 I'm sure we'll continue to have dialogue... [cross-
22 talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well, so
24 we're just changing the, the narrative now to say
25 that we don't want to have a budget dance. We don't

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2 want to engage in this way with this
3 administration. We're working together. So I'm
4 hoping that you can take this message back and say
5 you know we're happy for FY '16. FY '17 is now our
6 new focus. Okay, thank you Deputy Mayor.

7 Colleagues, questions? Council Member... oh I' sorry
8 we're going to have the chairs ask their questions
9 and then... oh okay.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: It's kind of
11 funky... you first and then the commissioner so we,
12 we have to get our questions straight. One year
13 commitment and that was going to be my question it
14 was base lined in DYCD's budget why only one year
15 if... I mean it just seems at it work for all of us
16 to make one year commitment for something that's so
17 important. Why only one year?

18 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Well look... Go
19 without saying as... obviously as you all know there
20 are lots of things in this budget, lots of
21 investments that we have made as an administration
22 and... the wellbeing of children. And so every budget
23 represents difficult, difficult budget decisions.
24 So again the commitment we're making given the
25 error that DYCD made in communicating these

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5 programs to the providers is that we're going to
6 commit to righting that wrong for the summer. And,
7 but again it is only a one year commitment.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Well I think one
9 of the things that... and just to echo the, the
10 finance chairs comments and not understanding the,
11 the logic behind the decisions that are made and or
12 the commitments that the administration makes. We
13 can only pick a fight because we're not clear why
14 you got to where you got. And the logic that was
15 used to make that decision so that moving forward
16 understanding the logic and yes the challenges. We
17 know that there are many but it was this or that.
18 And if we understand that very basic principal the,
19 the conversation is less, you know less, less of a
20 conflict and we have less parents on the steps of
21 city hall you know calling on the administration
22 and calling the mayor all kinds of names because he
23 doesn't seem to care for our youth, our children,
24 our seniors, it's just this dialogue has to change.
25 And, and I'm looking forward for that change
because we've seen this movie before. We know how
it ends and then we have to rewrite the script next
year. And it's just, it takes too much energy. So

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5 help us understand before you announce decisions,
6 help us understand the logic that goes into your
7 decision making so we can maybe be also a voice for
8 pushing the agenda.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Yeah so if I could

10 just thank you very much Councilwoman. If I could

11 sort of make two, just two brief statements in

12 regards to try to answer your question or to

13 respond to the, your statement. First of all I

14 think it's clear that this administration is fully

15 and deeply committed to the wellbeing of children.

16 The expansion of idle school afterschool programs

17 is historic and I think deeply represents our

18 commitment to providing quality after school

19 services to idle school students around the city.

20 And so we think that commitment itself reflects

21 this administration's commitment to children. As to

22 what happened again it was an error on the part of

23 the DYCD. And we're going to work now to remedy

24 the... it's no more complicated than... error based on

25 best intentions trying to make sure that providers

had information early for exactly the reasons that

Chair Ferreras said. And again now moving forward

we, we're going to make sure that we have good

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5 dialogue with council about how we move forward and
6 are excited about making sure that those families
7 are well served this summer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Best intentions
9 and the road to somewhere unpleasant we know are
10 related right? There, there are other issues
11 related to after school programming... and the
12 funding that the council has put into the budget
13 over the last two years to preserve slots that were
14 lost because then DYCD did not have enough funding...
15 not because providers were not performing but
16 because there was not enough budget to cover all of
17 the slots. RFP was released, awards were announced,
18 and we're now coming up on the conversation of
19 again community groups in, in our districts not
20 receiving a grant or losing the number of slots
21 that they were programmed to, to provide with the
22 discretionary dollars that the council put into the
23 budget over the last two years. So I think we need
24 to rather than again react we had a rally yesterday
25 about the childcare slots... and granted it's a
different agency but how many OST slots have been
lost through providers that the council has funded
through its discretionary funding over the last two

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5 years. And you might not have that answer now. You
6 might not have come prepared to answer that
7 question but commissioner I'm going to reiterate
8 the question to you. The commissioner, okay.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: ...commissioner Chong
10 to respond.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
12 much Madam Chair and Commissioner thank you for
13 your testimony... Deputy Mayor I'm sorry. Thank you.
14 And you know for all of us this is a big issue,
15 very big... we're all pleased that the mayor restored
16 the money for the summer program. But the problem
17 for all of us is only for one year, only one year.
18 My question to you is you know the summer programs
19 are so important, we all know that I don't have to
20 take... three hours to talk about it, especially when
21 we see what is happening in our communities... crime
22 are increasing. And I know... personally, and I know
23 that he is very dedicated to do everything you know
24 to provide... young people the resources they need to
25 become positive people because I've walked within,
in the past... before I was elected. But due to the
importance of the summer program... program for the
young people to keep the communities safe and to

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5 keep the children... When the administration decided
6 that he's going to be one year only. Is there any
7 conversation, any effort through see there, there's
8 another identity for the... What effort have been
9 made to ensure that you know we can have the
10 funding also for another additional year, for many
11 years. Why the administration decided just you know
12 it's going to be one year.

13 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Well again, again
14 I'm, I'm sorry I have to, to repeat my answer from
15 before. Certainly you will not hear me or anyone
16 from the administration discount the importance of
17 summer programs and quality... program for our
18 children. But the commitment when the
19 administration last summer added these slots it was
20 intended as a one year investment the mayor's long
21 term commitment was to fund afterschool programs
22 for... New York City not to fund summer programs. So
23 here we are, we are making the one year commitment
24 as we've described before and we're very excited to
25 do so, very looking forward to working with
providers to have this be a, a stellar rollout. But
as of right now it is only a one year commitment.

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: But what would
6 happen next... let assume that you know the mayor...
7 the funding for the next year. Is that in, other
8 identity, is that mean that the children... the
9 summer are going to be at the corner of the street
10 doing all negative thing and their parents who are
11 working very hard to contribute to the economy of
12 the city of New York, are there going to be worry
13 about the... children in the... while they are working...
14 What would be the situation? What are we going to
15 offer to those young people, to those children
16 while their parent are working hard to contribute
17 to the economy of New York City, to pay taxes. And
18 their parents, those parents they have the right to
19 have a piece of mind. But their children will be in
20 a safe place where they will continue to learn
21 positive skill and also to say, to stay safe. What
22 will be the situation? Where the children will be?

23 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Well again Chair,
24 Chairman I think this administration and all of our
25 work have demonstrated a real commitment to the
children family... the New York City. I would put our
record up there against anyone's and we look
forward to continuing to work with the council and

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5 families to make sure that we continue to build a
6 city that works for all New Yorkers including the
7 most vulnerable New Yorkers. I think the
8 investments we're making with here in... the
9 demonstration of that commitment. We look forward
10 to continuing to work with the council to make sure
11 that we continue to work with the council to make
12 sure that we continue to... the children and families
13 of New York.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you. I
15 know that you have to... but I got... this is my last
16 question, a very important one also, last... Yes. But
17 we know that providing jobs to these young people
18 during the summer is a great thing but this is not
19 enough. And last year it was... one of my, it was my
20 initiative with the speaker to provide jobs to the
21 young people year around. And I know the speaker
22 made a request of 17 [phonetic] million dollars to
23 provide job to 8,000 young people year. And we
24 didn't see anything in the executive budget so what
25 can you tell us about that?

26 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: So Chair Eugene I'm
27 really only... about the restoration of summer
28 program... Again Commissioner Chong will be

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2 testifying immediately after me and I encourage you
3 to ask those questions to him.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Well thank you
5 very much. Now I turn it over to Madam Chair. Thank
6 you very much Commissioner.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
8 you Chair Eugene. We will hear from two members.

9 Council Member Chin followed by Council Member
10 Cornegy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Chair.
12 Thank you. Deputy Mayor... we were very excited to
13 hear the good news last night at the Mayor's Asian
14 Pacific Heritage Event. I know that last year you
15 said that it was a one-time commitment. I mean the
16 mayor made a, a historic commitment to after school
17 program for middle school kids. And I think that
18 the administration also see having a summer program
19 was also important especially for middle school
20 students. And that's why I think the administration
21 made that commitment. Now in the preliminary budget
22 the money was there for summer program. And as
23 staff tells it it was also in there for the out
24 years. So I think the administration at that time
25 maybe together with DYCD we received this as an

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2 important all year around program for middle school
3 student and it's a great investment. And so the
4 money was put in. And I don't think it's DYCD's
5 fault if they, in, if they told the provider and
6 the provider that what they saw in the budget was
7 also very happy excited right? That this program is
8 going to continue. And all of a sudden it disappear
9 in the executive budget alright... And the money was
10 transfer somewhere else. So that is unacceptable
11 deputy mayor. I'm glad that you know the
12 administration reversed it back and reinspect to
13 see that money also back in the out years because
14 commitment to the middle school student, it's a
15 great investment and we applaud the mayor for that.
16 And he just cannot backtrack okay? So I really
17 asked you to take it back but it cannot be a one
18 year commitment. It has to continue. And we have to
19 find the resources for it because it's such an
20 important investment. So I expect you to take that
21 back.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Well thank you very
23 much again. You know respectfully schools out NYC,
24 SONYC, was conceived as an afterschool program and
25 designed to provide free afterschool program to

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2 every middle-schooler in New York City. We've...
3 happy about the investment we've been able to make
4 in summer program. You'll not hear me or anyone
5 else say that summer programs are not important to
6 our children. Again we're very excited, we're able
7 to restore those funds for the summer, this summer.
8 But SONYC... originally conceived by the mayor is an
9 afterschool program. And we're so excited that
10 there are literally tens of thousands of after, of
11 students around the city who are having... enriching
12 experiences after school as a result of the mayor's
13 leadership with the support of the council. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
16 you Council Member Chin, Council Member Cornegy.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Good morning
18 Deputy Mayor.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Morning Sir.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I, I would just
21 like to reiterate something that the Chair Ferreras
22 brought up and just add that you know I find myself
23 on the steps of city hall this week, very often
24 fighting for the life's blood of local providers.
25 And I just want to make sure that you can ensure to

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2 me today that they won't be disproportionately
3 penalized for any, for, for trying to now rectify
4 this, this problem. So the capacity, a lot of them
5 don't have the capacity to shift gears on the dime
6 which they'll ultimately be asked to do at this
7 point. So I just want to make sure that they're,
8 that they're afforded every opportunity to make
9 right with their constituents and consumers and
10 have them enrolled correctly. So any under
11 enrollment, any length of period of time, if they
12 need an extended period of time to get done what
13 they need to done, to get done what they need done
14 that that's afforded to them.

15 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Well thank you for
16 that feedback. Again DYCD's going to work with city
17 hall to work out all the details with providers
18 next week so that everybody.... Committed to making
19 sure that this is a great summer for children and
20 the providers have what they need to be successful.
21 And so we look forward to working with providers to
22 make sure that they can do their work effectively.
23 Again I understand that the challenges are running
24 those programs and we're going to make sure that we
25 can, we can address those needs effectively.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEY: Thank you.

3 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Deputy
5 Mayor I just want to put something on your radar
6 and this is not a negative thing. So we thank you
7 for your efforts and for taking time to be here.
8 It's a little bit unusual for us to have a deputy
9 mayor at, at the budget hearing. So we really do
10 appreciate you taking time. I had a meeting earlier
11 this week and I met with United Way and the Women's
12 Center for Education and Career Advancement. And I
13 did not know that we had a deputy mayor for
14 strategic policy and initiatives. So I advise these
15 two organizations to reach out to Deputy Mayor
16 Paoli. I realize that maybe you might be the best
17 point of contact for them to discuss the report
18 that's been prepared, overlooked on the... the
19 struggle to make ends meet in New York City. And
20 they also have a report that provides for us a
21 self-sufficiency standard in terms of the income
22 levels of families in different compositions should
23 be making with not only income but eligibility
24 through benefits. So I just want you to know that I
25 am going to reach out to those organizations and

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2 advise that they reach out to you to put this
3 discussion on your radar as we take up a discussion
4 internally on how we can strategize on how to
5 implement some of the recommendations that have,
6 are being made in that report. So again thank you
7 for being here and taking the time.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: Thank you. I look
9 forward to it.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
11 you. And Deputy Mayor just wanted to reiterate that
12 there's nothing more disruptive to a family than if
13 you don't know where you're going to send your
14 young person while you have to go to work. So I
15 know that the mayor, this is very important to the
16 mayor. He often talks about a tale of two cities
17 when a family doesn't know where they're going to
18 send their kids or where their children are going
19 to be safely over the summer, it's a challenge. So
20 when we talk about FY '17 it really isn't about we
21 just want to have the battle with you, it's really
22 about those families. And it goes lock in step with
23 every principal that the mayor has uttered through
24 every process. So afterschool programming is great.
25 Summer programs are really needed because families

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5 don't have an option. And the option often time is
6 going to be that you know people are going to be
7 left home alone. So thank you for resolving this
8 for '16. We will, as soon as we pass the budget
9 we're going to start talking about '17.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR BUERY: I do not doubt it.

11 Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

13 Thank you very much for coming today Deputy Mayor.
14 Commissioner you may... Commissioner my Counsel
15 Rebecca Chasan will swear you in and then you may
16 begin your testimony.

17 COMMISSIONER: Do I raise my hand or
18 anything or... No? Okay.

19 COUNSEL: Do you affirm that your
20 testimony will be truthful to the best of your
21 knowledge, information, and belief?

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I do. Alright. Good
23 morning Chair, Chairwoman Ferreras-Copeland,
24 Chairman Eugene, Chairwoman Arroyo, and members of
25 the Finance Youth Services and Community
Development Committees. I'm Bill Chong,
Commissioner of the Department of Youth and
Community Development. And I'm joined by Susan

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2 Haskell Deputy Commissioner Youth Services and
3 Sandra Gutierrez Deputy Commissioner of Community
4 Development. Thank you for the opportunity to
5 discuss DYCD's fiscal 2016 executive budget. Since
6 we testified in late March DYCD has received new
7 resources for additional middle school SONYC
8 program seats COMPASS elementary programs,
9 cornerstones, community centers, and shelter beds
10 for runaway and homeless youth. The fiscal 2016
11 executive budget includes 160.2 million for our
12 SONYC programs. This includes 50.2 million in new
13 funding to add over 7,200 new middle school SONYC
14 seats this September. This will raise the citywide
15 total to nearly 86 thousand seats which we, at,
16 which can approximately serve 107 thousand
17 students. I'm also happy to say as you've heard
18 from Deputy Mayor Buery that after the hearing,
19 after hearing from parents and, and young people
20 the administration will fund the full 34 thousand
21 middle school seats for this upcoming summer for
22 this year only so that families and providers are
23 not left hanging. The executive budget also
24 includes 3.6 million for summer programs for 96
25 renewal schools. The developing plan is to contract

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5 with existing DYCD afterschool providers to operate
6 satellite summer programs at school sites without
7 existing comprehensive summer... programming. Mayor
8 de Blasio also base lined 5.9 million to ensure
9 continuity of service for 17 elementary school
10 based compos year around programs that DOE funded
11 in fiscal years 2014 and 2015. The funding is now
12 in DYCD's budgets. Contracts for the current
13 providers will be extended to provide summer
14 services. A new RFP will be issued this summer to
15 select providers for new contracts to begin
16 September 1st, 2015. The executive budget also
17 invest in cornerstone centers. 23.4 million was
18 base lined for 45 cornerstone centers that began
19 operating in January of 2014. We also receive 8.9
20 million in new funding for DYCD funded providers to
21 assume the operations of another 24 NYCHA community
22 centers starting July 1st 2015. Transferring these
23 centers to DYCD allows them to remain open and
24 provide budget and operations relief to NYCHA and
25 also leverages DYCD's expertise working with
 community center providers and NYCHA communities to
 develop quality programs and services. All
 cornerstone centers will have extended summer hours

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2 again like last year. Combined with the original 25
3 cornerstone centers DYCD... a total of 94 cornerstone
4 centers. An RFP will be released this fall to
5 select providers for new contracts to begin July
6 1st, 2016. To further address youth homelessness
7 the executive budget adds 4.2 million to fund
8 another 100 shelter beds for runaway and homeless
9 youth. Combined with last year's increase DYCD will
10 have funding for 453 shelter beds in fiscal year
11 2016. Proposal... runaway and homeless youth RFP last
12 Wednesday, May 20th. And we expect to announce
13 awards in mid-June. But the start of the summer
14 youth employment program over a month away our
15 current SYP budget stands at 57.7 million. At this
16 level we can currently serve 39,252 young people
17 this summer. Another 14.5 million is needed to
18 reach a total of 72.2 million which would allow us
19 to serve over 47 thousand youth again. We're also
20 doubling the number of vulnerable youth SYP slots
21 from 1,000 to 2,000 this summer. On July 1st, 2015
22 15.6 million in new neighborhood development area
23 contracts operated by 136 providers will begin.
24 These programs are funded by the federal community
25 services block grant. One... NDA program will offer

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5 services to... youth and include case management, job
6 skills development and a 14 week internship. The
7 remaining NDA services include educational support
8 for high school youth, housing assistance, healthy
9 services, healthy families, senior services, adult
10 literacy, and immigrant support services. We're
11 also moving forward with a transition to workforce
12 innovation and opportunity act programs or WIOA
13 which replaces the workforce investment act. WIOA
14 requires that at least 75 percent of its funding
15 for youth support programs for out of school youth.
16 WIOA takes effect July 1st, 2015 but the final
17 federal regulations will, will not be issued until
18 July 1st, until January 2016. In the interim DYCD
19 has begun to advise contractors... changes to youth
20 eligibility requirements performance measures and
21 new youth program elements. DYCD has started to
22 develop a concept paper for WIOA in school and out
23 of school youth programs which we expect to release
24 this summer. We also expect to release an RFP for
25 WIOA youth services this fall. With this executive
budget Mayor de Blasio continues his commitment to
providing enriching activities for our city's
youth. Quality programs in NYCHA community centers

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2 and reducing youth homelessness all the while
3 making sure that struggling schools across the city
4 have the resources needed for student success. I
5 look forward to working with the council to promote
6 the opportunities for young people and communities
7 created by the mayor's key investments in DYCD.

8 Thank you again for this chance to testify today.

9 And we are happy to answer any questions.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
11 you Commissioner. And on the 7th day of budget
12 hearings this is the shortest testimony we've
13 really are excited by.

14 [laughter]

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So I
16 thank you. So we're... [cross-talk]

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: You're welcome.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...this to
19 you. Yay! So that, it gives us an opportunity, very
20 informative but it also gives us an opportunity to
21 ask our questions as members. So I wanted to talk
22 about the COMPASS slots. DYCD recently issued an
23 RFP for COMPASS and with increased price per
24 participant rate of 32 hundred. After the RFP was
25 issued OMB declined to authorize the increased

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2 price so the RFP that were actually awarded will
3 only pay a rate of 28 hundred dollars per
4 participant. Can you walk us through what happened
5 and what are your plans to move forward with the
6 awardees who thought they would be receiving equal
7 compensation to DYCD's other program providers.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So the RFP stated

9 32 hundred because that was the rate in the 2011
10 RFP. The council funded programs that had been
11 operating year to year were at 28 hundred. We had
12 put a request in but we're unable to secure
13 additional funding to bring it up to 32 hundred. So
14 we waited until the executive budget was released
15 and then unfortunately funding wasn't there. So we
16 basically made awards based on 2800 but maintained
17 the same level of seats as last year. So citywide
18 the service levels stayed the same. We, one of the
19 things we did... there were three goals in...

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

21 Commissioner if I'm responding to an RFP...

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...and you
24 tell me that I'm going to get 32 hundred dollars
25 I'm going to respond to the RFP with all the

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2 programs, bells and whistles, support services,
3 hiring staff, head count all, do all that so that I
4 can get that RFP. [cross-talk] Then you tell me you
5 got it but I'm not going to exactly give you that
6 money.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Every RFP makes
8 clear that awards are based on funding
9 availability. We didn't want, we wanted to be
10 prepared that if we got the additional funding that
11 we could move forward. But now that we're
12 developing budgets people can make adjustments
13 based on the lower rate. So what they may have
14 proposed in the proposal can now be dialed back.
15 We're going to be flexible in the staffing
16 requirements, mindful of the lower cost per
17 participant. We were, we were hoping for the best
18 but we're now making adjustments to adjust to the
19 reality that we don't have the funding and we want
20 to move ahead and maintain the same level of
21 services that previously existed.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But then
23 what happens is that you may have wanted to hire an
24 activity specialist at \$15.00 an hour now you have
25 to hire this activity specialist at \$9.00 an hour.

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2 And it speaks to the challenge that we have when we
3 talk about a tale of two cities. We're like
4 becoming a feeder program to a tale of two cities.
5 And that's a big challenge for us. So I want to
6 make sure that you know how can we figure out a way
7 to message our RFP so we're not in a situation
8 again.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well we, it was a...
10 given the timing of when we had to release the RFP
11 to make sure contracts, we had to move ahead not
12 knowing whether the funding was in place. So we, we
13 again try to base it on what the previous RFP was
14 but we didn't want, it would have been I think a
15 mistake to release award letters without knowing
16 whether we had money.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I, I
18 would think for negotiating purposes next year you
19 give the lower number under promise and over
20 deliver...

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right?
23 So that at least if you did get the money in the
24 executive budget you can turn around and say guess
25 what we have this additional funding that we were

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2 able to get from OMB. But it's a problem when we
3 say something and especially when you're trying to
4 establish relationships with non-profit
5 organizations. So what's to say that the next RFP
6 they get they're not going to be... do you understand
7 where I'm going?

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No I understand.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I don't
10 want to beat a dead horse but it is a problem.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I agree we could
12 have been better in managing expectations here. We
13 were optimistic and perhaps overly optimistic that
14 the funding would come through. So we are being
15 flexible in the staffing requirements. We know for
16 example one of the big changes in the RFP issue in
17 2011 was required educational specialist for those
18 that getting 20, 32 hundred. We're not going to
19 require if people want to hire somebody they'll
20 have that flexibility but it is not going to be a
21 requirement. We're going...

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: An how
23 are you going to communicate all this to the
24 organizations?

25

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh it's in the
3 contract development stage. So the award letters
4 have gone out. People are developing budgets. So we
5 are being extremely flexible in obviously in what
6 they proposed in the proposal versus what actually
7 they're going to submit as a contract budget.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: That
9 just, I just want to be clear it doesn't sit well
10 with anyone here when you're saying you know we're
11 going to be flexible after we already give the
12 award. So we need to fix that and that can't happen
13 again. And we're going to engage. I don't want to...

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...take
16 too much time on this because we're going to have
17 continued conversations...

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...on
20 this. What is the number that you would need to
21 bring those awards to 32 hundred dollars.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah 8.8.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm
24 sorry?

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: 8.8 million.

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: 8.8

3 million. Right, for the SYEP. Yeah that's, yep
4 that's what we're going to next. So the council
5 also heard feedback from providers that they're not
6 being awarded the number of slots requested. Can
7 you please explain why this is happening and the
8 basis because you just said that the number isn't
9 changing yet you're saying the...

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We wanted equity

11 across the city so because people, people
12 traditionally ask for more than we have the money
13 for. We put a cap like I believe of 157 seats for
14 school based programs so that some neighborhoods
15 were shortchanged in the previous contracts. So
16 everyone got an opportunity to get up to 157 seats.
17 So you had some programs that got more seats than
18 they had before, others that have less seats. But
19 the total number of seats is the same because we
20 wanted every neighborhood to be treated the same
21 given the act that the, the money was essentially
22 the same.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So you

24 made a decision based on waiting lists? You made
25 this decision on...

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Based on how much
3 money we had available.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right, I
5 understand. But if we have waiting lists and needs
6 in one community I don't understand why you would
7 make the assessment across the board, why I
8 understand we need equity across the city if
9 there's areas or communities that need it more than
10 others why wouldn't we use that strategy?

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: There, there is no...
12 we don't maintain a central waiting list., each
13 waiting list is maintained by each neighborhood.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right. So we wanted
16 to again be fair to every neighborhood so that some
17 programs...

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...in the past...

20 [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But what
22 I'm saying commissioner is in you trying to be fair
23 to every neighborhood.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: The way
3 services are provided now is not fair right? So
4 after school access isn't fair across the city.
5 Some neighborhoods have options for parents, that
6 they can pay, some neighborhoods have other options
7 that they can pay less. But there's a seat, and
8 some neighborhoods have no options right? It's only
9 maybe the beacon school or the one little free
10 program and they have a waiting list. So I don't, I
11 would hope that as you engage in these
12 conversations and, and think of your strategic plan
13 that you look at communities that need the services
14 as opposed to saying we're making it equitable
15 across the board. And it's not equitable if there's
16 neighborhoods that don't have the same quality
17 programming across the board. So now we're layering
18 and giving more support to neighborhoods that may
19 not need it as much as neighborhoods that do.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well in the, in the
21 contract negotiations if, if providers indicate
22 that they don't need as many seats we'll make
23 adjustments.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Leave
25 that to you. Who's going to say that? No provider's

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5 going to say we don't need that many seats. But I
6 guess you look at your attendance rolls and maybe
7 make adjustments as you move forward. So then
8 there's another request here for 14.5 million, is
9 that correct to bring the number for summer youth
10 employment to bring it back to the original 47
11 thousand...

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And you
14 put a list request to OMB?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No I think the, the
16 funding for the city, the mayor's actually, the man
17 of city tax levy funding for summer youth
18 employment is the most by any mayor in history. So
19 the money we, we were hoping for additional funding
20 from the state, the additional funding just covered
21 the cost of the increase, the 75 cent increase in
22 the minimum wage. So unfortunately there is a
23 shortfall. And so we hope that you know... Has the
24 summer youth employment program has been in
25 partnership with the mayor, the council, and the
state. The missing partners here quite frankly have
been the federal government which has abandoned
this program and we're actively starting to engage

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5 the private sector with the help of the mayor's
6 fund.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay
8 Commissioner. I'm just trying to understand you're
9 asking this 14 million dollars of the council, of
10 the federal government or of whom?

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That, that, that's
12 simply...

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: A
14 statement?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That's a statement
16 of where we're at.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay. So
18 I'm going to urge you when you make this statement
19 that you also go to OMB. You have to ask OMB...
20 [cross-talk] because it's one budget, it's all of
21 our... while the council has oversight the whole
22 budget is the council's budget right? That's,
23 that's the oversight that we have over it. So I'm
24 just asking that when we do this I just see that
25 there's a lot of monies and a lot of other
agencies. And I'm, I'm saying this because I'm
advocating for your agency. I think you need more
money. I'm asking you to ask for that money because

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2 if I ask for the money OMB's like well they didn't
3 ask. And it's true. So I'm asking that you ask OMB...

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: OMB is a wearer of
5 shortfall but you know they have to make decisions
6 citywide. So I can't speak for OMB.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well I'm
8 going to ask OMB but I just wanted to know if there
9 as ask of, an official ask from your agency to OB
10 for this...

11 COMMISSIONER They're aware of the costs
12 of maintaining funding. So I mean yeah it's, it's
13 there decision to make obviously about reviewing
14 all the city will priorities, where to make the
15 best investments.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.
17 I'm, I'm going to read through all those lines,
18 that you just... Okay got it. I want to give my
19 colleagues an opportunity to ask questions as
20 chairs and then I'll follow up on the second round.
21 Thank you Commissioner.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Thank you Madam
24 Chair. Commissioner welcome and nice to see you
25 always. I don't envy your position. I'm, I'm going

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6 to, I have a couple of questions on the after
7 school programming and I'll, I'll save those for
8 the second round. I want to focus on the statements
9 that I made in my opening remarks regarding the
10 transfer of the adult literacy funding and the
11 legal services to HRA. Are you...

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean we've, I've
13 had active conversations...

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: How does that
15 make sense?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Well I think as
17 you've stated in your statement that there's a
18 commitment by the administration to centralize all
19 the legal services at HRA. Given the unique design
20 of DOCKA [phonetic] where literacy and educational
21 services go hand in hand with legal services it
22 made perfect sense to transfer the entire
23 initiative to HRA, complete confidence in the
24 Commissioner Banks and his team. We've had active
25 conversations since the executive budget was
announced. And they're prepared to handle the
transition of the program effective July 1st.

26 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: And what
27 communications has, have you had with HRA about the

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5 transfer and what notice have providers been given
6 is the level of funding that they're currently
7 receiving...

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean I can only
9 speak to the contracts that end June 30th. Any
10 future decisions about levels of funding will be
11 made by HRA.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: So the, the
13 adult literacy work that has been managed under
14 your agency, I think one of the, my greatest
15 concern. You know legal services we, we can talk
16 about is there an opportunity for us to do a hybrid
17 of this effort so that we can keep the work that's
18 being done under DYCD with the funded providers in
19 a safe place. It's not broken.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think by keeping
21 all DOCKA under one place will allow it to
22 continue. I think it, to fragment it to have a
23 little bit... agency and a little bit another agency
24 would make it... [cross-talk]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: ...not just about
DOCKA Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I know but, but
the, the, we, we still maintain a robust literacy

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5 services program. The DOCKA portion of literacy is
6 being transferred with the DOCKA legal... So I'm just
7 simply saying that the DOCKA component... it made
8 sense since the executive order signed by the
9 president talked about having educational
10 requirements it made sense for the DOCKA literacy
11 to go with the DOCKA legal. Other literacy programs
12 are staying with DYCD. There's no effort to
13 transfer that to any other agency.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Although the
15 deputy mayor didn't think twice about throwing DYCD
16 under the bus about the error I'm not going to put
17 you in a position where you're going to have to do
18 that with any other agency. Are you confident that
19 we're not, there will be no hiccup in how services
20 are going to be received at the community level
21 given this transfer?

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Based on my
23 conversations with Commissioner Banks he, you know
24 he's extremely confident. But you know I obviously,
25 I don't manage his agencies so I can't speak to
specific details of how he's going to, he's going
to roll out. But I, based on my conversations I
have complete confidence.

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYOI: Okay. So on the
6 adult literacy side that remain under your
7 jurisdiction for lack of a better term. We funded
8 2.5 million to support adult literacy programming.
9 It was base lined in 2014. And rather than issue an
10 RFP you, you extended existing contracts and then
11 added some providers that were funded under the,
12 the discretionary dollars of the council was
13 funding. How many providers were selected. Are we...

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean I can get
15 you that information. I know what we did is using
16 as you said the request... proposal we added money
17 that we, had been base lined to existing providers
18 and made new awards and as a result the number of
19 hours of service provided per, per week went up. So
I think the number of participants actually went
down but the exact number of providers I can get
you that information.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Well here,
21 here's a, here's the issue. Decisions are made
22 awards announced and then we get emails. We lost X,
23 Y, and Z. In my district the out of school
24 programming that we OST for programming that we
25 were, that was base lined that you RFP-ed one

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5 provider lost seats. I am, I heard your explanation
6 for it. And, and the answer is the same that you're
7 predecessor gave us when we question why so many
8 programs lost funding under the RFP and she said we
9 just didn't have enough money. It, are we at the
10 same place again because... [cross-talk]

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...with COMPASS?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Equity across
13 the city assumes that there's an equal need across
14 the city, number one that we have capacity to take
15 care of everyone that needs their service and we
16 know that that's not the case. So are, now we're in
17 a position where we have to figure out where we can
18 preserve the slots that those providers lost
19 because the awards were made based on the budget
20 available, not because providers did not perform
21 well. And we had this conversation about childcare
22 yesterday at the steps of city hall.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: It's, you know
25 this movie is getting very very tedious and boring
because we, the, the end is always we come in, we
plug in the gap, providers are okay for a year, and
then next year we go through the same process.

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5 This, we have to change this conversation. It just
6 doesn't serve any of us.

7 4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If you're referring
8 to the COMPASS awards we try...

9 6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I'm not sure
10 what you're calling it these days quite frankly
11 because you know I'm, I'm at a loss. The bottom
12 line is that providers responded to an RFP for
13 after school programming and in my district one
provider that we were able to put in money for
under our discretionary process that was base lined
now lost 100 seats.

14 14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Again we tried to
15 make a judgment that was fair to everyone. You know
16 given the finite amount of money we had we wanted
17 to serve as many programs, as many neighborhoods,
18 as many young people in different communities. We
19 didn't have the opportunity to be as nuance as I
20 think you would want us to be. I hear you. Bug
21 given the finite amount of money we had we try...
22 [cross-talk] make the best judgments we could.

23 23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I, I understand
24 and I'm not going to torture you about it. Please
25 give us a list of the providers that lost seats,

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5 what communities, what district lost those seats in
6 your attempt to be equitable across the city...

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We will.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: ...so that we in
9 our next couple of weeks understand what it is that
10 we're going to have to deal with the plug a gap
11 that's created with the best intentions although
12 has a very negative impact at the community level.
13 Please. And, and timing is of the essence because...

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll, we'll send
15 it to you next week.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I, I hope that
17 we're going to break for the summer early this
18 year. And the, the, the conversation that I had
19 with the deputy mayor I'll put on your radar. It
20 is, it is true for every single agency in our city.
21 We, in our contracting efforts to provide services
22 across the city assign contracts and budgets that
23 providers were community based organizations that
24 hire the people on those contracts are not paying
25 good wages contributing to the poverty in our city,
often individuals do not have benefits under those
contracts. It is critical for us to engage in a
process to equalize the pay that these contracts

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5 are paying and that providers be supported in that
6 process because we know that if you're expecting 32
7 hundred per slot and you only get 28 the pay for
8 the people that work in those contracts is going to
9 be lower. We cannot be the head employer in the
10 city that's contributing to the poverty in our
11 communities. We have to engage in that
12 conversation. The report that I sited to the deputy
13 mayor I believe gives us a framework to begin a
14 conversation that we can all work on fixing
15 something that regardless of why it, it got created
16 in the first place represents a very serious
17 economic equality problem in our city. We cannot
18 contribute to poverty in this city.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
20 you Chair. Chair Eugene.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
22 much Madam Chair. Commissioner the deputy mayor
23 mentioned that there was a mistake or error from
24 DYCD to send a letter first to let the providers
25 know that they would be granted the funding and
after that to send another letter to let the know
that now you know you want to be funded. When the
administration realized that, that there was a

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5 mistake is there... Well do they, did the
6 administration contact you and to address the issue
7 with you?

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: As the deputy mayor
9 said it was a mistake by DYCD to notify providers
10 until the funding for FY, FY '16 had been
11 finalized. So I apologize for the confusion that
12 it's created. But now we work with OMB to address
13 this situation this summer. And so we'll be
14 notifying providers early next week about plans for
15 the summer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: So what I'm
17 trying to understand when the administration
18 contacted you to inform you or to let you know that
19 that was a mistake, you are not supposed to do
20 that, and were there any conversation, any work
21 together with the administration to try to address
22 that?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The mistake was
24 ours because we jumped the gun in announcing
25 funding that had not been finalized which as you
know the executive budget I think was released on
May 7th.

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yeah I hear you
6 but was it necessary because we thought we had the,
7 a rallies the press conference, letters to the
8 mayor before the funding where where we start. So
9 why the administration and DYCD didn't take the
10 step to correct the mistake before we went through
11 you know all the, the effort that we made to ask
12 the mayor to restore the budget.

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I, I think, as I
14 said earlier the administration had heard the
15 concerns of parents and programs and the problem
16 has been addressed.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Alright thank
18 you Commissioner. Commission in Fiscal year 2015 we
19 know that the DY, SYD offered about, more than 47
20 slots. And now we know that only 39 slot will be
21 available. And if money is... DYCD budget for... and
22 adoption as it was last year what would be the
23 timeframe for actually finding and filling
24 additional slot look like?

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well you know once
the budget is adopted if additional funding is
added to the summer youth employment program we're
prepared to move quickly to hire more young people

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5 this has been a situation that this agency has
6 experienced repeatedly over many years where money
7 gets added and the adopted budget for something
8 like the summer youth employment program. And
9 we're, we have a great network of service providers
10 that are able to move quickly to place young
11 people. We have a large pool of applicants. So I
12 feel confident any additional funding that's added
13 to the summer youth employment program can be well
14 spent very quickly.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: With respect to
16 the SYEP, and we know that part of the money comes,
17 comes from the city and from the state and some of
18 the time from private sector. The fiscal year 2016
19 is... budget, does not currently recognize A listed
20 funding for SYEP. But the state adopted the budget
21 allocation for 30 million dollars. [cross-talk]

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...state wide.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes, could you
24 tell us or do you know what is the positives of the
25 30 million dollars does DYCD expect to receive this
 year.

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5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'll tell you in a
6 minute. Our, our expected state allocation is 15.4
7 million.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: 15.4? Is there
9 any timeframe when do you expect to receive this...
10 [cross-talk]

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well the money is
12 I, I think, believe already in our budget or you
13 know we'll... and it's a reimbursement process so it,
14 it, it doesn't hold back us moving ahead with
15 implementation of the program.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: No okay I see.
17 Thank you. But what about the, the contribution
18 from the private sector? Is there any funding from
19 the private sector?

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We, we've gotten
21 about 1.4 million in private funding from several
22 providers in that, that... money usually goes to the
23 mayor's fund because it's the non-profit arm for
24 the city and they administer the money and then we,
25 we get a transfer of funds from the mayor's fund.

26 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: ...the fiscal 2016
27 executive budget includes an allocation of, for 100
28 thousand that are for SYP in relation to the anti

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5 gun violence. ...we'll be offered this summer in
6 connection with anti gun violence initiative.

7 4 COMMISSSIONER: So I believe the actual
8 number last year, the number was 100 thousand that
9 the council added to the adopted budget. This year
it's almost 300 thousand young people who will be
earmarked for this special initiative and we expect
298 jobs to be generated as a result of that.

10 10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: ...question but
11 I'm going to ask... the last one. With respect to the
12 summer jobs last year we were able to provide more
13 than 45 thousand summer jobs. And now we get back
14 to 39 thousand. So that mean we're going backward.
15 What is your plan for the future...

16 16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well...

17 17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: ...to ensure that
18 we got enough jobs or to increase the number of
19 slot for the youth... this summer. Is there any plan
20 for the future?

21 21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think this, to
22 grow the funding base. As I said the federal
23 government has abandoned this program. The state
24 unfortunately could have done more with the, with
25 the launch of the center for youth employment I'm

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5 hoping that the private funding we receive goes u
6 as well. I think the council has obviously done an
7 incredible job supporting this program. This
8 program every year we have to raise the budget from
9 scratch. I mean people forget that... the inception
10 of the jobs program which goes back 53 years
11 believe it or not at the summer jobs program
12 something called it... It was entirely funded by the
13 federal government. It, the federal government just
14 walked away from this program it's because the city
15 of New York, the city council, the state of New
16 York and, and some privet funders quite frank have
17 stepped into the breach to keep this program alive.
18 So every year I have to raise the money from
19 scratch because we go to different places. So I go
20 up to Albany in February where, you know the Mayor
21 this year made a major push among private funders
22 about a month ago. We're hoping that will
23 eventually lead to more opportunities for funding
24 from the private sector. So our strategy is multi-
25 prong.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yeah every year
24 DYCD faces... challenges of, for losing funding for
25 the summer jobs. And you mentioned that you know

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5 the state should make ore effort, should invest
6 more. But is there any collaborated effort between
7 DYCD and the administration. In conversation, in
8 plan that you, DYCD and the administration putting
9 together to adjust this issues and to overcome the
10 difficulties of raising funding or receiving more
11 from them from the state... private sector.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean...

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGNE: DYCD on that
14 administrate... put together... together... [cross-talk]
15 for the future.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Every year on the
17 day when lobbying efforts are occurring in Albany
18 with the, the summer jobs campaign I participate. I
19 meet with legislators. You know we, we, you know
20 make our needs clear. And you know the state
21 obviously to make its decisions about what
22 priorities it can invest in as well. So we make a
23 collaborative effort with the state. You know as I
24 said we're actively trying to do more outreach to
25 the private sector because they really haven't
contribute much. 1.3 million out of a budget of 72
million is not much so I think employers have a big
stake in keeping young people employed and you

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5 know. So we made some headway. So in the last few
6 weeks I've worked with the chief technology officer
7 for the city whose reached out to the tech sector.
8 And so a lot of the tech companies are... an interest
9 in either giving us money or hiring young people.
10 So for example AOL just agreed to provide 25 paid
11 internships. So I'm, I'm, I'm optimistic that we
12 can make headway in the privet sector because there
13 is so little that we have right now that we can
14 grow support for the summer jobs program by that,
15 by those strategies.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
17 much Commissioner. Thank you Madam Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
19 you Chair. We've been joined by Council Member
20 Johnson, Levine, Cumbo, Williams, and Van Bramer.
21 We will now hear from Council Member Chin followed
22 by Council Member Cornegy.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Chair.
24 Commissioner when you saw the money for the
25 summers, summer program, the SONYC summer program
and you saw that in the out year were you pretty
confident that the funding was going to be there? I

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5 mean it was also in the out year. It wasn't just
6 for one year right?

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean what I've,
8 what I've, what happens often in a preliminary
9 budget and an executive budget things do change. So
10 there's no certainty until the executive budget is
11 released and that's why it was a mistake for us to
12 move ahead without a certainty about the long term
13 funding. So for example in the preliminary budget
14 there was no funding for runaway and homeless youth
15 beds and that was added in the executive budget. So
16 between preliminary executive a lot of things
17 happen, a lot of listening happens and adjustments
18 are made. So it was as I said a mistake... [cross-
19 talk]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But usually if
21 something is in the preliminary budget often time
22 it will stay there. I mean...

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Not necessarily. So
24 I mean like I said there are, it's a dynamic
25 process. There are changes between preliminary and
executive and so our mistake was to move too
quickly until there was certainty on the funding
for FY '16.

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well I guess the
6 administration have you to take the heat for that
7 huh? Okay but they gave out money to DOE right to,
8 to do programs renewal school. At the same time
9 they added 3.6 million to DYCD's budget for you to
do the after school program. I mean why couldn't
just DOE with their renewal school project just do
everything. I mean why do they...

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think it's a
11 question of timing, that given the fact that the
12 community school programs haven't been officially
13 awarded contracts that we looked at where there
14 were potential service gaps. And so DYCD was asked
15 to fill the breach and so we're looking at amending
16 contracts nearby programs so they can do a
17 satellite program at these locations that don't
18 currently have any summer enrichment programs and
19 then moving forward we can hopefully the Department
20 of Education will take on a, a much more hands on
21 role But for this summer we were asked to step in
22 and help an we're glad to do that.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So for this, for
24 this budget line you see that it's only going to be
25 for the summer?

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5 2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well it's been base
6 lined but you know I know for this summer the, the
7 plan is to just simply amend existing contracts
8 because the community school contracts really are
9 not up and running yet.

10 7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So for the, for
11 the money that was allocated for the summer program
12 now, now you're able to get back. You already have
13 all the providers on board right. You already have
14 contractors with provider that could do the, that
15 have the capacity to do the summer program?

16 13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well the renewal
17 schools are the largest summer school... [cross-talk]

18 15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...the larger...

19 16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah I think you
20 know we've, because of their earlier communications
21 I think we have a good handle on the situation.
22 That's why... [cross-talk]

23 20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: And also because
24 you did it last summer.

25 22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well last summer
26 yes but the big difference this year is that we're
27 adding more sites because many of the programs that
28 were launched in September of last year were

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5 getting funding to do summer services for the first
6 time. So there would be more young people being
7 served in more locations.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But that's, I mean
9 that goes back to my point. Then they were planning
10 to really expand the program and why was it all of
11 a sudden just got pull. I mean that doesn't make
12 sense at all right? I mean last summer you started
13 it, it was great, and you were planning on
14 expanding it. So in, in a sense that funding was
15 asked for this program... [cross-talk]

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Last summer...
17 [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...put in the
19 preliminary budget and in the out years going
20 forward.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Last summer was
22 intended, has a one year effort.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But then...

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm
25 sorry Commissioner if it's in the out years how is
it intended for a one year? Because when we see it
from our perspective and when I study the charts
and the numbers and everything and we see out year

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5 funding it means that you're saying we are
6 committed to this program from now until the end of
7 these out years. So then to say that it was only
8 intended for one year is what we don't understand.
9 So explain that to me.

10 7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well my
11 understanding is last year was intended as a one
12 year investment. This year we made the mistake of
13 issuing notices before the executive budget which
14 finalized... [interpose]

15 12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Commissioner...

16 13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...the funding.

17 14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...I, I know you're,
18 you, you're taking the blame right? But you
19 shouldn't be taking the blame because summer
20 program ended in the summer of last year. So
21 September, October you guys were doing planning
22 right? And you wanted to expand right? Expand
23 slots? So it was intention to continue the program
24 which is a very very good investment alright. But
25 the administration you know wanted to do something
else and they need to look for money so they took
this and they made a mistake alright. And, and when
the parents and the advocates and the council,

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5 everybody started screaming they pull back. And now
6 they're saying it's going to be another one year?
7 No. But we're glad that it's, it's back for the
8 summer but we will continue to fight to make sure
9 that it continues. And we hope that we will
10 continue to work with you on that.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: As I said it was a
12 premature decision by us. We should have waited.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Alright...

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Council
15 Member Corney followed by Council Member Miller.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEY: Good afternoon
17 Commissioner. So I've had the pleasure myself in my
18 office of working with the administration on the
19 workforce development round tables. And we've had
20 several of them. I kind of wanted to ask you the,
21 you know there've been dialogue around career
22 pathways and I kind of wanted to just ask you a
23 question around the funding for career, the career
24 pathways initiatives. So fiscal year 2016 executive
25 budget, budget includes a half million dollars for
career pathways. I never really got a clear
definition on career pathway even when we were
having those. So can you tell me about the career

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5 pathways report, why it was authored, and who
6 commissioned it and what his findings were.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay the career
8 pathways report was conducted by the mayor's office
9 of workforce development. So I was a member of that
10 group so I can only speak to our role in that,
11 which is a very small roll. So I, I would suggest
12 you contact the mayor's office of workforce
13 development for the whole history of it. But one of
14 the things that came out of the, the jobs for New
15 Yorkers taskforce report was the need to create a
16 bridge program for low literacy young people. So
17 the 500 thousand that you're referring to in the
18 executive budget refers to... there are a lot of
19 young people who have low literacy levels, 4th, 5th,
20 6th grade reading levels that our current programs
21 can't reach them. You know typically we want to be,
22 to be able to engage in the workforce you have to
23 have a 7th or 8th grade reading level. So the idea
24 of the 500 thousand dollars is to create a bridge
25 program with our young adolescent literacy program
to begin to provide the more robust services so
that these young people after receiving services
from the young adolescent literacy programs can

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5 transition to some of our other programs that you
6 need a 7th or 8th grade reading level. So that,
7 that's the 500 thousand.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEY: So, so what are
9 those, what, what is that, what is the demographic
10 age target for that program.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's 16 24? Yeah 16
12 to 24.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEY: And then my
14 second question is what would be the half, what
15 would be the 500 dollars, 500 thousand dollars for
16 fiscal 2016... oh you just... use for... but is there
17 any, any idea of extending this past fiscal year
18 2016... that, that particular line of funding...

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I, I think it's
20 been base lined. Three years. The 500 thousand.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEY: So I would
22 just, I would just ask that we follow up with Chair
23 of Finance because that wasn't my, that wasn't
24 actually my understanding.

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh... base lined for
26 three years.

27 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEY: Thank you.

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5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Before

6 the end of this hearing we'll get you that

7 information. Council... you have a question? No?

8 Okay. Council Member Miller is not here. Council

9 Member Rosenthal followed by Council Member

10 Johnson.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you
12 chairs. Thank you Commissioner. And first I just
13 want to commend your deputy commissioner for youth
14 services Susan Haskell. We had a very challenging
15 situation in one of our schools and she really was...
16 and trying to help calm everyone's nerves. Although
17 there's still some follow-up with it but she
18 really, it was a pleasure to work with her. So I
19 just want to let you know that. I'm particularly
20 interested in the increases for contract workers.
21 So when the money is moved from the miscellaneous
22 budget to your agency it's my understanding that
23 your contracts are fairly straight forward so it'll
24 be fairly easy to move the money directly into each
25 of the contracts. Do, do you feel that way?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...contract workers?

24 I mean I was... [cross-talk]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right so the...

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5 2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...talking about
6 program staff.

7 4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right. So the
8 increase to 11.50 an hour, for wages, and the cola
9 increase of 2.5 percent... [cross-talk]

10 7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh... [cross-talk]
11 ...the cola.

12 9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

13 10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So we're waiting
14 for directions...

15 12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yep.

16 13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...from OMB on how to
17 implement this.

18 15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yes.

19 16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Because they, they
20 want to develop a citywide strategy. And each
21 agency's a little different so many of the workers
22 in the programs that we fund are part time so they
23 want to figure out how do you, how do you calculate
24 the cost of the adjustments because some, some,
25 like homeless services for example may have a lot
more full time workers because of the
disproportionate number of programs that run after
school programs you have a large number of people

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5 who work 15 20 hours a week. So all those
6 calculations are being done and we'll get more
7 guidance from OMB hopefully in the next few months
8 after the budget's adopted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: How many
10 contracts for your agency does this apply to?

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh I think we're
12 still doing that calculation. Because we, we
13 haven't gotten clear guidelines yet from OMB. So I
14 don't want to guess until we know exactly which you
15 know how they want us to apply the analysis.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: You don't
17 know how many contracts.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well how many
19 contracts... because for example... [cross-talk]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...it's unclear
22 whether we have... funded programs whether, whether
23 they will be covered by this. You know so all the
24 things...

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: 100 percent
federally funded programs.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah a number of
those as well. So when this, when a cola's last

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5 done five years ago there were questions about does
6 this apply to every program in the city regardless
7 of its funding source. So we haven't gotten the
8 guidance yet so for me to give you a number without
9 clear guidance from OMB I think would be premature
10 because that's one open question we have, you know
11 programs that... had CSBG funding, programs that get
12 community development block funding. We have
13 programs that get workforce investment opportunity
14 funding. So all those would technically be eligible
15 but until we get clear guidance from OMB I can't
16 give you a precise number of how many programs
17 would be eligible.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, okay. So
19 can you give us a list of if you have 100 contracts
20 in total how many are making that number up. I'd be
21 curious to know what that number is, your total
22 number of contracts.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We can give you a
24 breakout of contracts by funding source.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: That's
exactly what I was getting at.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay.

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Contracts by
6 funding source and then similarly for those
7 contracts by funding source do you know the number
8 of full time and part time employees in each of
9 those categories of contracts.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Until we get more
11 guidance from OMB of what categories applies it, it
12 wouldn't make sense to do the analysis until they
13 give us more guidance on what categories.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So you don't
15 know that?

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We can, what? Oh
17 okay we'll get it to you. [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...you have
19 that.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Again it, it's a
21 broad universe but it may be narrowed based on
22 whatever guidance we... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Of course.
24 I'm, I understand you I'm just trying to understand
25 the parameters that are within DYCD. Okay so you
have those by funding source. Do you also have them
by like programmatically?

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5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes. I mean we can
6 say what workforce, [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...after school math.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yes. How hard
10 is that? Is that some information you could get to
11 us within the next, today's Friday.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That would take a
13 little time to do sorting. But you know we'll get
14 within a week or son.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Within a week
16 or so. So it's not something you have at the ready?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean you know
18 within the week I think is probably the best we can
19 do.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay by
21 Friday. Thank you very much Commissioner.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
23 you Council Member Rosenthal. We have, is Council
24 Member Johnson here? Oh. Council Member Williams is
not here yet... Someone call him. Oh sorry. And we've
been joined by Council Member Gibson. I know you
move your seats too much.

25

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you
6 Madams and Mister Chairs. Thank you Commissioner
7 for your testimony. I have a couple of questions.
8 First I wanted to know if... I'm happy with this
9 administration of how they tried to address certain
10 issues of crime particularly from the lead of the
11 council on the certain issues... around gun violence.
12 My first question is I know that the police
13 department, they have impact zones that they've
14 looked at. Do you look at your programs similarly?
15 Are there impact zones or some zones that you look
16 at and say we have to do specific programs here? If
17 so how does that work? How do you look at the data
18 and figure out where these programs need to go?

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm sorry there's
20 all this noise back and forth... doors... could you
21 repeat the question?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay but I
23 don't have that much time so did the police
24 department often they have what they have called
25 impact zones which is where they need to put their
resources. Does DYCD have similar impact zones. And
if so how do you look at it and how do you figure
out where the resources are needed the most.

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5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And generally in
6 programs we, you know we try to target high need
7 areas like for example the neighborhood development
8 area, the, the contracts I referred to. They're
9 designated for high poverty neighborhoods. Our
10 workforce programs we want to encourage that they
11 target neighborhoods that have high unemployment.
12 So we tried... because let, many of these programs
13 are fairly small like the workforce innovative
14 opportunity act program. It's probably 18 million
15 dollars so we want to maximize the impact it has on
16 the highest need communities. So generally we try
17 to target... but you know, but when you have large
18 funding like the after school program SONYC which
19 is you know over 160 million. There we have the
20 ability to cast a wider net and serve as many
21 communities as possible where we don't have to just
22 limit it to just high need neighborhoods but every
23 neighborhood that wants a program can have one but
24 for programs that have less funding we really do ty
25 to target high need communities.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Can you tell
24 me a little bit about the summer youth employment
25 and this youth employment journal is something

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5 that's big... obviously all the studies show that is
6 one of the biggest things that we can do to deal
7 with the crime amongst those young people. There's
8 a study came out of Chicago, a eight week program,
9 43 percent decrease I those young people... [cross-
10 talk] And that expanded 16 months after that
11 program. Also I would love to see these numbers
12 pushed up even more. I do want to know about the,
13 when you said you doubled the number of vulnerable
14 youth SYEP slots from 1,000 to 2,000 I know that in
15 the city council we had some slots that we set
16 aside areas that had the crisis manager system. Are
17 those the same? What are these... [cross-talk]

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No. So the Cure
19 Violence programs I think my understanding is about
20 300 thousand has been allocated this year which
21 will allow us to support about 298 young people.
22 And so the Cure Violence groups will designate the
23 young people and then we'll use our payroll system
24 which is the one that pays SYP and the, these young
25 people will be paid directly by DYCD. And then the
cure violence groups can supervise them. The
vulnerable youth jobs is something we started about

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5 four or five years ago where we recognize that
6 young people who are in foster care...

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I see.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...or homeless or
9 court involved needed to get special support. And
10 so we, we work closely historically with ACS,
11 homeless services, and the Department of probation.
12 And they make referrals of young people. There's no
13 lottery. And there's a case manager assigned to
14 each young person because we know, we want to make
15 sure the six week experience is, has been as packed
16 full as possible so a young person may have
17 challenges. So that's why the case worker from
18 probation or from homeless services works with our
19 provider to make sure that, that, that we can build
20 on this experience. So there's been a commitment by
the mayor to double that number so this year we
went from 1,000 to 2,000 jobs set aside for
vulnerable youth.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay. Well I
22 hope that we put some... the, the, the jobs pieces
23 actually not adequately funded. Hopefully the
24 council will be able to do something but it
25 shouldn't be left up to us. It's probably not fair

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5 to leave public safety up to only the police
6 department and try to work only through them. We
7 have to make sure we're working through all of the
8 agencies and I think DYCD is a big part of that. I
9 think a big part of that is providing jobs and
10 after school programs for our young people. I'm
11 very happy that you put back the, the slots that
12 we're going to lose. But I think that's the
13 direction we should be going and making sure it's
14 adequately funded particularly in the same areas
15 that the police come and we call impact zones. I
16 think we should be working tandem with that.

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I agree with you
18 100 percent. I mean one of the things I mentioned
19 in my testimony is that the evening hours at the,
20 94 cornerstone community cents will continue this
21 year. It was a big success last year. The, for the
22 first time many of these centers were open 'till
23 11:00 at night. And they place this, provided a
24 safe space for young people to be engaged in
25 programming, in public housing. We, we toyed around
with the hours. Last year it was 11:00 for most
centers and then those that had gyms we opened
'till 12:30. And we saw the 10 inch drop and, and

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5 so we, we've dialed it back a bit to 11:00. And you
6 know it was interesting because the, we had to
7 figure out how to engage young people in
8 programmings because one of the things we learned
9 is that cooking was a big interest for young
10 people, young men. And we did cooking classes. We
11 started doing family movie nights which was a way
12 to engage families as a, as a family, as a unit to,
13 and, and because the center is great. It's open
14 'till 11:00. Keep young people, keep families safe.
15 And then the, one of the side benefits of the
16 extended hours in cornerstones last year was we had
17 two or three officers assigned to the centers to
18 make sure there was safety there. And so in many
19 centers the cops participated in the activities and
20 played basketball. So we're launching a pilot
21 program this year which I think Councilwoman Gibson
22 witnessed the first one we did at Johnson Houses
23 where we had young people engaging officers on a
24 regular basis to look at how they can work
25 together. So we're hoping to expand that pilot
because I think a lot of times it's about young
people engaging officers and officers engaging
young people and understanding that the stereotypes

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5 are really just stereotypes about each other. So
6 that was one of the side benefits of the extended
7 hours last year which we hope to build on this
8 year.

9
10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Well y time is
11 up. So thank you. I'd love to continue
12 conversations about how the agencies can work more
13 collaboratively. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
15 you Council Member Williams. Council Member Cumbo
16 and then we'll begin the second round which is
17 three minutes per council member.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you Council
19 Member Williams for recognizing your time was up.
20 And I thank my co-chairs and everyone for all of
21 their work today. Just teasing you. But I wanted to
22 focus on a few things. The first was when will you
23 notify providers about the summer camp
24 restorations?

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Early next week.

26 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Early next week
27 they will be informed?

28 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

29

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay that's
6 fantastic. The other thing that I wanted to ask is
7 that we had a few, we had a few providers even up
8 until last week and the last month in terms of
9 challenges with your agency getting money out of
10 the door. So the ability for organizations to
11 actually receive the money because one of the
12 challenges that we faced is a lot of organizations
13 ultimately have to front the money if you will
14 until they can get the money reimbursed. How did
15 you feel about the time table in which funding was
16 released to organizations. Were you pleased with
17 it? Do you think it could be improved? Or where are
18 we with that?

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I, all the programs
20 that started in September I think are fine. I think
21 mid-year we released a request for a proposal to
22 start center based programs and those programs
23 started in March. So some I know are struggling. So
24 you should have them contact our, our office. And,
25 you know some are new to contracting and that's
always a challenge. One of the exciting things
about the center based initiatives that we
announced starting in, in March. We had a really

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5 incredible cross section of, of non-profits that we
6 had never funded. We funded for the first time A
7 African group in Staten Island which I was really
8 happy to do. We funded programs operating Islamic
9 schools. So I know some of the new groups probably
10 struggled and so if they have issues they should
11 contact our office and we'll walk them through,
12 provide them technical assistance because the, the,
13 the contracting process in the city can be
14 challenging. No question about it and especially
15 for a new group.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: But through the
17 discretionary funding that we're able to give out
18 of our office which is outside of RFPs and that
19 sort of thing once the money is awarded to them
20 what is the average time table in which the group
21 receives the funding for discretionary?

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think the, once
23 they're cleared by the Mayor's Office of Contract
24 Services and that is usually the biggest challenge.
25 It's 30 to 60 days from the time they're cleared.
26 Typically a lot of agencies that receive... funding
27 they, they have to comply with a, the attorney
28 general charities bureau's requirements which is a

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5 rigorous list of things including an annual audit.
6 And so we, what we found is that often times groups
7 don't get cleared by MOCS until December or
8 January. And that, that shrinks the window that we
9 can develop a contract. Because we can't act on
10 contract development until the Mayor's Office of
11 Contract Services clears them. So that's typically...
12 but once they're cleared depending on their, the
13 size of their contacts... if it's under a certain
14 amount the requirements are less stringent than
15 those that are bigger contracts. So we, it's a
16 system that's never perfect. We're always looking
17 for ways to improve it.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: The other
19 question that I had was, and I know that Chair
20 Ferreras will probably talk more about this is the
21 contract as it pertains to we know that NYCHA has
22 the 57 community centers and senior centers. How
23 many of those spread of the community centers is
24 DYCD picking up? The second question behind that is
25 because the summer is basically here upon us how
will you award those contracts once those, once
those developments have been turned into your care
how will you get providers to provide the services

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5 because there seem to be conversations already had
6 in my district with community centers and I
7 understood that there would be some kind of RFP
8 process and also what will happen to the labor
9 workforce that is unionized that was providing a
lot of those services and those community centers
will those jobs be maintained or are we going to
lose that workforce?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So there's a short
11 term and a long term strategy. So the short term
12 strategy because as you may recall in January of
13 2014 DYCD assumed responsibility for 45 centers
14 from NYCHA, 45 cornerstones. That money was in our
15 budget only through June 30th of this year. That
16 was a decision made by the Bloomberg
17 Administration. So we couldn't do an RFP unless we
18 had a long term commitment of funding. The
19 executive budget released a few weeks ago make that
20 long term commitment. So there is a plan in,
21 sometime in the fall of this year to release an RFP
22 for all 94 centers. We took over 25 four or five
23 years ago we, we added 45 last January for 70 and
24 the remaining 24 centers will be assuming effective
25 July 1st. So that's the long term strategy. Have an

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5 RFP out by this fall for new, new long term

6 contracts starting July 1st at 2016. The short term

7 strategy for the 24 that we're assuming July 1st of

8 2015 is to amend the contracts of the nearest

9 cornerstone or beacon and they will run a satellite

10 program fully funded until the RFP is released this

11 fall and there will be turnover. In fact the

12 experience of five or six years ago was that the

13 original 25 cornerstones we awarded with the short

14 term strategy of amending contracts of nearby

15 beacons at the time half the programs through the

16 competitive process turned over which we think is a

17 good thing. You know competition's good. You bring

18 in new providers and people who might be more

19 familiar with the neighborhood. So that's the long

20 term strategy. The third question you asked about

21 staffing it's my understanding that the housing

22 authorities working to make sure that any city

23 employee is reassigned to a comparable job either a

24 NYCHA or other city agencies and beyond that I have

25 nothing else to add about the staffing issue.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. And I

24 would like to talk to you more about that RFP

25 process that will be administered. Because we have

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5 seen what this RFP procession the short time that
6 I've been here that a great deal is lost and a lot
7 of local involvement is lost and we want to make
8 sure that the process is as transparent as possible
9 and that many local providers, particularly those
10 that are servicing communities of color have an
11 opportunity to be also serviced by providers of
12 color as well.

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If your office be
14 willing to sponsor a workshop on how to prequalify
15 in the... system we'd be glad to work with you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I'll
17 take you up on that. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
19 you Council Member Cumbo. I just wanted to follow
20 up on Council Member Arroyo's request. The council
21 would like a list of the organizations that were
22 awarded through COMPASS RFP, broken down by council
23 districts and number of slots awarded. You said you
24 would provide this list next week but we are
requesting that you provide this by the end of
today just because we're in very important
negotiating conversations right now.

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay.

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5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
6 you. I wanted to talk about, ask... in our budget
7 response the council included a call for 3.96
8 million or 60 thousand per program to increase the
9 average budget for city funded beacons to 407
10 thousand. This was, was not acknowledged in the
11 fiscal 2016 executive budget. How did we arrive,
12 how did you arrive to the current funding levels
13 for city funded beacons.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: You know
15 unfortunately funds were not available to honor
16 that request but we, you know have this.... I, I, I
17 have a special commitment to help the beacons. I
18 understand that a lot of the work they done, have
19 done over the last 20 years, almost 25 years have
20 essentially laid a foundation for a lot of our
21 programs. You know Richard Murphy, it was his
22 vision to, to create the beacon program. And if you
23 look at, you see a little bit of the beacon model
24 in every program we have since then you know I
25 often quote Richard murphy, talked about we needed
to create dozens of small universes to help young
people learn, dream, and grow. And you see that in
every single model. So absent the ability to get

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5 more funding for the program which you know I, you
6 know I, I respect that request and you know the
7 decisions are you know challenging that will be
8 fun. We're looking to figure out a way to add
9 services to beacons because of the invaluable
10 services that you provide is free space at night
11 and on weekends. Free space on the weekends and
12 evenings is an invaluable service. So we're
13 starting to, I, I... Denise Williams who oversaw our
14 afterschool programs... Deputy Commissioner for
15 Planning and Program Integration. And her job is to
16 begin to look at neighborhood by neighborhood how
17 can we get the different programs we fund to work
18 together? So for example literacy programs, they
19 struggle to find classroom space why can't a
20 literacy program operate a beacon. Okay it's a
21 different provider but it's the same community. Why
22 are we treating each other as competitors. I'm
23 starting conversations with other city agencies who
24 are looking for... space.

25 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

26 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So I had a
27 conversation with the head of MetroPlus which is
28 the insurance..., health and human, health and

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5 hospitals corporation. They wanted to expand their
6 pool of people who sign up for their insurance.
7 They're interested in providing health services
8 like... great idea they suggested a back to school
9 immunization clinic, vaccination clinic. So absence
10 of me being able to give them more money I wanted
11 to be able to bring services to them they don't
12 have to pay for, free services. One of Richard
13 Murphy's, one of the genius ideas he had was this
14 idea about co-location.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Mm-hmm.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Free space for free
17 service. I don't think we've done a good enough job
18 of doing that. And part of the problem is that DYCD
19 historically is operated almost as three different
20 agencies. You know we had youth services here. We
21 had community development here. And we had youth
22 employment. And there were three different ways of
23 operating. So I want to change all that. Let's look
24 at... And one of the things we're going to be doing
25 which I'm really excited about is that we're going
to have an app that you can go to one app and find
all the DYCD programs funded in that neighborhood
so that the beacon director if he or she has

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5 somebody who comes there and needs literacy
6 services he or she can connect them to literacy
7 services in that community. Because we tend to look
8 at people as program participants. I want to look
9 at people as a neighborhood.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right. I
11 think your vision is right on and again that's
12 something that is core to what beacons are supposed
13 to do. But when we have an agency such as yours
14 that isn't funded properly what begins to happen I
15 think is, be, creates this competitive culture with
16 the program as opposed to a collaborative one. So
17 you know this council wants to work with you to
18 help change that structure because you have years
19 of competitive RFPs, competitive programming. Non-
20 profits have to, have been kind of forced to
21 compete for the same amount of crumbs.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yet you
24 know now to transition to this collaborative effort
25 I think it's the right direction to go. And can you
26 speak to me on the difference between city funded
27 and federally funded beacons and is there a
28 difference in programming?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean I, we
3 recognize that there's more funding that CDBG or
4 community development block granted fund beacon has
5 a little bit more money. And so they have...

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: How
7 much? What's... [cross-talk]

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Not much. About 60
9 thousand or so. They're, they're required to serve
10 I think more people than the city tax levy. Because
11 we recognize you can't treat, it's not an apples to
12 apples comparison. You know we, we have a lower
13 threshold of participant requirements for city tax
14 levy funded programs.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.
16 And then I wanted to, I'm going to follow up with
17 the youth employment program which is something
18 that we had put in the response and is very
19 important to this council, to me. I think it's, you
20 know we really need to begin to address on many
21 levels I think it addresses the needs to provide
22 more support in the programs if we're able to
23 employ young people and teach them a skill. It also
24 takes a young person and gives them a skill that
25 they can take for the rest of their lives. But I'm

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2 going to put that in my response letter to you so
3 if you can get that back to me as soon as possible
4 I would greatly appreciate it. We have Council
5 Member Chin for the second round and in, I, I'm
6 sorry, I'm sorry Council Member we'll have the
7 chair ask her question and then you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I will always
9 defer to Margaret. But Commissioner I'm going to
10 channel my former colleague Council Member Lou
11 Fiddler and pursue the questioning around runaway
12 homeless youth, the additional hundred beds will
13 bring to 453 what we are now funding...

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: ...for, for this
16 service. Where, so you received RFP, the responses
17 and how many did you receive?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah well I think
19 we, we have more beds requested than the hundred so
20 we have flexibility..

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Of course.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: But you know since
23 it's an RFP process I can't recall speak to who
24 applied...

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: How many... No I
3 just want to know how many and, and where are we,
4 are we targeting specific communities where beds
5 are going to be assigned?

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It depends on their
7 they're, where, where they have facilities. The,
8 the main focus of this RFP was to serve gay and
9 lesbian youth...

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...and 25 percent of
12 the beds we hope will be for transgender youth
13 because we recognize that there's a clear need for
14 that. And you know a lot of research has shown that
15 a, a growing number of the young people who are
16 runaway and homeless youth are, are LGBTQ. So we,
17 we made a commitment, it's a mayor's commitment to
18 serve this emerging population. And so hopefully by
19 mid-June we'll have awards we can announce and some
20 of them will come online immediately and others
21 will need to like at least space and things like
22 that.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Are there any
24 waiting lists currently that we know about with
25 existing providers?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think the
3 additional hundred beds added last year alleviated
4 that situation and in, in the rare situation where
5 a young person is not able to access a crisis
6 shelter bed they're, they're given referrals but I
7 think the additional hundred beds will help deal
8 with any backlog or waiting list that exist.

9 Typically a crisis shelter bed because young people
10 rotate in and out 30 to 60 days so a crisis shelter
11 bed can serve... Yeah so one bed you know in, in a
12 given year could serve ten people because, because
13 young people may come for just six months, I mean
14 the, a few weeks, move in with a friend, move in
15 with a family member. So we're able to leverage the
16 beds to serve many more young people.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: So are there, is
18 there a split between those that are transitioning
19 out and, or those that are emergency beds?

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: There are two types
21 of beds. There are emergency crisis shelter beds
22 and there is something where, what we call
23 transition to independent living.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: So what's the
3 split of the, in the hundred? Is there a split
4 between those two categories?

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah based on the
6 proposals we'll try to fund you know a mixture of
7 both.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Okay. So you
9 don't know what that mixture is at... [cross-talk]

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No because...

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: ...this point?

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: ...the proposals are
13 being read right now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: And, and I'm
15 happy that part of the funding includes dedicated
16 funding for mental health services. It's kind of
17 outside of as much as I love DYCD and the wonderful
18 work you do around adult literacy, mental health
19 services who would be monitoring the quality, the
20 components of that aspect of, of the services?

21 UNKNOWN FEMALE: That's a good question.
22 We're going to allow, we certainly...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Can you say your
24 name for the record?

25

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2 SUSAN HASKELL: I'm Susan Haskell,
3 Deputy Commissioner of Youth Services. We're
4 funding a, a, some, approximately 90 thousand for
5 every 25 beds or young people being served any, any
6 time. we're going to allow the providers
7 flexibility. Some of that mental health services
8 could be a licensed clinical social worker who's on
9 site to do, which wouldn't necessarily be what you
10 would think of as like a traditional clinical
11 mental health service. Others who don't have access
12 to those clinical services in house or psychiatric
13 evaluations will make partnerships with local
14 organizations. So depending on the individual
15 provider and what their in house resources are
16 we're going to give them the flexibility to use the
17 funds to build on that.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: The oversight of
19 the quality and the content of the services is what
20 I'm asking about.

21 SUSAN HASKELL: We have a close
22 relationship with DOHMH. They are advising us as we
23 go along the way with this. We've, through the
24 community schools initiatives we've been connected

25

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2 with the DOE Office of mental health services and
3 we, we, we won't do that in isolation.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Okay. And, and
5 how many, how many individuals do you anticipate
6 would be served under the, the mental health
7 designated funding?

8 SUSAN HASKELL: Again we're going to
9 allow flexibility so some might implement a service
10 that, that reaches every person who comes through
11 their door, recreational programs for example that
12 are known to help with mental health needs. Others
13 might decide to put it on more expensive intensive
14 psychiatric evaluations in which case it might
15 serve hundreds of young people that year and not
16 more. We'll see how that plays out in right now
17 their developing proposals for how to spend the
18 money.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: So as, as we go
20 into the fall in our next round of budget hearings
21 on program issues if you can have a preliminary
22 number of, of individuals and, and, and more
23 importantly what services are they needing? And is
24 this adequate funding for the appropriate level of
25 care... [cross-talk] that's needed?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah. I think we're
3 going to monitor it closely. It's a new service. We
4 think it's badly needed in this population. So
5 we're obviously going to monitor it closely and
6 tweak it. It's I think part of the flexibility is
7 to, to the benefit of the provider but also for us
8 to then intervene and we say well we think you
9 should be doing this based on the population that
10 you're serving.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: And I, I
12 congratulate you for, for the insight and for
13 making sure that we're funding this level of care
14 for this incredibly vulnerable population. I think
15 Lou would be very very pleased. And he would
16 probably ask you for more. So Lou if you're
17 listening I just want you to know that we're doing
18 that. Council Member Chin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Chair. I
20 just want to follow-up on a question on the
21 immigrant opportunity initiative, the ESLL part
22 that was base lined in 2014, the ES, the ESL part
23 of the immigrant opportunity initiative money.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That, that doesn't
25 ring a bell... under adult literacy...

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well it was part
3 of the...

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Are you talking
5 about the money... [cross-talk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: IOI.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh IOI, oh okay.
8 Yeah that, that was, that was base lined and I
9 believe we did an immigration RFP last, earlier
10 this year. And we can give you the results... [cross-
11 talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...only did, you
13 only RFP out that one million dollar? You didn't...
14 [cross-talk]

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah that, that was
16 it, I, it was a, it was a relatively small amount.
17 It was about a million or so.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So how many
19 providers...

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh. Yeah we can
21 send you that list. And we can send you the list.
22 It was posted on our website but we'll send you the
23 list of who was awarded, it was relatively small
24 amounts of money I believe because it was only a

25

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2 million dollars. But we essentially did an
3 immigration RFP I want to say in February or so.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Oh so you didn't
5 lump it together with other literacy monies because
6 this, this part is ESLL...

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, no... it was, I
8 think the literacy money was clearly earmarked. I
9 believe the IOI money was put into the immigration
10 but we can definitely can get back to you on that.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay. Alright.

12 Alright I do... that's it.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
14 you Council Member Chin. We've been joined by
15 Council Member Greenfield. We're good? Okay.
16 Council, and now we'll hear from Chair.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
18 much Madam Chair. Commissioner we all know that the
19 administration will fund the 434 with... seat for the
20 summer. That's wonderful news that's, that's a
21 great decision... a perfect one, the right one. But
22 we know also it is only for one year. So my
23 question is what, what is in place, what other
24 alternative will provide to the children next year
25 if the administration doesn't you know decide to

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2 fund the program again? Where the children are
3 going to be? Is there anything in place, anything
4 that we are planning to have the young people and
5 to... them to be at the corner of the street and to
6 be exposed to all the negativity that we know
7 because we know that young people, the children,
8 they're not bad children but they're facing the
9 peer pressures. If we don't offer them any
10 alternative, we don't make the balance that means
11 they don't have no choice. Their choice will be to
12 the negative path. What we have in place to make
13 sure that we make the balance. We offer...
14 alternative to resist and to continue to do
15 positive thing... [cross-talk] place.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: With the start of
17 summer five weeks away I'm focused mainly on this
18 summer to make it as successful as possible so I'm
19 not prepared to discuss next summer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: So that means
21 you don't have any idea what would be the
22 situation... [cross-talk]

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We're focused on
24 this summer which you know has you know given the
25 short time frame, I think given the limited time we

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2 have I want to make sure that this summer is done
3 successfully.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Very good
5 answer. That means that we city council members and
6 advocate we got to be ready to fight against next
7 year to ensure that the children will be provided
8 with the summer program. Okay. The other question
9 that I have for you... with respect to the shelters
10 for youth... I really... centers we have in New York
11 City...

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Centers?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Drop in centers.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Drop in yeah seven.

15 [cross-talk] runaway homeless youth right?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes. How many do
17 we have in the city of New York?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Seven.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Seven in the
20 five boroughs?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Seven that we fund.
22 There might be others that are funded with other
23 funding sources but...

24

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: So that means
3 they are distributed you know within the five
4 boroughs right?

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The, I think
6 there's one in each borough. [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: ...also?

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: What?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Do we have any
10 in Brooklyn?

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes. We have, we
12 have one at least in Brooklyn.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Where...

14 SUSAN HASKELL: SCL family of services...
15 [cross-talk]

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah SCL family of
17 service... We can, we can provide you the complete
18 list of all the drop in centers for runaway and
19 homeless youth so you can have that information
20 available.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
22 much. You know the Department of Youth and
23 Community... DYCD fiscal 2016 executive budget total
24 536.8 billion that's... 36.5 million less than last
25 year. And we know that they're, they have 37

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2 position in addition to last year. And we know also

3 that we, we have less summer jobs for the youth.

4 Could you explain us how come DYCD receive less
5 money for this '16 fiscal year? And we see that in
6 addition of position...

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The headcount

8 increase is mostly associated with the expansion of

9 the middle school program because we've added

10 almost 500 new contracts. So in order, to ensure

11 quality of monitoring by DYCD we want to make sure

12 that each program manager doesn't have an

13 overwhelming number of contracts. So previously the

14 average number of contracts per program manager was

15 about 35. And so I think we bring it into the mid-

16 20s. Because we want to make sure that every

17 program is visited at least twice a year because we

18 want to ensure quality. We have now reached almost

19 near scale in the middle school programs through

20 the sonic expansion. So most of the new headcount

21 and staff was devoted to program managers.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very

23 much Commissioner... thank you to the deputy

24 commissioners. I just want to state that the, the,

25 the, the goal of the, of this hearing is not to...

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2 blames but... all of us we have to work together to
3 provide to the young people and the families the
4 best opportunities that they need for the children
5 to grow and to become positive and productive
6 people. And I do believe that one person cannot do
7 it, the administration, DYCD and the city council
8 alone cannot do it but by working together we will
9 do it. Thank you for everything that you are doing
10 for the children.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: And the
13 families. Thank you very much. Thank you Madam
14 Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
16 you chairs. Thank you Commissioner.

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I
19 appreciate if you can... we're going to send you a
20 letter with follow up questions. If you can get
21 that to us expeditiously I would appreciate it as
22 we are currently negotiating parts of the budget.
23 I'm going to call this part of the meeting
24 adjourned. We will resume next door with CUNY in 15
25 minutes. Thank you.

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2 [pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: We will
4 now resume the city council's hearing on the
5 mayor's executive budget FY 2016. We just heard
6 from the Department of Youth and Community
7 Development. The Finance Committee has now been
8 joined by the Higher Education Committee and we
9 will hear from James, sorry Milliken from the
10 Chancellor of the City University of New York in
11 the interest of time I will forego an opening
12 statement. But we, before we hear testimony I will
13 open the mic to my co-chair Council Member Inez
14 Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Chair
16 Ferreras-Copeland. And allow me to echo your
17 welcome to everyone this afternoon. I'm pleased to
18 see you Chancellor Milliken and I look forward to a
19 lively and productive discussion. CUNY provides
20 higher education to approximately 270 degree
21 seeking students and more than 247 thousand adult
22 and continuing education students at 24
23 institutions. Today we will talk about the services
24 and programs for students at the university's seven
25 community colleges. While I'm very pleased that the

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2 administration has base lined funding for CUNY prep
3 I am disappointed that it has not chosen to also
4 fund the merit based scholarships that the council
5 reinstated last year. These scholarships are
6 important to the thousands of students who received
7 them last year not only as recognition for their
8 hard work and achievement but also as a way to
9 support the ever increasing cost of the pursuit of
10 higher education. Until the president's gold of
11 offering two years of free community college
12 education to every student is realized and the 800
13 dollars a year each eligible student receives will
14 continue to be a vital part of their continuing
15 education here in New York. Support for our
16 students seeking higher learning is crucial but it
17 is just as important to support our students even
18 before they reach college engaging students in high
19 school or even earlier and preparing them for
20 rigorous study can help create a more seamless
21 transition from high school to college. Early
22 college schools in the Department of Education have
23 been very successful in this respect. But I think
24 additional collaboration between CUNY and the DOE
25 could only improve our student's college readiness

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2 further. Another aspect of encouraging our students
3 particularly in the city as uniquely diverse as New
4 York involves showing them how much people who look
5 like them and share their background can achieve
6 professionally. This is one of the many reasons why
7 I am so passionate about increasing the level of
8 diversity among CUNY faculty and I'm talking
9 specifically about black and Latino faculty. We
10 have spoken about this topic in the past and I look
11 forward to doing so again today. As a city we can
12 and should do more to encourage our students to aim
13 high and I think all of us CUNY, the council, the
14 DOE and the administration have the capacity to do
15 this. I would like before we begin I would like to
16 take a brief moment to thank our committee's
17 taskforce for all of their hard work; my
18 legislative director Indigo Washington, Jeffrey
19 Campania, Jessica Ackerman, and Chloe Rivera. With
20 that I return the floor to you Madam Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
22 you Chair Barron. You may begin your testimony. I
23 think your mic is off.

24 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: You can tell I'm
25 new at this.

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Much
3 better.

4 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Thank you very
5 much Madam Chair for the technical assistance as
6 well. Good afternoon I have, as I look at the
7 council I think I've had the opportunity to meet
8 everyone who's here today at the hearing. So I have
9 no excuse for being nervous other than that I have
10 so many CUNY students, faculty, and staff behind me
11 to see how I do that I'm exceedingly nervous I have
12 to live up to their expectations. They even brought
13 visual aids for me. So... they'll keep me on task.
14 I'm delighted to be joined by so many of my
15 colleagues and especially our students. I joined
16 this exceptional university about a year ago. So I
17 am delighted to spend my anniversary with you
18 today. I'm hoping my honeymoon extends through this
19 hearing. Or at least I hope you will understand
20 that I love CUNY and I'm a very enthusiastic
21 student of all things CUNY but I am still on the
22 learning curve and I may need help from some of my
23 colleagues or get back to you if you have specific
24 questions I can't respond to. I'm joined today at
25 the table by two vice chancellors Matt Sapienza

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2 budget and finance and Judy Bergtraum of Facilities
3 and Construction. And there are a number of other
4 colleagues of mine who are present today to throw
5 me a lifeline. This has been a great year at CUNY
6 and the last few weeks have been no exception this
7 morning with council member Gibson. I spoke at my
8 third commencement of the week this one Bronx
9 Community College. And because it impacts on a
10 couple of things that I'd like to visit with you
11 about I make one point about a couple of points
12 about that commencement. But I took notes while I
13 was there. The student body president who spoke and
14 both valedictorians who spoke the first thing they
15 thanked was ASAP, or ASAP. They were all ASAP
16 students. The president of the two valedictorians.
17 I think great evidence of the value of that
18 program, one of the class valedictorians Chrissy
19 Martinez was also a dream US scholarship winner,
20 the first one to graduate from CUNY. She's
21 originally from the Dominican Republic and was
22 reunited with her father she hadn't seen in 14
23 years for the first time at today's commencement.
24 She also spoke at a reception I hosted recently to
25 celebrate the dream US scholarship winners at CUNY.

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5 This has been a priority of mine. A year ago CUNY
6 had 30 scholarships. This year we lead the nation
7 with 367 new scholarships or over half of the dream
8 US scholarships provided nationwide. At this event
9 Chrissy did such a good job speaking that the dream
10 US founder Don Graham was there and also
11 philanthropist Bill Ackman. Each pledged an
12 additional 15 million dollars to support the dream
13 US scholars and if CUNY continues its current
14 pattern half of that 30 million I hope will support
15 students in New York City. At the, also at the
16 beginning of this month two ways before that
17 President Obama came to Lehman College to meet with
18 Lehman's Urban Male Leadership Program and to make
19 an announcement about his historic my brother's
20 keeper initiative. And to continue in these
21 highlights just yesterday the chronical of higher
22 education reported on the schools that produce the
23 greatest number of MacArthur genius fellowships
24 CUNY graduates have won 15 of these genius awards
25 which places it in the top 10 of all universities
in the country and second only to Berkley among
public universities. Number two in the nation in
MacArthur genius scholars. These are just a few

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5 examples of why I believe there's no place in the
6 country that better represents the goals of public
7 higher education at its finest... that is broad
8 affordable access to the highest quality education.
9 Of course this being life not everything is
10 positive. And as I'm sure you know we lost a gifted
11 and committed member of the CUNY family who was
12 tragically killed during the recent Amtrak
13 derailment in Philadelphia. Between 2003 and 2010
14 Derek Griffith was the founding principal of CUNY
15 prep, an important initiative that this council has
16 helped make possible. An important initiative that
17 this council has helped make possible. In his role
18 Derek helped thousands of young people earn high
19 school equivalency diplomas and enter college and
20 more recently he served as dean of enrollment at
21 Medgar Evers College At the time of his death Derek
22 had just earned his PHD in urban education from the
23 CUNY graduate center which was movingly recognized
24 at the graduate center which was movingly
25 recognized at the graduate center's commencement
this week. I'm pleased to announce at this hearing
that I will be asking the Board of Trustees to
rename CUNY prep, the Derek Griffith preparatory

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2 high school. I can think of no better way to honor
3 Derek's legacy an acknowledge the difference he
4 made in the lives of thousands of students by
5 renaming CUNY Prep in his honor.

6 [applause]

7 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: I can assure you
8 this is genuine. Many of my colleagues knew Derek
9 well and the outpouring of affection for that
10 talented young man was quite something to witness
11 over the last few weeks. So CUNY students as you
12 know richly deserve the assistance they receive and
13 we're grateful that the city council has
14 consistently recognized in support of their goals.
15 As you know our student body is among the most
16 diverse in the nation with students hailing from
17 over 200 countries and speaking 190 languages. More
18 than 40 percent of our students come from families
19 earning less than 20 thousand and close to 40
20 percent were born outside the US mainland. One of
21 the initiatives that CUNY manages with the support
22 of this council citizenship now. I know Chairperson
23 Barron was there recently to, to visit. I was able
24 to visit and meet with the people responding to
25 calls and it has done a great job for the city of

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5 New York and helping to demystify the process and
6 help many many thousands of people with questions
7 about immigrations and citizenship. As this council
8 is recognized time and again. Our students
9 represent the city's future. And their ability to
10 thrive is inextricably linked with the future of
11 New York City. So let's turn to the budget for 2016
12 and how it supports these students who are the
13 future of New York. Again I want to say how
14 appreciative we are for the support of the city of
15 New York and this council for so many critical CUNY
16 initiatives. I want to mention first that as you
17 know no university is great without a great
18 faculty. If there's one thing that unites our
19 faculty and our staff at CUNY it's a commitment to
20 the mission of CUNY... students. Last evening I
21 hosted a group of talented community college
22 faculty members at my home and I heard over and
23 over again how much they love this institution
24 because of our students, what they are achieving
25 and what it does for them and the difference CUNY
makes in their lives. These committed faculty and
staff have worked without a new contract for far
too many years. I support a prompt and fair

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5 resolution of our collective bargaining and I hope
6 we can realize that in. So CUNY can be competitive
7 and retain and attract the faculty and staff who do
8 so much for New York. Turning to the executive
9 budget I'm very pleased that a total of 14.8
10 million in new dollars were added in this year's
11 budget of this increase over ten million for...
12 support expansion, a multi-year program initially
13 funded last year. A major component is to support
14 the accelerated study and associated programs or
15 ASAP initiative which I mentioned earlier it has as
16 I think you know become a national model hailed by
17 President Obama and validated by independent
18 studies. In Fall 2014 ASAP had 43 hundred students
19 with the city's investment expansion could increase
20 to 7,100 in fall of 2015. In addition the executive
21 budget includes 1.5 million for expansion of CUNY
22 start maths program. This is a, a successful and
23 important program to enroll perspective students
24 who've been accepted but it still are not college
25 ready. Proficiency gains have been remarkable since
the program began in Fall of 2009 and we hope to
continue to expand the CUNY star program. The
budget also includes 2.7 million for CUNY prep soon

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5 to be named for Doctor Griffith. And I' pleased
6 that these funds this year have been base lined in
7 the city's financial plan. Program was established
8 in 2003 and it's an important source of funding
9 made possible because of the leadership and
10 advocacy for members of this council. And I thank
11 you very much for that. But another important
12 financial aid program an chairperson Barron
13 referred to this earlier the city council merit
14 scholarship become a very important program. We're
15 very grateful that the council led by the higher
16 education committee and with the urging of our very
17 persuasive students provided approximately 11
18 million in the current budget to fund this program.
19 To fund it at next year's, the level required would
20 require about 17 million we estimate. A new class
21 of entering students plus the continuing students
22 in their second year. And we hope you will give
23 strong consideration to including this for next
24 year. The executive budget also does not include
25 funding for the Dominican studies institute, the
center for Puerto Rican studies each of which are
national centers of historical and cultural
research, also the creative arts team which

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5 provides learning opportunities for at risk
6 students and the murphy institutes campus based
7 worker education programs. We would ask that you
8 give these your consideration with regard to
9 restoring them as well. We also seek operational
10 support for a number of other needs critical to our
11 students success such as the single stop
12 initiative. 2009 CUNY partnered with Single Stop
13 USA which is now a national program to offer
14 centralized one stop assistance of students for
15 benefit screening, tax preparation, legal services,
16 and healthcare assistance. Since 2009 CUNY's
17 community college students have received tremendous
18 benefit this program valued at 109 million dollars.
19 We're seeking what we think provides a terrific
20 return on the investment of an additional million
21 dollars to enhance single stop services our
22 community college and expand the program to senior
23 college population. Another program of the CUNY
24 linking employment, academics and disability
25 services or CUNY leads is a unique partnership with
the New York State Department of Education, provide
students with disabilities academic support, career
readiness training, and job placement services. It

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2 too has had a tremendous track record with the
3 participants enjoying an 84 percent retention rate
4 and a 70 percent employment rate after graduation
5 compared with a 56 percent national employment rate
6 for people with disabilities. We're seeking an
7 additional million dollars to help more students
8 with disabilities. And I want to recognize that a
9 group of students who are with us many times as we
10 travel across the city and to Albany are great
11 supporters of the university led by Luis Gutierrez
12 who's here and I want to recognize him and give him
13 a shout-out because two days ago he received his
14 master's degree at Hunter College. So Louis
15 congratulations.

16 [applause]

17 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: I'm sorry. I have
18 to appeal for the applause lines once in a while.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I know.
20 It's interesting because we'd never allow applause
21 in this room, we wave... [cross-talk] but you guys
22 are getting away with it. That's alright.

23 [laughter]

24 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: The capital
25 budget, talk about that for a minute. With your

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5 help we completed Fiterman Hall and Bronx Community
6 College north Hall in 2012 as well as an expansion
7 of 22 million dollars in upgraded Medgar Evers
8 library which I was in a few weeks ago and is a
9 tremendous asset to that campus. In recent years
10 the council has provided over 150 million to CUNY
11 which has funded numerous projects, most at the
12 community college where the need is certainly
13 great. We begun construction on the 125 million
14 dollar façade for LaGuardia Community College's
15 building. The project must begin if this very large
16 facility is to be preserved. Other major projects
17 made possible by the council are the ongoing
18 utility upgrades at Bronx Community College, a
19 frazed [phonetic] renovation at Hostos Community
20 College, 500 Grand Concourse Building and numerous
21 roof replacements ADA upgrades and modernization of
22 heating and cooling system. All essential items for
23 maintaining our facilities which most of which are
24 over 40 years old and few of which will attract
25 naming gifts for those facilities. The council has
been very supportive of the CUNY senior colleges as
well. You provided support for Brooklyn College's
new Feirstein Graduate School of Film at Steiner

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5 Studios which will open next fall and I believe
6 will be a tremendous gem for CUNY and New York City
7 competing with the best fall schools in the
8 country, provide support for Lehman Colleges
9 library renovations, Soccer field upgrades, the
10 College of Staten Island and Science Lab upgrades
11 at Queens College in York. The city's executive
12 budget includes a new 70 million dollars for
13 critical maintenance and several programmatic
14 initiatives for the community colleges starting in
15 2019 the 20 million dollar lump sum for critical
16 maintenance has been base lined. When matched with
17 state funds this will create an annual 40 million
18 dollar stream to help fund CUNY upgrades at
19 community college upgrades. I wish I could say this
20 would take care of all the needs but it will not
21 but it will make a substantial impact on those
22 names. The executive budget includes 41 million
23 dollars for major programmatic upgrade again at
24 LaGuardia Community College Center Three building.
25 There are a number of critical maintenance needs as
I mentioned for our aging infrastructure. Many of
the necessary infrastructure needs such as roof
alarms. The highest priority being with fire life

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5 and safety projects. We're seeking additional
6 funding for the future allied health sciences
7 building and Hostos Community College. I noticed
8 the president of Hostos is here to make sure I
9 mentioned that. The new facility will provide
10 classrooms and labs for the college's allied health
11 programs and dental hygiene, radiological
12 technology and nursing and its engineering and
13 national science programs. It will also provide
14 dental and wellness clinics where students not only
15 gain practical experience but the public will
16 benefit from the care and education. The council
17 provided two and a half million. The Bronx borough
18 president two million which the state and the state
19 has just matched that city contribution and we've
20 kicked off the design of this project. So I thank
21 you for your ongoing support of many of our
22 critical capital needs. In closing I would say
23 something that I have witnessed over the last year
24 in meeting with the three of you and others of your
25 colleagues across the city. IT's clear to me that
council members are often the quickest to see the
needs that our students and their campuses have.
You walk the streets they do. Your members see how

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2 each CUNY campus uplifts the borough where it is
3 situated. You work with our alumni. You get to know
4 our students and our families. You see the close
5 connection we have with the city's high schools.
6 For many of our students decisions made by this
7 council have meant all the difference in their
8 ability to attend and complete college. I firmly
9 believe that CUNY's students today will provide the
10 intellectual infrastructure that will fuel this
11 city in the future and they need your support as
12 much as the city needs them to succeed and prosper.
13 So on their behalf I thank you for the investment
14 you make in their future and the future of New
15 York. My colleagues and I will be happy to respond
16 to any questions that you may have.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
18 you Chancellor Milliken. I just wanted to first say
19 that although it has only been a year you have been
20 only fair and such a great pleasure to be able to
21 work with you and your team to ensure that we're
22 able to not only baseline things that are important
23 to our, this council but also plan for the future
24 and you were, never were trying to figure out a new
25 initiative for were trying to figure out how we

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2 want to implement something we go to CUNY to get
3 that done. And that's because we know it's going to
4 be done right and there's going to be
5 accountability and there's going to be something
6 that we can follow. And I can say that it's through
7 your team that we're able to engage from Jay
8 Herschensohn to Gale Mellow who when I went and
9 knocked on her door about Willet's Point and doing
10 training for mechanics at you know what many
11 unfortunately refer to as the Junk Yard LaGuardia
12 Community College stood up and was not thinking
13 about their façade and all the other challenges
14 that they face but said yes. And the same is, and
15 it is the same with Doctor Felix Matos who although
16 I'm not from the Bronx would maybe go to the Bronx
17 to see him there and really engage with him at
18 Queens College. And it is refreshing. And I'm so
19 excited to have him in Queens. So I could probably
20 shout out everyone because they're all equally
21 amazing. But I just wanted to be able to say that.
22 I want to focus in on two things before I open up
23 to my colleague for questions; Chair Barron and
24 then we'll open it up to the rest of the council.
25 We have a first round so members will have five

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2 minutes for their first round. The second round we
3 come back with three minutes. So the five year
4 capital plan commitment. I just need you to walk me
5 through historically what you've been able to spend
6 while we're really excited to see there's
7 additional funding. CUNY's five year capital
8 commitment plan for fiscal 2015 to 2019 is 456
9 million. That is 51 million more than the
10 university's ten year capital strategy for fiscal
11 2016 to 2025. Given the rate at which CUNY is
12 likely to be able to undertake projects do you,
13 does it, we have a challenge understanding and I
14 need you to help me understand how will you be able
15 to spend this money down? How is it that the five
16 year capital commitment plan is larger than the 10
17 year?

18 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: You know on, I'll
19 be very brief. Judy Bergtraum accompanied me to
20 Albany to testify before the assembly and senate
21 committees on finance and I never let her speak. So
22 I've got to make up for that. I'm going to allow
23 her now to respond to your question.

24

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Great.

3 Thank you Chancellor. I'm sorry can you just grab
4 the mic, state your name...

5 JUDY BERGTRAUM: Judy Bergtraum. The
6 first five years...

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Bring it
8 closer because we just need to get it recording.

9 Thank you.

10 JUDY BERGTRAUM: The first five years of
11 the capital plan includes hundreds of projects that
12 store, that are from planning to design into
13 construction. That's the first five years. The next
14 five years are what we call planning and we will
15 basically plan for the future. What we did for this
16 budget is we sat down with every college president
17 and said let's look at what we have when are we
18 going to spend it. And what we did is we move many
19 things out so that we would have it in the year
20 that we were actually going to commit it and
21 basically go into construction. So we are looking
22 at that all the time. Now we'll look at it this
23 year. We've actually started, you're not going to
24 believe this, the planning process for next year,
25 we started it this month because we sit down with

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2 every single college. We look at what their needs.
3 We look at what their critical maintenance needs
4 are and we basically start to plan for the future.
5 So we have plenty of projects to complete in the
6 last five year. But we have to figure out, we have
7 to make sure that they're leasing and they also
8 have to work with the colleges to make sure that
9 we're not doing construction that interferes with
10 their programs. So it's a very very big balancing
11 act.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So,
13 right, so can you just tell me on average what,
14 what are you spending capital wise a year?

15 JUDY BERGTRAUM: The commitment is about
16 70 million dollars a year.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So if we
18 have 70 million dollars a year and your, your
19 current five year plan is at 456 million how do
20 you, help me understand how we're going to spend
21 this money in five years.

22 JUDY BERGTRAUM: Well what, what, if, if
23 you take what we have... let's just look at the, the,
24 the five years. If it gets complicated because any
25 amount of money that you go, that you give us we

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2 have basically have to go to Albany and basically
3 get a match before we use it. So whatever you give
4 us we're going to have more money than what you
5 basically just described. We're going to sit down,
6 go through the plan, planning process for things
7 that can go into contract we're going to basically
8 commit and register those contracts. And we
9 actually believe that we can spend, that we'll be
10 able to spend what's in that five year capital
11 plan.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: You
13 believe you're, you can spend the 450... [cross-talk]
14 million in the five year capital. Okay. Tuition
15 increase, based on the application, I'm sorry based
16 on the application of a 300 dollar annual tuition
17 increase the fiscal 2016 executive budget
18 recognizes 24.2 million in additional revenue.
19 Fiscal 2016 represents the last year of the state
20 approved five year tuition increase schedule. How
21 does the university plan to use the additional
22 revenue gained from the tuition increase this year
23 and what are your plans with regard to tuition
24 rates for next year?

25

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2 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Thank you. So
3 first as, as you know this was the fourth year in a
4 five year plan for tuition increases of up to 300
5 dollars per year. For the current year most of the
6 funds were already committed. And most of them have
7 been used as the previous three years funds have
8 been used to hire new full time faculty which has
9 been the highest priority but also to invest in
10 other student services and support actives. Our
11 commitment at the time that the rational tuition
12 plan was adopted in Albany was to use these funds
13 primarily for new investments to support students
14 academically and student support. So we have one
15 final year of tuition increase next year. And I, I
16 will tell you that there, there may have to be a
17 change in the way that we are using those funds.
18 It, so it is my view that the, the most important
19 thing we can do for our students is to provide the
20 best faculty we can. And the most important
21 investment in faculty is to retain the great
22 faculty that we have. It's not only less expensive
23 than going out and recruiting new faculty but we
24 already know their work and value them. So we may
25 be in a position where we will be using tuition

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2 increase to support a bargaining agreement with our
3 faculty and staff next year. Given what has
4 happened with the state budget I see very little
5 other flexibility in, in our budget.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So...

7 7 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: But that's a, if I
8 just one final point a decision that I just told
9 you my view, a decision that has not yet been made
10 10 by the Board of Trustees but that will likely be my
11 11 recommendation.

12 12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And
13 13 Chancellor do you see, do you envision having to go
14 14 and ask for an additional increase next year once
15 15 you've established... It just seems that the
16 16 increase... will it be sustainable for the future
17 17 plans?

18 18 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: I, I think it is
19 19 likely that the board of trustees will seek an
20 20 additional increase, additional authority to
21 21 increase tuition. It may not be the same as the
22 22 last five year plan, either the board's request or
23 23 what the legislature would determine. But I, I
24 24 think it's likely you know the most, the most
25 25 important thing about CUNY is this, this great

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2 record that it has of, and mission that it has of
3 providing access and also high quality. We have to
4 be in a position to support that quality and to be
5 able to support the faculty and the student support
6 services another essential elements of it. Our
7 tuition is among, our senior colleges, the lowest
8 in the nation. Nobody likes a tuition increase I'm
9 pretty certain of that. But in most cases our
10 students who need support the most are provided the
11 support either through PELL or TAP and other
12 scholarship programs so that we're in a position
13 where 70 percent of our students are not paying
14 tuition and 80 percent are graduating without any
15 federal debt. So CUNY is in an enviable position
16 compared to most higher education institutions in
17 the country. And most of them have been in a
18 position where they've needed to raise tuition more
19 than, than we have.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So I
21 just wanted to ask... I know that you talked about
22 the senior colleges or the four year colleges. Have
23 you been able to assess the impact of affordability
24 for the CUNY colleges? I mean for the...

25 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: So...

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...two
3 year.

4 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: When I said that
5 our tuition is among the lowest in the country at
6 our senior colleges that's certainly true. I'm sure
7 that we're in the, the lowest five in terms of
8 states for senior colleges. We don't compare that
9 favorably with community colleges. So we're not the
10 highest by any means of the large community college
11 systems in the country but we're also not in the
12 same position. So it is, it has a, a more
13 significant impact at the community college. It's
14 still below maximum cap funding. But we would take
15 that into account as we think about what our
16 position would be before next year in terms of
17 senior college versus community college tuition.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And I
19 just wanted to talk about in state tuition at CUNY
20 Community College compare with the average in state
21 tuition rates at Community colleges nationwide. Is
22 that, I just wanted to, what's the average number
23 just number wise if you have that.

24 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: You know I, I
25 probably have that and this, this, this notebook.

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2 But I can't tell you offhand it's not... I, I do know
3 it's, we're nowhere, we're not in the same
4 attractive position we are with the senior
5 colleges.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

7 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Relative sense is
8 probably higher than the average but there are a
9 number of other large community college systems...

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Someone...

11 [cross-talk]

12 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: ...higher than us.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
14 ...committee just follow up.

15 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Absolutely.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Kind of
17 where we are on that scale...

18 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: We'll give you an
19 average and a list of what the major community
20 college systems tuition are...

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And
22 while we understand that you have to keep, retain
23 faculty make sure that our programs are premiere,
24 that we're competing on a national level from the
25 council's perspective. It's, we never want to hear

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2 an increase and we're excited that you're doing the
3 best that you can with the increase that you did
4 get. But I would, I would be remised in saying,
5 with not saying that. We, we want to support you as
6 much as we can but we also understand that you, we
7 can't limit and we can't tie your hands. If, if
8 CUNY system is growing as, at the level that it is
9 I'm going to leave my second round of questions for
10 later and we will hear from chair Barron.

11 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madam
13 Chair. Thank you for your testimony. I was able to
14 go to Hunter College. I'm a graduate, proud
15 graduate of Hunter class of January 1967. And the
16 only reason that I was able to attend even though
17 both my parents working was because it was free if
18 you graduated with a certain index you were allowed
19 to go to the CUNY system free of charge... tuition.
20 But we know that it's more than just tuition. We
21 know that there are all these other costs that
22 students have to bear; transportation, books which
23 we know are exorbitant and we're still trying to
24 address how we can lower those costs for students.
25 So, and I understand the conversations that we've

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2 had that you would love to have at least the first
3 two years of college, of community college free.
4 How can we do that, how can we do that? How can we
5 make that a reality, the presidents talking about
6 it but it hasn't yet seemed to have caught fire so
7 that people are really pushing it to happen. And we
8 know that when people have a commitment and a
9 desire and the fortitude to say this has to happen
10 we can find ways to make that happen. So what are
11 some of your suggestions as to how that can happen.
12 Because I reject the term rational tuition. It's
13 only predictable. It's not rational to say that
14 we've got to go down that route to increase it at a
15 given rate each year.

16 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Well as you know
17 well there is a national conversation on this
18 topic. There is a national conversation initiated
19 by the president and a couple of governors. But
20 it's initiated at the same time that we are now
21 looking at you now 20 to 30 years of in most places
22 in the country a declining percentage of state
23 investment and public higher education. So we're,
24 we're now talking about free tuition at a time when

25

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2 the state investment but I'm not, I'm talking
3 generally now not...

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

5 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: ...particularly
6 about New York has gone down steadily. There's a
7 place at some parts of the country where it's now
8 under 10 percent of their budget is provided by, by
9 public funding. So it's going to be a pretty big
10 lift to get back to that point of 1967 at Hunter
11 College. As you also know very well, and I know
12 this is embedded in your question not, there's
13 nothing free it's just where who's paying the cost.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Mm-hmm.

15 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: And your
16 suggestion, your I know passionate interest it is
17 the students not be paying this cost. And I think
18 there is a great attraction to that in terms of
19 the, the psychological impact first on students to
20 know that that, that they would not be paying for
21 those say first two years community college. As a
22 matter of fact as I mentioned before in terms of,
23 of tuition 70 percent of our students are not
24 paying it now because of federal and state and city
25 programs. So as a practical matter probably not a

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2 huge impact on them. And the way that we structure
3 our financial aid is so that the impact of paying
4 tuition is on those who are deemed to be able to
5 afford it. So to me it comes down to a question of
6 priority. So what, where would you invest your next
7 dollars and where are you going to have the
8 greatest impact on educational attainment for that
9 investment? It's a, it would be a huge, you
10 probably have the numbers, a huge number to have
11 the state and the city pick up all tuition costs at
12 CUNY. And I think the question we would have is
13 whether that's the most important investment in
14 terms of the educational outcomes. I think there
15 are some who would argue that, that eve at that end
16 of the education spectrum, one of the most
17 important additional investments we might think
18 about as early childhood education is making sure
19 that our, that our youngest, youngest New Yorkers
20 are prepared to enter our formal education system
21 at a competitive level and that that may have a
22 great deal to do with their ability to succeed
23 later. O I know I'm shifting the conversation but
24 it's a persona interest of mine to make, to, to
25 think about investing...

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: But that shift
3 also... that shift also relates to my next question.
4 It, which is do you see that it would be viable for
5 us to push down into high school, middle school,
6 and allow specially at the high school level
7 students to take advanced placement courses to have
8 collaboration with the CUNY schools. Do you see a,
9 an advantage to expanding what already exists so
10 that more students can graduate from high school
11 with college credits if not at least a, an, an
12 associate's degree at least college credits which
13 would then give them the ability to better utilize...
14 money they might be able to get in scholarship
15 money.

16 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Yes, yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So we...

18 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: CUNY has a pretty
19 extensive early college program and college now I
20 think that, and I think again you know sort of as a
21 national education perspective I think we're going
22 to see more and more of these programs where there
23 are dual enrollment or they go by other names but
24 credit earned at high schools that helps defray the
25 costs later gets people further along, gets them

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2 used to taking college level classes so that they
3 have a better chance to succeed. I want to see more
4 of that at CUNY and the New York City public
5 schools. So I think that's, I think that's an
6 important strategy.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: As we talk about
8 the success of so many of CUNY's program Z ASAP and
9 the black male initiative. How can we identify the
10 money that we need to expand these programs and
11 make them more available to a wider population and
12 has there been a dollar amount associated with
13 that. And I know that there's no money in the
14 budget for the merit based scholarships. What would
15 be the cost going into next year. Last year was
16 about 11 million. What would be the cost going into
17 next year for the merit based scholarships.

18 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Okay let me go
19 backwards because the last one's the easiest...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay.

21 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: ...data point. So it
22 was 11 million, approximately 10.9 million for this
23 last year. So our estimate would be that that would
24 be the same number for next year for the entering
25 class and that the number would be somewhat less

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2 because of attrition for the second year class. So
3 the estimate is 17 million for two years of the
4 merit scholarship program. Now on the other
5 question about how to find this report for ASAP and
6 BMI programs and other I think very successful CUNY
7 programs... I hate to throw this back but you
8 probably know at least the answer better than I do
9 at least in terms of public support of those. I
10 think with, if we can continue to demonstrate the
11 success of these programs and the over 6,000
12 students that have participated and benefited from
13 one of our BMI programs whether it's the Urban male
14 leadership initiative at, at Lehman or that BMI
15 program at BCC, sorry BMCC. If we can continue to
16 demonstrate the success then we are in a better
17 position to make the case for those programs. I
18 think there are well worth the investment. Of
19 course the same with, with ASAP which is now in DOC
20 and Columbia and other independent third parties
21 validated the efficacy of it. And while there's a,
22 an initial investment that is not insignificant of
23 approximately 4,000 dollars a student the cost for
24 a degree is less. If you look at urban... and again
25 I'm, I know I'm preaching to the choir here if you

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2 look at Urban Community College rates, graduation
3 rates across the country and you look at the
4 difference between those students who participate
5 in ASAP and why the two valedictorians of student
6 body president of Bronx Community College mentioned
7 that in the first sentence it makes a huge
8 difference. Now I also think though that, that not
9 to put the entire burden on, on you I think we can
10 do a more effective job of raising private support
11 for programs like that, just look at the example I
12 gave about 30 million dollars raised in one evening
13 to support scholarships for dreamers. I think
14 there, I think there is a great deal of appeal of
15 these programs and a recognition that there's a
16 huge return on investment for philanthropists for
17 investing and they're there, in my view there's no
18 better investment in the future of the city than
19 investing in these programs that help attract and
20 then graduate our students. So I think it's a
21 combination of things.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And in terms of
23 the private partnerships, partnerships that you
24 have with private entities. Does CUNY do that
25 collectively or is that something that each of the

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2 college presidents does or are there collaborations
3 of schools. Because I know there was a competition,
4 the competitive grant, the regional grants and that
5 CUNY participated in that. So if you could talk
6 briefly about that?

7 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: I think most
8 effectively it's all of the above so each CUNY
9 college has its own foundation, has its own
10 fundraising staff. CUNY central does as well. I
11 think there are things that colleges do the best
12 job with which is appeal to alumni primarily or
13 appeal to philanthropists who have an interest in
14 that particular college for you know it might be
15 the nationally recognized fine arts program at
16 Hunter College... might have an interest in that
17 because... interest in art. I think the sort of
18 global systemic initiatives like BMI like, like the
19 dream US. These, we may be most effective CUNY wide
20 where we can I think appeal to significant
21 foundations and individual philanthropists who want
22 to make the broadest possible impact that it isn't
23 necessarily related to a particular CUNY college.
24 So that's an area where I want to see us be more
25 active.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And is there a
3 dollar amount that you can share with us that has
4 been gained through these private partnerships and
5 these philanthropists who have contributed to so
6 many.

7 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Well so CUNY is on
8 the final stages of, of a capital campaign for the
9 system which is essentially made up of capital
10 campaigns of the individual colleges plus funding
11 that was raised at the system level such as the
12 McCauley [sp?] gift and others. That's a three
13 billion dollar campaign. And the last year I think
14 the, roughly 250 million dollars was raised
15 privately. I, I could get you the exact number but
16 that, I think that's a ballpark number.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay great thank
18 you. Madam... [cross-talk]

19 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: ...I think we can do
20 better.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay I'll wait
22 'till the next round. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
24 you Chair. We will now hear from Council Member
25

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2 Rodriguez. We were joined by Council Member Cabrera
3 and Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

5 Thank you Chair. Thank you for the great work.

6 First of all I'd like to give the message to the
7 student. Those of you here and those that are
8 following through the webcast study hard and be
9 part of the middle class and always being there for
10 the working class but never give up, graduate.

11 Second I would like to thanks CUNY immigrations...
12 you're doing great jobs. I know that you heart is
13 there since the 80s. You been there for the working
14 class and you have make the services leading these
15 great initiative CUNY that is serving thousands of
16 New Yorkers when it comes to immigrant services a
17 big difference. So I know personally I, my local,
18 this... I have lawyer twice a week where they help
19 hundreds of individual every year in order to get
20 the advice that they need and work with the
21 immigrate, immigrant, immigration status. Second I
22 hope that CUY will work to make the murphy
23 institute as a new departments that they are
24 working for as a new labor departments. I hope that
25 CUNY keep working with the PSE to be sure that

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2 conversation continue with a contract we are able
3 to also provide a professor that support the need.
4 Third I hope that one day we can be able to provide
5 ASAP to all the student at community college I
6 think that it would save millions of dollars in a
7 short term plan because if we know that ASAP
8 guarantee that higher percent of a student graduate
9 from community college and they are not a part...
10 they were 86 percent... 80 percent of a student going
11 to community college they need remedial courses
12 because we as a society has fail on no preparing
13 our student from UPK to 12 to be a college... so if
14 ASAP work I hope that from federal state and city
15 we get the money we need to be sure that every
16 single student at community college they give the
17 additional support they need in order for them to
18 get their associate not in seven year but in the
19 two or three year and be able to cross to the
20 senior college. And I always say if I'm here, if I
21 made it, coming here the age of 18 washing dishes a
22 having other job being a... taxi drivers still today
23 Spanish is my native language. There is no reason
24 why. Every single student in our society who are in
25 UPK should not be able to be the next doctors, the

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2 best engineer, the best mayor, the best member of
3 the supreme court. So I just hope that we can
4 continue identifying all those resources. I have
5 some concern which is on how is CUNY working on the
6 overpopulation and that's my question is CUNY
7 working over capacity how much more physical space
8 we need and how are we doing the community
9 colleges. A, but I, my concern is the overcapacity.
10 How are we doing on capacity and how can we address
11 the issue and how can we also deal with the reality
12 that if in fact it's true that the student
13 population of the black and Latino has been... as
14 senior colleges. What is our plan to... issue?
15 Because in a city where 52 percent of the
16 population are black and Latino. I think that we
17 have to be sure that we provide all the support
18 they need so that black and Latino as Asian and
19 white achieve that dream to be part of the middle
20 class.

21 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Do you provide
22 this pounding for everybody on their first hearing?
23 Is that...

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: This is
25 part of the sound track of the executive budget.

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2 We've actually made several calls. It's become a
3 challenge for us throughout the process but just
4 speak loudly and, and Excedrin is what gets us
5 through the day.

6 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: So as you probably
7 know this was a record year of enrollment at CUNY.
8 I take no responsibility for that but I'm delighted
9 to be here at a time when CUNY is more valuable to
10 the city than at any time in the past with, as
11 Chair Barron related 275 thousand matriculating
12 students and actually this year I think over 260
13 thousand adult in continuing education. So as it
14 puts stress on us yes our, we added I think 450 new
15 faculty last year with the investment from let's
16 see I'll just call it tuition. And, but if you look
17 at the student, faculty student ratio today
18 compared to what it was 15 years ago. It's still a
19 much lower number of faculty per, per student. So
20 we're not keeping up with the growth in terms of
21 the faculty investment. And probably other student
22 sport activities or stressed in the same way... I
23 mean one of the things that I would like to do in
24 addition to, to hiring more faculty to, to deal
25 with this growth is many more advisors and student

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2 support service people who I think are critical to
3 the success after we've admitted them. But, so I
4 would say that's the first issue of capacity and
5 stress relates to the, really the, the people and
6 the talent component of our budget. Now you visited
7 our campuses and, and I have to during the, the,
8 the most active periods of the day and they are
9 overflowing as well. So if we are going to continue
10 to grow and to meet the needs of New Yorkers we
11 will have to look not only at the, the talent side
12 but also the physical side and hints our, our
13 capital request at the state and our request for
14 new facilities here like the new health sciences
15 building at Hostos and, and others. So we, we have
16 a, we have a long list of I, of priorities on our
17 strategy to help meet not only current needs but
18 what we see the growth to be in health fields and
19 technology fields and others.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: ...the
21 population of black and Latino senior colleges what
22 is the population today and have, have we seen a
23 reduction and what is our plan to take...

24 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: So I think we've
25 already talked about some of the strategies both in

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2 ASAP and BMI and others. And I think one of your
3 colleagues mentioned the number of students who
4 require some level, entire student population some
5 level of remedial education. We need to be doing a
6 better job of a transition point from high school
7 to college for everyone. We need to make sure that
8 we have successful effective strategies in place
9 for transfer from those students who need
10 developmental courses and we're now at a point
11 where every CUNY senior college undergraduate
12 population is a majority transfer students. So at
13 every one of these colleges now most of the, over
14 half of the students have, have transferred. Not
15 all from CUNY community colleges but from including
16 CUNY community colleges. One program I think
17 important in this area not without controversy was
18 the pathways initiative to ensure that students who
19 started at a community college and, and took the
20 pathway compliment of courses were assured the
21 ability to transfer and have those courses be given
22 credit at the senior colleges at the university.
23 That in my view despite its lack of popularity in
24 some circles as a student focus, student centered
25 initiative to address some of the interest that you

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2 have, have raised. So I think it's a combination of
3 strategies, financial aid, student support that is
4 going to ensure that we're effective in, in
5 providing educational opportunity for all New
6 Yorkers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: But do you,
8 have, have we seen a reduction of black and Latino
9 in senior colleges?

10 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Reductions no, not
11 in...

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: What, what is
13 the population today?

14 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Yeah let me see. I
15 have, oh everybody wants to offer me the numbers
16 here. So let me look at under graduate enrollment
17 in the last year. So I look at a ten year period
18 here on undergraduate change enrolled across CUNY...
19 let's see is this all colleges, it is. Alright and
20 you... talking to us about senior colleges. Alright.
21 Somebody, you have the senior college number. Okay
22 that isn't the one I want. You know if I can't find
23 the, then that's just a subset of the colleges. If
24 I can't find a number I'm going to have to get it
25 for you but I can...

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I, I just
3 hope that we see the challenges that we face... First
4 of all I would like to thank Joan Hutchinson [sp?]...
5 too because they also been opening and connecting
6 our local school district to, to ours colleges.
7 Like right now I know that CUNY through city
8 college is doing great job as part of initiative
9 connecting with school district 6. But let me give
10 you this scenario. In George Washington High School
11 there is 35 hundred students, there's four school
12 in that building, the first floor only 17 percent
13 they are college readiness... percent's... first floor
14 school they only send four percent to a senior
15 college. The second floor send seven percent to a
16 senior college. The third one send five percent to
17 a senior colleges. And then the fourth floor only
18 send four percent. So no doubt that at the high
19 school level where CUNY is not responsible we are
20 failing preparing our kid to go to senior colleges.
21 So I'm not blaming CUNY for that if that reduction
22 is taking place. But I would like to see how CUNY
23 continue being in partnership with the school
24 district so that a student have better prepare to
25 go to a senior colleges.

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2 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Yeah... completely
3 agree. There's no substitute for, in, are, and I
4 can't underestimate, overstate the importance of our
5 partnership with New York City schools. And I'm
6 going to continue to look for this data while I...

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well
8 while you do that Chancellor I want to talk about
9 Guttman and the new program that jumped out at us
10 which was your metro card program. Guttman
11 Community College is modeled after CUNY's ASAP
12 program and this council is very supportive of the
13 ASAP program. We understand that it works, that
14 it's great. As you alluded to in your opening
15 statement with the valedictorian that you have been
16 working more, the dreamer. Can you tell us how
17 Guttman incorporates ASAP into its every day
18 services and courses and it is my understanding
19 that ASAP requires participants to be enrolled as
20 full time or full time equivalent does that mean
21 that all of Guttman students are full time
22 students?

23 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Yes. They all
24 enroll as full time students and Guttman was
25 modeled on the ASAP element. And so incorporates

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2 most of them with your support, the metro card, the
3 important addition and it is at this moment I
4 understand for underdevelopment how that will be
5 distributed based on need.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

7 That was my follow-up question so what's the
8 percent, no what's the percentage of the students
9 that will be eligible to receive... what are the
10 require, what are the eligibility requirements and
11 you know what helped you come to this concept or
12 this idea, metro cards is what they need.

13 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: So metro cards
14 were a part of the, a bundle of services that ASAP
15 which is a result of significant amount of research
16 on what or impediments to attendance and, and
17 success. And I bet that you like me have actually
18 talked to students who have made choices about
19 whether they would attend class at a particular day
20 because they had to make a choice about whether
21 they would pay the transportation costs or use that
22 money for something else. They need it. And once
23 you go down the path of missing a class and another
24 because you make the decision or can't afford to
25 get there that's pretty hard to recover. So the,

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2 it's under development now the criteria for
3 government's use of I think it's a million dollar
4 increase in the budget that would go towards metro
5 cards. It would be, and, and because it wouldn't
6 cover everyone that's enrolled, it would go towards
7 those students who have demonstrated need and
8 benefit from it. And frankly I know there's been
9 some discussion in the council and more broadly
10 about expanding metro cards beyond that is a... am I
11 jumping to your next question? Is this...

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: You're
13 jumping right to my next question.

14 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Sorry I didn't...

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I wanted
16 you to kind of dream with me a little bit and like
17 what would it cost for us to do this for all the
18 community college students that have this need?

19 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Yeah 50, 50
20 million for all full time community college
21 students.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I have a
23 funny feeling it's going to be in our next budget
24 response. Okay 50 million. Great, college
25 persistence... fiscal 2016's executive budget

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2 recognizes 1.1 million you need for CUNY's college
3 persistence program. Can you tell us a little bit
4 about what the program is, what population it
5 serves and with these new funds on which campus
6 will college... be offered and how many students will
7 be served?

8 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: No.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Great.

10 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: John... I'll, if I
11 can one of my colleagues will respond to that
12 question.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
14 Excellent. I don't think I've officially gotten a
15 no from anyone since...

16 JOHN MOGULESCU: [off mic] Hi I'm John...

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...press
18 the button to... Thank you.

19 JOHN MOGULESCU: John Mogulescu the, the
20 college persistence funds again is about to be
21 developed as to how we're going to be using it. It
22 is singled out, the sense of, of dealing with
23 issues of persistence but we're working with the
24 city in trying to figure it out. There is no detail
25 at the moment. [cross-talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So can
3 you just speak to what is this, what is it that,
4 what is the issue that you're trying to... [cross-
5 talk]

6 JOHN MOGULESCU: Well I think it, it's
7 been touched upon by the Chancellor earlier this
8 whole question of transition from high school to
9 college and the, the need to work both with the
10 Department of Ed and then as students enter our,
11 our programs to make sure that, that one
12 remediation is limited and, and two that this whole
13 question of, of adapting to a culture of, of
14 college is, is done smoothly and then three kind of
15 in an experimental way are there things that we are
16 not doing through the use of technology that can be
17 introduced whether it be an app or something like
18 that that will enable students to move forward in a
19 more productive way. This is kind of innovative
20 money and a experimental money and I, my sense is
21 in the next month to six weeks we will have a much
22 more detailed plan to be able to produce and
23 present back to you guys.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay so
25 a month to six weeks puts you at a challenge

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2 because I pass the budget in less than that. So I
3 just want to be able to have a little more detail
4 as to maybe why don't you need three million or why
5 do you need half a million. 1.1 seems really
6 specific and I just needed to better understand
7 why.

8 JOHN MOGULESCU: So because I listen
9 very carefully to what you just said we will get
10 you a plan earlier than that month to six weeks...

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

12 Excellent. That was so much better than the
13 chancellor... [interpose]

14 [laughter]

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So I'm
16 going to now pass on the mic to my chair Chair
17 Barron to ask her second round of questions.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madam
19 Chair. I want to follow-up on the questions raised
20 by Council Member Rodriguez in terms of the number
21 of students at the senior colleges. I have some
22 stats that said going back to 2001 African
23 Americans representing it, all of the senior
24 colleges was 54 percent and Latinos was 49 percent.
25 And in a response to the article that it appeared

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2 in the Atlantic magazine it was stated that at
3 present all senior colleges the number of African
4 American students is 22 percent and for Latino is
5 27 percent. That's quite disturbing. Even going
6 back to 2012 the number of African American
7 students in senior colleges I have was 34 percent
8 so just from 30, from 2012 to whatever the data is
9 in response to the article in the, in the Atlantic
10 monthly. That's quite a significant drop. And from
11 41 percent Latino in 2012 to 27 percent and these
12 are for the all senior colleges. In regards to the
13 top five if it's even more disturbing. Although
14 there's been a light uptick in the top five numbers
15 of black and Latino there's only 13 percent African
16 American at the top five senior colleges and 23
17 percent. So I think that it's disturbing to see
18 this decline. We know again yes that the elementary
19 level, the primary school, secondary school are not
20 in fact paring students to the degree that they
21 should but we've got to find a way so that the
22 admission criteria to the senior colleges does not
23 reflect in such a way as to have greatly diminished
24 numbers of African American and Latino students.

25

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2 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: In the interim,
3 thank you, in the interim time between the first
4 question about this I hold together the two pages
5 that...

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay.

7 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: So the first thing
8 I'll do is simply tell you what, what, what I know
9 based on our data an, and CUNY which is maybe a
10 little different. But it may be explained because I
11 have again ten year comparison. So between 2004 and
12 2014. And the most significant difference between
13 racial and ethnic groups and the percentage of CUNY
14 students is at the senior colleges is decline in
15 the percentage of white students and at, an
16 increase in the student of Asian and pacific
17 islander students. That's, those are the biggest
18 shelves. The, the numbers that..., that have which
19 I'll just give you for the total enrollment
20 percentages of senior colleges of CUNY in 2004 were
21 14 percentage in pacific islander, 26.3 percent
22 black, 20.7 percent Hispanic, and 38.6 percent
23 white. In 2014 those numbers were 22.5 percent
24 Asian pacific islander, 24.5 percent black, 24.8
25 percent Hispanic, and 27.9 percent white. Now of

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course each of those numbers represents gains numerically I mean in terms of the absolute number just because the enrollment at CUNY has grown significantly from 2004 'till now. But that, that's the shift in the percentages that I am aware of.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay well I would like to perhaps sit with some of your number crunchers so that we can...

CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Absolutely, absolutely yeah, yeah...

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...get a, a fuller picture in that I'm sorry.

CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: ...happy to do that.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And, and in terms of representation of again black, Latino, and Asians, in terms of the faculty, in terms of the chain, the latter moving up. We've had at least one hearing on that in CUNY and it is quite troubling. And there was even the stat which of course we have to make public because of the, the climate receiving federal funds so we're very pleased to have a very comprehensive picture. But there were I believe 15 African Americans who applied to a particular graduate program and only two who were

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2 even given an interview. It might have been 28, 28
3 who applied. Only two were granted an interview and
4 neither one of them were successful. That's
5 disturbing to think that of 28 people who applied
6 only two redeemed to be candidates for
7 consideration. So what are we doing? What are we
8 not doing? I've heard the, the explanations well we
9 don't have a high enough pay rate. They're going
10 elsewhere because they can get greater pay. But
11 what are we doing because we have a large
12 population of African American and Latino students
13 in the system, in CUNY schools. And they need to
14 see themselves at these higher levels. Also at the
15 levels of presidents and eventually even chancellor

16 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Great. We have to.

17 As do I think many institutions across the country
18 do a better job of recruiting hiring and retaining
19 underrepresented populations and our faculty and
20 our administrative ranks. You have no argument from
21 me there. We have a CUNY wide diversity plan which
22 I was briefed on again most recently a few weeks
23 ago. We have required that each campus have its own
24 diversity plan. We have instituted CUNY wide
25 regulations with regard to searches for faculty and

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2 staff. We have of the nine measures that I see to
3 evaluate presence in our performance management
4 system, one of the nine relates to faculty hiring,
5 underrepresented populations so we have fellowship
6 programs that we have established recently. We have
7 new diversity scholars and residents program that
8 we've established recently. I've looked at the list
9 not long ago of the new initiatives that have been
10 put in place and I think it's, it's an impressive
11 list of inputs and I hope as well as you do that it
12 also results in an equally impressive output and
13 result. But those are, I think those are some of
14 the things that we are doing. I think that like
15 most places we have to take advantage of our
16 students, our graduate students and do what we can
17 to help groom them for those who were interested
18 for a role on the professoriate whether it's at
19 CUNY or, or elsewhere. And so the, I think the
20 expression used in higher ed circles is grow your
21 own so you, we have to do a better job. If we can't
22 find enough people in the national pools and
23 pipelines then we have to do a better job I think
24 of helping create larger pools ourselves. So I
25 think it is a, it's a combination of many different

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2 strategies that we have to use. But I, I agree with
3 where you're starting on this line of questioning
4 and I, and, and I want to see us do better.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay and last
6 question. The money for IOI has been shifted to HRA
7 for the immigration opportunity initiative. So does
8 CUNY in any way expect to form a partnership with
9 HRA or because I think it was very successful, the
10 IOI program under CUNY. So do you have any ideas
11 about how you can interact with HRA or has HRA
12 reached out to you an expectation of... some kind of
13 relationship to have a successful implementation of
14 the program.

15 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Yes. My
16 understanding is that we are in discussions and
17 hope that we will receive some of the resources
18 provided for our successful program, if somebody
19 wants to add anything, any detail to that. So the,
20 the world's leading expert is here, Professor Allan
21 Wernick if you want to...

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay if you
23 could introduce yourself an thank you.

24 ALLAN WERNICK: I'm Allan Wernick. I...
25 professor Baruch college. I direct CUNY citizenship

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2 now program. So as council member knows we, we have
3 a very successful program working with city council
4 members. We're in 32 city council offices providing
5 direct services in the community. We're also in
6 discussions though with the mayor's office of
7 immigrant affairs about trying to expand the
8 services that are available outside of those
9 operations. Does that answer your question?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes it does.

11 ALLAN WERNICK: Okay thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And one further
13 question. In terms of the leads program and the
14 former foster students programs we have some
15 representatives here from the leads program. How
16 are you looking to continue that program? Are you
17 looking to expand it and how effective have you,
18 have you found the program to operate in, in, in
19 the CUNY system.

20 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: I think the answer
21 with regard to both areas is yes we, it's, it's a
22 little different. Let me... lead program yes... it has
23 been successful and I mentioned the few of the
24 metrics...

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Right.

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2 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: ...in terms of
3 retention and employment post-graduation which had
4 been very successful. So both at the city level and
5 the state we have been, this has been a priority of
6 ours. With regard to foster care youth aging out of
7 the system this is a, there are significant number
8 of ongoing discussions right now at CUNY about how,
9 about our interest in being reinstitution that
10 addresses the needs of this population in New York
11 and provides a, a nurturing supportive environment
12 for the to be successful educationally. This is a
13 personal interest of, of mine and a priority and I
14 would just say I hope you will stay tuned and be
15 supportive because I think that you will see more
16 coming from CUNY in terms of partnerships with
17 other, other groups that are in this space but also
18 programs of our own.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And one final
20 question. Is there a mechanism in CUNY perhaps
21 centrally or at the individual schools that can
22 help to identify the homeless student, that student
23 who actually is a homeless student may be riding
24 the trains... We sometimes hear about these stories
25 highlighted in a news article of a student who, and

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2 often times is quite successful but who is actually
3 homeless. Is there a mechanism, is there a program,
4 is there an outreach, is there some red flag that
5 goes up at the schools so that students would know
6 that there's help for them?

7 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: Let me ask Vice
8 Chancellor Sanchez to respond to that...

9 VICE CHANCELLOR SANCHEZ: Great thank
10 you Chancellor. Good afternoon. Frank Sanchez, Vice
11 Chancellor for student affairs. This topic of
12 homelessness has actually been a very focused
13 conversation among our council of vice presidents
14 of student affairs. One of the reasons is what
15 you're bringing up is often times although not real
16 frequently it does come up from faculty with
17 administrators that you have a homeless student
18 dealing with any variety of challenges. One of the
19 difficulties of, of tracking is often times you'll
20 have a student who's homeless say at the beginning
21 of the year and then six months later they find
22 what, what appears to be some secure housing and so
23 tracking throughout the year it ebbs and flows. But
24 one of the things we did is clearly we needed to
25 identify kind of a clearing house of resources

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5 information and support services where either a
6 faculty or administrator, even a fellow student
7 could, could connect that student with emergency
8 housing support. So now we have a CUY website
9 specifically that provides those resources in
10 support again for the general community for faculty
11 for administrators who want to guide students
12 towards those resources.

13 10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Thank
14 11 you Madam Chair.

15 12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
16 13 you Chair Barron. We've been joined by Council
17 14 Member Gibson. Again thank you for coming to
18 15 testify today. You should always request your
19 16 hearings beyond Friday afternoon.

20 17 CHANCELLOR MILLIKEN: I thank you for
21 18 allowing me to attend the Bronx Community College
22 19 Commencement today. It was an important day.

23 20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:
24 21 Absolutely, absolutely. Again thank you to the
25 22 students who came out. Thank you to the faculty. We
 23 are your fans and I know, and I want you to know
 24 that we are really thinking of you in every bit of
 25 our negotiations through this budget. This

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5
6 concludes our hearing for today. The Finance
7 Committee will resume Executive Budget hearings for
8 fiscal 2016 on Monday June 1st at 10:00 a.m. in
9 this room and Monday the Finance Committee will be
10 joined... give me a second ladies and gentleman. The
11 Finance Committee will be joined with the Fire
12 Department and Emergency Medical Service, the
13 Department of Correction, the Department of
14 Transportation, and the Metropolitan Transit
15 Authority and the Taxi Limousine Commission. As a
16 reminder the public will be invited to testify
17 again on June 9th, the last day of budget hearings
18 at approximately 1:30 p.m. in this room. For any
19 member of the public who wishes to testify but
20 cannot make it to this hearing you can email your
21 testimony t9 the finance division at finance
22 testimony at council dot NYC dot gov and the staff
23 will make it a part of the official record. Thank
24 you. This hearing is now adjourned. Have a great
25 weekend everyone.

22 [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 June 11, 2015