

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

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HELD AT: Johnson Community Center  
1833 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10029

B E F O R E: RITCHIE J. TORRES  
Chairperson

VANESSA GIBSON  
Chairperson

SPEAKER MELISSA-MARK VIVERITO

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Rosie Mendez  
James G. Van Bramer  
Donovan J. Richards  
Laurie A. Cumbo

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

Tyrone McKantz  
NYCHA Resident

Daniel Jones  
NYCHA Resident

Birdie Glenn, President, Tenant Association  
Jackie Robinson Houses

Leah James  
NYCHA Resident

Robert Rice  
NYCHA Resident

Richard Fargeson  
NYCHA Resident

Amy Sananman, Executive Director  
Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, MAP  
Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, MOCJ

Jean-Clause LeBec, Chief Operating Officer  
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Alana Turco, Associate Counsel  
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David Farber, General Counsel  
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Michael Kelly, General Manager  
New York City Housing Authority, NYCHA

Michael Harrington, Chief  
NYPD Housing Bureau

Elvio Capocci, Deputy Inspector  
New York City Police Department, NYPD

Jesus Perez  
Office of Gale Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President

Carmen Quinones, President  
Douglas Houses Tenant Association

Allison Wilkey, Policy Director  
Prisoner Reentry Institute  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Runa Rajagopal,  
Director, Sriracha Practice  
Bronx Defenders

Laurie Parise  
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Lisa Kenner, President,  
Resident Association, Van Dyke Houses

John Johnson, President  
Mott Haven House Association  
Bronx South District Chair

John Bradley  
Lead by Example and Reverse the Negative Trend

Tarek Ghandour  
Community Voices Heard

Morey Simpson, Director  
Lead by Example and Reverse the Negative Trend

Charles Nunez

Naved Hussain, Lead Organizer  
Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, CAAAV  
Organizing Asian Communities

Patrick Doyle, Program Director  
Groundswell

Johnny Rivera, Democratic District Leader  
Johnson Houses and Washington Houses, East Harlem

Tyrone Ball, President  
Tenant Association, St. Nicholas Houses

Will Kitchen  
NYCHA Resident

Denay Williams  
Green City Force

Serena Chandler  
Polo Grounds Towers

Charlene Nimons, President  
Tenant Association, Wyckoff Gardens

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Good morning everyone. As you can see, not only are we facing technical difficulties, we have no technical capacity at all. We have no microphones. We should have them within the next hour. But this hearing is coming to order. Welcome to the City Council's hearing Examining the Mayor's Plan to Address Violent Crime in Public Housing. I am City Council Member Ritchie Torres, and I chair the Committee on Public Housing. And I'm honored to co-chair today's hearing with Council Member Vanessa Gibson, who chairs the Committee on Public Safety. Also, joining us is the Speaker of the City Council as well as the Council Member for East Harlem, Madam Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and I would like to thank our Speaker for hosting us in her district, and allowing the City Council to bring government directly to the people. And I'll start with a simple question: Why are we here? And the answer is as simple as it is painful, violent crime continues to be a persistent challenge in public housing developments that a half a million New Yorkers call home. Even though NYCHA houses about five percent of the population, it is the

setting for a disproportionate share of violent crime in the city, about 10% of overall rapes and felony assaults, 14% of overall murders, 20% of overall shootings. According to an analysis by the Manhattan Institute, the public safety gains enjoyed by the city over the past ten years have left NYCHA residents behind. As shown in the graph somewhere behind me, after falling initially from 2006 to 2009, crime in public housing has risen since 2009 returning closer to 2006 levels. When it comes to public safety, New York is indeed a tale of two cities with public housing residents facing violent crime at twice the citywide rate. Here in East Harlem the murder of Officer Randolph Holder at the hands of Tyrone Howard is a grim reminder that violence not only threatens the residents who live here, but also the officers charged with protecting them. In the wake of that shooting, Mayor de Blasio has ordered changes to NYCHA's policy on permanent exclusions and the NYPD's referral of cases to the Housing Authority. We are here to find out precisely what those changes will be, and what they will mean for the safety of public housing residents. From his first year in office, the Mayor in partnership with

the City Council has made a real priority of reducing violence in public housing through a comprehensive plan that combines law enforcement with infrastructure and social services. In July of 2014, weeks after the murder of six-year-old Prince Joshua Avitto, the Mayor unveiled a \$210 million action plan for neighborhood safety, and we are here to find out the answer to one overarching question: Is that plan working? Nineteen months later, hundreds of million dollars of investments later, is that plan working? So with that said, I would like to hand over the floor to the Chairperson of the Committee on Public Safety, Vanessa Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you so much and good morning to each and every one of you. Certainly, thank you Johnson Community Center, to SCAN New York, the Executive Director Lou Zuckman, Ken Thompson and staff for hosting us. Thank you to my fellow co-chair Council Member Ritchie Torres, and our incredible Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and for all the residents here at Johnson Houses in East Harlem. It is truly a pleasure to be here. I am Council Member Vanessa Gibson of the 16th District in the Bronx, and I'm very proud to chair the Committee

on Public Safety, and I'm thankful to be here, and I thank all of you for being here because this is truly a very important topic that we will discuss today. First and foremost, we continue to keep the family and friends of the Detective Randolph Holder in our thoughts and prayers, and certainly we continue to pray for all the officers of the NYPD and those at PSA 5. And I want to thank Captain Mundo for being here, Commanding Officer of PSA 5, and NYPD Housing Bureau representatives who are here as well as NYCHA and many others. Many of my tenant leaders who are here from the Bronx. Thank you for being here and welcome. Truly we know that Mayor's Action Plan, the MAP program that recently has been implemented is by the foundation of recognizing that in public housing we have to recognize the public safety of each and every resident that lives and calls NYCHA their home. And while we know that 15 developments were targeted because they accounted for almost 20% of citywide crime, many residents that live in those developments that are not in the 15 deserve as much priority and concern as any other resident of public housing. And so today's hearing is certainly an opportunity to hear from all residents of public housing, to hear



from the Mayor's Criminal Justice Office, as well as the NYPD about the MAP program and what we can continue to do. We know that we must be creative and innovative in our approach to dealing with crime in public housing, but we also know that we all play a role whether you are an elected official, a tenant leader, whether you are a leader of the NYPD, whether you have a title or not in front of your name. The fact that you live in public housing means that you must be a part of the solution and not the problem. We want everyone to recognize that they are stakeholders and we must all take responsibility for our presence in public housing. We must all be a part of the conversation as it relates to creating safe, quality housing and making sure that NYCHA remains the greatest public housing authority in this nation. And so, today we will hear from the Administration, from residents in public housing, and I ask you to be honest with us. Let us know how we can continue to help you. We will embark on a new budget season in January for the new fiscal year. And so we know that as a Council we will be continuously aggressive in our approach to not only invest the money, but we must invest in the capital

infrastructure of NYCHA. And so we will hear from the Housing Authority on investments that will be made, technological advances and resources, and I'm really thankful to be here. I want to thank my colleague Council Member Ritchie Torres because he is probably the only council member and chair of the committee that has recognized in bringing hearings to the people, and I'm glad that we're here in East Harlem. So thank you once again, Chair Torres. Thank you to our Speaker. Thank you to my staff who is here Deepa Ambekar, my counsel on the Public Safety Committee as well as Dana Wax and Kaitlyn O'Hagan from my staff, and I look forward to have a very fruitful and productive conversation this morning. Thank you once again, Chair Torres.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you and this hearing would not be possible without the leadership of our Speaker. So we would love to give the Speaker an opportunity to say a few words.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Chair and--and they're bringing the equipment in so as--as I speak, they'll be setting it up, and we have to maybe allow for some time for that. But I want to thank Chair Ritchie Torres and Chair Vanessa Gibson

for chairing this hearing, and in particular Chair Torres for his leadership with regards to public housing. And we had made a commitment when I became Speaker that we wanted to bring government into the communities, and he's really taken that on, and I'm really happy that we're doing it and obviously with that comes its challenges, which we're encountering today. But it definitely speaks to our commitment to bring these hearings into the field, into the communities that are directly being impacted so that we can really maximize participation in here from our constituents about the issues that we're having on-- that we're going to be hearing. So again, I want to thank our--I know I see a lot of residents here. I want to thank the residents for their participation in particular. I know we've seen some elected officials from the neighborhood Assemblyman Rodriguez, Senator Perkins. I think I saw District Leader Johnny Green--Johnny Rivera. So I want to really commend everyone that makes this center in particular run. It's a pleasure to be back here at Johnson Houses right here in my district. I literally live a block and a half away, which is home to the most public housing in the entire city of New

York. I want to thank the residents and advocates for joining us, and a special thank you to Ethel Velez. I'm not sure she's here. I was looking for Ethyl, President of the Resident Association of Johnson Houses, and Chair of the Manhattan North Council of Presidents. I also want to acknowledge the great men and women, as the Chair Gibson has done, of the NYPD that serve my district each and everyday particularly PSA 5 led by Captain Mundo, who is here as well. As many of you may know, nearly a year ago I stood in this very room to deliver my State of the City Address where I reaffirmed my commitment to the 400,000 New Yorkers who call public housing home, and to keeping every single New Yorker safe. We know the challenges NYCHA faces are not easy ones. NYCHA's capital deficit has soared to \$17 billion while the federal government continues to underfund public housing. In the absence of congressional leadership in Washington, the de Blasio Administration and the Council remain committed to taking steps to ensure the continuity and promise of public housing. And that's something that I do want to acknowledge. I've now been in office almost ten years, and the level of attention and directing of

resources of the de Blasio Administration has made for the safety of public housing residents is commendable. But our job is to have oversight and to figure out whether or not the plan that has been implemented and the way the resources are being expended are being done in the most efficient and effective way. That is where you come in giving us your feedback, because if it isn't we have to make sure that we readjust and redirect the way that this plan is functioning. That is our role. That is our responsibility, and our commitment to you as your representatives. Oh, it's working now. Oh, that was quick. All right, very good. This is better. Every single New Yorker deserves to feel safe regardless of their socio-economic status. Although crime in New York City has reached historic lows, violence in our public housing remains mostly unchanged, as we have heard. NYCHA is home to just 4.8% of the city's population, but accounts for more than 10% of rapes and felony assaults, 14% of murders and 20% of shootings in the city. And we know that this clearly unacceptable. We continue to witness too many tragedies and senseless acts of violence in NYCHA developments, and too often innocent bystanders and

children are caught in the crossfire. A little over a month ago NYPD Housing Bureau Officer, as has been indicated, Randolph Holder was murdered in the line of duty while on a patrol near the East River Houses. It ended up costing his life over by Wagner Houses. This obviously cannot continue.

This Council is committed to providing the city with all the resources it needs to keep New Yorkers safe. That's why we successfully fought to hire a 1,300 more police officers, why we continue to work to further bolster the relationship between the police and the communities they serve. We continue to demand reforms of the NYPD, and why we're engaged in productive ongoing conversations with Commissioner Bratton to make our Criminal Justice system more fair. So I want to thank the de Blasio Administration for investing in the safety of NYCHA residents through the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety also known as MAP. A \$200 point--a \$210.5 million citywide initiative aimed at reducing crime in 15 NYCHA developments, and as the chair has indicated, this has now run its course for well over a year and a half, and we want to know the progress of it at this point. This past year MAP has

removed 10,000 feet of non-essential scaffolding and sidewalk chips; placed 184 temporary exterior row towers; installed 52 Closed Circuit Television cameras; deployed additional NYPD Housing Bureau offices; increased coordination among city agencies to better address the security of NYCHA; and expanded resident programming and outreach. This is a positive start, but more needs to be done. So Chair Torres, again, thank you for convening this important hearing. This hearing will provide the Council with an opportunity to examine the Administration's plan to address violence in public housing, and to hear from all of you directly about their concerns as this plan is being implemented throughout communities across the city. So I want to thank you all again. It really always is a privilege to be able to have hearings like this in my district, and be able to interact and hear directly from all of you. And I want to thank everyone that is taking the time to be here today. We value your time, and we value your input. It is critical for us to be effective leaders. So thank you very much for being here.

[background noise, pause]

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you, everyone.

3 So as has been noted, this hearing is unconventional  
4 in several ways. We're holding it in our housing  
5 development rather than in City Hall, and normally  
6 the Administration would testify first, but instead,  
7 we're going to have the community testify, and have  
8 the Administration patiently wait. So with that  
9 said, I'm going to call the first panel. Robert  
10 Rice, Dirty Dunn, Daniel Jones, Tyrone McKantz, Lea  
11 James. [background comments and noise, pause] Mr.  
12 Rice, just a three-minute time limit, if you can keep  
13 to that.

14 TYRONE MCKANTZ: [off mic] Can you start  
15 that. (sic)

16 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Sure.

17 TYRONE MCKANTZ: [off mic] Good morning,  
18 ladies and gentlemen--[on mic] Good morning, ladies  
19 and gentlemen. My name is Tyrone McKantz. I'm a  
20 residence of Johnson Houses, and I just want to give  
21 my thanks to anybody that has anything to do with  
22 SCAN because like coming from like a place around  
23 here there's a lot of violence and stuff. So by them  
24 having a sense of open to like 11:30 at night or the  
25 summer jobs that they provide it's just it's--it's a



good thing for us--for them to do for us, and yeah, I just wanted to give my thanks.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Can you just speak to and let us know where you live?

TYRONE MCKANTZ: Yeah, I live at 1565 across the street.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Public housing?

TYRONE MCKANTZ: Yeah, and I've been working with SCAN for a long time. So I know Ms. Deazier (sp?). They always provided jobs for us. So that's a good thing.

DAN JONES: Good morning everybody. My name is Dan Jones. I'm 20 and I've lived in this residence all my life, and today we're talking about more protection, more security for the environment for NYCHA. I think that protect now here is good. It has more cameras. The doors are being locked. There's more cops on each corner, but I just feel like it should be more cameras, more cops because every day something new is happening, and somebody getting killed, or a little kid. So a police officer--and I want to say thank you for SCAN because with the programs that they give out they let the youth and other people come--come in and take time

off for people being in the streets all day to everybody being outside risking their lives for something to happen. But also, with the protection we have, we need more protection, but we also need protection for those that's protecting the--that's protecting the block. Because the other day we was just in a store, and there was a shooting that went down, but we was told by officers in a bad way to leave out of the store with profanity like get the F out the store if you're not buying anything. So at the same time I feel like we have protection, but sometimes we get looked at by police officers out here that we--like we not from the projects. Like we're not from this borough. So I feel like if it's the same cops that's out here, the same cops patrolling the block, they should be able to remember our faces and go to the ones that really out here doing the crime because se live here all our life. I go to the store and I'm getting searched sometimes by DET (sic) undercover cops. But we don't want to risking our life out here. You know it feel to me like everyday this is something new. I love the protection. It's a lot of cops. It's a lot of camera. They do their jobs. I'm not saying they're

doing anything wrong, but sometimes they could go overboard and look at the wrong ones, and it will be the ones who are really doing something walking right by us. So I just want to say thank you. It's--it's good for these programs for Lou, Ms. Deazier. But I just think that there should be more security. Instead of two cops on each corner it could be three cops on each corner or four cops on each corner. But at the same time we have to realize here we're residents here, too. We not the ones doing the crime. We trying to prevent the crime as well. So that's about it. Thank you. [applause]

BIRDIE GLENN: I come to say good morning to everyone especially the panel, and to my chairperson, to all the DA presidents that are here 'cause we been out here a long time. But to the safety plan, I hope we can really, really get it together 'cause we're putting cameras and stuff, but we don't have them all complete hookup. So we need to really look at all the cameras that you're putting in our development, but we need them hooked up so when anything happens, we can really go on and do what other NYCHA have to do to get rid of it. Again, these community centers is helping the kids, and we

hope that they will follow through on--keep on helping the kids 'cause all of them around, up and down. And I am from the Upper East Side, the Jackie Robinson Houses. I'm the TA president. I've been there a long time. I'm looking at old places that we met a long time ago, but I just want to say the safety plan is good if we can get it some capital. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just want you to do all these hands instead of clapping. [sic]

LEAH JAMES: Good morning. My name is Leah James. I am a Johnson Houses resident, but also I've been a NYCHA resident all my life from Cypress Hills Projects to Boulevard Houses, and also I work with Neighborhood Initiative Development Corporation. I am a NYCHA organizer with the organization. So I've been organizing every single NYCHA development in the Bronx working with TA presidents, developing TA presidents. Also organizing development as a whole, and what I came to realize is that a lot of these community centers that's in these development-- in these developments in the Bronx don't service people or young adults, middle-age that some of them are the ones who are doing the crimes. I mean they

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21

2 just have the youth and the seniors programs. What  
3 happened to the people that's in the middle that's 25  
4 or, you know, or that's coming home being  
5 incarcerated and they don't have no programs or a  
6 development they could go to. So they to outside of  
7 the development and they go right back into the  
8 system. So that's what I've come to realize that I  
9 don't--I don't--I just don't see that. I want to be  
10 a part of the solution to work together with other  
11 developments even my own development to make sure  
12 that safety is a priority. I live in that building  
13 at 2070 Third Avenue. I don't know if these boys in  
14 front of the lobby--I don't know who those  
15 individuals are. I'm scared. I have a daughter. So  
16 I--I never them with a person that lives in the  
17 building for years. I don't know who they are, and  
18 they hold the door open.

19 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] Do you  
20 know who they are?

21 LEAH JAMES: Do I know how they are? No,  
22 I don't. Well, I don't know them personally because  
23 me growing up in NYCHA for years since the '80s since  
24 I was born everybody knew who everybody was.  
25 Everybody knew who the mother was, who the

grandmother was. They knew who was giving birth the next day. Everybody knew each other. We was a family. So, you know, I think that we need some really--if there's going to be safety, I think we need to looking who is living in the development, and then try to come together to help those people that need help. So that they won't be out in the street. So like I said, I want to be a part of the solution to fix all of this because this is my home. Thank you. [applause]

ROBERT RICE: I'm gonna stand. Good morning everybody. I just typed something up real quick. Every--first and foremost, good morning everybody. My name is Robert Rice. I won't be with you very long, but I do want to share with you some important information. Did you know that Black teenagers are killing each other at a rising number, and it is part of a troubling trend that has happened in our communities and throughout our nation. Our kids are disappearing because they are being killed, or because they are headed to prison for killing each other. If that don't frighten you, then I don't know what to say. You see, we have to change our hearts before we can change our minds. And I like to give

honor where honor is due. I want to give honor to all the elected officials that's here today. Thank you all for coming out, and to PSA 5. Captain Mundo, thank you sir. You're doing a phenomenal job. Come on, give it up for--for Captain Mundo [applause] and the PSA 5. I want to just share real briefly with you that I used to live in these projects years ago, and I was one of the troubling kids that was out here. And I changed my life through a church, which Melissa she knows. That's the Gospel Assembly, Bishop Carlton Brown. They have took me in and taught me how to, you know, you know, act in the community. And now, I give back. My job is to give back to the kids that you see her. See, these kids could tell you I talk to them everyday. I tell the kids put the guns down and the books up. Amen, and I became a chaplain, a graduate from a bible institute, and I changed my life totally around. I wasn't always perfect, now. I made some mistakes, too. So you're looking at person that comes from these projects out here that made a lot of mistakes. Now, I'm not going to act like I was always perfect, you all, because I know I've been bumping my head from time to time. And it was the PSA 5 that changed my

life as well, too. Sometimes we speak negative against the police officers. There's a lot of officers that's doing a good job in this community, and I want to recognize once again the captain for the PSA 5. Thank you for doing what you're doing. Come on, give it up for the Captain y'all.

[applause] I also want to give--give thanks to Louis Zuckerman for SCAN because program here is opening up the doors for so many kids to come in that know which way to turn. A lot of these kids don't have no type of education. They--they walking around with guns on them. They're selling drugs. I ain't gonna act like these are good kids. A lot of these kids need to be off the street. It's like the truth, and there's some good kids that we can work with, but I want you to know that you're looking at a person that changed his life. So they could change 'cause you're looking at somebody that turned his life totally around and--and throughout the last five years I've been speaking to every project, every community center, every basketball tournament, Rucker Park, Van Dyke, Tri-State, and I've been speaking against gun violence. That's what I do. I go there to let the kids know because I know that these basketball tournaments is



where all these kids from different projects come to these [bell] basketball tournaments, and they want to see the best basketball players. But, when they come there they've got problems with each other. All of them don't like each other in the community. So now, I go there to let these people know it's good to have you here, but we want you all to know that when you-- watch the basketball game, but we want you to get home safe. I see him standing up, but he's probably telling me get that mic up, but this is what my job is. I'm not here to--for you to look at me. I'm going hard this summer talking to these kids. Some of these kids got the problem with the Bloods and Crypts. This is the guy here that's been talking to them. I've been trying to reconcile some of these differences between youth. These kids could tell you that. I go to Jefferson, Wagner and I've been sitting down saying how can we, you know, resolve some of these problems? So, thank you all for being here today, and giving me the opportunity to share with you that this is another one here that's going to be changing a lot of kids lives. You're going to see a lot of kids that going to be miracles that's

going to work through me. Thank you. [applause]

(background comments)

RICHARD FARGESON: Richard Fargeson.

[background noise, pause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you all for being here, and for speaking up, and Leah, I think, you now, you mentioned something. I did something recently, which we didn't--I asked the Mayor to come with me and take a walk through East River Houses about 9 o'clock at night, and we did that. And when we talk about some of the concerns and about lighting and security issues as well, and we stopped and talked to a couple of young men probably a little bit younger than you, but who said exactly the same thing. That in the community center in the East River Houses that there was programming for the little ones, and there was programming for the seniors, but there was nothing for them in their age group. And I think that that's something obviously as we have these hearings and we, you know, verify that, and that us as representatives in our communities and we interact with our constituents, these are things that get affirmed. These are the things we have to think about. What we've been

programming into the community centers and public housing is the diverse. Does it reach all age groups, you know. So that's important and then you for addressing that. And I'm hoping I got your name. Is it Danny? Daniel. I want to thank you very much. I think you made some really valid points, too, about the struggles that we have. You know, we want to-- you're saying officers for the most part they're there. We want them to help keep us safe, but the idea of improving relations with the community and being able to really identify who the people who are causing the most trouble and havoc in the community are and leave others alone, right? And so I think that you--it really is important I think. I want people to understand the value of these hearings, and that's important to hear your voice. So thank you so much for taking the time to share that with us. And Birdie, always good to see you. I haven't seen you in awhile and good to see you as well. So thank you all very much for those points. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you so much for your testimony. And I do want to acknowledge my--the incomparable Laurie Cumbo from Brooklyn. [applause] And the next panel will consist of the

Administration. We have from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Amy Sananman. From the NYPD Housing Bureau, Chief Michael Harrington. From the New York City Housing Authority Gerald--Gerald Nelson. From NYCHA David Farber and from NYCHA the General Manager Michael Kelly. [backing comments] And from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Jean-Claude Le Bec. [background comments] And from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, Alana Turco. Can you please raise your right hand? Do you swear to tell the truth and the whole truth, before--in your testimony before the City Council today?

PANEL MEMBERS: [off mic] I do.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: You may proceed.

[background comments, pause]

AMY SANANMAN: Good morning everyone. Good morning Chairperson Torres, Chairperson Gibson and members of the Public Safety and Public Housing Committees. My name is Amy Sananman, and I'm the Executive Director of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety or MAP, which is overseen by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and thank you to counsel, the District Attorney's Office, and the

Mayor as well as the residents for your investment in MAP. I'm joined today by my colleagues Jean-Claude LeBec, MOCJ's Chief Operating Officer; Alana Turco, our Associate Counsel; David Farber, General Counsel; and Michael Kelly, General Manager from NYCHA; as well as Chief Herrington and Deputy Inspector Alvio Capocci from the NYPD.

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice advises the Mayor on public safety strategy, and together with partners inside and outside government develops and implements policies in reducing crime, reducing unnecessary arrests and incarceration, promoting fairness, and building strong and safe neighborhoods. Every New Yorkers should live in a neighborhood where he or she feels safe. This city has made extraordinary progress in driving down violent crime over the last two decades. Over the last year and a half, we have begun to build a scalable model to promote safety in a few neighborhoods violence persists. Through the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, the de Blasio Administration is working to comprehensively strengthen neighborhoods in and around 15 New York City Housing Authority developments that have

experienced some of the highest crime rates in the city. The MAP strategy recognizes the key importance of good policing, which includes both increases in patrol where appropriate, but also changes in the way the police interact with the neighborhoods such as wellness visits, having a role in community centers. But equally, the importance of programming and physical improvements. These included keeping the community centers open late, employing thousands of young people, and installing lights and other security infrastructure. This approach is working. An analysis by Crime Lab New York, a group of criminologists, economists and policy analysts working with the city used a rigorous control method to compared the 15 MAP developments to synthetically replicate a set of developments with almost identical crime patterns as the 15 MAP sites. Where we marked the first full year of the initiative in July 2015, violent crime was reduced by 11.2% in the 15 MAP developments compared to the preceding year. After the first six months, Crime Lab found that the felony crime rate in these 15 developments was 5% lower than it would have been with MAP--without MAP interventions. While citywide violent crime did go

down 6% during FY15, a recent study by the Manhattan Institute independently concluded that the effect of the MAP Initiative is promising citing a 10% net treatment effect on total major crime.

Over the last year and a half we have learned a lot. We have spoken with over 500 NYCHA residents about what they think causes crime and how we can effectively inhibit it. We have also talked to the leading researchers in the country on crime prevention. Both said the same thing: Distress is concentrated in a few neighborhoods. Meaning that the places where we see the highest number of shootings also tend to be the neighborhoods that suffer from other challenges such as poor health outcomes, low graduation, and low employment. To prevent crime, we need to focus comprehensively on strengthening neighborhoods and supporting the people who live in them. As we move into the next year, we are transcending that research into a targeted set of strategies that focus on people, places and networks with the goal of refining a scalable effective model for strengthening neighborhoods to reduce crime. We will continue to work with residents to identify priorities and test what works so we can replicate

it. Over the last year and with greater emphasis over the next, MAP is working to support people by reducing chronic disadvantage. Following widely accepted studies that show access to resources crime levels, much of the work we have already done has focused on enrollment regarding public benefits. As an example, the New York City Human Resources Administration, HRA, used MAP funding to hold weekly office hours for appointments and walk-ins at all 15 MAP sites resulting in nearly 300 residents meeting with benefit specialists. Guided by research showing that the physical environment can inhibit or encourage crime, MAP has also worked to create vibrant public spaces in the 15 developments targeted by this initiative. For example, for the first time in 30 years, NYCHA community centers were open until at least 11:00 p.m. seven days a week during the last two summers. Through these extended hours at 105 community centers operated by both DYCD and NYCHA an additional 12,300. According to a survey sample of participating youth, 41% of them had not used a community center prior to the commencement of extended hours. Additionally, during MAP's first year, there has been a significant investment in



security enhancements, lights, cameras and locked doors yielding immediate results as well as establishing new protocols for NYCHA developments. We anticipate continued positive results as more of the improvements are implemented. To date, under MAP the city completed construction of 52 Closed Circuit Televisions, and removed all 12,268 feet of non-construction sidewalk shedding. 1,840 security cameras were installed, and 184 temporary exterior lights were placed to improve the lighting in public spaces. In this--in the coming year we will expand and refine these strategies working with residents and experts to set priorities and track improvements. During MAP's first year, there was also a significant focus on laying the groundwork for long-term participatory community engagement aimed at strengthening neighborhood cohesion. To further encourage neighborhood cohesion and build connections between neighborhoods and the city, in early 2016 we will launch MAP's Neighborhood Step, which will bring residents and agencies together in the same room to collectively identify and articulate key public safety issues of concern and work hand-in-hand in developing solutions based on their combined

expertise. Regular participatory style meetings with the NYCHA residents, law enforcement and other agencies will occur at all 15 MAP sites in the coming months. This engagement initiative will include reviewing data and tracking outcomes to ensure that the city and its residents are able to evaluate progress in real time and deliver results. The Administration remains committed to promoting safety in NYCHA, and we will continue to refine our comprehensive people, places and network strategy to reducing crime to strengthen neighborhoods over the coming year. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. I will be happy to answer any questions. [pause, background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] So thank you for your testimony and I just looked at that [off mic] but I started hearing participatory government language, which I'm glad that I'm hearing NYCHA people stress that they will be fully engaging residents. I'm hoping in some ways our insistence on that has rubbed off on your agency when you're talking about figuring out ways to engage them and identify needs and funding. It sounds like there is a little bit of that going on. We probably need to

delve into that a little more deeply as to how does that make the participation, and presence is encouraged. And how does it, you know, how actually are that case that they're identifying driving your decision. Because you know it's critical to follow this model. (sic) Although, I know that this has been a year, has there been any adjustment or tweaking of the plan based on the engagement of residents? You know how it engaged in the past an [off mic].

AMY SANANMAN: Great. So, the community engagement over the past year was comprised of a number of different components. One was sort of listening towards to hear what residents identified as priority areas, which informed the first year of programming. It included community engagement projects where residents in partnership with agencies identified an issue that they believed was affecting crime and they took an action around it and did a project around it. It did result in some exciting changes regarding additional programming in certain areas where residents identified a gap. And that was over this first year, and the second year we're rolling out an early 2016 Neighborhood Stat. And this model will on a regular basis bring stakeholders

and residents and city agencies and line staff together to look at data in real time, both crime data and other relevant demographic data and expertise on the ground to-- And there will be funding through which these teams can then take on projects that address crime.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] But they weren't--but we want to see much more of that moving forward, and I know if you're going to talk about moving forward with residents across the meetings with that--in that range and that and that intent. If I could--I have two other quick questions, but generally it's about sustainability overall. You know, the city has invested more than \$10 million, and we have to experience someone who needs that as well and their need; \$20 million that was added on to what it is that you're doing. What is the plan for sustainability moving that forward? Is there any talk about expanding, and possibly funding more as you figure out what you should spend? (sic) What is the loss (sic) of commission funding one on that issue; and the two, you know, are you going to do a second round when looking at people's

2 involvements to also, you know, to do this--to do  
3 this project or is that going to--[off mic]

4 AMY SANANMAN: I will like Jean-Claude  
5 LeBec, our colleague speak to the budget component of  
6 that.

7 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: Sure. So the--the  
8 investment was put into the baseline of the budget  
9 with respect to the programs. So all them are--are  
10 funded in the baseline at this time. So community  
11 centers they'll all be there. They're all  
12 sustainable investments. The investments in  
13 infrastructure, you know, there--those are one-time  
14 capital improvements, and as we move through the  
15 developments phases of--of building out the lights,  
16 the doors and all those pieces, we'll be working very  
17 closely with the Office of Management and Budget to  
18 make--make sure that maintenance is secured as well.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] What  
20 in fact is baselined. So that baseline is moved  
21 forward is just for these 15 developments, and then  
22 the long-term commitment for these 15 developments?

23 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: The--at this time--  
24 there's a long-term commitment to the MAP budget and  
25 the programs right now are--are baselined with the--

2 the idea that they'll be in those developments right  
3 now.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] All  
5 right. Well, you could change developments as you  
6 need to, couldn't you? (sic)

7 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: Theoretically. Just  
8 from a budget perspective they're--they're baselined  
9 investment.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] So  
11 based on those 15 or five more developments' base on  
12 need for the Crime Lab? (sic)

13 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: I'm going to turn  
14 that question over to Amy, but on the \$210 million, a  
15 portion of that are capital investments. So the  
16 capital improvements, they're not baselined. Those  
17 are just one time investments, if that makes sense.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] So  
19 we're trying to understand like you say baseline,  
20 understanding capital in a workshop situation. Long  
21 term what is the programmatic side? What is the  
22 commitment from the Administration to that? (sic)

23 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: To keep that money in  
24 the budget in perpetuity. That's--those--those  
25 programs are funded for next year or the year after.

2 [background comments]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] So  
4 that's what--Because you're saying that the \$210 is  
5 capital.

6 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: That's right.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Okay.  
8 So you're \$210 in total includes capital and  
9 programmatic that is coming into that account every  
10 year at least you will be holding? (sic)

11 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: That's correct.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] And I  
13 think being with that one that puts you based on you  
14 see improvements, and you see needs that also may  
15 shift in terms of what development you focus on. I  
16 guess that's what I'm trying to get at.

17 AMY SANANMAN: So we've seen great  
18 success, promising success with the MAP 15. Though  
19 this is a groundbreaking approach.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down please.

21 FEMALE SPEAKER: I'm okay.

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down please.

23 FEMALE SPEAKER: Go to Tia Deberges  
24 (sic). She talk to--  
25

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ma'am, if you want to speak, fill out a witness slip.

AMY SANANMAN: And we're happy to share that list of 15.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Yeah, just read them all.

AMY SANANMAN: Oh, yeah. Okay, Stapleton Houses, Butler, Castle Hill, Wagner, Boulevard, Polo Grounds, St. Nicholas, Ingersoll, Brownsville, Red Hook, Van Dyke, Thompkins, Queensbridge, Patterson, and Bushwick.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] So can I just pull back the issue of whether they're--could rotate the focus of what the government is looking at or expect. So if we expand this project, we'll see more money invested. (sic)

AMY SANANMAN: With respect to the program model, it's groundbreaking. It's new. And so we really want to make sure that we have sustainable infrastructure so we don't lose ground on the progress that we made. There has been great progress, but it's a balance to make sure that we create a model that replicable, and that there is staying power and that they're durable systems that



are going to support ongoing success at those locations. Regarding resources--

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: It might be available (sic) if I--we can send after this--this chart that shows exactly, you know, what is funded in the budget in terms of the programs and which are the capital pieces that are--we'll certainly do that right after this.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] I would like to go through all the numbers, and the crime stats we see and delve more into the percentages. While interpreting that by development, there are certain developments that I haven't seen. So there is a different always for attention and indicating in those situations overloading and saying year the crime stats are down, but if we look more closely, there's some reactions to this one and the stats don't indicate it. (sic)

AMY SANANMAN: That's right and that's-- Oh, I'm sorry. And that's why it's so important to have different levels of the MAP strategy so that we have overall program support across the city of the different developments. But also having very site specific place based interventions, and that's

happening through neighborhood stats. So you have actually residents from that development, the actual NC officer from that development, the actually agency staff from that development looking at the crime data. So that they can inform a strategy that's going to specifically be targeted for that location.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Give me one example of one development where you have seen an increase and what were the measures that you took? What resources were sent then to that development. Can you give us an example of how that works for a particular development?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: We haven't launched Neighborhood Stat yet. It's coming in 2016. So that mechanism doesn't exist yet. We have for example in Brownsville houses where there wasn't a youth center and the residents and agencies identified that as a missing piece because they don't have a community center big enough to host a Cornerstone, but they identified that there's a certain--certain targeted age group of sort of middle to high school students who really did need engagement. And so together they pulled up their sleeves. They cleaned out a room in the center, and then we're working closely with DYCD

to put in--to implement a permanent after school center there.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Okay, I'm send it back over to the Chair. I'm hoping to dig a little deeper into the those issues. Thank you, Chair. (sic)

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] Can we get more clarity on the \$210 million. So what are those five items including the \$210 million, the original five items specific to the development, that is going to provide the whole development and any conditions, which you can use the \$100 million (sic). So if you could just break that for us.

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: Sure so--so the \$210 is broken out over FY14 and 15 and like I said before, there's a portion of that that is baselined, but I'll stick to the \$210 and we can get more into the budget weave after this. So, there's \$122 million of that that was put into NYCHA's operating budget for maintenance. \$50 million was a capital investment from the Mayor, the City Council and the Speaker for physical improvements to--for cameras and lights. The \$1.5 million for exterior--temporary exterior lighting at the 15 developments; \$17.5

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING 44

2 million for NYPD civilianization. So more police on  
3 the street. There was an investment of \$3.9 million  
4 for--

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Can I  
6 go back and ask you please what was the NYPD  
7 Civilization?

8 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: \$17.5.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And the Mayor has  
10 brought his own staff and he's been working to [off  
11 mic]

12 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I would turn that  
13 question to PD to talk about specific deployments  
14 whet her or not they're going.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So you're--so MAP  
16 is--is dedicated to these different developments, I'm  
17 told. And that is they take the money out of that  
18 budget simply as officers and put them back out and  
19 they would be focused on the developments.

20 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: The 15  
21 developments were given NCOs prior to the rollout  
22 citywide. We have--so 30, two officers assigned to  
23 each development in addition to other resources that  
24 are put in there. As far as the exact civilization  
25 what--what personnel went in and out, I don't have

that here. I can get back to you with that information that went out. It was the--I think it was part of the--a previous meeting where they were going to put additional resources into houses, 200 additional officers. They have been deployed into the housing bureau.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] So I am going to go on capital. You said \$120 million for [off mic]

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: [off mic] I--I believe so.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] Now, something that we've heard again, CCN will be foreclosing on these deficits and not for these services, and I hope. It's over two years. (sic)

AMY SANANMAN: Would you like to speak to that?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: Well, again any-- Chair, thank you so many. So any--any contribution of our partnerships helps the overall effort, and our overall effort includes the--that specifically to this topic the day-to-day repair, day-to-day maintenance of the physical improvements that the-- that MAP Investment is doing.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] So as far as closing the investment that's specific improvements resulting from the \$120 million for the developments?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: It's contributing to our ability to maintain those--the investments that the--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] The general contribution to--?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: Absolutely, correct.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So, you know, even we're investing \$100 million over two years so far so given the sheer size of the investment do you believe that we're meeting the expectations of the plan?

AMY SANANMAN: This year to date at the MAP 15, violent crime is down by 9%. Index crime is down by 8% and shootings are down by 6%. So we and two other independent research evaluators all have identified that there is progress being made in 15 of the highest crime developments.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] You're going to take me to progress next because there is need for--in only seven of those developments have seen reductions in advanced crime. Seven of those

developments actually huge (sic). So given the skill of the investments, hundreds of millions of dollars, you know, it seems to me that it's almost like--it's like baloney.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Well, you can't just gone with--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] You cannot--ma'am you cannot interrupt.

FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Well, I was saying that I cannot hear you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Oh, well, I have to speak up then.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So out of the 15 developments, seven of them actually saw an increase in major crimes. So given the scale of the investment, how could we characterize the plan as a success when only eight developments are increased from that 15?

AMY SANANMAN: I'm not sure what time period you're looking at because that's not the same numbers that we have, but I think the point is that we're--is that we're not done. We're not done. We know that year one was focusing on investing in

programs and in infrastructure, which is still rolling out, and year two is a very critical component to this, which is the neighborhood stat. We see promise. We see progress in 15 of the highest crime locations. When not only is crime going down, but it's going down as compared to other NYCHA developments. That said, it's a big lift, and we're trying to do something that's beyond just boots on the ground. That's really sort of 21st Century approach to reduction in crime.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [of mic] And I looked at this, and according to this date and our statistics that will make it all surrounding. (sic) From January 1, 2015 through November 8, 2015, Castle Hills (sic) saw 20% increase in violent crime. The Wagner Houses 16% increase; Butler 27% increase; Brownsville, 2% increase; Boulevard, 11% increase; St. Nicholas, 14% increase; Stapleton, 40% increase. How do we--?

AMY SANANMAN: You're reading the Violent Crime Index or Indexed Crime?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Indexed Crime. It includes murder, rape, robbery, felony assault,



burglary, grand larceny and grand larceny with a weapon.

AMY SANANMAN: In some of these--every shooting is tragic, and we want to reduce every violent crime possible. That said, in certain situations it's a question of 15 versus 21, and so the numbers are relatively small, which case the percentage is high. That said, in certain situations it's a question of 15 versus 21, and so the numbers are relatively small, in which case the percentage is high. That said, we're not finished. We're not finished here. We're not ready to move on from those locations because there's still work to be done.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] Does the NYPD have any thoughts on why the progress here is so widely developed in those? (sic)

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: Not specific to--to that, but we had--we've had developments. Every week there's a meeting, and not just for the 15 developments, for every development. You have the CEO of the 23 here as well as the COP PSA 5. These guys meet everyday or they're on the phone at least everyday on deployment on hey there's--there's some rumblings that there's going to be a problem after

1 school. So that's constant. These are the 15 we're  
2 hard committed to, but, you know, we went beyond that  
3 and considered expanding it. If--how would we expand  
4 it if--if we went another 25 developments, how do you  
5 do it, you know. It's a--you know, you have to  
6 spread it throughout the city. You can't all be in  
7 one borough. You cannot put all the resources there,  
8 but it's a constant evaluation of crime. As you  
9 said, like you mentioned Brownsville was up in crime,  
10 but I have the next week's numbers. They're--they're  
11 down for the year now. So it's constant evaluations.  
12 Some places are suffering more than others. As Amy  
13 mentioned, there's six crimes in Staten Island. We  
14 work with the borough commander out there to put  
15 additional resources out there. You know, once you  
16 get under--under, you know a manageable number, you  
17 could consider moving on, but these are the 15 we  
18 stay with. And we said we're constantly moving  
19 additional resources outside of the Housing Bureau to  
20 work with the precincts and the PSAs of those--of the  
21 developments, the other 300 plus developments.

23 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] So I have  
24 a follow-up question to pose, and one is that I have  
25 on the Plan is are we originally focusing on these

15? The 15 will give us those, the data (sic) it gives you. So how are we updating MAP in response to crime spikes elsewhere in public housing? For example, you go to New York and we saw an 87% increase in next crime and we tilted into a 71% increase. So how are we flexibly adapting the Mayor's Action Plan in light of we have those spikes in crime? (sic)

AMY SANANMAN: The MAP 15 were selected because they were in the--comprised 20% of the violent crime. We're looking at a three-year period. That's how they were selected initially. As we all noted, the work is not done. This is a groundbreaking innovating pioneering model, and we want to make sure that we get it right before we consider moving on to different developments. So we want to make sure we have the model right, that we don't lose ground, that there's durable systems in place to keep the--the progress that we've made before we consider expansion. That said, a number of initiatives, as--as Jean-Claude mentioned, aren't just MAP specific. So the community centers that was citywide. The police investment there are citywide

components to that, lighting, cameras. A number of the infrastructure investments are citywide.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Do you have a timeline for when the Mayor's Office is going to be able to expand the focus of MAP on those 15 developments?

AMY SANANMAN: Not at this time.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] I have some questions of the information sharing with NYPD, but I'll hand it over to the board [off mic]. As all of you know, on October 20th, and it might produce relevance, Officer Randolph Holder was murdered by the young defendant by the name of Tyrone Howard. Mr. Howard was a Double D offender, a violent criminal who cycled in and out of the criminal justice system. According to the Daily News in an article dating back to November 8th, the murder (sic) is the fault of the entire NYPD referral process. It makes it faster and easier for defendants for committing crimes on NYCHA properties. What exact--what process is that actually linked? What is the current parole process with NYPD and NYCHA?

DAVID FARBER: Good morning. I'm David Farber. I'm General Counsel of the New York City Housing Authority. So, the Housing Authority, the New York City Police Department and Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice already--

[pause, background comments]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: David, how is doing?

DAVID FARBER: All right. Oh, it just got better. That's going to be--it works. So, we already had a--there's already a strong partnership in place, but what the result of the Mayor's announcement that partnership and collaboration is improving. We are working aggressively to improve information sharing, data tracking, accountability. We're doing that by first of all we're going to be centralizing the information flow. Currently, there's information that flows from New York City Police Department to local developments. That information doesn't always get to--to the NYCHA Law Department, to NYCHA central offices as quickly and as expeditiously or efficiently as it should. So we are centralizing that. We are going to have--we are developing a database so that we can have electronic sharing, automated sharing. Right now, it is--

there's a lot of paper information that goes back and forth. And it is largely a manual system. So we are working together with the Police Department and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to improve those systems. We are standardizing the case building process. So we are improving the cover sheet that the police sends to NYCHA. We're improving--we're adding greater specificity to exactly what types of information they will provide to us right up front. So we can build our cases quickly, and that goes to the--the key. I think the key to this process is that for the most serious cases, the cases that pose the highest degree of risk, and the most imminent risk to New York City public housing residents we are going to put a priority on those cases. And the goal is that the Police Department will provide NYCHA with information within one week that it comes in their possession, and NYCHA will begin the process of either eviction or exclusion within one week. And the goal is to arrive at a conclusion at that process at NYCHA within 60 days. So that--that--those are the key elements. On the database sharing, the--the accountability, those are things in process. We are still working on the details. Those are going to be

ironed out very quickly, but we're already beginning very aggressive conversation.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [on mic] So, you gave me an extensive answer. I just want to break it down a bit.

DAVID FARBER: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So the Mayor told the Daily News that the information sharing between the NYPD and NYCHA has been insufficient, right. So in what sense has it been insufficient? What information did you not receive in the past from the NYPD that you will receive in the future? What specific pieces of information?

DAVID FARBER: So a number of years ago NYCHA received and addition--so right now NYCHA is receiving cases for legal action, which are--which are most commonly cases that are built on the basis of search warrant information. In the past, NYCHA also received certain arrest record information and complaint records. NYCHA has not received those in the past for years. We are working with the Police Department right--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Have you asked for that information?

DAVID FARBER: So we asked for that information several years ago, but in working with the Police Department recently and in looking at our process on how we can make sure we're focusing on the right cases and expediting, we realized that if we get all of that information, I mean that is--it's--it's a lot of information and much of it is not actionable. So what we want to get from PD we want to get as much information as we can get, but we want the information to be actionable and--and relevant. And we want to also be--we and the Police Department want to be cognizant--cognizant of privacy issues such as domestic violence complaints. So, we're going to work to get more data than we get now, but we're going to be focusing on how we can identify which data is useful, effective and actionable.



CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So if I'm understanding you correctly, it was the case that you used to receive information for the NYPD about every single arrest in public housing. You're not interested in receiving that kind of information. What you want to receive is information about the worst offenders in public housing. Is that a correct interpretation or--?

DAVID FARBER: We--we want to receive information about the worst offenders, but we also want to receive information about all offenders, but we want that information to be actionable. So, instead of just providing us with hundreds of--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] What do you mean by actionable? I don't--

DAVID FARBER: So arrests record, arrest information as recently confirmed by--by HUD, the federal agency. Arrest information in and of itself is not a basis for bringing eviction or termination cases against public housing residents. NYCHA needs to prove that criminal activity has taken place. It doesn't need to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt, but in criminal cases. But we need to prove it by a preponderance of the evidence. So if we get merely

arrest information, and that's all we get, that is not enough to get a case. So we want to get--we want to make sure we're getting the information that enables us to actually bring eviction and termination cases involving criminal activity.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And as far as the worst offenders, what kind of information are you receiving? Are you going to receive a list of the worst 100 offenders, 300 offenders? What--what is it?

DAVID FARBER: It's not--it's not going to be based--necessarily based on a specific number. We are working with the NYPD and--and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice right now on identifying a set of criteria that is going to be applied generally by the Police Department because they're the lead public safety, you know, organization and it will--it will be sort of a layered set of, you know, criteria so that they can identify two NYCHA, which are the cases that we should be focusing on. Our job is to process the cases, gather the information, process the cases. I think it is more--it is more appropriate for the Police Department to be

identifying which cases pose the highest risk to NYCHA residents.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Do you know what criteria either you or the NYPD are going to be considering?

DAVID FARBER: It's going to be--it's going to involve--it's going to involve violent crimes, gun crimes, but beyond that, that's something is being analyzed right now.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. How long does it take to bring a permanent exclusion or a termination of tenancy proceeding against--once you--once you get notice about a resident who committed a violent crime in public housing?

DAVID FARBER: There are a number of steps. So currently it ranges from four months to a year. I would say in that range. So, there--there are a number of reasons for that. There are steps that are prescribed by consent decrees that are--NYCHA is subject to. But here what we're doing is we're--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] So it takes four months to a year--

2 DAVID FARBER: Four--four months to a  
3 year--

4 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: --to begin or to  
5 complete?

6 DAVID FARBER: No, no to--for the entire  
7 process.

8 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay.

9 DAVID FARBER: Four months to a year for  
10 the entire process.

11 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And how long after  
12 notification from the NYPD do you on average bring a  
13 proceeding against?

14 DAVID FARBER: I--I can't give you an  
15 average. We do have an internal process right now to  
16 try to prioritize cases, but--

17 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing]  
18 Because you're committing to a one-week time table or  
19 a two-week time table?

20 DAVID FARBER: For--for the cases that  
21 been--have been determined to be the high priority  
22 cases pursuant to the criteria that's going to be  
23 developed quickly, we are committing to begin the  
24 case within one week of receiving it at NYCHA, and  
25

with--with a conclusion. Our target for conclusion is 60 days.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: 60 days?

DAVID FARBER: 60 days.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. I have a question specifically regarding Tyrone Howard. Because according to the Daily News in January of 2015, NYCHA filed papers to permanently exclude Mr. Howard from public housing. But by the time of the shooting nine months later, Mr. Howard had not been excluded from public housing. He was still living in the development, and he went on to murder a New York City police officer. And so, I'm wondering why did NYCHA's legal action against Mr. Howard drag on for nine months and counting? Why did it take so long?

DAVID FARBER: I think that--in that very tragic circumstance I think this is--that's an example of how the improved communication and information flow and eventually an information sharing between NYCHA and the NYPD will--would have changed that because NYCHA is making its own decisions right now about which cases are the most serious. In that case, there was a serious illness. One of--one of the members of the family residing in

the apartment had a very serious illness. So NYCHA was using its discretion to balance how fast you should proceed with demanding the permanent-- permanent exclusion agreement versus the serious illness of the resident. As we have better information sharing with--with the NYPD, they can say this case for an example--this case is so serious that that discretion should not be applied in this circumstance. For instance, that would be--I'm not saying that we necessarily would have done it differently in that case--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Did you feel like you had enough information--

DAVID FARBER: --but moving forward--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Did you have enough information about Mr. Howard to know that he was a violent offender?

DAVID FARBER: We--we had--we had information that he was a violent offender. We also--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Because according to the Daily News, you had information dating as far back as 2011 that he was a repeat offender? And then four years later you began to file to permanently

exclude him. So why--why the wait--the four-year wait?

DAVID FARBER: So going back to my earlier point about arrest information, in prior years we had arrest information about Mr. Howard. We did not have--we did not have conviction--I believe we did not have conviction information. We did not have enough information in our opinion to proceed with the case until 2014.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Is conviction a necessary--is conviction a requirement for a permanent exclusion?

DAVID FARBER: Conviction is not--not a requirement, but we did not have--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] So why would that prevent you from bringing--

DAVID FARBER: We did not have--we had--we had--we had insufficient information. The information, the arrest information primarily arrest information that we had about Mr. Howard was not determined to be sufficient to have a likelihood of success on the permanent eviction case--permanent exclusion case until 2014.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. [background comments] Since one of my colleagues has to leave, I'm going to give her an opportunity to ask a question. Laurie.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much, to our Co-Chairs Ritchie Torres and Vanessa Gibson as well as our Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. I apologize. I had three other hearings back at City Hall, but I certainly wanted to be here. Wanted to ask just to ask just two brief questions, and I appreciate you allowing me to go before you. In the--in the testimony that was given it said that additionally during MAP's first year there has been a significant investment in security enhancements, lights, cameras and locked doors yielding immediate results. My question is tragically, as you all know, I represent the Ingersoll Houses. We had a triple homicide. Very tragic that has this particular community just completely vulnerable, feeling very unsafe. And as tragic as this situation was, I instantly thought with the enhanced cameras, with the enhanced lighting that we would instantly be able to get a positive ID on that shooter immediately and that person would be arrested immediately. We are--



we are now going on after two months after this very tragic shooting, and to understanding the aftermath that a lot of these enhancements that we're talking about weren't actually implemented at that particular time. So when we're--when we're talking about enhancements, and we're talking about all of these things that have been implemented, are we talking about them from the sense of these are areas that have been identified? This is what we want to do? This is where we're going to implement? Or, where has it actually been implemented? Because when I hear these--and I go to these hearings and I hear these things, I'm understanding that these things have been implemented already. That this is in existence, it's happening, and when you go to a tenant meeting after tenant meeting, they're saying that these things are not being implemented, and they're not seeing the difference on the ground. And to further ask that question, I also want to know right now in Ingersoll, we have those flood lights that kind of make the community perhaps feel safer, but it also looks like a crime situation every time you pass by because you have these flood lights everywhere. At what point will professional, normal

cameras, lighting be implemented in a very real way because we appreciate the--the increase lighting, but it's also no permanent and it's a very good visual for the community to see flood lights, police trucks, cameras going on. It seems that every single night in that community it looks like a crime scene has just happened. So I want to know more about the cameras, and I want to know more about its implementation. And the final question, or rather statement I would like to see--I would like to see when you say that you have 52 Closed Circuit Televisions, removed the sidewalk. There's 1,840 security cameras. I would like to see every year, where they've all been implemented because for whatever reason it never seems to reach my district. So I want to make sure that it's being implemented, where it's being implemented so that when I use my discretionary dollars I can use them more strategically to understand what's happening.

AMY SANANMAN: Thank you, Council Member Cumbo. Regarding these infrastructure rollout of the permanent lights, et cetera, I'm going to hand it over to my colleague Jean-Claude.

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: Specifically, for Ingersoll, the construction of all the exterior permanent lighting is scheduled to be completed by November 30, 2016. For all of the CCTV and layered access at Ingersoll that's scheduled to be completed by July 2016.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So when you're saying--when--when you report these numbers, these numbers are not actually what's been implemented. These numbers are what you intend on doing?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: [off mic] Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Because that's a very big difference, and it also--it also challenges this conversation in a way because everybody that's here is expecting to see results from all of the work that you're saying you're implementing. But, the work hasn't been implemented so it's difficult to see the results, which means we don't--it's not a fair conversation even perhaps to you because a lot of this work has not been implemented. But at the same time it's important that we are transparent, and we want--we all want to say like, Yes, we did something, but it didn't happen yet. So I think that that's--I think it's very unfair to--to give numbers reporting

what has happened when it's going to be implemented and it's going to happen. So just wanted to clarify that.

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: And so, just to clarify a bit of that. In the community center at Ingersoll, for example, the community center is open. There are cameras in the community center. So these are somewhat rolling initiatives. They're not all going to be done at once. So I was speaking specifically to the permanent exterior lighting--

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [interposing] Uh-huh.

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: --and, um, CCTV around the building.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I think that that's critical and important that the lighting be, and the cameras be around the community center because you want, you know, people to feel safe coming and going. But a lot of this crime that we're seeing is happen--is happening actually in the interior of the development. And most of the community centers are situated similar to this one. They're somewhat across the street, or they're on the corner. They're not--often not situated right in the

heart. Some are like in Farragut and other houses.

And I just want to add as well just in closing--and I appreciate my colleagues giving me this time--is that in my developments we have Ingersoll, Farragut and Whitman. It also creates a challenge because these developments are interconnected. You can walk right through all of them, and not know that you went through one development or the other. It starts to create a dynamic when one center is highlighted and given all of these resources. And the ones surrounding such as Whitman and Farragut are not given those same resources where all of the buildings are somewhat interconnected a well. So I think that when our developments are interconnected and you can walk from one to the other without even knowing that you've gone from one development to the other, that it's important that we provide the same level of resources. Because that also starts to create a dynamic of well, why is Ingersoll getting everything. So I--I just wanted to put that out there as well.

AMY SANANMAN: Thank you

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, I'm going to ask because I'm going to have to step out.

So I want to ask a couple of questions along those lines, and looking again at the--the issue, Wagner, which is on the--the list, and actually has seen an increase in overall crime of--give me one second--16.7% robberies and felonies, et cetera. If you could talk a little bit about what is being done there, but Wagner and I don't know how many of these developments has the Viper System. So how does the Viper System kind of play into--Are you doing additional cameras beyond that? You know, additional resources? What--if you could just speak a little bit to what that--how that plays into the--the MAP program.

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: The Viper System is constantly getting upgraded, but I don't think it--it correlates exactly with the MAP programs at all. Viper is going back, you know, 15, maybe even longer. We're in the process of upgrading cameras NYCHA and our technical people. But as far as direct correlation with the--the MAP developments. I don't know.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right. So you're saying upgrading I guess my question is are additional cameras being installed in the development

or are you upgrading existing? One of the things about the Viper was that it was 24 hours.

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: Right.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: There were officers in a room at the PSA--

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: [interposing]  
That's correct.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --24 hours monitoring the system. Is that still the case?

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: That is still the case. Some of the older systems were--I don't the technical stuff but they were upgrading the camera systems themselves. They want to put additional cameras in those, and it said it had nothing to do with the, um, MAP Program.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Can you--all right, if we can hear from--thank you sir.

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: So as part of the Manhattan District Attorney's investment in the MAP program, all of the 15 will be getting new cameras, but they will also be getting connected to NYPD's network. So I'm not sure that it's exactly the same thing as the Viper system, but they're all going to be monitored 24 hours a day, and connected into the

PD's network. In some cases, before this upgrade, there were individual cameras that may or may have been--have been monitored 24/7. So that's--that's what we're--

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]

And so hold on, that's something we had not heard. So you're saying all 15 developments are going to have 24-hour--24/7 surveillance?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: That's the goal of this investment. Yes.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And that's the investment from the DAs?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: That's correct.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And that--the \$100 million is just for the security, I mean for the camera upgrades?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: No, no that's part of the \$89 million of the infrastructure investments.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right for them the \$100 million as a--as a forfeiture I think the chairman asked before. I'm not sure I have the details.

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: Sure.



2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: What else are you  
3 investing with that money?

4 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: [pause] Sure so  
5 that's going to go to the Security Operating Centers  
6 where the cameras would be monitored.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay.

8 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: A connection--

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing] And  
10 those are going to be centrally monitored? Where are  
11 they going to be monitored? From the PSAs?

12 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: They're going to be  
13 monitored the PD. How exactly that works, I'd have  
14 to turn it back to Police Department.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Is it going to be  
16 centrally from the PSAs? No?

17 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: I--I believe  
18 they're going to be linked into--I believe they're  
19 going to be linked into our central system downtown,  
20 not--

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: They're going to  
22 be from where, do you think?

23 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: Right, um,  
24 the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative.

25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay.

2 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: I believe  
3 that's how the program. It's still going to have the  
4 Viper system set in those developments that have  
5 Viper, and those are still going to be monitored  
6 24/7.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, because  
8 that's a local monitor and right?

9 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: Exactly.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, and how  
11 many of these 15 have Viper? Anybody know. Okay.

12 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: [off mic]  
13 We'll get back to you on that.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay. So then  
15 just going back to Wagner, could you talk a little  
16 bit about the investments at Wagner. There has been  
17 an increase in felony and robberies--felony assaults  
18 and robberies. So, I'm just trying to understand  
19 what--what additional focus is being provided.

20 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: Sure. So I'll do the  
21 infrastructure first. So at Wagner there's going to  
22 be new exterior lighting. That's going to be  
23 completed December 2016, and then there's also going  
24 to be CCTV put outside of the building. All of that  
25 will be completed July 2016.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And then to be clear because some of these developments, and Wagner is one of my larger developments, have a lot of buildings. When you're talking about cameras are you talking about in every single building?

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: That's correct.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay.

JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: And in terms of program, there's domestic violence outreach programs there, a probation mentoring program, grandparents outreach, and then parks programs during the summer months, and SYEP in the summer in the community center as well.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Let me ask you a question. In looking at the figures from last year for Wagner, was there also an increase? I'm not sure how you would look at adjustments along the way, but - [pause]

AMY SANANMAN: I'd like to get back to you on that to make sure I have the right information.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So then in light of these statistics, it's through November 8, so obviously understood, but in seeing along the way if

you were seeing a trend where numbers were--the percentages were up, would you make any adjustments in programming along the way for this development?

AMY SANANMAN: The programming across all the NYCHA sites were the same, the two NCO (sic) officers, the programs that Jean-Claude shared. Crime was also up in the precinct as well in this context. So I would turn it over to see if NYPD had any additional information.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, I thought when we spoke earlier about it, in the cases were developments were seeing numbers increasing and not decreasing that you do some sort of adjustments along the way in terms of programming. Understood that the programming you're providing is across all developments, but that there might be some adjustments that you can make based on if there's a trend towards an increase--if there's an increase in felony assaults, an increase in robberies. And is there additional resources or focus that is provided to a development to try to bring those numbers down or try to analyze the trends, analyze the data? I'm just trying to get at that.

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah. I'll let police speak to the interventions at Wagner, but in a greater picture, part of that neighborhood stat mechanism is looking--so we wanted to make sure that programming were invested everywhere. It just started. Now, that those are all on the ground and we're seeing the progress in how it's playing out at each location, then neighborhood stat will be that participatory process by which we can sort of course correct at the individual level.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay.

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: You're talking more of deployment and stuff or you are actually talking about programs that have changed? I don't know that that's a PD answer per se.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well, when you're numbers increasing--

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON:  
[interposing] We're--we're putting additional resources in, absolutely. Between the Housing Bureau, the Housing Bureau of Manhattan and they have an IRT, which is an impact response team that's been deployed up to the 25. Not just Wagner, but in that area, the 25 and 32 border, and they're working along

with Manhattan North and Tom Harness the CEO of 25 to put resources there. I have the--the numbers for Wagner since it initially started. It was up eight crimes going back to July of last year, and now currently this year to date just January it's up 12 crimes. So--but as--as it spikes. As I said, it's a constant analysis of crimes for the entire bureau, but then we expect Tommy and Raymondo Mundo to make those decisions on--on where the resources will go. But then with Chief Johnson from Manhattan North Borough. The Chief pulls additional resources from Lower Manhattan that will go up there.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay.

AMY SANANMAN: And just as a final note, I would add MAP is not the only strategy at play. There are some nim--more nimble strategies like PD deployment that could change just sort of on a weekly basis and then Cure Violence and other anti-gun initiatives that are happening, of course, across the city.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So thank you again. I guess I just wanted to tailor a lot of my conversation around public safety and the NYPD's role, but just so that the residents here can really

understand, we're using a lot of different terms and acronyms. It's like a new language you're speaking. I just want to make sure that folks understand with the MAP for neighborhood safety that there are different components that focus on the 15 and why we have crime in those 15 in the first place. So I think you from MOCJ talked a little bit about not just the expansion of hours at Cornerstones, but also support schools, parks and playgrounds. The domestic violence response teams because we have a high prevalence of DV cases in these 15 developments. Supporting grandparents that are raising their grandchildren to keep them out of the foster care system. I didn't hear anything about mental health, and mental illness. So could you talk about what agency besides DYCD or Department for the Aging, what are we doing around mental illness in these 15 developments?

AMY SANANMAN: Our office is working to coordinate a mental health task force, and I don't have the information in front of me of how that crosswalks with MAP, but I will absolutely share that information afterwards.

2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So is that out of  
3 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and HHC?

4 AMY SANANMAN: I believe so.

5 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. So the \$210  
6 million, this price tag that we have been saying a  
7 lot, \$50 million of that \$210 is focused on the  
8 capital infrastructure, right? So all of the  
9 programs and the expense funding, the head count of  
10 additional police officers, the additional staff that  
11 work at the Cornerstone Centers, that's where the  
12 rest of that money is going to, right?

13 JEAN-CLAUDE LEBEC: That's correct.

14 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. So I think  
15 Council Member Cumbo talked a little bit about my  
16 concerns. So of the 15 that I talk about I represent  
17 Butler Houses in the Bronx, but we all know that a  
18 lot of the crime intertwines within other  
19 developments. So right next door to Butler is  
20 Webster Houses, right across the street. So you have  
21 Butler and Webster fighting and shooting at each  
22 other. When I had a conversation with Liz Glazer,  
23 the Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal  
24 Justice, we talked about ways in which we could not--  
25 not consolidate, but integrate some of these services



so that they could help some of the neighboring developments that don't feel they're getting attention because they're not of the 15. So, is that something that you are planning to do, and in your surveys that you've done with existing residents, have they talked about that? Whether they live in that actual 15 or whether they don't live in the 15 and they want to make sure that development is taken care of.

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, I think that that's a great example of how it's not a one-size-fits-all approach. And so making sure that the basics were in place, jobs programs, Divert, DV teams, the domestic violence teams, et cetera were in place in year one, and Know Rights (sic) were out there in year one. But as we move into year two, we've been looking at each development and their context and their neighborhood context is very important, and we would be happy to have a conversation with you about that particular situation.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. We put a lot of money in the budget for some of you for the Summer Youth Employment Program. Not only did we hire thousands more young people between 14 and 24, but we

also put aside about I believe about 800 slots for NYCHA residents, NYCHA--NYCHA youth that live in these developments so that they could work in their development. Did you see that program being successful, and if so, are we going to continue to offer the Summer Youth Employment for residents that live in the NYCHA--in the 15?

AMY SANANMAN: Yes. It was very successful. In the first year we saw almost--over 1,000 young people from across the MAP sites, from the 15 MAP sites employed. And last summer it was just under 1,000, 992 youth. We feel it was very successful, and that funding has been baselined.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, and in addition, this year so everyone knows, not only did we focus on summer youth, but we know many young people need jobs. If we are going to stop them from doing the negative behavior, we have to offer them something better than what they're doing. So what we did was we created [applause] an all year-round Youth Employment Program for 4,000 young people between 14 and 24 so they can have employment after the summer is over. Because while the summer time is critical because many young people are not in school,

but for those that are in school, we want to make sure that the priority is kept up. So I want to make sure everyone understands that there are 4,000 young people right now that are working after school and on the week-ends and they are still employed. And that is our commitment, and we're going to continue to make sure that young people have a job. A large part of this conversation is employment. Young adults need jobs. They need something to do. They need responsibility. [applause] That is one of the ways that we can keep them safe and from not doing the bad things that they have done. I said to my colleague and I talked a lot about this, but I want our young people to develop goals and put down guns because they're carrying guns for a reason. The underlying roots of the violence in our communities is only perpetuated by the lack of opportunity for young people. And so, jobs is a huge part of this conversation. So I want all of you to know whether you live in the 15 or not, you still have access to get this all-year-round Youth Employment Program. So I know that there's a lot of money coming to NYCHA. The Manhattan District Attorney has allocated \$89 million. There is \$42 million coming from Governor

Andrew Cuomo. There's a lot of money coming in, but I am very concerned about the integration. I don't think a lot of folks understand the difference between a closed circuit TV, which is CCTV and the Viper cameras. So I'd like someone to explain to us the difference between CCTV and Viper cameras, and I do know that there will be an ultimate integration into the NYPD's fiber optic network, which is a great thing. But, can you explain so that we understand what the difference is between them both.

AMY SANANMAN: Michael Harrington, do you want to take that?

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: The Viper systems were developed I guess about--I'm going to guesstimate 15 years ago.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Uh-huh.

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: On the, um-- I--I don't know how they were chosen in developments, but primarily I guess on violence. And the-- initially, they were housed somewhere within the development to be a police room, and they were staffed 24/7 to record crime or anything going on in the development.

2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Right.

3 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: After--you  
4 know, they would monitor the cameras. If they see  
5 something going on, they would put it over the radio,  
6 or in the event of a crime after the fact, they would  
7 be tasked with going back to that location, and--and  
8 getting any evidentiary video that they could obtain.  
9 As far as CCTV, Housing probably give you more of an  
10 answer from that. Those are smaller scale. Those are  
11 not monitored, and those are after the fact.

12 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay.

13 GERALD NELSON: Councilman, you  
14 mentioned that the Governor had earmarked monies for--  
15 -towards NYCHA for security, which it has. We  
16 received \$41 million towards security efforts. The  
17 Mayor's Office--excuse me--the Governor's Office  
18 chose which sites, what cameras--

19 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing]

20 GERALD NELSON: --what type of  
21 equipment is retained as security. There's one place  
22 there's going to be shot spotters. NYCHA is working  
23 with DASNY Dormitory--

24 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] I  
25 heard about it.

2                   GERALD NELSON:     You got it--to try and  
3     coordinate exactly what type of cameras that's going  
4     to be installed, the type of equipment that's going  
5     to be installed. The main goal like we said earlier  
6     is that all this equipment at some point in time  
7     should be linked in to the NYPD. I've been with  
8     Commissioner Tish--

9                   CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Uh-  
10    huh.

11                  GERALD NELSON:     --Jessica Tish--

12                  CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Yep.

13                  GERALD NELSON:     --from the NYPD  
14    Technical Services and they're going to be working  
15    with us, with DASNY. DASNY is the one who's  
16    installing this work for the Governor, But we want to  
17    make sure that they are--meet our standards and that  
18    they be able to be tied into the NYPD. So all those  
19    sites, 79 of which are--some of them may be MAP. I'm  
20    not sure, but 79 locations. They chose which  
21    locations. They also chose what's going to be  
22    installed, but we're working closely with them on  
23    that.

24                  CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, and I'd also  
25    like to say that we at the Council certainly want to

work with all of you because there is a lot of overlap between the district attorney's money, the state money, the money the Council puts in, the MAP money. There's a lot of overlap. So I don't want us to be duplicative. I want to make sure that we're maximizing this money as much as we can. So if a development is scheduled to get Vipers, then our money can be for lighting, for key fobs. I can't tell you how many developments I have where the intercom system does not work. Something as simple as an intercom system can make a difference. There are too many people coming in and out of buildings, and I've seen them myself. So I want to make sure that we work together. We have a list of the developments where the \$42 million is going, and the project description because not all of them are just security cameras. Some are lighting, front door lock repairs and other things of that nature.

GERALD NELSON: [interposing] And there--and there--

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So we'll work together.

GERALD NELSON: --and that's what really needs the coordination--

2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Right.

3 GERALD NELSON: --between the different  
4 agencies, between the City Council and the Governor's  
5 Office because we saw that we already have systems in  
6 place. We want to make sure that the systems that  
7 they put in will be compliant with what we have in  
8 place. So that coordination is definitely needed  
9 now.

10 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, I wanted to  
11 ask specifically about the additional police officers  
12 and the panel that came before you guys talked a  
13 little bit about the police community relationships,  
14 and what we hope to attain by improving relationships  
15 with our officers, and the continuity. The fact that  
16 officers that are in--whether you're in the 23 or  
17 PSA5, there's a continuous presence of the same  
18 officers. I think we recognized through many  
19 different initiatives that having, you know, an  
20 officer in PSA 5 for six months, and then a new  
21 officer it doesn't help in building relationships.  
22 So you talked, Chief Harrington, you talked a little  
23 bit about the Neighborhood Coordination Officers, the  
24 NCOs, which is the rollout we just started in several  
25 commands. Could you expand a little bit on the NCO,



and is that coming to public housing? Is that in the 15 already? And what we're doing in expanding it, what that really means for police presence in PSA 5.

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: All right, the program we actually started before they rolled it out citywide, the NCO program, but we put it--we decided the 15 developments and from--from the police and--it is really to--to integrate with the other city agencies and the services that are offered. And then keep the same officers really in those same developments. So, you know, Brownsville and Van Dyke are right next to each other. We've got a couple different officers there, but they're working together. They're working with the community center to keep--keep it open and make sure we're staff even when it's not part of the Cornerstone developments. Right now we have I think 34 citywide--the 15 developments have at least one. Some have two and our plan is to--to spread it through every PSA. Right now PSA 2 is up--is across the board, even though they're not MAP developments. So we're putting them all over the place within the Housing Bureau. As the patrol service and the Chief of the Department expands it citywide we're embracing the

2 PSAs. Right now, here in Manhattan North, it is not  
3 in PSA 5 with the exception of Wagner Houses, but it  
4 is in the 32 in PSA 6--

5 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Okay.

6 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: --and we are  
7 going to continue.

8 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So ultimately, every  
9 PSA will have between 34 and 35 NCO officers or is  
10 that--?

11 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: No.

12 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: No?

13 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: No, I wouldn't  
14 say that--

15 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Not at  
16 all?

17 CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: --like PSA 2  
18 is one of the big ones. You'll have between 15 and  
19 20 NCOs, but then on top of that are plans to put a  
20 steady sector--steady police cars so that officers in  
21 the marked cars will be the same guys and--and not  
22 cover different precincts in different developments.  
23 They'll be there working in conjunction with the NCOs  
24 and--and dealing with the leadership in NYCHA.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, and the NCO program for those of you that are not familiar is the new initiative to develop a community-based policing program. So if I'm correct, correct me if I'm wrong, but the NCO officers that are assigned to this program will not respond to 911 calls. Their role is to develop and build relationships in their catchment area, which is a sector. The area in which they're assigned their job is to work within that area, develop relationships with stakeholders, community leaders, et cetera, and build relationships and not respond to 911 calls. Correct?

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: That is correct.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Got it. Okay. I just wanted to make sure because it's--no, no, it's important for you to understand that because with many of our commands they're extremely busy and 911 calls come in. So, if you have dedicated officers that are just responding to community engagement, you have the ability to build a relationship, and you have consistency over a period of time, right?

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: That is correct.

2 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic]

3 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. Sorry, sir,  
4 you have to sign up.

5 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Well, why don't  
6 you start on time. (sic)

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Excuse me, sir.  
8 Sorry.

9 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic comments]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Sir, sir, we're  
11 asking you to respect the hearing, and you will have  
12 an opportunity to speak. You will have an  
13 opportunity to speak.

14 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] I just wanted  
15 to--I just wanted to interject that point that PSA 6  
16 SEO told me on the phone that drug dealers are around  
17 (sic) and they stand out there, and they stand out  
18 there and sling words at PSA 6 and-- (sic)

19 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Thank  
20 you.

21 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] --and I don't  
22 why they don't why they come for-- (sic)

23 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much.  
24 Thank you. I wanted to ask one final question.  
25 Someone mentioned Shot Spotter, which is the NYPD's

gun detection program. When we first started, we were in several precincts, and in this budget we put in about \$8 million to expand to 28 different commands throughout the city predominantly Brooklyn and the Bronx I believe. Is there a plan to incorporate Shot Spotter in PSA in the Housing Bureau?

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: I--I know we put some on a couple developments. Gerald, I don't know if you're more equipped to answer that, but I--I don't know anything as far as the expansion. I will get back to you where it's going to go, but it's--it's some of the most violent neighborhoods in the city. As far as bringing it into the developments, Gerald might now.

GERALD NELSON: Well, Spot Shotter there are certain developments throughout the city where Shot Spotter is that the developments themselves are part of the area where Shot Spotter is because you have to have several high locations in order for the systems to work. So you may have some developments within that three-mile radius where Shot Spotters is, but the thing is dedicated only to the development, that's not it. That's not the case. It's dedicated

to that particular area where the Shot Spotters is at, and it's reaping the benefits because it's within that zone.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. Could someone speak to the Action Labs that you guys have? Is there a 90-day plan to work with the community group on Action Labs. I don't exactly know what that means or entails.

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah. So part of the community engagement strategy this--this first year was to come in and work with a set sort of 3x3 sets of developments to engage residents, stakeholders, et cetera in identifying issues around safety, and then doing a project. And there was some funding to do a project around that. This was sort of phase one of setting up for Neighborhood Stat. So it was phase one of bringing people together, creating a model where folks can have those collaborative conversations with the NCO officers, with HRA workers, with residents to do a project. We rolled it out in three Brownsville locations sort of at this first set. The second set was up here Polo Grounds, Wagner--Hold on. I just heard somebody say it.

FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] St. Nicholas.

AMY SANANMAN: St. Nicholas. Sorry. Um, and then in 2016--early 2016 that will all be wrapped into Neighborhood Stat and we'll roll out at all of the locations taking best practices from the model, from this first phase.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. So I don't think we've been briefed on the executed agreement between the three developments in Brooklyn. What are we looking for in terms of performance or solutions in terms of enhancements. You're expanding already and you're looking to further expand. So what is the goal of these action labs, and what types of agreements do you have with the--the committee that's been formed in each of these developments?

AMY SANANMAN: I'm not sure I understand what you mean about the agreements.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So you worked, the three developments that you picked in Brooklyn it was Brownsville, Boulevard and Van Dyke. So in each of those developments you identified a series of community stakeholders, right, that you worked with to develop best practices, feedback, et cetera on those developments.

AMY SANANMAN: We worked with a community organizer to identify and convene residents. We built off of the residents who work with the listening tours. It was an intergenerational stakeholder group that included residents of all ages, community-based organizations, et cetera. And it was open invitation. Whoever wanted to participate could participate, and they looked at some conditions and in--for example, up here folks said that there needed to be more sort of relationship building among teens and other folks in the neighborhood. And so, they decided to organize a talent show that would then engage and build those relationships. These were pilot, you know, opportunities to do this. With Neighborhood Stat it's going to be ramped up to another level. There will be much more funding included. They will come up with indicators specifically saying this is how this issue is going to--this action is going to contribute to the reduction of violence. It might be building relationships between officers and teens. It might be expanding some kind of programming. It might be creating an urban farm in an area where there is no safe passage walking across the



development. So it might be a physical place based improvement. It might be about building networks, and it might be able increasing programming, say employment programming for some targeted group of people. Those are the kinds of projects we expect to come out of Neighborhood Stat.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, I guess the reason why I'm asking is we're spending money on this program, and we need to understand what we're doing, and what the end result is. So if you have started in Brooklyn, and you're now expanding into Manhattan, what was the result of the Brooklyn Action Lab so that we as council members understand what will come out of these Action Labs. So if you get a group of people, and we're talking about the same issues, the same challenges that we already know, what are we doing to identify the money and the resources on getting that work done? So for instance, we know lighting is poor in NYCHA. We know that. So what are we doing to make sure that that is, you know, an issue that we address? So what I'm trying to say is I want to reduce the repetitiveness and having the same conversations around the same issues, but I--you

know, it's called and Action Lab. I want to make sure this is an action--

AMY SANANMAN: [interposing] Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: --and from this in Brooklyn we haven't heard anything about recommendations that have come out of this first Action Lab, and you're already in Manhattan. So before you get to my borough in the Bronx, I want to see what this plan has called for before you expand and keep spending more money on more Action Labs, and we're talking about the same topics. [applause]

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, we're happy to--to share that.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. I just want to make sure. I mean expanding is great, but we need to understand what we're doing, and what we're spending money on. It's just helpful for us. Okay. Thank you. Chair Torres.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you--thank you, Council Member. Well, I must confess I'm a little confused. There are so many terms. There's the Action Labs, the Neighborhood Safety Set Groups, the Crime Prevention Through Design. Is that Through Design? Environmental--the Crime Prevention Through

Environmental Design Team. So it's--it's quite a bit. You know, with--it just feels like there's a hodgepodge of programs in that. And so, how do you know what's working and what's not working when there's just so much in the pot? How do you possibly measure what works given the capacity of social services that are involved?

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah. It's a complex approach. It's a complex model, and that's what makes it innovative because we know anyone of these things is not necessarily going to reduce crime. You need that set of strategies. You need those employment programs. You need the lighting. You need the place based changes. So what we did was over this past year we took all those programs and organized them into strategies that revolve around people. So reducing concentrated disadvantaged through benefits programs and jobs programs for targeted folks, building networks and improving and strengthening our crime intervention and response strategies through both the--our relationship with PD as well as OCDB, and folks on the ground. And also to really be looking at place, and knowing that vibrant public spaces and well maintained public

spaces contribute to the reduction of crime when there's order. And so we took that model and we've created a set of indicators that we're looking at on a regular basis, and a dashboard that will help us monitor on a regular basis how folks are doing reaching our targets. We also have a more comprehensive overall evaluation strategy that's being finalized, and we're happy to share it with you once it's finalized. It will include both a qualitative and quantitative approach. We're heartened that two individual research entities, Crime Lab and Manhattan Institute ran--ran studies. And what Crime Lab did was they created a synthetic set of similar NYCHA developments as they pertain to crime to try to tease out. If you took a set of a control group of 15 sites, how would they compare and how is the MAP--how is MAP moving the dial, and they identified that it did.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Considering that there are so many programs, how do you separate the impact of one program from the impact of everything else?

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And how do you know which programs work, and which is not working. I don't want to dwell on this. You mentioned a dashboard. You're going to be looking at data indicators. So what kind of indicators are you looking at on that dashboard?

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, we are looking at what percentage of our target folks get employed. So if we're saying that young people between the ages of 14 and 24 are a target audience for employment, we want to look at what percentage of those folks have employed. When we're looking domestic violence, we want to look at a reduction in severity and incidents of domestic violence. So those are examples of the dashboard and I'm happy to share all the outputs that bubble up into that dashboard that we'll be looking at.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So as far as youth between--was it 15 to 24?

AMY SANANMAN: 14 to 25.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: 14 to 25. Are you focusing on all youth in that category, or the most at-risk offenders?

2           AMY SANANMAN: We have a layered approach  
3 and we want to build more resources so that we're  
4 focusing on young people who have been court  
5 involved--

6           CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] All  
7 right.

8           AMY SANANMAN: --and we're working with  
9 Probation specifically in that area, but we also want  
10 to make sure that those are not the only folks that  
11 we're targeting. And so, we--

12          CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] So  
13 you're focusing on young people who are the greatest  
14 risk of reoffending, right? Who are the main drivers  
15 of street gun violence, youth violence. How many  
16 young people fit into that category in those 15  
17 developments.

18          AMY SANANMAN: There are 7,000 young  
19 people in that age category across the 15  
20 developments who are at that age and unemployed. So  
21 we're working with Probation to target those who are  
22 involved--court involved and provide services, but we  
23 also want to go beyond just the court involved young  
24 people and make sure that we're providing as much  
25

2 employment opportunity as possible for the other  
3 young people.

4 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'm sorry is 7,000  
5 the total number or court-involved?

6 AMY SANANMAN: That's the total number of  
7 unemployed 14 to 24-year-old residents in the--

8 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] So  
9 what percentage of those have had consistent contact  
10 with the Criminal Justice system?

11 AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, I don't have that  
12 information, but I'm happy to get it to you.

13 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Are you--are you  
14 monitoring--since those young people tend to be  
15 structurally unemployed, and the main drivers of gun  
16 violence, are we monitoring the behavior of those  
17 young people? Do we know what percentage of those  
18 young people have not reoffended as a result of you  
19 program?

20 AMY SANANMAN: That's exactly the kind of  
21 data that we want driving this decision. So, year  
22 one--

23 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] So  
24 what is that data?  
25

2 AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, we're going to share  
3 that data.

4 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Do you have that  
5 data now?

6 AMY SANANMAN: I don't have it front of  
7 me.

8 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: That's an important  
9 piece of information. I wish that would be--if you  
10 could get that to us with a week.

11 AMY SANANMAN: Great.

12 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. I want to go  
13 back to permanent exclusions especially in the  
14 context of evictions, termination of tenancies,  
15 permanent exclusions especially in the wake of Tyrone  
16 Howard and--and what I feel was a systemic failure  
17 there. What--what exactly is permanent exclusion  
18 because I couldn't find a definition of that on  
19 NYCHA's website. So if you can explain what it is  
20 and what's the process by which you bring a permanent  
21 exclusion against someone like a Tyrone Howard.

22 DAVID FARBER: A permanent exclusion is  
23 the outcome of a case that begins as an undesired--  
24 non-desirability case, and is brought against a  
25 household. So when there is a--say when we want to



make a case of--that there is an offender in the household, and the offender is let's say engaged in criminal activity, and we want to get the offender removed from NYCHA, from living at NYCHA, we begin a case. There's no case that's directly against the offender. The case begins as a non-desirability eviction action against the household. Then as the case proceeds, there's two alternative outcomes, successful outcomes for us. One is where you evict the entire family based on the bad conduct of one member of the household, right. But that--that impacts the entire family. So the bad actions of one person would then result in the entire family losing their home. The other alternative outcome is that instead of continuing and evicting the family, you only evict one member of the family. You do that. It's not called an eviction. That's permanent exclusion. You can accomplish that one--of one in two ways. You can reach an agreement with the family that in lieu of continuing with the eviction action against the entire family, you just--you just eliminate one member of the family. They reach an agreement with you that we can then enforce, or if they don't agree to that, then we go all the way to a

hearing, and we ask the hearing officer to either evict the family or to exclude the one person. And often the hearing officer would just exclude the person rather than evicting the family.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So a permanent exclusion can either result from a decision of a hearing officer or from an agreement with the head of household. Is that--?

DAVID FARBER: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And then--and which is more common?

DAVID FARBER: It is about 80% of our permanent exclusions result from an agreement with the household.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So, it's mostly the head of household like the grandmother agreeing to permanently exclude her grandson from--

DAVID FARBER: [interposing] Correct, and let me add one more thing. There are--there are cases in which the offender in the household is actually an unauthorized occupant. So in--in essence they already don't have the right to live there. So when we bring a case against the household, we're just confirming that the household cannot let that

1 unauthorized occupant remain there. If they do, we  
2 will evict the family. That was the--that was the  
3 case in--with Tyrone Howard. He was not even an  
4 authorized occupant. He was an unauthorized  
5 occupant, and just to clarify from my earlier  
6 remarks. So we did have some information about a  
7 conviction, but it was a very low-level misdemeanor.  
8 So that's why we couldn't proceed so--

10 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. What--what  
11 kind of--what kind of crimes can result in a  
12 permanent exclusion?

13 DAVID FARBER: Um--

14 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] What's  
15 a list of offenses? Because obviously everyone  
16 agrees--I think everyone here would agree that Tyrone  
17 Howard is the kind of person we want to see excluded  
18 from public housing. But I wonder how broadly are we  
19 using that process?

20 DAVID FARBER: So, um--

21 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] But is  
22 minor marijuana possession, could that theoretically  
23 result in a--

24 DAVID FARBER: [interposing] It, um--  
25

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: --permanent  
3 exclusion?

4 DAVID FARBER: We have--

5 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] I just  
6 want to clarify that permanent exclusion means that  
7 you're not only evicted but you cannot even visit or  
8 step on the premises.

9 DAVID FARBER: Of that apartment.

10 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: That you cannot  
11 visit your family at Thanksgiving or Christmas, that  
12 you are prohibited permanently from public housing.

13 DAVID FARBER: That's right. It is--it  
14 is permanent until you apply and obtain the right to  
15 re-enter, which is in NYCHA's discretion. So the--  
16 the nature of the cases. So we have broadly we call  
17 them serious--or serious offenses. So there are  
18 felonies and other serious offenses. So permanent  
19 exclusion is available for violent crimes for murder,  
20 rape, robbery, for drug possession and--and  
21 distribution for use or sale of firearms. So it is  
22 available for the, you know, sort of full broad range  
23 of serious crimes.

24

25

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: What's the most violent crime that could result in a permanent exclusion?

DAVID FARBER: Um, it's--it's a--at that point it becomes our discretion. There is no black and white cutoff as to what crimes are or are not available for permanent--you know, our--our--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Is there--is there on description online of all the offenses that could result in permanent exclusion? I couldn't find it.

DAVID FARBER: Um, the--there is a written description of what we call serious--serious offenses. It should be online. If it's not we will put it online. Those are the cases that are primarily what we concern ourselves with. One of the things that we'll do is we will look at, you know, ensure that there are criteria in place so that there is a clear distinction between what is

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Right.

DAVID FARBER: --what we are or are not--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] But I'm not sure if you answered my question. What's the

most minor offense that could result in a permanent exclusion. You said it's in NYCHA's discretion so--

DAVID FARBER: So, um, so--so I'll--I'll have to get back to you with a specific. Again, we-- we do not have a--a--we do not have a specific--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Can I ask you something? Do you need a conviction to permanently exclude?

DAVID FARBER: And do you do not need-- you do not need a conviction. We need to prove that criminal activity has occurred. So we have--if it goes to an administrative hearing, there's an independent hearing officer. NYCHA needs to prove to the hearing officer two things: That there was criminal activity that--that occurred. It doesn't have to be at the--at the criminal justice level, but we have to prove that it occurred, and we have to prove that it related to--that it either took place or related to a NYCHA location, a NYCHA address. Because again, we're bringing--the action is-- concerns the household where the offender lives.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: When I read about terminations and evictions and exclusions, the term

that I see is not so much criminal activity. The term that I see is non-desirability.

DAVID FARBER: That is--that is, yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So can--what does that mean, number one, and number two is non-desirability a basis for permanent exclusion?

DAVID FARBER: So non-desirability is a broad name for cases that include eviction and exclusion for criminal activity. There are other types of non-desirability cases. So for instance repeated, so violations or repeated violations of other terms of the lease. So excessive noise, not dealing with your garbage correctly and things like that. Obviously, you know, at a level that would--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] But in the context of permanent exclusion non-desirability is limited to criminal activity, or it includes things other than criminal activity?

DAVID FARBER: It is most--or -most--most commonly if not almost entirely about criminal activity.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Do you have a breakdown of--of all the permanent exclusion cases by offenses? So what percentage are result from firearm

possession? What percentage on that. And we met, and I've asked for this information.

DAVID FARBER: [interposing] Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I trust that you have this information today.

DAVID FARBER: So I have 50%--Let me see if it is.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] What's the total number first?

DAVID FARBER: Over 50% of--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] What's the total number first?

DAVID FARBER: The total of permanent exclusions. So this--this year we are, um, going to be about 500 permanent exclusions. Typically in the last three or four years, it's around 400 to 450. So we're actually doing more this year. So we have 55--over 50% is drug offenses. We're still working on a breakdown of the--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] That's important because there's a big difference between heavy heroin trafficking--

DAVID FARBER: So most of them--



2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: --and--and marijuana  
3 offenses.

4 DAVID FARBER: --there are more but--but  
5 almost all of that is based on search warrant cases  
6 and search warrant cases relate to significant drug  
7 activity, not minor drug offense.

8 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Right.

9 DAVID FARBER: So the--so the--again,  
10 we're working on a better breakdown. but the--the  
11 large majority of the drug offenses are significant  
12 drug activity, drug sale, drug distribution not just  
13 individual cases of possession. Other than that, we  
14 have 20% firearm; 10% sex offender; 10% other violent  
15 crime; murder, assault robbery about 5% other cases.

16 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. I noticed  
17 that the President of the United States has been  
18 speaking more and more about the importance of  
19 reintegration for the formerly incarcerated, right.  
20 So suppose you have a person who went to prison for  
21 20 years for a very serious crime, but now we think  
22 that person is very different than the person he was  
23 20 year ago, right. But, under NYCHA's policy, that  
24 person would be prohibited from moving into--into  
25 public housing with his family. Is that right?

DAVID FARBER: So, um, so at the same time that we're working on what we've been talking about so far focusing on improving our systems and particularly with most attention to the most serious cases to ensure that the people who pose the greatest risk meaning risks of harm to other housing residents are removed as quickly as possible. At the same time, we've been looking at--for the last several months and I hope within a year to have policies. But we have a pilot program right now that addresses exactly what you're talking about.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Before you get to the discussion of the pilot program, if I've been in prison for 20 years, I'm out. I have nowhere to go except my mother in public housing, under your policy I cannot live with my mother.

DAVID FARBER: No, that is not correct.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay.

DAVID FARBER: So you can--so when you're permanently excluded, you do have the opportunity to apply for the permanent exclusion to be lifted or cancelled, and to do that you demonstrate that--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] I'm not referring to--and maybe I'm being confusing. I'm

not referring to a permanent exclusion. My understanding is that NYCHA prohibits those with criminal records from living in public housing right? So it--

DAVID FARBER: Right. So, if you're applying--if you're applying in the first instance, there's certain rules about crimes that you've committed, but there are what we call look back periods. So after I think the longest period we have is six years--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Six years.

DAVID FARBER: --for a serious crime--a serious crime, and six years after your sentence ends then you are eligible to return to NYCHA.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So, okay, I'm out of jail after 20 years, and I have to wait six years before I can move in with mother? Is that it?

DAVID FARBER: I have to get--

FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And that's what you just said.

DAVID FARBER: All right.

[background comments]

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So my only concern  
3 there is--[background comments] I mean the purpose  
4 here is to rehabilitate the formerly incarcerated,  
5 right?

6 DAVID FARBER: Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And part of age is a  
8 rehabilitation of its own. You were not the same  
9 person 20 years ago as you are today. But part of it  
10 is if you have no stability in housing, and you have  
11 no stability in employment, and if you're  
12 disconnecting people from society, they're going to  
13 be more inclined to reoffend. I feel like NYCHA's  
14 policy is part of the problem. [applause]

15 DAVID FARBER: So, yes, I know, I know, I  
16 know. So that--this is why we have the pilot  
17 program. The pilot program, the pilot re-entry  
18 program is the first step to revisiting the issues  
19 that you're talking about. So we're beginning with a  
20 pilot program.

21 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] How  
22 many people are affected by that pilot?

23 DAVID FARBER: So the pilot program  
24 currently has 50 people in it.

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] I  
3 think the problem we're describing affects thousands  
4 of people. The pilot program is only touching 50  
5 people. So why the hesitation do we think in the  
6 policy?

7 DAVID FARBER: That--that is certainly  
8 something we will look at.

9 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Do you have any  
10 questions.

11 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Just a question. So  
12 I think the council member talked about non-  
13 desirability. Who is composed of the committee or  
14 the group that actually determines the factors that  
15 we use to determine someone who is undesirable?

16 DAVID FARBER: Again, so no desirability  
17 is based on the provisions of the lease.

18 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So--

19 DAVID FARBER: So it is not--it is not a  
20 sort of, you know, vague set of standards. It is--  
21 there are rules in the lease. So rules in the lease  
22 one of them is that if you commit, you know, engage  
23 in criminal activity then you can be either evicted  
24 or there can be permanent exclusion, and there are  
25 other rules such as, as I said, noise, if you're

found with a garbage regulations, and things like that. So it's based on a lease. [background comments]

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: All right. So do you have--you talked a little bit about some of the cases where people reapply after they have been deemed permanently excluded? How many people are actually approved to come back in?

DAVID FARBER: So last year there were 80--82 people.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Who applied?

DAVID FARBER: Who were approved.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] On a permanent--?

DAVID FARBER: 82 out of 200, and this year we're on pace for something like I think it's 100 out of 150. So we're looking at those rules to ensure that we're not keeping people from re-entering in an unfair or, you know, an excessive manner. So both the numbers of people who are applying have been increasing because we've been getting the word out more. The number of people who have been given permission to re-enter has been increasing because we're trying to do it, you know, better. Part of the

policy revisions that we're looking at separate from the--the most serious offender issues is we're continuing to look at more opportunities to get the word out that people can re-enter and to clarify our criteria so that we are doing it right and fairly.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So this is obviously a very, very delicate balance that we have to strike, and the reason I say that is because we're dealing with a homelessness crisis. So for people who are permanently excluded who have to wait for X number of days, years, individuals have to live somewhere and, you know, the families that are impacted by a lot of these exclusions where it's the entire apartment, you know, they have to go somewhere. So within a lot of the conversations that NYCHA is having around reviewing and analyzing its current policy, do you have any non-NYCHA staff that is working with you? Is PD involved? Is HUD involved? Is the City Council involved, the Mayor's Office. Are there any other community stakeholders that are giving you feedback as you make a lot of these decisions that will affect thousands of people?

DAVID FARBER: Yes to all of those. We are working with--we are working PD and MOCJ. We are

working. We are talking and will be talking further to elected officials. We are working with stakeholders, community stakeholders. We are working advocates, legal advocates and others. We are working social service organizations such as the Fortune Society cases and things like that. We are working with people at John Jay School of Criminal Justice. This is a--an extensive very carefully considered outreach program, and the issue that you're talking about homelessness that's some-- something that doesn't just apply to this issue. This applies to everything we do at NYCHA because it is always a balance between tenants. They need to pay their rent. They need to follow the rules, right. They need to do what tenants need to do. At the same time we--right and NYCHA needs to do what it needs to do as well--

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Right.

DAVID FARBER: --but also we--the result of, you know, exclusion or evictions that contributes to another problem that, you know, this--our administration and the Council is extremely concerned about. So we are extremely cognizant of that tension and that balance.



CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Just one final question because you talked about different scenarios. Many young people are accused of crimes that are not on NYCHA grounds, turnstile jumping and other crimes that are civil penalties, criminal offenses summons. We have an issue. We have about one million outstanding summons right now. So what--what does--what role does that play in building cases against the individuals? So do you look at just accused crimes on NYCHA grounds or do you look at everything in the total picture?

DAVID FARBER: Yeah, the primary case is about activity that relates to or is at the apartment. So it has to be an eviction or an exclusion will only take against the more serious crimes. And two, the primary case has to be about something relating to NYCHA.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, and what does this mean for staffing? I mean you talked--this is a lot of work and, you know, obviously NYCHA is doing so many different things. What type of staffing do you have for all of this? Is there a unit that deals with this, the administrative law judges and--and

others that work on these cases down at--at Church Street?

DAVID FARBER: Yes, so we have their--we have their administrative law judges who are part of the NYCHA system. So they're dedicated to NYCHA cases. So until the Council we have, you know, multiple units. In the Law Department there is one unit of--one group of lawyers who works on criminal activity cases. There are five lawyers. That's all they do. So they work. They do research. They talk to NYPD. They pursue those cases. We also have a team of investigators. I think we have ten investigators right now or eight or ten. Half do research and the other half do inspections to follow up to ensure that people who were excluded are no longer in the apartment. So we do have--yes, on the one hand, you know, NYCHA has obviously limited resources and staff, but on the other hand, you know, the Safe, Clean and Connected, right, that is our--that's our theme, and public safety is of primary importance. So we remain committed to having adequate staffing for these activities.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, great. So as I turn it back over to my co-chair, I certainly

recognize the challenge that you face. And, as much as we exalt resources into permanent exclusions and evictions, I want us to equally prioritize the services that are due to the residents of public housing. I say that because I represent 10 in PSA 7 and I can't tell you the level of challenges that I face sometimes on the ground with some of the managers at some of our developments. And so I want to make sure, you know, if we're prioritizing we have to prioritize everything, which is extremely important. Public safety for residents of public housing is very important. This is not just about cameras, and police officers. This is about lighting. This is about quality of life. This is about repairs. This is about making sure that residents understand that we are serving their best interests, and yes this is a two-way street. I say this to my tenants all the time. As much as you expect, you also have to expect of yourself as well. And so there's a lot of personal responsibility we have to take as well. And so, I just want to make sure you guys understand that we are working with you, and we want to, you know, be of help in providing some input because there are many

initiatives you guys will have, and we don't always know what you're doing in terms of the factors, the indicators, the performance, the measurements of success, and we want to be your partners in this process moving forward.

DAVID FARBER: We--we appreciate the unprecedented level--the unprecedented level of--of commitment from this--

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Lots of money.

DAVID FARBER: --from this Council and funding--

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Yes.

DAVID FARBER: --and we hear you loud and clear. We know that we cannot ask our tenants to respect their obligations if NYCHA is not performing its obligations so--

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I have just a few concluding questions about permanent exclusion and then community engagement. So you mentioned one change in the new policy is that you're going to bring cases against violent offenders regardless of

where the crime was committed. So it doesn't have to be on NYCHA property.

DAVID FARBER: No, we--so there has to be--has to be criminal activity that is connected to the apartment. Now what--what we are going to do--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] That's not what I read in the Daily News. I just want to be clear.

DAVID FARBER: [interposing] We are--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So hold on. I just want to--It says, "Finally, NYCHA has traditionally targeted tenants committing crimes on development property, but now they'll also factor in crimes committed elsewhere when deciding whether to pursue eviction or exclusion."

DAVID FARBER: That's right. So 'factor in' is the key phrase there. So--so there has to be a primary--some primary activity involving either at or relating to a NYCHA apartment. But we're going to do more than what we've done before because we are also going to look--Once there is that type of criminal activity, we're going to look at other criminal activity committed by the offender to see--so that we can understand how much of a priority it

1 is. So I talked earlier about how do we determine  
2 what the most--the most serious cases that we should  
3 focus on. So if there's one bad incident in a NYCHA  
4 apartment, but when we--when we look and we see  
5 there's been either convictions or substantial  
6 evidence of criminal activity by the same offender  
7 maybe at non-NYCHA locations that will signal to us  
8 that this is a case that we should most likely  
9 prioritize. But it's not--it won't be strictly based  
10 on non-NYCHA criminal activity.  
11

12 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Although this does  
13 not strike me as rocket science because I feel like  
14 both the NYPD and frankly the residents themselves.  
15 We know who's the small set of bad actors who are  
16 driving most of the violent crime in our  
17 neighborhoods. And so, we're going to be eliciting  
18 input from the tenants when deciding which cases to  
19 prioritize, and which--which violent offenders to  
20 get?

21 DAVID FARBER: I can't say exactly how  
22 that will work. I agree that we have--we have the  
23 tools. We have the information. We just need to do  
24 a better job of using those tools more efficiently,  
25 effectively and when--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Maybe that's a question for MOCJ. I don't know. With the--with the creation of these Neighborhood Stats, which would include, I presume, residents. are residents going to have an opportunity to identify who are the violent actors who are driving most of the crime in their development?

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, the--part--a key component of resident stats is exactly what Council Member Gibson said that it's--you need all these different stakeholders at the table to solve these problems. And so having residents involved in helping refine a strategy, target, share information is absolutely a component of Neighborhood Stat

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay, and I just want to make one final point. Just to tell a personal story here about ten years ago I paid a visit to two brothers of mine who were in federal prison, and I asked them, you know, what are you going to do when you come out? And they said that if they couldn't find a job or if they couldn't go to college or they couldn't get a home, that they would just go back to the life they had before. And I worry that NYCHA's policy is contributing to the

crisis of homelessness in our city. [applause] I--I believe the Mayor has the right intentions in his heart. He's genuinely committed, but he's obviously under criticism from the Governor and from his own Commissioner, frankly, regarding homelessness. I think NYCHA should do real--should seriously consider this policy because there's no reason to deny the formerly--you know, in 20 years you're not the same person you were before. It's just--and just to conclude with one point about the community.

Obviously, there are multiple census of which we can measure crime. We can measure it in terms of number. But I also think it matters whether the residents feel safe. It's not enough that, you know, could be safer, but the residents feel less safe. They're afraid to go outside their homes, they're afraid to travel freely in their own neighborhoods. And so how are we eliciting input from the residents on their feeling of security within their own neighborhoods?

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, that's a great point. So, we're looking at three sort of top line goals. One is reducing violent crime within the residents. The second is reducing victimization because the victim isn't necessarily on, you know,



the same as the arrestee. And then also neighborhood perception of safety, and the way that we're doing this to do a series of surveys, text message and in-person with an outside agency who can independently talk about--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Have you done surveys so far?

AMY SANANMAN: No, we're about to roll them out to get a baseline and then to look at how neighborhood perceptions have changed. We--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] What's the timeline for those surveys?

FEMALE SPEAKER: [off line] Early 2016 for that.

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, Early 2016.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Are you going to be targeting all of NYCHA or just those 15 developments?

AMY SANANMAN: It's going to be broader than the 15 developments.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] Okay. That's something that we need to follow up with.

(sic)

AMY SANANMAN: I'll just add that the perception issue obviously was a key issue in the initial meetings as well. So we called, you know, through discussions, surveys, focus groups, in the first--prior to launching that, you know, what folks' perception was, and obviously built a strategy based partly on that. But, we want to be able to revisit have a dialogue--have a meeting on those. (sic)

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just feel like the Mayor's Office could do a better job of engaging all the stakeholders. I'm clear that all the residents feel engaged. Frankly, Vanessa and I feel out of the loop about some of these programs. So if you could engage all the stakeholders, the elected officials and residents, I think that would live up to the spirit of his program.

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, we would welcome an opportunity to meet with you in advance of the re-launch to make sure that we get your input on the strategy. [background comments]

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: And in addition, from the NYPD with the expansion of NCO and Shot Spotter other measures, obviously NYPD has a lot of broad initiatives, but many of them will trickle into

the Housing Bureau. And with a lot of changes that are happening it's just extremely beneficial to us to be kept up to speed in terms of what's going on because this ultimately has an effect on the constituents we represent. And if we can't explain to our residents what's going on, then who can? And, you know, we want to make sure. You talk a little bit about it and, you know, understand that there's a huge population of anti-gun violence that's moving in our communities. We have spent almost \$11 million on the Anti-Gun Violence Movement, and we have incredible organizations, the Health and Hospital Corporation, Guns Down Life Up, Man Up, I Love My Life, Save Our Streets, Brag. There's a lot of organizations that are community engaged. These are formerly incarcerated individuals some that are former drug abuser members that are working with at-risk youth. And many of them have the ability to connect with our young people in a way that we cannot. And so, I encourage you as you're having these conversations include our violence interrupters, and our conflict mediators, the hospital responders. Those young people that are able to work with our youngsters in a way that

unfortunately sometimes we cannot. They are a powerful part of this conversation. And certainly, we at the Council have invested a lot, and it's not just--it's mental health, it's jobs, it's focusing on education. There's a huge component of this working with our schools, working with DOE and working with DYCD. So I want to make sure, you know, when you talk about community engagement and stakeholders it has to be real and it has to be tangible and it has to be felt by the residents. That's the only way we can really measure success. Numbers are great. We'll look at statistics until we're blue in the face, but at the end of the day the people behind the numbers are what matter, and the people that have to live in these developments well beyond us in this administration have to make sure that they feel safe. So, you know, it's our job to make sure that their voices are heard, and having hearings like this is certainly our commitment to make sure. And, I thank you guys for being here. I know it's not easy sometimes. You know, a lot of questions that we have. So we appreciate your presence, the work you do. Thank you to everyone for being here, and

certainly we will continue to have further conversations.

AMY SANANMAN: Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'm not done yet. I'm sorry. Just wanted to--I just--because I--I--I just want to make--I have real concerns about just the information sharing between NYCHA and NYPD. I'm just wondering how often is NYCHA meeting with NYPD? Do you have periodic meetings?

AMY SANANMAN: Yeah, I mean I would say over the past few weeks we've been meeting daily to refine a protocol and strengthen a protocol, and I will let them speak to--

[background comments]

ELVIO CAPOCCI: I'm sorry, I know Gerry here for 30 years and I'm in the Police Department. Since he's gone over there we've certain stepped up our--our relationship. But as you've said, getting people out. Commissioner Shay has been meeting with Director Glazer and NYCHA people at the top levels about kind of working out the communication issues about what paper is going back and forth and, you know, streamlining a program. Because a lot of times on our end we'll-we'll send it and we're really not

plugged into what happens beyond. So we've definitely stepped up our communication on that end, and Gerry are regular on the conversations between us.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Well, I don't want NYCHA's partnership with NYPD to be dependent on your friendship--

ELVIO CAPOCCI: [interposing] I got it.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: --as much as I--so how often are you meeting? Is there a formal protocol? Are you meeting monthly, quarterly?

ELVIO CAPOCCI: We're meeting regularly with MOCJ, NYCHA and the other partners, and NYCHA and us are talking on a regular basis as things pop up. I'd say at least once a week we're in conversations with them. I mean more so on an--on an operational level with the security people over there.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And then it's not enough that NYCHA have a relationship with NYPD. How often are you meeting with the District Attorney on average.

GERALD NELSON: We have constant meetings with the District Attorney especially the Manhattan

1 D.A.. The Brooklyn D.A., Ken Thompson I know him  
2 personally, and I'm constantly meeting with him and  
3 Greg Thomas as well as ACE (sic) is there. And as  
4 far as the PD, I get information, which Jimmy Scarito  
5 (sp?) gets. He has a 24-hour recap. I get that  
6 everyday. We get the CompStat reports all the time,  
7 and I am paying to Capocci because when things are  
8 happening I'm speaking to him just about everyday to  
9 stay in the loop.  
10

11 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Yeah.

12 GERALD NELSON: That information is  
13 relayed directly to everything within NYCHA  
14 concerned. So we have an excellent communication  
15 with the PD. We're making it better. We're making  
16 it better.

17 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay, and even  
18 though--and even though communication is improving at  
19 the top, what about the local level? That's where  
20 most of the action happens. So what assurance is  
21 there that the local property manager is meeting  
22 regularly with the PSA or the precinct head? Because  
23 I don't see that happening in my district, to be  
24 honest with you.  
25

GERALD NELSON: Can it be better, sir?

Of course, it can be. But the PSA commanders and also the sector calls they have to respond to the project managers to let them know what's going on within the development at the borough level within NYCHA and also at the borough level within NYPD there's constantly communication. We get information. I'll look at my beeper and I'll see where my people out in the field have gotten information before I've gotten, and where did they get it from? They got it from that resident PSA commander or the three commanders working letting NYCHA know what's going on. We have emergency services that update me sometimes on crime before I get it from the NYPD. So there is communication. We're making it better, sir.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Is there a requirement for the property manager? So maybe this is for NYCHA, that the property managers meet with the precinct commanders every month or every two months?

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: As a--as a PSA and Precinct CO, we would have the managers at those meetings regularly but there will be daily or weekly



conversations between the PSA command and the managers especially if there's a major incident at that development. Usually, he'll give a call to the manager to get an update on what's going on there. If there's any questions, the managers--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So what you're suggesting is weekly communication between the property manager?

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: [interposing] I'm saying regular communication, and certainly monthly meetings, the PSA council meetings. Many of the management would send representatives to those.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'll be honest with you. My impression is that the--the relationship between a local property manager and a local precinct and a local precinct commander varies widely.

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: Well, I--I disagree.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And there seems to be no general policy that governs how often those two people should be meeting.

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: Well, it--you know, that I'll let--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] and that's something that--

CHIEF MICHAEL HARRINGTON: --Mike Kelly answer that. But I will also say that since the old program I expect to enhance that relationship dramatically when they're--they're--they're regularly assigned here. They're not all over the 25 other developments. In the PSA they're assigned to that development. They're going to be meeting with the managers regularly and the maintenance leadership, too. So I expect it to--definitely to increase.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Are you the property manager? Yeah, Michael Kelly, if you want to--

MICHAEL KELLY: Yeah, thanks, Chair. There's a lot of things that have come out in the preparation of this hearing. Frankly, we've talked about opportunities for us to do things better including communication in terms of policies. This is one of those that we will clearly look at having more standard protocol.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] And this is a no-brainer?

MICHAEL KELLY: A no-brainer.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: A no brainer.

MICHAEL KELLY: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: A property manager is a landlord. I want to know who are the crews in my development. I want to know are the five worst defenders driving violent crime. That's a no-brainer.

MICHAEL KELLY: We'll report back on what specifically this turns into.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. I'm actually done now. Thank you.

[background comments, pause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I want to thank everyone for staying and for your perseverance, but we're going to call the next panel Jesus Perez from the Manhattan Borough President's Office.

[background comments, noise, pause] Allison Wilkey, from the Prisoner Reentry Institute; Luna from the Bronx Defenders; Laurie Parise from Youth Represent [background comments and noise] and Carmen Quinones. So we have about 25 people who want to testify so in that interest if you could limit your comments to three minutes. So we'll start with the Manhattan Borough President.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: We're going to start the conversation. Quiet, please.

JESUS PEREZ: Good afternoon, Chairman Torres, Chairwoman Gibson and Council Members. My name is Jesus Perez. I am delivering prepared statements on behalf of Gale Brewer, the Manhattan Borough President. My name is Gale Brewer and I am the Manhattan Borough President. I represent the borough's 102 NYCHA developments totaling 53,570 public housing units. Thank you for bringing this hearing to the community. I believe it's our obligation and responsibility to engage NYCHA residents where they live. We must have an overall commitment to listen to, understand and learn from the residents themselves about the needs and concerns and also the ideas and recommendations they have to improve their living conditions, their physical wellbeing, and to reduce disorder and crime. In order to fully understand each local situation, prioritize the central work and improve accountability, hearings like this one should be held on a regular basis at every NYCHA development. For more than 30 years working with NYCHA and its residents and staff I know that outstanding resident

leadership is key to the wellbeing and safety of residents. Ethel Velez, President of Johnson Houses Tenant Association is such a leader. She has committed her life to improving and engaging her community, and working for the betterment of all. I know that there are many other NYCHA resident leaders in the North and South Manhattan districts and throughout the city whose dedication makes the lives of their constituents better. Where that leadership is absent problems abound. While I was Council Member for the Upper West Side my District Office Director Rosario Rodriguez worked successfully to develop and support active and resourceful resident leadership teams in each of my district's 12 NYCHA developments. In every case, there was a resulting improvement in conditions for residents. This model of steady, close support and collaboration between resident leaders and local elected officials should be adopted citywide by NYCHA. To the credit of the Mayor, community centers are open late into the evening because of the allocated additional funding for that purpose. And the Manhattan District Attorney recently announced an expansion of Saturday Night Lights, a comprehensive youth violence

prevention initiative to 17 programs across Manhattan, many of which serve the NYCHA residents. The expansion includes enhanced academic support advocacy as well as a high quality sports, dance and fitness activities. Since its creation in October 2011, Saturday Night Lights have served more than 5,000 kids between the ages of 8--11 to 18 completely free of charge. However, in some developments, the program is sparse. In others, the community center is closed weekends, and in many there isn't much coordination between resident leadership and nearby schools, which could lead to free access of the gym--school gym and enhanced activities for the families and youth. Finally, as who has evaluated the violence prevention programs that actually do exist? None of us are strangers to the challenges that NYCHA residents face. Safety is a critical one, but it often feels as if NYCHA has its priorities misplaced. Recently at Wyckoff Gardens and Holmes Towers NYCHA has been focused more on engaging residents about the 50/50 affordable housing proposal than on residents' concerns about safety. Although at every monthly citywide Council, President and Residents' meetings, residents voice

their concerns about safety occurring, they often do not file reports because of fears for their own safety and because they do not trust the police.

Therefore, we can assume that residents suffer from a crime rate that is even higher than that that is the officially reported.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Sir, in the interest of time if you can conclude.

JESUS PEREZ: Sure. Essentially, NYCHA should engage more with residents and resident leaders and let them be the driving force for improvements and change at each one of their complexes. And a fuller version of testimony has been submitted to the Council and copies are available at that table for anyone in attendance who wants to read it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Again, for the court questions. You know, one of themes of the Mayor's Action Plan is community engagement, which includes elected officials. Does the borough president feel-- feel that the Mayor's Office has engaged her.

JESUS PEREZ: She does not.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay, does not. Okay.

JESUS PEREZ: Well, what she's been doing is she's been engaging resident themselves.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay.

JESUS PEREZ: She has held actually two town halls with NYCHA residents and NYCHA staff to elicit ideas from the ground because that's where the idea--the best ideas come from. That's where the realities of the situation are presented, and that's what she's been doing. So she--she feels more cooperation between NYCHA and residents is--is necessary.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you so much for your testimony.

JESUS PEREZ: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Ms. Quinones.

CARMEN QUINONES: Hello. First let me thank you, the Council for holding these meetings. It's--it's essential because I'm the President of Douglas Houses. None of our front entrance doors are working. They're all broken right now. Just last night I had to get WPIX--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Can you hold on for one second? Mr. Clark from--I think



he's the head of Operations. So if there are repair issues, I think he should be listening.

CARMEN QUINONES: Well, they all should be listening. They all should be listening. Just last night I had to get in WPIX to come and look at one of the apartments last night. It was on the news last night. Let me tell you something, the Presidents play a big role. No one includes us. They like to exclude us. We know what's happening in our developments. You're paying all this money to these agencies. She couldn't even give you any facts. She couldn't do nothin', but I tell you what, give us that money, the presidents. How many presidents here. Give us that money, and we can tell who's doing what and whey they doing it and how they doing it. [cheers] You know, this--it's--it's--it's a shame. It's--it's just a slap in the face that you come and you present all these statistics. These are our children that are on the street. These are our children that are being killed. We know first hand sitting on resident watch. We know what's going on in our buildings, and we know what's going in our complex. Actually, I'm offended that I'm not even one of the 15 developments. You know, I mean we--

our--our residents are really suffering. This is not--this is not--no longer a joke. New York City Housing Authority has a lot--a lot to learned. They have not done anything. I can take you right now to three apartments right now and you'll see how they're falling apart, and how people are living in these conditions. And you all are sitting here talking about crime. The crime is inside and it's coming out. [background comment] It starts from inside to come out, and there's no way that we are going to fix this unless first you have to respect the people that live here. In my development I know what's going on, and for these people to get these statistics and not call me and ask me what's happening to my development is a slap in the face, and for every other president that's in here. And this an ongoing thing with New York City Housing Authority. If you ain't in the loop, that's it. It's--it's a little clang, man, and this clang has to be destroyed already, because the right--the reality is that we're suffering. We are really suffering in here. Now, as this scaffolding that's going on you know how much money you pay just to have this scaffolding up? Just to have it up. The money that they pay for the scaffolding can pay

for the repairs 'cause half of them scaffoldings is up for nothing. [applause] [background comment] It's about time, and I know that--I know for a fact, Councilman Torres that you're a fighter. I know. I watch you. Trust you. I watch. That's watch I do. I watch and it's time for--it's--it's really time for people in--in NYCHA to change. We got to get rid of some people in there, and a lot of people we got to get rid of 'cause they're lazy. They don't want to do their job. We are the ones that are doing the job. Trust me. Everyday in my home alone if I don't get 25 calls, I don't get one. It's a shame. New York City Housing has to be revamped. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just want to add one question. I also want to know according to the year-to-date statistics Douglas Houses has seen a 16% increase--

CARMEN QUINONES: [interposing] I know.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: --in indexed crime. I'm sorry. I'm sorry, I'm wrong--a 16% drop. Yeah, I'm wrong.

CARMEN QUINONES: You know why? 'Cause I got a big mouth. That's why and I'm about through with my kids--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Okay.

CARMEN QUINONES: --but the fact is it may have dropped in crime, but the repairs are deadly. They're deadly. People are dying from these repairs, these molds and stuff. They're inhaling all of this stuff, and they had a 12-year-old last night on WPIX. She's getting bit by gnats and roaches. How do you explain that? How do you just explain that to me.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Yeah, give us the information of that apartment. We'll--whatever issue you have let me know.

CARMEN QUINONES: You got it.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'll personally go to those apartments.

FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] The bathrooms.

CARMEN QUINONES: The bathroom. Oh, God, that bathroom was horrible. It--it's just bad as you got and you really--just--you know what, I want you to tour with me. Just tour with me, and I'll take you around.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: You have that commitment. So I'll come with me. [applause]

ALLISON WILKEY: My name is Allison Wilkey. I'm the Policy Director at Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. And thank you so much to the Council for having this hearing and for all the people who are sticking it out here, and particularly the residents who came and showed up here. Because my comments aren't focused on community engagement, I think that is one of the most important pieces of what we do, and not just community engagement, but community leadership. So the Prisoner Reentry Institute has a multi-year focus on housing for the growing number of people with criminal records. We focus on specialized housing, but also on NYCHA's Permanent Exclusion Policy. We convene and coordinate a group of advocates, tenant organizers and attorneys on the issue of permanent exclusion. And our ultimate goal is to advance policy that supports safe NYCHA developments, but curtails the use of permanent exclusion as a punitive measure. We've met with NYCHA on the issue of permanent exclusion. We're pleased with their willingness to engage and really do hope that that is an ongoing conversation. I'd like to begin by saying if we're to address violence in NYCHA it has to be

done from the lens of risk management. We have to start with the understanding that we're not going to be able to predict the violent actions of every individual. It's just simply impossible, and there's always going to be cases that cause headlines and grab our attentions, and have a reactionary response. But what we can do is use the vast body of research from the criminal justice system about risk assessment and management to create an approach that creates safety for individuals and for communities without unfairly punishing families, particularly those families and individuals who don't actually pose a risk to public safety. And this approach is all about being smart on crime instead of being tough on crime because we know that being tough on crime doesn't work, and it unfairly punishes people. And so there's five basic principles that I'm going to go through quickly that I think need to undergird the support--the approach to permanent exclusion and to intervening when there's an individual resident who has committed a crime or is accused of committing a crime. And the first thing that we have to do is realize that when you focus interventions on who are low risk or at a low risk particularly for future

violent crime, you actually increase their likelihood of recidivism. It's counterintuitive that if someone is low risk and--and you intervene you will increase the likelihood that they commit another crime. And when people do subjective assessments of risks either in the criminal justice system or similar to what NYCHA is doing, they almost always over-predict risk. And so what we know from objective pre-trial assessments of risk of re-offense is that typically only six--about 6% of people are actually at a risk for committing a future violent crime. It's much lower than--than what we think it would be. And what we also know is that people arrested for a violent offense aren't necessarily at the highest risk for committing a violent offense. And so we really have to make sure that we're not focusing interventions on those people, but we're also doing it in a smart way and using validated risk assessment methods that have been used and shown to actually predict future risk. The second point is that we have to collect data and review it. I was pleasantly surprised that Mr. Farber had some data on the types of offenses that they--that they've used permanent exclusion for. I've requested that data over many years--

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] I had  
3 a meeting with them--

4 ALLISON WILKEY: [interposing] Oh, you  
5 did?

6 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: --and you may have  
7 that data. Yes.

8 ALLISON WILKEY: So--so they don't and  
9 their system isn't set up to capture it is my  
10 understanding from them. But without being able to  
11 understand what you're doing, you can't understand  
12 whether the policy is effective. So it's very  
13 important and in particular when he's--when he  
14 mentioned that at least 50% of exclusions were for  
15 drug offenses and he said that those were for search  
16 warrant cases, but search warrant cases isn't always  
17 drug trafficking. Sometimes a search warrant is  
18 executed, and the person is only then charged with a  
19 violation or simple possession. So just drug--a drug  
20 offense doesn't mean trafficking. So really being  
21 able to drill down on the types of offenses on  
22 whether NYCHA follows--is following its own policies  
23 and having--like what is their decision-making  
24 process. And being able to track it over the years  
25 is incredibly important. The third point is that



permanently excluding residents rarely addresses the problem of public safety. It just relocates it and exacerbates it. When you take someone away from their home and from their community and from the supports that they have, you're actually increasing their likelihood of recidivism. And you're also taking away the supports that can help them engage and rehabilitate a program. [applause] And so, you know, and by permanent (sic) is to build an insecurity. You're actually then increasing their likelihood of reoffending anyway. So it--it doesn't always address the problem of public safety, and where are these people going who are excluded? Where are they going? They're not just disappearing, right? They're going into different neighborhoods or they're going into the city shelter system, and increasing our homelessness crisis and other problems. So that leads to my fourth point that exclusion should really be used as a last resort. They should operate with the presumption of in favor of maintaining family unit and housing stability, and use exclusions only in exceptional circumstances when there's really a specific threat of risk to other tenants or to NYCHA staff. And then my fifth point

is that when exclusion is used it should never be permanent. And this came up earlier in the discussion of the HUD--HUD Guidelines, and those HUD Guidelines really acknowledge that there's a huge amount of research that shows that after a period of time a person's risk of recidivism becomes the same as anyone from the general population. And Mr. Torres, Council Member Torres, you said 20 years, but that timeframe is actually much shorter. It's like three to seven years, and then a person's risk of recidivism is--is that of the general population. So permanent exclusion should never be permanent. It doesn't make sense, and there should also be a process for people to be able to lift permanent exclusion earlier if they're shown that they're not actually a risk to safety. And so I'll just conclude by saying that we really have to use evidence and research--and there's a lot of it out there--to inform their approach instead of using subjective assessments. And these evidence-based proven risk management tools really should be the foundation for our policy that supports safe NYCHA communities and safe residents. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I have one question for you. Maybe you can answer because I asked NYCHA what's the most minor offense that could result in a permanent exclusion, and rather than answer my question they said we have discretion.

ALLISON WILKEY: Yeah, and I think--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] So, can you answer my question?

ALLISON WILKEY: What he's saying by we have discretion is there is no limit. It's for any offense.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Meaning that a minor possession of marijuana could theoretically result in permanent exclusion?

ALLISON WILKEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay.

ALLISON WILKEY: Yes, and--and anecdotally we've seen that we don't--the problem with not having that is we don't know how often happens.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And that's not required by HUD. That's NYCHA's own policy.

ALLISON WILKEY: No, HUD is very clear that they do not require one-strip policies for criminal offenses.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: In fact, HUD does not--is actually leaning against that.

ALLISON WILKEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay.

ALLISON WILKEY: Absolutely.

[background comments]

RUNA RAJAGOPAL: Hello. My name is Runa Rajagopal, and I work for the Bronx Defenders. I'm the Director of the Sriracha Practice and we're a holistic public defender. We represent over 35,000 people in the Bronx. And certainly we represent NYCHA residents who also have contact with the criminal justice system. I want to echo--I don't want to be repetitive because the--the people before me really made important points. But I want to echo that we understand and want to push for and hear that from the Council today that this is a really a--we want to encourage the balance of rights that public residents have with public safety concerns, and we don't want their rights to be trampled on in the name of public safety. And that's really important as part

of this conversation. We're hearing that from the questions from the panel, and we echo sentiments for having evidence-based fair criminal justice strategies because we've seen in the past years that that's not what it's been, and the impact on the community that we serve has been horrendous. Our whole motto operates under the idea that contact with the criminal justice system affects not just one individual but their entire family, and every aspect of their--of their lives. And purported criminal activity in public housing is no different from that. And I just wanted to address some of the questions you had Council Member that you asked of the general counsel with regard to terminations. And I just want to remind you of the experience. Once an individual has come into contact with the criminal justice system and that person is a family member, a guest and an occupant or the actual tenant of record, they are subject to not only the criminal justice system prosecution, but they can lose their apartment through termination, administrative termination proceedings, which you asked about through NYCHA. But that's not it. Simultaneously, that person can-- that person or that entire family can be subject to

actions initiated by the NYPD that caused immediate ex parte displacement called nuisance abatement actions. They can also face Housing Court eviction proceedings at the behest of the district attorney or the landlord. Additionally, if that resident or the tenant of record gets additional subsidies or assistance through Section 8, that can also be terminated. And that's not with--withstanding all the other consequences, job loss, removal of children because of an accusation and an arrest. And we have to remember that being accused of a crime doesn't mean that you're culpable of that crime. [background comments/applause] And the challenge with expediting terminations in all these proceedings is that those fundamental rights are lost because they're at odds with Constitutional rights that are prescribed in the--in criminal court. Where we have to remember that if a person is accused of a crime in criminal court they have the right to counsel. Okay, they have a right to--the general counsel talked about the highest burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. They have the right to a jury most likely depending on what they're accused of. The right to confront witnesses, so on and so forth. Mostly, NYCHA

residents who are accused of undesirable conduct or even alleged criminal conduct are not entitled to those protections. They do not have a right to a lawyer. They do not have the right to the greatest burden, the highest burden of proof. In fact, it's the lowest what the general counsel was talking of proof or preponderance of the evidence more likely than not. And coupled with disabilities, mental health impairments, you know, limited English proficiency. I can go on and on and on about what's problematic and what's happening, and simply being accused of a crime should not mean that an entire family should be displaced. And then lastly, that-- you had a question about offenders and I appreciate and heard from the panel and from NYCHA about wanting to have again evidence--evidence-based fair but tailored approaches to criminal justice and the problems within NYCHA. Because right now it's not about the worst or the most violent offenders. It's about quote, unquote "all of the offenders" who get funneled through this bureaucratic administrative detached cold process and could lead to the infinite devastating consequences for entire families.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you.

[applause]

LAURIE PARISE: Hi everybody. My name Laurie Parise. I'm the founding Executive Director of Youth Represent. I want to thank you very much for the opportunity to be here today. Youth Represent provides reentry legal representation to young people 24 and under who have current or past criminal justice involvement. We've represented dozens of clients in NYCHA termination proceedings including when there was a warrant on a client, and he ended up facing eviction based on--and this goes to what you were saying, Councilman Torres, a misdemeanor arrest for finding a joint and a single Xanax pill. And this twice went to a hearing, and finally we did agree on a stipulation, but it took a year. I'm particularly concerned today about the rush to evict or exclude on violent crimes, because there's another side to this story and it's not a one-size-fits-all strategy. I believe to do so is going to tear young people from their families when they most need the support. And so, I'm going to give you an example of a client named Anthony whose mother faced termination because of his gun possession charge. And it's



exactly the kind of serious felony offense that many are frightened you know, will lead to automatic termination or exclusion. This is a case we're actually aware of. We work closely with NYCHA and I think the result was good. So Anthony was so much more than the charge against him. At the time he was arrested he was 19 years old. He graduated from high school. He was a star on his basketball team, and he was attending classes at CUNY and he had a job at the YMCA as an assistant basketball coach. His goal was one day to enlist in the military. Well, his life hit a standstill when a police officer pulled him over with other friends in the car because a similar model had been reported stolen. Well, it turns out the car wasn't stolen. The police decided to do a search warrant, and they found a gun underneath the seat of his car. Being the youngest passenger in the car, Anthony's friends persuaded him to take the gun, and they thought he would never be charged because he didn't have a criminal record, and he was basically a really good young man. And even though the car wasn't his and he knew nothing about the gun he took the blame. He pled guilty to the gun possession, which was a felony offense. But he went to the CASES

Program, which is an alternative to incarceration program. And the judge in the case vacated the plea, and Anthony re-pled to a violation. Anthony is now safely home with his family in a NYCHA apartment working at the YMCA and hoping to get into the military. NYCHA brought a termination proceeding as soon as Anthony was arrested, but Anthony had representation. So with our advocacy, NYCHA agreed to wait and see how Anthony did in this program, and ultimately allowed him to stay home, which was the best result. The one say I will say when you go to a hearing or you go up with NYCHA, it's the luck of the draw on who your lawyer is going to be, who the NYCHA lawyer is going to be on the other end. Some attorneys will absolutely work with you and NYCHA will file a resolution of the case, and I've heard attorneys tell mothers that you're luck your son's hands didn't get cut off for what he did. So it really does depend on who the lawyer is on the other side. I'd also like to introduce Charles who's our community advocate and back in 2008--Charles, take a seat, take a stand. Back in 2008, he was arrest for a violent felony crime. Since then he went to high school--he graduated from high school, he went to

college and he has been working full-time for--for a year. So these are--these are great stories.

Anthony and Charles are far from unique or isolated examples. Yes. [applause] And--and really the are not unique examples. We work with dozens of young people each year charged with or even convicted of felony offenses that are categorized as violent or otherwise serious. A teenager stealing another kid's iPhone or iPad will be charged with a robbery, which is a violent felony offense. A fight in the neighborhood would be charged as an assault, which is violent or if there are other kids are around it would be gang assault. And this leaves parents and caregivers in an untenable situation how to either have their tenancy terminated or excluded a child when they're in great need of family stability. New York has a rich network of first-rate programs for young people with criminal justice involvement. Harsh policies that jump to terminate or exclude anyone charged with crimes undermines the progress that young people can make in these evidence-based programs by threatening them with homelessness and banishment from their families. In Anthony's case, delaying the NYCHA termination pending the final

outcome of this criminal case preventing him from becoming homeless before his 20th birthday. The criminal justice system sought help for Anthony, and with a little bit of advocacy NYCHA helped to realize that hope by allowing Anthony to stay home with his family. There are thousands of Anthonys in this city. His story should be the rule, not the exception. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I have to say an excellent testimony. I have on more--just one question for each of you. Yes or no. NYCHA again has been putting a premium on community engagement, NYCHA, the Mayor's Office, as advocates, as representatives of elected officials, as tenant leaders have you been engaged by the Mayor's Office.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: No?

CARMEN QUINONES: No. By the Mayor's Office?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: No, no, no, no. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So I think it's just that my colleague--my colleague wants to already hear the answer he already knows, but thank you so much, and I appreciate you and your testimony and I, too,

know that there are thousands of stories, and I am thankful for your organization and organizations like CASES and many others that intervene and provide alternatives. Because if we don't provide these programs, these young people are going to have a jail sentence. So I thank you so much for giving our young people a second chance at life. Thank you for saving them when many others would not save them. Thank you so much for being here. We certainly will work with all of you. God bless you. Thank you so much. [applause]

CARMEN QUINONES: [off mic] They're not engaging any of the property managers. [on mic] That was the question that you asked?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Well, I just assumed that they're engaging no one. So that's--

CARMEN QUINONES: No, they're engaging-- we'll especially the property managers. They're not--they don't know anything that's going on at all with the PSAs and we have pretty good PSA. PSA 6 is really good, but the property managers are not being engaged. It's people like that tell them who to call.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you for that.

Thank you. Our next panel John Johnson. Lisa

Kenner, Miguel Acevedo, Tarek from Community Voices

Heard. Maurice Simpson. [background comments]

Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, listen up. If your name

is called please come to the witness table. Yes,

John Bradley. [background comments]

LISA KENNER: It's afternoon already?

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Yeah.

LISA KENNER: Okay. Good afternoon. My

name is Lisa Kenner, and I am the Resident

Association President at Van Dyke. I wish I would

have been called earlier because so would have got

them.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: You heard their

wonderful testimony. So you can respond.

LISA KENNER: Very wonderful, very

wonderful. The first thing I would like to say our

cameras at Van Dyke is not working, and we have a

Viper room. As you know, Thursday evening a young

man got shot in the head. That was at Van Dyke. A

fellow all of a sudden got killed that likes to use

that's across the street from Van Dyke. Last month,

a young man got shot in the chest three times. That

was at Van Dyke, and then the week before that another young man got shot in his leg. Now, the 73rd Precinct Deputy Inspector Iglesias, he called me and let me know that the cameras are not working. Now, we're under Optima (sic). I got the worst manager in the world. Don't communicate, don't share no information. I feel like I'm on a slave--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Are these NYCHA cameras or NYPD cameras?

LISA KENNER: No, this is Viper

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Viper.

LISA KENNER: We were--we was the second one throughout Brooklyn to get the Viper cameras. Now, I don't say that much, and I don't want nobody to spread the word 'cause I don't want nobody to know that we aren't--our cameras not working. You know, I don't say nothing. But I had been to the Executive Board meeting November 19th. I sent Chief Nelson an email concerning the matter because camera had hit the power box and this has been out since September. So when I got the call from Deputy Inspector Iglesias that the camera is not working, I started emailing. You know, somebody may be sitting there. You know, I did--I stay in trouble, but I stay in good trouble

because that's where I live. I've been living in Van Dyke for 57 years, and I'm not going nowhere. So I've got to make it decent for everybody else as well as myself. So, you see, I came down here from Brownsville, you know, took that four transfer and came over here because this is important. And it's so much going on. When I heard about the Action Lab I said ain't we part of that? I ain't never met them before. Because they had--you know, it's said that they think Brownsville is so poverty stricken and everybody is coming and want a piece of the pie and a piece of this, but they done put you in and you been living there all your life. They come in--they come in like they're the John Gotti family, you know. You know, they think they own it. No, you're supposed to come in and ask us. They have certain organizations. They just develop. Haven't been there and haven't been through the trenches or anything like that. There's so much that I wanted to say, but I had to say something about them cameras because all right we had the fired shots. You know, there's a piece sitting on top of the camera, but the camera is not working. The camera hit a--a transformer and it takes three months for it to get fixed. That just



shows you how they feel about our lives. Our lives matter. I don't care if you're Black, Puerto Rican or Chinese or Green. Our lives matter. So it matters when you want to come and put a building up. But it don't matter now that we're going to have a Viper camera. Now, the thing with the--want to build affordable houses. How can you build affordable housing if you know for yourself, Councilman Torres, because I took you on a tour. They paint and they spot paint. [background comment] They don't paint the whole wall. They spot paint. I don't know nothing about no ghetto, and I'm not trying to live in nothing like no ghetto.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just want to--I'm like troubled right now. I just--Van Dyke is selected for the first of these three Action Labs and you know nothing about it. You're the Resident Council President.

LISA KENNER: I've been the Resident Council President for ten years.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And you know nothing about the Action Labs?

LISA KENNER: Nobody came to me. You know, they do their own little thing in their own

little place. See, this organization as I hear, you know, because the streets talk. But you get certain people there, but you didn't come to us and say well, what do you need? What do we think we need to do? Now, that's what I'm saying. That's a waste of money 'cause that money could have been painting some walls and some doors and some tile or something. They waste money. You know, I walked through the development even yesterday. I walked through the development putting up the other half of the flyers, and I can't believe it. I didn't grow up like that. My mother took us--taught us values and morals to take care of your stuff, but the housing don't even have no rules and regulations 'cause they don't implement it. Now, if I implemented telling residents I'm the bad person. You know, they--my manager is worrying about a family there. Freaking heaven, I'm worrying about us living in some place decent, you know. Like I said, I stay in trouble. It don't bother me because I know it's good trouble, but I'm--I want you to understand this all this money floating to whatever, it ain't floating down to where it's supposed to float. Somebody need to investigate them. Somebody needs to make sure that the money is

being spent right. Like for instance okay you go the community center, but Officer Woods--everybody is not basketball players, football players or anything like that. So I talked to the Officer Woods from PSA 2. He's the ones that teach the kids discipline.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Ms. Kenner, if you could wrap it up, please.

LISA KENNER: All right, he want to teach discipline. Now, you got an old daycare center sitting right there, and everybody went, well, Matt may get it. No, Matt don't need it neither. What we need to bring is the center in there. So, you got young kids 8, 9 and 10 years old. Those are the ones you got to try to get before they become 13,14 and 15 because they need a structure. A lot of community centers are not given no structure. That's what got me about when housing turned over to the community center they never sat down with the resident leaders and said well this is this and this. The next thing you know the centers were gone. So I mean I have to rush, but it's so much that I need to say because it's affecting people all over, but especially in Brownsville because our councilwoman is not here, you know. So hopefully she'll do something because I'm

tired of talking and nobody doing nothing.

[applause]

JOHN JOHNSON: Good afternoon. John Johnson, Mott Haven House Association President, District Chair for the Bronx South. I am like so beyond upset right now because the stakeholders are the ones in the room, the residents, the resident leaders, and when we talk about these things we're preaching to the choir. But the people that own the buildings, the landlord are gone already, and there's something about that process. They should not have been allowed to leave. We should have been allowed to speak so they can hear our concerns. [applause] When they speak and we know that they are not telling the truth, there should be some type of mechanism in place where we can challenge them. That has not taken place. As far as this MAP program, there's so many different variations that's needed in this program. Everybody is talking about more police, more cameras. What about programs--what about job opportunities? [applause] No--nobody really talked about that in great detail. When you look at job opportunities it's very easy and real simple. Or everybody will say how can you create jobs? There's

something called Section 3 that was enacted in 1968.

Any federal contract in the United States not just

New York City, any federal contract requires that

residents low and very low income get jobs. In New

York City the prevailing wage, which is the OSHA 10

class is \$36 an hour. So all of the kids we're

talking about that have nothing to do that they are

trying to get us to send them to basketball and

baseball and whatever sports, if we can get these

jobs at \$36 an hour, and I'm pretty that they would

stay off the streets. You don't have to worry about

these kids running around on the streets committing

any crimes if they're making \$36 an hour. What we

need is for our elected officials to put pressure o

New York City Housing Authority and other city

agencies to make sure that when these federal

contracts come down that these residents are getting

these jobs. There's no programs in our community

centers any more. When I grew up in the center, we

were able to go to the center all day long and do

everything. That's not taking place right now.

There's no programs in the centers like there used to

be. We talk about engagement. There's something

called 964 Regulation, 24 Code of Regulations 964

that's set forth by HUD, which--which says that the New York City Housing Authority is supposed to engage with the resident leadership, not as advisors but as policy makers. You clearly hear that that's not happening. They are not here now. They can't defend themselves one way or the other. There's something wrong with this process. This process needs to be changed. In order for this process to work there has to be true engagement, but we're not asking to reinvent the wheel. Just follow the rules and regulations that's set forth by the federal government and hold them accountable to it. And then we talk about cameras. They're spending millions and millions of dollars on cameras, millions of dollars. We can get it done for so much less with such clarity less than \$10,000. We have a digital video recorder built into the system. Anywhere we go in the world we can see the system.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Can I ask you a question?

JOHN JOHNSON: Less than \$10,000 not millions of dollars. So what we do when we provide this system for our residences we allow residents to utilize the system so when they're coming in the

building, when you're concerned about coming in the building late at night, and you don't know who's in the lobby of the building, you can look and see who's in the lobby of your building. You can see who's hanging out in front of your building, and you can enter into the building safely. If you don't know who it is, you can call and you can wait. There's multiple--there's multiple--there's so much that we can do with this. The Huffington Post came out and did a report on this. New York One came out and did a report on this. There's--there's so many different cameras that we have set up across the city in NYCHA developments. When we get these cameras put up, NYCHA is very upset with us. They're very mad at us because it's taking away supposedly union jobs. But if a union job is costing so much-- The cameras that I got put in my development cost \$1.1 million. I also have these in my development for less than \$5,000. These are way more effective. The residents are able to see these cameras. We don't label these cameras where they're at in case somebody is wanting--waiting to follow or stalk somebody, they will know where it is, and these cameras are a lot more safe and they're a lot more efficient, a lot more. So

some of the things that we're talking about when it comes to this MAP program there's no true engagement, and there needs to be better engagement, not because we says so. Not because the Housing Authority says so, but because the federal government says so, and that's not happening right now, and it needs to happen. And during this process Housing needs to be here to listen and hear our concerns, and they are not here, and this is a disservice to us as residents that they are not here right now. Thank you.

[applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Well, I do want to-- I just want to say if--if you could stand. Who is here from NYCHA. Okay, and who's here from MOCJ. Okay, the executive directors. Okay.

JOHN BRADLEY: Good afternoon. My name is John Bradley. I represent Lead by Example and Reverse the Negative Trend. We are a violent interruption and prevention organization. I am a returning citizen. Returning citizen means I was incarcerated for 15 years in a federal prison and didn't get caught with nothing, only a speculation and a picture of me and somebody allowed them to put me into a conspiracy. I came home in 2006 and we



began the process of going back into the so called communities that we help destroy with drugs and violence. If there's a shop fire in the neighborhood we come to that neighborhood, and we engage it. The solution is not more policing. The solution is dealing with our young people with understanding what is wrong and what is it that we can do to assist them. [applause] There's not job opportunities. They don't have the proper education because they don't want to take the initiative to move forward. But if you use the example of a credible messenger, someone who has been there and done that, someone who has came back into the community to help resurrect the conditions of our people. This is what we do at Lead by Example and Reverse the Negative Trend. By the beginning of January, we're going to initiate a pilot program of public safety. We're going engage the community with a community patrol. The patrol is going to take the burden off the police because our people don't want to talk to the police, but they will talk to us because we from the neighborhood and we feel the where they're coming from. We give them the understanding. We ask them what is it that you want. The want somebody that they can trust. They

want somebody that they can communicate with to get their point across, and this is what we do. We come and we help out. We work closely with NYPD the Community Affairs. When we go into a neighborhood we shut the block down for two hours. We bring neighbor back into the hood. We let the young people come outside, dance to some music and get a message of salvation and a message of inspiration that's going to give them self improvement so that they can say I'm tired of the conditions in what I live in. I need to do some things that's going to help me live better and have my parents be safe. We work with the gang members, and this is a great opportunity.

NYCHA--we are in the NYCHA developments. We are a NYCHA vendor in the Bronx. We are in several schools. We coming home it's hard to get into those schools. You have to be cleared. I had to get a certificate of relief from disabilities, which allowed me to do the things that I would have been barred from if I didn't have. So there's opportunity, but we have to present it to our people in the community. They don't know it's there, or they're just not looking. But we come out so that we can share what we gained on our experiences. When I

came home from prison you know what they told me? I see you in one year because they knew there was no rehabilitation out here in the streets for me. I had to self-rehabilitate myself. I bought every book that I could possibly get to read. I went through the dictionary front and back, and I began the process of self-improvement. So that allowed me to come home and say, you now, what I can't get a job, no problem. I'll create a job. How am I going to create a job with no funds. I ain't got nothin'. What I did was I built social capital, and we're still working on that social capital. We're getting our name out there, and we're getting recognized more and more. However, when something goes wrong in the community they know who to call. They call Lead by Example because we're going to come to the scene and we're going to figure out who's what and who's the major players in it, and we're going to engage those guys so that there won't be no future retaliation. That's what we do. Thank you. [applause]

[background comments]

TAREK GHANDOUR: My name is Tarek Ghandour from Community Voices Heard. I'm a youth organizer. I grew up in Queensbridge Projects. I

live in East New York now, and I work in East Harlem.

So those are like the 15 developments that you guys are talking about. So I'm in--I'm in all of it.

What he was talking about sounded like actual real community policing. You know, I like what you did.

So [coughs] I want to like start by like, you know, giving a round of applause for, you know, the actual

people live in housing. [applause] You know, it's

all we've begun to talk about the police. These

people live in these, you know, buildings falling

apart, elevators not working, mold in the house, the

ceilings leaking, and they still come out every day

looking beautiful. You know, still strong, still

going to work. You know, like these are good people

in there. You know, these are good people and I

think like, you know, their voices should be

amplified, you know, like they should speak first.

Like I agree like, you know, like the people that was

here from Housing should have heard everybody in here

talk, and then they should have came and talked

because, you know, like this is the priority. We

like, you know like the residents of housing should

be the priority. So another thing--another issue I

think what's going on with this space. This is--you

know the people that--that we keep talking about, you know, like the--the people that's like being affected the most by policing aren't in the room. You know, I think--I think me and Chairman Torres is probably the youngest people in here, which is like I'm trying-- I'm kind of confused about that. You know, we keep talking about young people all the time. It's like they're not here, you know. Even, you know, the--I'm not--did you facilitate this hearing, or he's just-- he's just the muscle? [laughter]

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I'm the chair. I'm the other chair.

TAREK GHANDOUR: Okay, okay. Good, good, I appreciate that. [laughter] So, yeah, so, um, you know--you know, young people have like, you know, have like--they've got a voice. You know, they got-- they got a real strong voice, you know, and then like, you know, this--this--it's weird that, you know, we come here on a Monday at 10:00 a.m. and talk about young people when it's like, you know, I think they're probably at school, you know. I think, you know, we should try to like think, you know, think about how to get those people in the room. Like I think another way of probably having this in the

afternoon. We could have this earlier or have it on the weekend or just not have this early at all. You know, young people don't like getting up early in the morning anyway. All right, so, um, so, um, [coughs] I wish this much, you know, like, um, this much emphasis it seems like, this much energy was being put into--into housing when it was actually being funded. You know, I think we would see a lot--a lot of changes a lot quicker if we were actually being funded and this much energy was going towards like to the NYCHA residents and the people in the community. You know, these action plans are coming out when, you know, NYCHA, like NYCHA was getting money. Now, it's like, you know, it's coming to a point where it's like, you know, like we're just scraping by and just begging for any donations, you know. So, um, [coughs] the problem is, um, you know, most of my friends get arrested not for like shooting or nothin' like that, no violent crimes. I rarely see that. Maybe it's just me. It sounds like a--like a--there's like a war going on in NYCHA. They make it sound like, you know, it's like, you know, it's like it's like Iraq or something. It sounds like, you know, it's crazy, but I'm out here everyday. I'm out

here at night time, 12 o'clock midnight, 1 o'clock, you know, I'm not running for my life, scared, ducking and sliding under benches. You know, I'm just, you know, just on the bench. I'm just out here. So, um, most of my friends actually like they--they get arrested, you know, for--not for violent crimes but for like--but for warrants--for warrants about petty crimes like, you know, like trespassing. I know a duded named--well, I can't say his name, but [laughter] he got arrested in his own building over there in Clinton--Clinton Houses. Um, he was taking his trash out in his pajamas and all that, and he's--he's coming back--walked back toward the building and the cops was doing a vertical sweep in his building. They stopped him and like yeah, where's your ID? He's like I'm in my underwear. I don't carry ID in my underwear. So the cops they went ahead and--you know, the could have easily went and found like if he really lived there or not. Could have went to the grandmother's house and said okay, is--is this your grandson, dah-dah-dah. You know they could have did that, but they didn't do that. Instead, they took him down to the precinct in his underwear. That's terrible. I'm saying this happen--this happen every

day, you know, it's like it's, you know--But us got to stand for us adding more police for us adding more police to the neighborhood, right. That's not-- that's not preventing crime. That's just locking people up. If somebody is starving in their house, they're not going go out and eat just because cops are outside. If their kid is starving in the house, they're not going to go out and try to make something happen and get some money somehow just because cops is outside. They're going to go out still. So when we're adding more police and talking about training, we're talking about money going to the police, and that money is coming from our pockets. So, it's coming from a pile of money, from a bucket, from the taxes. So, the more money we take out and put towards police, the less money we have for--for resources in the community. You know, the less--the less we have for like, you know when the NYCHA board came up here, what did they came up here with? They came up here with a--with a cop. That's it. They didn't come here with no teachers. They didn't come in here no mental health, no directors. They didn't come here with no--no rehab psychologist. They come here with a cop and talk about safety prevention.



1 You're just talking about punishment. That's all  
2 you're talking about, it's all my punishment. And  
3 that's--that's not how you prevent crime. That's not  
4 how you like better our neighborhoods. Just locking  
5 everybody up, and then putting them back out there  
6 after they do like three years in jail so they could  
7 come out here and do more crime because they're worse  
8 off after they come out of jail. And--and permanent  
9 exclusion is not going to work either. Permanent  
10 exclusion like you think he's not going to come back  
11 to the hood after he grew up here his whole life? He  
12 think oh, yeah, I can't go back here--all right, I'm  
13 just going to do what they say. All right, I'm just  
14 going to do what they say. I'm not going to come  
15 here no more. He's gonna come right back to the  
16 hood, and you make it harder for him to--to  
17 rehabilitate because--because he can't even like get  
18 a--get a house. And the house are supposed to be for  
19 the--the houses are supposed to be for the most  
20 vulnerable people in the city. But then you take  
21 that and you make it seem like, okay, like, you know,  
22 people that commit crimes or people that are starving  
23 might rob somebody. They can't--can't get an  
24 apartment. It doesn't make any sense. It's just a  
25

cycle. You're putting people into a cycle, and it's destroying the people more. So--and then another issue is--is this--the theme like this theme of like, you know, Ty--Ty--what's his name? Howard?

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Howard.

TAREK GHANDOUR: The--the dude that was killed Officer--Officer Holder.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Tyrone Howard.

TAREK GHANDOUR: Yeah, everybody talking about Tyrone--Tyrone Howard, and no one's talking about, you know, Damion Hardy--Jahhad Marshall that was shot in his back in Queens over the summer. That's not a priority in talking about--in talking about that. We're not talking about Lemar--Lemar Mason that was killed in--in Wagner, 21 years old. he was killed in Wagner in broad daylight. Nobody was fighting for him, and when I organized in Wagner, I'm out there like almost everyday, people are complaining about this. They're saying, you know, the cops are saying they're diving in the river for three straight days looking for that gun. Three straight days for the--for the gun that Howard threw over--threw over into the river. Three straight days they was diving. They had the whole highway blocked

off, the whole FBI show up. They stopped the whole highway like the whole highway. Like the whole Upper East Side of Manhattan was--was cut off, and then when Lemar Mason got shot in broad daylight, there was no--there wasn't even half the effort. There were cop cars running back and forth, up and down First Avenue. Down one way, back up the same way. Cops were coming out with ski masks and all that looking for the guy. You had the helicopters down like--somebody said if you was on the eight floor you could have talked to the pilot. That's how low the helicopters were looking for this dude. That how low they was, and then, you know, but then the theme over here is oh, Todd Howard and the cop that was killed. You know, that's what brings everybody out. Oh, that's what brings the media. That's what brings the news. But 21 people getting shot. Damion Hardy got shot in his back, and you hear nothing about that. No news came out. There's no, you know, people getting pulled out and there's this uprising and like that. We're going to harp about a cop that was killed, even though it's a sad thing, but we should like, you know, we're not--we're not amplifying the voice of the community. We're not prioritizing the

people of housing, and this is supposed to be about housing. So, um, so yes, at the end of the day I think, you know, we need--we need to really put more money towards, you know, the community. Stop funding more and more to the police. I think NYPD has what \$2 billion budget last year. I'm not--I'm--I'm--I'm not sure about the numbers exactly, but it was definitely over a billion dollars, their budget just for NYPD. That's it and then NYCHA keeps, you know, we stand on our knees crawling for \$89 million. That's it so--and I think with the--the \$42 million Cuomo gave, he--he didn't give that. That was--I think to my knowledge that was, we had--we had gotten \$100 million from the Mayor, and then he took \$42 million off the \$100 million and put it towards safety. That--that wasn't it, or--or that's what I heard.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: That's separate.

TAREK GHANDOUR: That's separate. Okay, that's good. That's good. All right, so yes. So I think, you know, we could actually put that money toward, you know, like mental health facilities. We have to put money to the--money to the workshops. Instead of just having a bunch of gyms, basketball

courts and--and--and studios in our community centers we need to have like, you know, actual workshops that like prepare people for actual jobs.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Community jobs.  
(sic)

TAREK GHANDOUR: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: That's powerful testimony. Thank you.

TAREK GHANDOUR: It prepare people for actual jobs that--that, um, that even though like or--or like, you know, workshops for like photography. You know, more--more type of workshops than just studios and--and basketball courts. Thank you.  
[applause]

MOREY SIMPSON: So good afternoon, everyone. My name is Morey Simpson. I'm 49 years old. I'm a returning citizen. I just finished serving 23 years and 5 months in the New York State prison system. A 15-year sentence. I'm the Director of Lead by Example and Reverse the Trend. This is my vice president, and what landed me in prison, three state bids (sic) back to back, right. What I got caught up is called the negative trends. What we see today with these young kids is trending throughout

the country. In Africa there's sagging skinny jeans. Social media has become the platform for what's trending. So I got caught up in a cycle of what's trending. I came from a two-parent household. My mother was a nurse. My father was a postal man. I don't have any excuses about broken homes. A lot of these kids don't want it. They don't--they're not going to give you any excuse. They're going to keep it to hundred (sic) which is, you know, they're being honest, and they're going to tell you like they tell me and my VP and the rest of my staff. They're following the leader, their leader the leader of the--of their housing development, the leader of their block. These are not gangs. These--these kids are not Bloods and they're not Crypts. They've associating themselves with a particular color because it's trending. It's popular. They're not actual gang members, gang bangers. They're clips and crews. (sic) And it's fancy. So in Lead by Example Reverse the Trend my program--it's two component program. Lead by Example is one and Reverse the Trend is the other. So there are two different directions we have to go in, in order to satisfy the criteria of Lead by Example to Reverse the Negative

Trend. We're in three different schools. We're in three different schools, 92 in the South Bronx. We have 4--we have 475 students in this school. Very effective. We're in the South Bronx Academy for Applied Leaders of Science. Very effective. We're in Eastchester Bronx Community Center. Very effective. We're in the Bronx or in the Boston Sea Corner of the Bronx. We're very effective. We're also in the Department of Probation in the Bronx. We have an office there. We do gun violence awareness workshops, Gang Into Victory, follow-up seminars. Bridging the gap between the community and the absent figure, and we do this out of pocket. My car is bad. I have bills that I haven't paid because I'm coming out of pocket. My fiancé is under so much strain right now because she's picking up the slack for what I can't do financially because I'm taking my money out of my--I'm a construction worker by trade. I'm a horse (sic) operator for Tuner (sic) Construction Services in New Jersey. We take the money out of our pockets. I couldn't go to my VP's wedding because I couldn't afford to go because the money that I'm getting--we take our money and put it in--we put it back into program because we believe in the program.

We haven't gotten one contract from any government organization because we have not asked. For the last two years we've been pounding the pavement block by block because we do what we do because we believe in what we do. We do what we do because we started in a prison. When he was in the federal, I was in the state. And my CEO of--of--of they created this program Lead by Example and Reverse the Trend in prison. I founded my own youth program called BABYS Incorporate, B-A-B-Y-S Building A Better Young Society, Incorporated. And when I was released from prison in October 2013, I met up with these two gentlemen at a seminar and I believed in the vision. All we--all they had at that time was paperwork and an idea. I took my program, which is famous, and I sent it back in the envelope to--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Yeah, if we could just--in the interest of time we just have to--

MOREY SIMPSON: --and I sent my program back into the envelope and I began to follow these gentlemen, and we've been very successful. In conclusion, the answer is not more police in the community. The answer is Lead by Example, Reverse the Trend. That's the answer because these kids they



follow guys like me how I used to be. We're called credible messengers. We deliver some on YouTube. We are on the social media, and we are very effective. I'm not saying we're effective because it's my program. I'm saying we're effective based on the data, based on the results, and we need help. This is the first time we're asking. We're asking for help. We cannot do it any longer out of pocket because our households are under strain. Our houses--this many didn't go on his honeymoon because he can't afford to go on his honeymoon. I couldn't go to his wedding because all of my resources are going to what I believe in, in my program, in my program. Thank you. [applause]

LISA KINNER: [off mic] They don't put this with the NCO because they put the impact going out. Now, they say you have two officers. They say they have two officers in the community like for instance, Van Dyke has two police officers. But that--those two police officers have to go around to find developments. They didn't say--the way they said it at first all right they took the impact zone, but they said those two police officers is just going to be strictly for Van Dyke or those two officers are

going to be strictly for Clinton. It's not like that. My officer he comes and visits, both of them come Officer John Oaks and Officer Jason. They come to visit, but they look so tired. If you're going to five different developments, by the time you get over here you're going to be tired. So my thing is to me impact zones worked because you knew the police officers. But also, with those police lights, I went to--I was in a meeting on November 18th. They spent \$2.5 million where we need permanent lighting. You know the permanent lighting needs to be--it's \$2.5 million, but people keep dragging like I keep on saying you all keep wasting money, you know. You've got to put permanent lighting up there because \$2.5 million could have been put some place else. And looking to that NCO officers--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] And I--and I--I--I just want to address a few points only about really the failure and I'll take responsibility to amplify the tenant voice. You know, this is the first time--well, it's not the first time, but certainly as the Public Housing Chair of two committees, two public housing developments, we've let our public housing residents testify first, but

you're right, it's not enough to have one panel. We negotiate the terms of the hearing with the Administration, and the Administration often pushes back. But I--I promise in the future we'll fight harder so that more tenants will have an opportunity to speaker early on. And so that the NYCHA Chairperson and the general manager is here and exactly. So I take responsibility for that. That is a message for John Johnson, from Tarek and from a number of people, and I take that to heart.

[background comments, pause] Charles Nunez, Denay Williams, Naved Hussain, Thomas Frederick, and Patrick Doyle. Please come up. [background comments, pause]

CHARLES NUNEZ: Hello. Good afternoon everyone. First, I would just like to thank everyone for staying throughout this long process and hearing out the whole hearing. I appreciate that and then also at this point I'm going to address some of the things that we discussed about permanent exclusion, and specifically, I want to address this to the two remaining people from NYCHA housing in regards to public--in regards to the permanent exclusion process. We've been--there's been a proposal to

expedite the permanent exclusion process earlier--  
earlier today to have certain crimes that are  
considered violent crimes, which were considered the  
worst offender of violent crimes to have those cases  
expedited for permanent exclusion. For--from having  
it--from the NYPD passing that information over to  
NYCHA within a week. And then furthermore, they want  
to expedite the cases. Once NYCHA receives the case  
that the case should end within 60 days. I really  
like oppose that, and that's--that's just something  
that's going to be detriment to the community. I  
went to permanent exclusion myself. Laurie Parise  
the Executive Director of Youth Represent gave brief  
of my case with NYCHA. And I was--I'm in this field  
already violent felony, but that shouldn't be the  
means of--that shouldn't be the means by which people  
are automatic--that shouldn't define someone. This  
violent felony--violent felon charge shouldn't be the  
category that defines someone automatically. There  
should be a more depth--more in-depth investigation  
in regards to the person and the family to get an  
understanding of what that person is like and having  
more evidence--more evidence based not label base on  
what exactly this alleged charge of that as well. I

wasn't convicted at the time so--and eventually my case got dismissed. But my case was still a youthful offender, but I have even an worst example with my older brother. My older brother was caught trespassing in front of our own building. Considered trespassing because he didn't have his ID. This is in front of a NYCHA building and the NYCHA management sent the letter over to my parents' house, and they coerced my mom and dad to sign a permanent exclusion. My mom and dad are from Guatemalan descent, and they really didn't know what exactly was going on. And they were coerced to sign and permanently exclude my older brother over a trespass charge that was dismissed on his second date. And that's just not acceptable, and that--that completely derailed him on the things that he was doing. If I was--if I was to get permanently excluded, it would have derailed my opportunity to finish high school at the time because I was still in high school when my violent felony charge started. I would have--if I wasn't able to stay home, like I was not going to focus in school any more because I would have had to look at where am I going to live? I would have had other needs. I wouldn't--I wasn't going to have the needs that give

me--that allow me to think about other stuff. My livelihood would have been more important than school. So I had the opportunity to stay--stay in my housing and continue school, go graduate from high school and go to college. But, if we expedite this process, and we don't allow the criminal case to end, it's just--we're just going to be excluded from so many things, and it's just going to break down families and deter the community. And it's also a public safety hazard because where are we going to go from here? We're going to find ways of trying to eat, find a place to stay, and it's not a matter of--we're not going to go to different communities because we're going to stay in the communities that we know, and that's where that's going to be happening now. And we need to change that, like you cannot allow this under expedite--under expediting process of permanent exclusion to go through. We cannot cases to be done within 60 days permanent exclusion. Because court cases take almost like a years. Most criminal cases take over a year to even get a conclusion, and we cannot allow that to happen. All right. Thank you all for your time. [applause]

NAVED HUSSEIN: Good afternoon, everybody. Good afternoon Council members for having me speak. My name is Naved Hussain. I'm the lead organizer at CAAAV, Organizing Asian Communities. On behalf of hundreds of Asian tenants in public housing in particular, the Bangladeshi community and Chinese tenants in Queensbridge, CAAAV could like to voice strong opposition to the Mayor's plans to increase more law enforcement in the NYCHA developments. Concern for the safety and wellbeing of our community is paramount to us and to our members live in NYCHA> However, the Mayor has referred to the increased police presence as "More boots on the ground" the type of rhetoric one hears in a war zone. Our neighborhoods are not war zones. They are vibrant communities filled with families who provide labor and service to this great city. They don't need more boots on the ground. They need more investment in their education and economic opportunities. They need investments to address the real roots of crime: High unemployment, low wages, structural racism and lack of adequate education and after school programming and skills training. By investing in more police, the city is investing in more violence

and deaths of black and brown residents. It's just simply--it's simply a fact. Every 28 hours a black male or female is killed by law enforcement or a vigilante. CAAAV members recently along with hundreds of others were outside of Pink Houses in East New York when Akai Gurley was killed by NYPD officer simply for using the staircase when the elevator was broken. It is the very nature of shoot first, ask questions later policing and the gross incentives of the prison industrial complex that undergird the violence and cyclical imprisonment contributing even further to community trauma. A recent case involving NYPD and NYCHA, *Davis v. City of New York* highlights the problem of policing. Numerous tenants of NYCHA and their visitors filed suit against the City of New York claiming that the numerous stops and arrests of tenants and their visitors in NYCHA complexes were racist and were violations of their Constitutional rights. These stops and arrests were the result of a policy of vertical sweeps, which is when NYPD officers comb a NYCHA building from rooftop to first floor stopping individuals without any individualized suspicion. It was a vertical sweep, in fact, that led to the death



of Akai Gurley. It is these kinds of checkpoint operations that the NYPD only employs in communities of color that leave to deaths and rights being violated. By increasing the police presence you increase the number and likelihood of senseless deaths and grief in the community where someone's children, parent, cousins, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters live. Instead of pouring millions of tax dollars into racist policing, the city needs to focus on programs and approaches that attack the roots of crime, the cycle of poverty, the lack of access to education and jobs to sustain sufficient communities. Increasing police presence is only a continuation of the war on the poor, specifically the black poor in New York City. CAAAV represents communities that are current victims of the war on immigrants, the war on terrorism, the war on the poor, the war on public housing, the war on private housing, the war on families, the war on children. We cannot stand back while our brothers and sisters in the black and Latino communities are victims of the effects of the war on drugs and the war on crime. This is why CAAACV is in opposition to the increase of more police in NYCHA. Thank you. [applause]

PATRICK DOYLE: Good afternoon. My name is Patrick Doyle. I'm the Program Director at Groundswell. Thank you for allowing me the time to testify, last but certainly not least. I just want to really give a quick overview of what Groundswell is doing in five NYCHA developments throughout the city this year. I'll give you some of my observations and recommendations, and a little bit about Groundswell. Groundswell in the old projects engaged all these marginalized and underserved young people and community members to create visible and lasting change in neighborhoods across New York City. For over 19 years, Groundswell has employed thousands of artists, youth and community members including hundreds of NYCHA residents in the creation of nearly 500 works of public art throughout the five boroughs. A little more than a year ago, Groundswell founder and Executive Director, Amy Sananman sat where I am today to testify on the central role that arts play in the major--in the Mayor's plan to reduce violent crime in public housing. In her testimony, Amy encouraged the Mayor's office to not only respond--expose NYCHA residents and youth to family programming, but leverage art as a tool for lasting

experience--experiences, physical transformation of NYCHA developments to highlight community assets, and to demonstrate a shared vision of a revitalized neighborhood. So what's happening is Groundswell has launched a major one-year initiative in partnership with NYCHA and Councilman Torres of the Committee on Public Housing. So public art and public housing is engaging 200 NYCHA youth and young adults in the transformation of naked and neglected walls throughout the five developments in the Mayor's Action Plan. And so artistically and content rich public art pieces in positive community messages. So we're working in one development in each of the five boroughs as identified from the MAP target list to co-create three projects in each of these five sites. So 15 works in total this year. We'll be working in Castle Hill in the Bronx, Queensbridge in Queens, St. Nicks here in Harlem, Stapleton in Staten Island and Thompkins where I live in Brooklyn. Groundswell is partnering with residents of these developments to facilitate the collaborative research design and creation of mural projects, spotlighting the human assets of each community. And we're starting in the fall. So here's some observations basically to kind

of go off script. So we've been meeting with the team and team presidents and site managers at these developments to identify issues that are relevant to those developments. I think it's really important as an organization coming in that we don't impose our vision of what these developments are. But instead, use our expertise and experience to help the residents identify their own visions and bring those to material--to materialize. You know, we met with some skeptics--some skepticism when we've had these meetings. TAs are, you know, they feel that organizations coming in are again imposing their vision that they won't be involved in the process. And that's very much not what we intend, and actually our mission is to engage the residents in the process from beginning to end to teach leadership and art mastery skills. The young people will be paid a stipend for working on the projects and a summer job. Safety remains a critical issue. In each of the five communities Groundswell interviewed the reduction of violent crime was identified as a top priority to the art projects that we develop--that they will develop with us. Tenant leadership is particularly concerned

about gun violence, and how negatively--negatively impacts young residents.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: If you could just wrap it up?

PATRICK DOYLE: Yeah, and aspirations for the future. Three minutes goes real fast.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] That's correct. It does.

PATRICK DOYLE: So I just really recommend again that any organizations coming in to work with the developments are sensitive to the--the needs and visions of the development. And again, don't come in imposing our visions of what the development needs when the experts are there and it's just activating their visions. Thank you.

[applause] [background comment]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So we'll call up--thank you so much for--for your testimony. I just want to say I'm particularly inspired. I think we've--even though it's too few, we've had more young people testify at--at--at his public housing hearing than we've seen ever I think. So the next is Denay Williams, Tyrone Ball, Karen Dixon, Serena Chandler, Will Kitchen, Johnny Rivera, Charlene Nimons (sp?).

I know Charlene. Good to see you, Charlene.

[background comments, pause]

JOHNNY RIVERA: First of all, let me say welcome to East Harlem. I know it's a little bit late in the process, but thank you for taking time to come up to this part of the woods in New York City. It's my home and our beloved location. I want to commend the City Council members for having the brilliance for being unconventional--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Could you just quickly identify yourself?

JOHNNY RIVERA: I'm sorry. I am Johnny Rivera, Democratic District Leader and I represent this part of East Harlem, specifically Johnson community, Johnson Houses and Washington Houses. And so what I was saying was that I appreciate you being transparent and engaging. And obviously, your whole demeanor engages and lends to others coming to this. When I was running for the first time this summer, I knocked on doors in this development and in Washington Houses and I asked what are some of your concerns? I was expecting to hear a lot about mold and repairs, and you know the story better than I do. My surprise was that it was about crime. Very good

citizens and neighbors of this community are afraid, and this was a time when Commissioner Bratton was out telling the public this is the greatest time ever. Crime is down, and it was during the summertime in some locales. But there were some other developments that didn't feel that, didn't get that. And so, I made a point that as a representative, I'm going to be the voice for residents who are hardworking people, and 99.9% of them are great, good people. But the ones that make it difficult, make it difficult for everyone, and everyone gets smeared with the same labeling. So, here are the two recommendations that I heard from residents. One, they want more police officers. Certainly I agree with John Johnson and some of the other former members who said services, opportunities, and I concur with that. But, I don't want us to miss the opportunity that when you don't feel safe there is no opportunity to go get a job or participate in a program because your safety is at stake. So we must have an utmost safe community for everyone including, and most importantly, NYCHA residents. Hence, I recommend because of the residents that we have greater police presence on NYCHA development. In

fact, a home where they are stationed where they are developing relationships. I heard something today for the first time about MAP, the acronym. There will--there will be officers developing relationships. I'm afraid there are not too many of them. They're dispersed over too many developments. We want officers stationed at these developments, and we want greater support for residents who do the volunteer work welcoming people to come in and keeping an eye and ear because at the end we need tenants engaged in this process. Thank you.

TYRONE BALL: Good afternoon. I'm Tyrone Ball. I'm the TA President at St. Nicholas Houses one of the 15 developments that actually was named in the Mayor's Action Plan. I'd like to first start off by saying the Action Lab I was actually included in every part of it, and I was there for all of it. We engaged and we actually did have--people actually interacted with youth, the Department of Probation and a bunch of other agencies, and we all interacted together, and we had a fairly successful lab. That being said, the rest of the plan, which is going along with that, I met with them about the lighting, but lights haven't started to come up yet, but it was



slated to start two weeks ago. I met with them about the cameras about four months ago, and the additional cameras and the replacement cameras and the scaffolding hasn't happened. You know, anyway, there was also discussion about the community centers.

Well the community center where I'm at is by the CBO who does that. It has two separate sites, and they have our community center for the younger kids and the other community center for senior kids, which makes it hard to engage. When I run a program, like I'm running a program now, and I'm about to run another program for teens, those programs are run out of our TPA room, which is not designed for that. So, it becomes instead of having central staff doing it, they can't designate--it has to be an--an executive board member who has to stay in the room because of the--because of insurance purposes. Also, I heard earlier about stipends for the teenagers or for the young adults I should say because some of our basically youth they're in their 20s. If we're not having a community center that is being run out of, we're not getting our resource. And I have a lot of young people in my development who would use that.

So what is going to happen as far as that goes, and I

see fewer and fewer NYCHA officials here and fewer and fewer Council officials here. So, that's all I wanted to say and thank you. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Can I follow up on one thing. You said--can you just describe the experience of the Action Lab a bit more and did it--did it represent a level of engagement that you hadn't seen from NYCHA an the Mayor's Office before?

TYRONE BALL: I'll say this the Mayor's Office was definitely engaged. NYCHA was engaged, but also NYCHA has--they're--they're not sending--the people weren't there to assist them. They were very consistently at the beginning, but as it started to move on we saw less and less of NYCHA personnel. So it was myself, and bunch of community based organizations, the Department of Health, the Department of Probation and other agencies who were there, and the NYCHA--the NYCHA who started out being there at the beginning had to take off because of other duties. So, that's why--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And who from NYCHA? Is this the local property manager or was there someone from downtown?

TYRONE BALL: The local property manager was informed and then had to be re-informed of everything that was going on. So now it's becoming a monthly meeting with her as to what is going to be going on, and we were supposed to have one today, but it's going to be scheduled I believe for the 9th of this month.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So the time as you've seen it is more consistent participation from NYCHA? That's what needs to happen?

TYRONE BALL: That would be about the size of it, and sometimes, you know, you need to let the one hand know what the other is doing. You know, and there's a bunch of other things that I could go on about with me and the property manager and everything else, but that wouldn't be prudent, and it's best that I excuse myself (sic) for the next person. [applause]

WILL KITCHEN: My name is Will Kitchen and I am a NYCHA resident, and I also have a large kind of global news that I wrote about a *Panacea Paradigm* for some of the issues that affect NYCHA residents and society as a whole to the media. And today I sat here listening to hard to believe

statistics and rhetoric from officials all up and down the chain, and I hold responsible the City Council for their negligence of not taking legal action against NYCHA for years of neglect. And whether they do it or not, at this point it's moot because they're not going to listen to you. They come and you let them even under oath tell you we don't have the facts. We suffer as a result of being ignorant to what legal remedies there are for this kind of absolute abject fraud that the City not even under Mayor de Blasio has taken place. But even under John Rear (sic) and Mayor Bloomberg. There's \$3 billion of fraud monies that are unaccounted for, and we're sitting here talking about \$89 million or \$200 million and programs. Young people need careers. They don't need jobs. At this point, I'm not going to elaborate on what I can do or what I should do as a resident, I'm just going to do it. And I like some of the things that some of the people have said here, but let me just before I must not forget talk about the NCO that I had a conversation with, and he told me that drug dealers had rights in a conversations. I'm like are you serious. This is the kind of thing that they want to institute with

1 this more policing concept that's more fraud and  
2 really ridiculous. Because even though you have  
3 police on the street, and they can't arrest anybody  
4 whether they're doing verticals or not or just see  
5 people on the corners in front of NYCHA buildings  
6 slinging all day long as I do in front of mine at  
7 Drew-Hamilton Houses. This is more fraud, and  
8 unless--one of the things I mentioned in the *Panacea*  
9 *Paradigm* that I wrote to the media about was that  
10 I'll just ask at this point you being the chair, who  
11 they don't listen to, that can be done? In every  
12 five boroughs in every major development--development  
13 make them spend money to put up No trespassing and no  
14 loitering in front of NYCHA property or on NYCHA  
15 property. And when crimes are committed I'm asking  
16 the City Council to start putting together with the  
17 District Attorney--Attorney's Office and even with  
18 Governor Cuomo and even HUD that you commit a felony  
19 or you commit a crime on NYCHA property it's a  
20 felony. Now the *Panacea Paradigm* takes cases like  
21 this young who wants to rehabilitate and does not  
22 exclude them. I think that from what I've seen it's  
23 so ridiculous. I've been in NYCHA six years. I grew  
24 in the South Bronx. I'm living in Harlem now, and I

can't believe they rent an apartment to some new drug dealers, and the old drug dealer's friends wanted the new drug dealer in. And like my--on my floor I've got the old doors, they slam like 50 to 100 times a day, man. You know, and they--they came up--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Can you wrap it up?

WILL KITCHEN: They came up there and rocked the apartment. They--they took the--the occupant out who's selling all day, but still I have to keep something under the door to keep the door open because they're still coming. And unless you as a Council can understand how to stop drug dealing and people standing front of NYCHA property all day long in non-designated areas, you all are just really, you know, whistling a tune that is never going to be on key. You know, and I hope that some of the brothers that was in here talking today, and people that we get together and do what you all can't do because this is just ridiculous that--before I close--you let these managers and these tenant associations, you let drug dealers run NYCHA projects, and you let gangs control NYCHA property. You in a gang? Get out of NYCHA property. Like the lady from Douglas said, they know--we know who's who. That's key, very key

to starting eliminating people who do not mean any good to the 90% who are--who want to live a decent life, and particularly the little children. So there it is. [applause] Thank you.

DENAY WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. My name is Denay (sp?) Williams. I'm 23 years old. I live in Tompkins Houses in Brooklyn. For the past six months I've been a part of Green City Force, which is a partner on the Mayor's Action Plan to reduce--no to address violent crime in NYCHA. Since I've joined Green City Force my life has changed tremendously. I never really knew what I wanted to do with my life. I've had some ideas, but I knew they wouldn't be possible. I was always told that I would be dead on or before the age of 21 if I kept living the life I was living. But here I am at the age of 22 with so much life and great opportunities ahead of me. My experience with GCF taught me not only to believe in myself, but to fight for what I want and never give up. I never had a big support system, but now I have more support than I could ever have asked for. The staff at GCF accepted me for who I was and didn't try to change me, but instead showed me why I should want to change myself. I appreciate the opportunity that

was given to make a change not only in my own life, but in the life of those around me as well. I've learned so much about my planet, things that I never knew about. I learned about sustainability, clean air, the water we drink, the foods we eat, and where we get it all from. I now have the knowledge to teach those in my community about how to not only preserve where you live but to love it. Knowing what I know now and being able to teach someone else is an amazing feeling. I'm so proud of myself. I honestly didn't know what--I honestly didn't think I would have made it this far, but I fought hard for what I wanted and in the end I defeated all odds against me. Not only do I see a change in myself, but the people close to me and those around see a change in me also. I never thought I could have a living wage job or even a career. At such a young age its drilled into you. I see great things for myself in the near future. All those goes to those who kept pushing me and never gave up on me, my team leaders, Lawrence and Wesley, not only were the mentors to me, but they also were like family. They pushed me to my limits, and were always there to back me up when I needed a little help. Dealing with me is not easy, but they



show patience and understanding. I now have both. Right now I'm at Great Alternatives as an internist and expanding my experience by learning solar installation as part of the construction team. I've learned how to build solar panels on a roof. My goal is to land a job at a solar panel company after my internship is over. In conclusion, my experience-- oh, excuse me--my experience being a part of Green City Force is helping me expand my possibilities, stay away from violence myself and help others around me do the same. [applause] [background comments]

SERENA CHANDLER: So, hi, good afternoon, and greetings from the Polo grounds. My name is Serena Chandler, and I had the very unique opportunity to be a part of the Mayor's Action Plan. I, in fact, was one of the leads for the Polo Grounds team. I would like to say that I've sat here all day today, and I listened to so much crap that I am full. First of all, money that was spent, money being wasted, we were given a \$600 budget to do three different events. We were that welfare mother because we fed our babies on what they gave us. So I don't know where this money is that you're talking about is being either misappropriated, wasted, burnt

whatever. Our group didn't see any of it. Secondly, I--I would like to say that we did some good things. In the short period of time we had some remarkable success. In the Polo Grounds we did a youth share. The young people not only came out, they spoke to us. They are very, very talented young people, and I was honored. I stood in awe of some of those young people and what they had to say, and what they wanted to do. I would like to ask that we not close this, please. Our--our--our main death is through not following through. We start a program and then when we don't get the immediate result you want to jump on the next boat. Stay in the boat that we're in. Let's row this one until it sinks or docks. We need to stop throwing these kids away. I hear this man talk about the drug dealers. When I look at the drug dealers in my complex I see supervisors. I see bookkeepers. They should have careers. I want them to have a career. Let's let them--let's teach them to sell real estate. By God, let's take them down to Wall Street. They deserve careers. You want to talk about them drug dealers, they are bookkeepers. They're supervisors. They're CEOs. They it, but they're using it in the wrong way. [applause] I

look around in the Polo Grounds I can adopt the whale. I can adopt a tiger. By God, I can adopt a piece of 87 North. These young black men are in danger. I got 20 bucks right now. Let's start adopting them. Let's start meeting their needs. They are not as bad as we're making them out to be. Yeah, people are dying, but these are young angry-- these are our babies and they are angry, and until we stop ostracizing them, and pointing at them and telling them, You ain't shit, you ain't never been shit, you ain't gonna be shit. Until we tell them you're a bookkeeper, you're a CEO, you're an auctioneer, they're going to believe what we're feeding them. And quite frankly I think we should be choking on what we're giving them because we are failing these young people. I don't--and NYCHA a slumlord is a slumlord. You--the NYPD and FDNY they break those doors. We were told that Polo Grounds is where they bring the firemen and teach them how to bust in a place. So, you know, the broken doors are not always on those drug dealers. The broken doors should be laid at the feet of FDNY. Should be laid at the feet of NYPD, and it certainly should be laid

at the feet of NYCHA, and I'm sorry, but I'm done.

[laughter, applause]

CHARLENE NIMONS: Charlene Nimons, Wyckoff Gardens. I'm a TA President, but I'm also an Executive Director for a non-profit organization that we started. I live in housing. We have a non-profit organization that's been really geared toward--Oh, thank you guys for inviting us. [laughter] That's really been geared toward. Huh?

MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] You in my development?

CHARLENE NIMONS: No, I'm in Brooklyn.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Wyckoff.

CHARLENE NIMONS: Wyckoff Gardens. So two prongs. The reason that I bring up the non-profit is I'm also letting you know that I'm the Wyckoff Resident Association. We have gifts right inside our homes, and I don't dispute that there should be other organizations that help us, and we should be figuring out how to work together. But, don't come in and impose yourself upon us without having a true understanding of where we are, what's going on, what's needed and then let's grow from there. When I sat and I looked at the plan and I saw

\$15.6 million was use for and it has residents' programs, I was thinking I--I haven't talked to the Mayor. I talked to him when he was running, but I have not spoken to him. Section 3, if we really want to have a true impact on poverty, I'm begging you, I'm begging you let's sit down, and let's talk about Section 3. Section 3 is not just about a job. What about the money that we leave on the table every year from business ownership. A resident can contract with the Housing Authority up to a million dollars. We have got to get in there and get into those resources. We can't say we want to give somebody a job, and think that they're going to be sustained. We have got to really look at where careers are built. Let's stop looking at NYCHA as the only capital resource when it comes to Section 3. Federal money comes into our state and into our city in different budget lines. The City has--the Mayor has a budget on average I believe we're under \$70 billion or something--\$77 billion.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] \$80 billion.

CHARLENE NIMONS: It's 80 now. Uh-huh, we probably generated that money, public housing

because the last time I knew, it was \$77 so we--I think we brought in another--What is that? One?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [off mic] \$3 billion.

CHARLENE NIMONS: Yeah, \$3 billion. I can't add. I need--Okay, so, um, my--my hope is that our curriculums we have a curriculum that speaks to teaching young people how to become journeymen in the construction trades. I'm not going to give you all my information, but I'm saying sit down with us and really talk about how we make some significant changes. We need police. There's no question, but we don't need more because we got some that need to do better. The Housing Authority sometimes they get a thumbs up, and sometimes they get a thumbs down. So, I'm not here to bash. What I'm here to do is say we've got to make some changes. Now, I'm gonna put on another hat. I got two. So that's the non-profit. Let's meet. Let's talk about really making a significant impact on poverty. My young girl, oh, I'm so proud. But now, I want to take her and she wants--because she's thinking about her career, right, and what she wants to do with her life. What type of business could she be creating to contract

with the Housing Authority? Well, we talk about efficiency, right. Girl, you--right. Now, so and that's going to really make some significant things happen. Even when we broke that could happen because 10% of that budget, our capital budget is supposed to do that. So, we're--we're supposed to be making this thing happen. Now, I'm going to go to the fact that--I'm going to bring up infill.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [interposing] Yeah.

CHARLENE NIMONS: I'm not calling it Next Gen. It's infill and the--and the Mayor called me and many of our resident leaders at the time last-- Anyone, what is it two years now? Anyway, he sent his cronies out, his legal team to tell us don't worry--see, and then know I'm putting them on blast because I'm talking to him and he don't respond. He said, Don't worry about infill, because that's not going to be part of our administration. Well, guess what? Wyckoff is sitting now and waiting to be built upon, but we got a plan for that, too. It's not what it looks like. They're coming before you and they're saying we're kumbaya, we're good. No. We're using wisdom. We're meeting with NYCHA. We're going through the process, but we're telling you don't try

to entice us by money because we've raised millions of dollars right in Wyckoff to do work in Wyckoff. We have the new layered access and Mr. Johnson is correct. We shouldn't be spending millions of dollars on these--hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars on these cameras when we have a minority company who can put these cameras into our property at like minimal cost. Not only cameras but WiFi free. WiFi. So if we took the millions that you all gave us, right, City Council gave us the money. Now if we took that we would have cameras all throughout NYCHA.

MALE SPEAKER: She's right, she's right.

CHARLENE NIMONS: And not only would we have cameras we would have WiFi and that's what the Mayor wants to put, right. The Mayor wants to put WiFi. Hello, we would have WiFi. I'm saying come on talk to the new people. Look at--I know you guys fund all of these other organizations. Are we being taped? 'Cause I really want a copy of it. You--you--we talk to all these companies, right these organ--different organizations. Ask about their outcomes. I sat in a room with about 15 different organizations, which means millions of dollars was



sitting in the room. Most of the money goes to Administrative cost. If you look at--I know I've got to stop.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Well, it's--I can-- they have to bring in the kids. So if you can--

CHARLENE NIMONS: Okay. If we look at-- real quick--if we look at how we can place stipends, right, isn't--isn't that an incentive? That's an incentive to give people and plus it makes sure that people are aware that somebody care if you invest in them. I'm say, I know, let's talk. Thank you very much. [applause] [background comments]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you and we're grateful for your participation. I want to submit to the record comments from the Institute of Justice as well as comments from the Corporation for Supportive Housing, both submitted for the record. With all that said, I think this has to be--this has to go back to being a community center. Cool. So all right.

MALE SPEAKER: All right, I--I contacted your office about toxic silica in my apartment that is still there. So I would--

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So can we--can we  
3 talk separately?

4 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you. [gavel]

6 CHARLENE NIMONS: Can we do a hearing in-  
7 -in Brooklyn at Wyckoff.

8 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: About infill?

9 CHARLENE NIMONS: Infill.

10 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Wyckoff, yes.

11 CHARLENE NIMONS: I was about to tell you  
12 that. Yes. [background comments]

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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 December 11, 2015