



Statement of Carl Weisbrod, Chairman of the NYC Planning Commission and  
Director of the Department of City Planning, before the Land Use Committee of the  
City Council, on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2017 Preliminary Budget and Four Year  
Financial Plan

March 29, 2016

Department of City Planning Expense Budget						
Fiscal Year	2014	2015	2016	Preliminary Plan		*Difference
<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Actual	Actual	Adopted	2016	2017	2016-2017
Personal Service	\$ 18,172	\$ 21,179	\$ 25,196	\$ 25,844	\$ 27,249	\$ 2,053
Other Than Personal Services	\$ 2,384	\$ 3,538	\$ 12,915	\$ 16,351	\$ 14,218	\$ 1,303
<b>Agency Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,556</b>	<b>\$ 24,717</b>	<b>\$ 38,111</b>	<b>\$ 42,195</b>	<b>\$ 41,467</b>	<b>\$ 3,356</b>
Authorized HC	265	286	320	321	339	19
<i>*The difference between Fiscal 2016 Adopted and Fiscal 2017 Preliminary Plan funding</i>						

Good afternoon Chair Greenfield and Subcommittee Chairs Richards, Koo and Dickens, and distinguished members of the Land Use Committee. I thank you for the opportunity to be here today to discuss the Department of City Planning's Preliminary Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

Before I begin my formal testimony on the Preliminary FY17 budget, I want to take this opportunity to thank this Committee, the Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee and the Land Use staff here at the City Council for your hard work and constructive engagement with the Planning Commission and City Planning Department staff on reaching a successful conclusion with regard to two historic, landmark pieces of legislation – Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Zoning for Quality and Affordability.

MIH, the most rigorous inclusionary housing program of any large city in the country, and ZQA, one of the most significant updates to the Zoning Resolution to facilitate affordable housing in decades, serve as models of what we can achieve by working together.

Our city is growing. Our population is at an all-time high, having just, according to Census Bureau mid-decade estimates, passed the 8.5 million level for the first time. So is our life expectancy. With immigration and emigration pretty much offsetting each other, this means that our population growth has been due to natural increase – that is, births over deaths. So, in addition to our four-century tradition of welcoming people from all over the globe, we have an obligation to existing New Yorkers to provide decent, affordable housing to them and to their children. And, we have a special obligation to our seniors, whose population is expected to increase by 40% over the next 25 years.

MIH and ZQA offer new opportunities. MIH will assure that as we increase desperately needed housing capacity in the city, a percentage of that housing will be affordable, not only to first-time occupants, but permanently – for generations to come. ZQA will allow us to build housing, especially affordable housing and senior housing, less expensively and permit us to deploy our tax dollars more wisely.

So, we can all take pride in what we have accomplished.

Now let me turn to the budget.

The Department's Adopted FY16 budget has an expense appropriation of \$38.1 million.

59% comes from tax levy, and 41% comes from federal and state funding.

Of this total \$38.1 million allocation, roughly two-thirds was allocated for Personal Services (PS), supporting the salaries of 320 full-time staff, including me, and the 12 other members of the City Planning Commission. The majority of our staff -195 employees - are funded by federal and other grants, while 125 full time staff are tax levy funded. The balance of our budget, \$12.9 million, was allocated to Other Than Personal Services (OTPS). The single biggest component of that category, at \$5.6 million, was budgeted for environmental consulting required to complete City Environmental Quality Review before the zoning recommendations within our neighborhood plans can be approved by the City Planning Commission and, ultimately, by the City Council. These consultant funds are used to secure services that require extensive personnel and/or equipment that would be cost-ineffective for the City to maintain on a permanent basis.

As discussed at last year's hearing, the Department's adopted budget for FY16 included increases from FY15 in both the PS and OTPS categories. To recap:

- Our Personal Service spending in FY15 totaled \$21.2M out of a budget of \$23.3M. In FY16, the budget was increased to \$25.2M, a result of the need for the Department to add 34 lines into various planning functions, and supplemental grant funding for Personal Services related to resiliency. This increase enhanced our overall planning capacity.
- Our OTPS spending in FY15 totaled \$3.5M out of a budget of \$4.5M. In FY16, the budget was increased to \$12.9M. There were three main elements of this \$8.4M increase:
  - Our ambitious program of neighborhood planning efforts required a

larger amount of accompanying environmental studies for CEQR. This represented \$4M of the increase.

- The costs of moving the Department's headquarters to 120 Broadway incurred a non-recurring budgeted expense of \$1.3M. Additional rent charges for the FY16 fiscal year were budgeted at \$2.4M. This move was undertaken as our previous space at 22 Reade and 2 Lafayette had reached such dilapidated conditions that it was approaching a point where it was no longer habitable. I will provide more background on this later in my testimony.
- The Department's IT initiative regarding "paperless filing" for ULURP applications required an initial \$0.7M outlay for one-time expenses required for implementation, such as software and data conversion.

There are three main differences between this FY16 adopted plan (at \$38.1M) and the FY16 January plan (at \$42.2M):

- Due to staggered federal, city and state budget cycles, the adoption budget reflected only a portion of the anticipated total federal and state grant funding for the fiscal year. The majority of this "off-cycle" funding is related to the Department's transportation planning work program and comes from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) and the State Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program. The net effect of these differently timed funding flows increased our budget by \$1.6 million.
- Similarly, \$1.2M of the increased amount was a rollover of unspent Federal Community Development Block Grant resiliency funding from the previous year's cycle. This grant will continue to fund resilient studies across the City.

- Subsequent to the FY16 adopted plan, the Department also absorbed an additional \$1.8M from City Tax Levy funding for the aforementioned paperless filing system to allow for contract registration for the vendor to begin work.
- Early in the year we had predicted the need for an increased PS budget of \$1.2M in FY16; prudent management of the timing of new hires and salary amounts reduced PS expenditures by \$0.6M.

Looking forward to FY17, the current preliminary plan totals \$41.5M, but once anticipated State and Federal grants are included in the November plan, we expect our budget to increase to \$44M.

There are some meaningful changes that I would like to note. Most notably we have budgeted for an additional 20 planners as a result of the sustained increased demands on the Department. Given the number and complexity of the Neighborhood Planning efforts that the Department is leading, as well as the anticipated increase in private applications, we require more planners in our borough offices, as well as in planning specialist and technical specialist positions. The overall authorized headcount would increase to 339 positions.

- 10 of the new positions would be allocated to our borough offices, which are responsible for working directly with communities to develop neighborhood plans.
- 4 positions would be allocated to provide technical and environmental review for neighborhood plans entering ULURP.
- 6 positions would be filled with “planning specialists” who will contribute to our neighborhood plans by providing specialized expertise in specific areas, such as demographic analysis, capital planning, housing, zoning and urban design.

There are a few other factors worthy of mention:

- A closer examination of our OTPS spend has identified \$0.4M in savings through reduced operating expenses.
- DCP has received a net increase of \$1.7M in additional funding to cover a full year of occupancy at 120 Broadway.
- An additional \$0.4M is proposed for DCP's paperless filing IT system to cover on-going operational expenses. These costs will only be incurred after the system is online and implemented. Paperless filing will provide significant benefits to all applicants by allowing them to file ULURP applications electronically (rather than being required to provide 10+ copies of very lengthy supporting documents). It will also enhance our ability to track and manage the processing of the hundreds of application in our pipeline at any one time, with increased transparency to applicants and the public. We expect to have more information to share and make a formal announcement of this initiative this spring once we have selected a vendor and finalized system costs.

Broadly speaking, we continue to look for both grant opportunities and efficiency savings to minimize our costs. We use grant funding for a wide variety of planning efforts, including resiliency, transportation and hazard mitigation studies. The Department is currently working under five grants and is engaged in resiliency efforts funded through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery. In total, grants accounted for \$5.6 million in FY16. Of that total, \$2.6 million is related to Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding.

Last November, the Department moved its offices from dilapidated space at 22 Reade Street and 2 Lafayette to 120 Broadway, a Class B building with professional

workspace. I'd like to thank the City Council, OMB, DCAS, and DoITT for yours and their support, and for working with us on this major undertaking, which has resulted in our relocation taking place on time and on budget. I might add that this occurred in the midst of our work on three major zoning actions – Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning, Zoning for Quality and Affordability, and East New York. I know you are familiar with all of them.

Late in 2016, a new public hearing space will open in the basement of 120 Broadway. This space will be unique in that it is centrally-located and easily accessible – connected, in fact, to the 4, 5, J, and Z trains. The Lower Manhattan location is also in very close proximity to the A, C, E, R and 2, 3 trains. The new hearing space will double the amount of seating available for hearings of the City Planning Commission, the Board of Standards and Appeals and the Mayor's Office of Contract Services. Until the hearing space is complete, the Department is maintaining a ground-floor presence at 22 Reade Street. Working in concert with DCAS, we expect to complete our move this fall.

Now, I'd like to discuss our **agency's achievements and priorities** for the year ahead.

As already noted, our city continues to grow. Our population is at an all-time high, as is our life expectancy, and the gap between the demand for and supply of affordable housing is vast. Climate change also requires us to plan a more resilient waterfront city. Our agency's planning efforts therefore center around four priorities: **housing production and affordability; livability; economic development; resiliency and sustainability**. I'd like to briefly highlight the agency's top strategies and initiatives to help us achieve these priorities.

## **INITIATIVES ON WHICH WORKING DIRECTLY WITH CITY COUNCIL**

As you know, we are working with you directly on several citywide and neighborhood-specific initiatives, including:

- The North Brooklyn Industry and Innovation Plan
- Industrial Business Zones (IBZs) and an industrial policy on hotels and mini-storage
- SoHo/NoHo
- A fresh look at the FRESH (the Food Retail Expansion to Support Health Program) Initiative
- Community-initiated planning in neighborhoods across the City
- The voluntary inclusionary housing program (IHP)

## **HOUSING**

The affirmative vote of the City Council on MIH and ZQA is, in the words of Mayor de Blasio, “a watershed moment when we turned the tide to keep our city a place for everyone.” But, our work does not stop here. The year ahead will be busy as we incorporate the important modifications made by the City Council and the City Planning Commission into future rezonings and update the Zoning Resolution and our Zoning Handbook, as well as account for these historic updates in relevant private applications that come through our door and in our neighborhood planning studies.

## **OUR APPROACH TO NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING**

The Department’s focus on housing creation is coupled with a deep commitment to ground-up neighborhood planning and to engaging communities and other city agencies to bring about healthier, more inclusive, more vibrant places.



In order to help execute the Mayor's housing plan and our priorities, we have changed our approach to neighborhood planning. We are working more proactively with neighborhoods and local representatives, as well as better coordinating priorities among government agencies to develop sound, ground-up frameworks for growth that align strategic planning priorities with individual community needs. Our staff at DCP is working in close collaboration with other city agencies, including HPD, SBS, EDC, DOT, SCA, Parks, as well as with OMB and the Mayor's Office. Through this new planning approach, DCP is better positioned to capitalize on the City's competitive advantages, including its built environment, natural setting, diversity and standing as a robust center of commerce and culture, and advance regulatory and land use changes when appropriate.

Earlier this month, I testified before the Council about our East New York Community Plan. In sum, our goal is to bring affordable housing, economic development, enhanced open space and other investments to an approximately 190-block area of the East New York, Cypress Hills and Ocean Hill neighborhoods of Brooklyn, in Community Districts 5 and 16. Our staff, together with the community and our colleagues in many other agencies, developed a plan to facilitate these goals through new zoning, expanded programs and services and capital investments. These strategies, while not specifically part of the proposed land use actions that the Council is considering, are essential for achieving this comprehensive vision of a thriving and sustainable neighborhood. Over the next 15 years, it is estimated that the Plan will facilitate more than 6,000 new apartments in East New York, more than half of which will be affordable. We look forward to working with the Council to finalize this important Community Plan, which is the first of 15 neighborhood planning studies.

The Department is also working on neighborhood planning studies in each of the other four boroughs. We are working with communities and local Council Members on neighborhood plans for Queens' Flushing West and Long Island City, for the Bronx's Jerome Avenue and Staten Island's Bay Street Corridor. We are reviewing the recommendations of Speaker Mark-Viverito's neighborhood planning initiative in East Harlem and look forward to working with her and the East Harlem community. We are also assisting the Economic Development Corporation in its neighborhood study in upper Manhattan's Inwood area. Ground-up and comprehensive neighborhood planning is the cornerstone of DCP's aforementioned priorities.

#### **OMB AND TEN YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY**

We are working collaboratively, and much more closely than in recent decades, with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the Ten Year Capital Strategy. This enables us to provide a planning framework to the allocation of our capital resources in a thoughtful, strategic fashion that takes into account neighborhoods where the city is growing and areas where we are proposing to increase housing capacity.

In an effort to align investment in infrastructure and services that support the livability of neighborhoods slated for growth, the Department has worked with OMB to establish a dedicated \$1-billion Neighborhood Development Fund (NDF). A new concept in capital budgeting for the city, the NDF is designed to guarantee that future commitments to public investments that support residential growth will be kept by budgeting the funds for them at the outset. The NDF ensures data-driven capital planning citywide so that the capital budget no longer serves as a financial document but as a strategic document to show where we can best leverage public and private

dollars. For example, as part of the East New York neighborhood study, the NDF will support several investments in capital improvements to transportation, infrastructure, community facilities, parks and open space in East New York. The NDF demonstrates that the City will provide enhanced quality-of-life and economic opportunity through a unified, inter-agency approach to capital planning.

But, the main driver of our investments in neighborhoods remains the normal city capital budget process. For example, in East New York we are funding a 1,000-seat public school, which is needed for the area's existing and future households. And the Department of Transportation has already begun design work to reconstruct Atlantic Avenue, funded out of the capital budget, although we propose to enhance that work through supplemental funds from the NDF.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Regarding economic development, one of the Department's four priorities I mentioned earlier, I want to touch briefly on East Midtown and industrial development.

The Department is working closely with other agencies to help achieve the Mayor's economic development goals. The Department of Small Business Services (SBS), Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) are only some of the agencies that my Department regularly works with to develop comprehensive plans for economic development within specific neighborhoods, and as part of broader policy initiatives.

## **EAST MIDTOWN**

Last spring, the City Council adopted the Vanderbilt Corridor initiative, which was the first part of a two-track strategy to strengthen East Midtown as a world class business district and help upgrade the phenomenal transit infrastructure that exists here. Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and City Council Member Dan Garodnick led a Steering Committee that served as the groundwork for the next phase of our work on Greater East Midtown. The Steering Committee recommended modernizing the office stock, landmarking certain buildings and improving the area's infrastructure, including East Midtown's public domain. With the Steering Committee report in hand, Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen has charged an inter-agency working group with overseeing the complex planning work needed to implement this important agenda. The rezoning of East Midtown is a top planning priority and we will be working to introduce a zoning text into public review by the end of the calendar year. A strong, high performing East Midtown will create new employment opportunities and generate new revenue to help fund many of our priorities throughout the city.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Economic development, particularly as it relates to preserving the industrial sector, reinvigorating commercial retail corridors and decreasing unemployment, is a priority of Mayor de Blasio's Administration and underpins many of the Department's planning strategies and initiatives.

Economic opportunity plays a strong role in affecting population trends and housing demand, as households often migrate to locations with job opportunities. Our city's economy is thriving. New York City's employment is at an all-time high, fueling unprecedented demand for new office, retail, accommodation, dining and entertainment in historically industrial parts of the city. The industrial service sectors

that support the city's diverse economy – construction, food distribution, repair, recycling and transportation – have also experienced growth in manufacturing districts, and in Industrial Business Zones in particular.

Much of the recent growth has occurred outside the city's historic Central Business Districts in Midtown and Lower Manhattan. City initiatives have spurred substantial job growth in places like Downtown Brooklyn, and Long Island City and Jamaica, Queens. DCP is studying a number of land use strategies to best align zoning with the needs of the City's neighborhoods and businesses in a place-based manner. Through its neighborhood planning studies, the Department is identifying ways to increase job opportunities in emerging markets, including in East New York, Brooklyn, and Jerome Avenue in the Bronx.

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Several critical studies will help to advance this important economic development priority. First, the Department is leading a study of the North Brooklyn IBZ. With input from the local community, including industrial businesses and business providers, the plan will identify strategies to promote job growth and economic activity, while also addressing the need to provide for the long-term stability of the industrial service sectors which support the city's economy. We believe the results of this important study will provide a basis for formulating updated zoning provisions in other industrial business zones as well.

Also, this fall, the Department will launch the public review for a zoning text amendment to limit new hotels and personal self-storage within IBZs and ensure any new development of hotels and self-storage facilities do not conflict with industrial

businesses in those areas.

## **RESILIENCY**

As laid out in ONE NYC, the Mayor's plan for growth, sustainability, resiliency, and equity, the City is addressing the challenges of climate change on multiple fronts—by making New York City the most sustainable major city in the world, and ensuring our neighborhoods, economy, and public services are more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

By engaging with communities in the floodplain and facilitating flood-resistant building design, the Department is working to reduce the city's risks to sea level rise and coastal flooding. Hurricane Sandy was a stark reminder of these risks. The City, led by the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR), has developed a multifaceted plan for recovering from Sandy and improving the city's resiliency—the ability of its neighborhoods, buildings and infrastructure to withstand and recover quickly from flooding and climate events. As part of this effort, DCP has initiated a series of studies to identify and implement land use and zoning changes as well as other actions needed to support the short-term recovery and long-term vitality of communities affected by Hurricane Sandy and other areas at risk of coastal flooding.

The Department has launched *Resilient Industry*, a study that addresses where flood risk poses a threat to any long-term strategy to support and grow the city's vital industrial economy. Half of the city's manufacturing zones and 70 percent of the heavier M2 and M3 districts lie within the flood zone. Moreover, 92 percent of the building stock in the industrial flood plain pre-date building codes that require flood-proofing. Working with our partners at ORR and OEM, we are developing detailed

recommendations for cost-effective physical and operational strategies to promote resiliency and reduce risk. Preliminary recommendations and a report, which will serve as a resource for businesses, will be produced by the fall.

Later this spring, the Department's Resilient Neighborhood reports will be released, outlining tailored strategies for neighborhoods that are most at risk of coastal flooding so residents and businesses can withstand and recover quickly from future storms and floods, while maintaining neighborhood context and character. We have also been collaborating closely with communities to prepare a new resiliency flood text amendment to help make it more cost-effective and easier for homeowners and landlords to retrofit their buildings in case of another Hurricane Sandy.

Finally, I want to address how City Planning is improving its technology to be even more transparent and provide the public with easier access to city data.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

Last August, the Department launched a major update to its online New York City *Census FactFinder* tool that enables web visitors to more easily search the latest available socioeconomic and housing data from the American Community Survey (ACS). By flagging whether a search returns statistically meaningful data, the new *Census FactFinder* is an even more powerful tool for city agencies and for anyone in the public or media seeking important data about New York's diverse neighborhoods and residents.

City Planning's IT team, also working with DOITT, further enhanced its open data services through Geoclient, a geocoding interface that provides geographic coordinates and other location-based information, such as community district and

city council district, all in the same place when searching a physical street address. The program is a critical tool for developers creating mapping applications and for efficient and effective in-depth analysis of city data by city agencies and the public.

I hope you have all had occasion to notice the Department's new and improved website that launched in January. With its more attractive interface, improved site navigation and revised user-friendly and simplified content that better presents the Department's current priorities, as well as work program and processes, we hope it will be even more heavily used than before. Now mobile and tablet-friendly, the new website also provides easier access to the Department's most frequently viewed material. The site was built within the overall [NYC.gov](https://www.nyc.gov) website architecture and thus delivers to the public a look and feel that is uniform across city agencies.

All of these achievements and priorities underline the even more exciting and productive FY17 that DCP has planned for itself and for the neighborhoods it serves.





**TESTIMONY OF MEENAKSHI SRINIVASAN,  
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION CHAIR,  
BEFORE THE LAND USE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
March 29, 2016**

Good afternoon Chair Greenfield and Members of the Land Use Committee. I am Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before your Committee about the Commission and its FY 2017 preliminary budget.

I would like to start by telling you about the budget and then update you on the progress of several initiatives we outlined at our last budget hearing.

The LPC's adopted budget for FY 2016 is \$5,742,777, and for FY 2017 the preliminary budget is \$6,120,086, which comprises \$5,527,356 in City funds and \$592,730 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. This budget increase is due to Collective Bargaining increases that occurred in the second half of FY 2015 and in first half of FY 2016. The FY 2017 budget also includes one-time funding of \$240,000 for the agency's relocation from the Municipal Building at One Centre Street to 253 Broadway.

Of the overall budget, 89% is allocated to personnel services (PS) and 11% is allocated to other than personnel services (OTPS). The agency's total head count is 70 full time positions and 7 part time positions. There are, presently, 65 full time staff and 7 part time staff, and we are currently in the process of filling vacancies.

Of the CDBG funding, 80% is allocated to personnel supporting important community development-related functions such as surveys, environmental review, archaeology, community outreach and education; while 20% or approximately \$115,000 is allocated for a grant program for low income homeowners and not-for-profit organizations.

I am very enthusiastic about our progress over the past fiscal year in accomplishing our goals in our research, preservation, enforcement and IT departments. Consistent with the Administration's vision of an efficient, equitable and transparent city government, I have implemented several significant initiatives to fulfill our mandate to protect and preserve New York City's historic resources in a fair and open manner.

#### **Research and Designations**

I will start with our Research Department. As Chair, I have taken a comprehensive and rigorous approach to our designation agenda. I developed a three-prong strategy that involves: (1) identifying historic resources in diverse neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs, particularly neighborhoods that are not well represented by existing

surveys or designations; (2) working closely with the Department of City Planning to evaluate historic preservation opportunities in neighborhoods undergoing a rezoning or neighborhood plan, including Greater East Midtown Area, East New York, East Harlem, and Inwood; and (3) increasing the efficiency, transparency and fairness in the designation process. This last objective includes setting efficient time-lines for designations, and addressing the backlog of properties that have been calendared for decades in a comprehensive manner and with stakeholder input.

We have been very active in recognizing historic resources in many communities. In FY 2015, the Commission designated four historic districts [Chester Court Historic District and Crown Heights North Historic District Extension III in Brooklyn, Central Ridgewood Historic District in Queens, and the Riverside-West End Historic District Extension II in Manhattan] and eleven Individual Landmarks, for a total of 2,038 properties. In FY 2016 to date, we have designated two historic districts [the Mt. Morris Park Historic District Extension in Harlem, and the Bedford Historic District in Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn], and one Individual Landmark for a total of 1,109 buildings. We will also be advancing the Park Slope Historic District Extension to a vote in April. In addition, in FY 2015, our agency surveyed 7,251 properties, including our internal research surveys, as well as reviewed 113 requests for evaluation from the public. Thus far in FY 2016, the agency has surveyed 3,220 properties and reviewed 93 RFEs.

We also launched an 18-month plan last July to resolve a 50-year backlog of 95 properties. I am pleased that a critical milestone in the plan was completed on February 23rd, when the Commission made decisions on each of 95 properties. Based on the testimony, and additional research and analysis, the Commission prioritized 30 items to be advanced for designation by the end of December 2016. We will be bringing approximately 10 items to vote in mid-April.

Finally, during this past fiscal year, the Commission also embarked on a study of historic resources in East Midtown as a part of the City's larger planning effort for the Greater East Midtown Area. The Commission will present its proposal of properties for consideration to the public this spring.

### **Preservation**

I now turn to our Preservation Department, which reviews applications and issues permits for proposed work on designated properties. The Commission received 13,375 permit applications in FY 2015 and took action on 15,456 properties during that same period. Through January in FY 2016, we have received 7,585 permit applications, and we have issued 6,920 permits. Approximately, 95% of the permits are issued at the staff level pursuant to agency rules and the other 5% require review by the full Commission.

The agency continues to explore methods to streamline the regulatory process. With that objective in mind, we have been working on an initiative that would improve and expand upon the Commission's rules to provide updated

standards for ministerial staff level approvals. These include staff level approvals for changes to comply with the new building code, and to accommodate energy efficient and sustainable building practices, and barrier-free access and flood resilience measures. We expect the proposed rules to be presented to stakeholders and the Commission this year and the initiative to be completed in FY 2017.

### **Enforcement**

The Enforcement Department works to ensure that owners of landmarked properties comply with the Landmarks Law. In FY 2015, the department completed 1,022 investigations into complaints about potentially illegal work leading to the issuance of 749 Warning Letters and 368 Notices of Violation. The department has completed 655 investigations in the first half of FY 2016. Those investigations have resulted in issuance of 488 Warning Letters and 173 Notices of Violation.

### **Community Development Block Grant Funding**

The Commission also implements a modest Historic Preservation Grant Program targeted for low and moderate-income homeowners and 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations to help restore or repair the facades of their landmarked buildings. The program has an annual budget of \$114,790, which comes from CDBG funds.

In FY 2016, the Program awarded four grants, including three residential grants and one not-for-profit grant. The residential grants were awarded in the Mt. Morris Park Historic District and the Jumel Terrace Historic District, both in upper Manhattan, and in the recently designated Crown Heights North Historic District Extension III. The not-for-profit grant was awarded to the Congregation Shearith Israel Cemetery in Greenwich Village.

### **Technology**

In FY 2015 and to date in FY 2016, we have launched several internal modules of a new agency-wide integrated database that have improved the tracking of our processes and facilitated more efficient public information sharing of Commission decisions on permit applications via our website. We recently launched an interactive map that allows one to search all designated properties including calendared properties in the city, and provides access to the designation report and photographs. We are also developing a website interface that will provide public access to all of the city's archeological collections, as well as another feature to provide public access to all permit applications associated with staff-level approvals later this year.

I will end by just saying that I am honored to lead this agency. It is a tremendous privilege and I intend to ensure that we fulfill our mandate to preserve the city's rich architectural and cultural heritage. I would like to thank you again for allowing me to testify and for your continued support. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES ON LAND USE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FISCAL YEAR 2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016**

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Good afternoon Chairs Greenfield and Vacca, and members of the City Council Committees on Land Use and Technology. My name is Anne Roest and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT), and New York City's Chief Information Officer. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about DoITT's Fiscal 2017 Preliminary Budget. With me are Annette Heintz, Deputy Commissioner for Financial Management and Administration; John Winker, our Associate Commissioner for Financial Services; and Charles Fraser, our General Counsel.

DoITT's Fiscal 2017 Preliminary Budget provides for operating expenses of approximately \$590 million; allocating \$144 million in Personal Services to support 1,747 full-time positions; and \$446 million for Other than Personal Services (OTPS). Totalling \$126 million, Intra-City funds transferred from other agencies to DoITT for services provided accounts for approximately 20% of the budget allocation. Telecommunications costs represent the largest portion of the Intra-City expense, which was \$112 million in Fiscal 2016.

The 2017 Preliminary budget reflects increases of \$32 million and \$36 million from the Fiscal 2017 November Budget for Fiscal 2016 and Fiscal 2017, respectively. The increases to the Fiscal 2017 Preliminary Budget are largely attributed to funding received to support various key programs, including PSAC operational support, the implementation of a 24x7 support model for both the IT Operations and IT Security groups; OTPS funding associated with the ongoing maintenance costs required to support recently approved, capially-funded initiatives; and funding required to implement the Citywide Procurement Innovation Project.

I would now like to describe in further detail for the committees some highlights of our preliminary budget.

**Enhancing Cybersecurity and Preparedness**

Foremost among our priorities as an agency is cybersecurity preparedness. A key element of DoITT's Strategic Plan, in fact, is to secure the City's technology, telecommunications, and information assets from cyberattack and disruption. To this end DoITT manages the overall security of the City's shared data and information technology assets through the management of an integrated security network, consolidating desktop and server security on a single, citywide platform. DoITT also maintains email, intrusion prevention systems, next generation firewall protection, and security monitoring. In this way we keep pace with rapidly-evolving threats by centrally implementing and enforcing citywide policies and standards – as well as the ability to update them dynamically to protect the security of the City's infrastructure, its critical digital assets, and the personal information of New Yorkers.

We are always looking to improve our efforts, and to further ensure that City agencies can meet the evolving challenges of protecting their systems. We continue to make investments in our people and platforms. Since the start of the de Blasio Administration we have increased our security headcount and invested tens of millions of additional dollars in new training and technologies to improve our security posture and to keep pace with the ever-evolving threat landscape. In Fiscal 2017, we are committing \$3.5 million to add 30 new positions to the Citywide Security Operations Center, bringing the best talent and resources to bear against adversaries who seek to disrupt or diminish the delivery of City services. This investment will provide for enhanced monitoring and detection, response to confirmed incidents, real time analysis of potential intrusions, and continuous threat analysis and cyber forensics investigations.

These efforts also include the hiring and onboarding of a Citywide Chief Security Officer, charged with overseeing development and delivery of a comprehensive information security strategy to optimize the security posture of the City's infrastructure. The Citywide Chief Security Officer will advise City leadership on proactive and progressive strategies to mitigate current and future cyber risks, and will be responsible for the creation and delivery of regular security updates to City Executives. The Chief Security Officer will also drive collaboration with state, federal, and private partners and manage coordination across all sectors in case of a security incident.

### **Efficiently and Effectively Aligning Resources**

Beyond the vital role of leading IT Security efforts citywide, DoITT delivers IT services – including hardware, software, and technical support – to City agencies. While this has been our role from the start, as part of our Strategic Plan we aim to better align our resources to best deliver these services. With 47 new positions at an annual cost of \$4.8 million, in Fiscal 2017 we will implement a blended support structure to provide off-hour (i.e., night and weekend) coverage for essential citywide IT functions, as well as absorb the planned increase in workload to manage the City's emergency 911 network and environments.

### **Investing in Human Capital**

To deliver world-class services we need quality people, and a pillar of our Strategic Plan is to invest in human capital. As part of this effort, DoITT aims to reduce its reliance outside consultants, and to that end we hosted an IT Career Fair for experienced professionals last fall, highlighting more than 100 open positions across nearly a dozen of the agency's units, including Application Development, IT Infrastructure, IT Security, Quality Assurance, Wireless Services, and more. Nearly 500 candidates attended, many of whom sat for interviews with hiring managers on site. A number of second interviews were scheduled as well.

On a parallel track, DoITT is working with agencies to identify opportunities to insource IT work and reduce reliance on external IT consultants. Last May, for instance, the Administration reached an agreement with District Council 37 to reduce reliance on external information technology (IT) consultants by transitioning and insourcing work performed by IT consultants to the City's workforce where appropriate. Accordingly, DoITT is meeting with agency CIOs to review the current use of consultants and identify positions that can be insourced, based on a number of qualifying conditions.

We are also piloting an "insource pool," or roving team of City employees housed in DoITT, serving in roles that were once filled by consultants, to assist City agencies with projects requiring specific technical expertise – rather than having those agencies engage outsourced consultants. DoITT has been funded for 30 heads for this insourcing pool, with the goal of having multiple teams that can be deployed to multiple agencies simultaneously.

### **Facilitating Greater Access to Technology**

While most of what I have described entails internal-facing support and services, DoITT also plays an important external role: Facilitating Greater Access to Technology. This is particularly pertinent in light of the de Blasio Administration priority to **provide greater, more equitable citywide broadband access**. As enumerated in *OneNYC: The Plan for a Strong and Just City*, every resident and business will have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband service everywhere by 2025.

To that end, DoITT has worked with the Administration's broadband lead – Counsel to Mayor Maya Wiley – and her team, to deliver a number of game-changing accomplishments. Last spring, Mayor de Blasio committed to a \$70 million investment in broadband infrastructure over the next decade.

Last summer, the Mayor also announced a \$10 million program to bring free, high-speed broadband service to more than 16,000 New Yorkers in five public housing developments in the Bronx (Mott Haven Houses), Queens (Queensbridge North & South Houses), and Brooklyn (Red Hook Houses). In keeping with the Administration's five-borough focus, the Mayor announced in the State of the City address that this initiative will be expanded to include the Jefferson Houses in Harlem and Stapleton Houses on Staten Island.

Finally, LinkNYC – an initiative that transforms antiquated payphones into state-of-the-art “Links” providing free Wi-Fi at speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, free domestic phone calls, USB charging stations, and a built-in tablet to browse the web or access government services – officially launched last month and will extend to more than 500 installations across all five boroughs by this summer. Overall, more than 7,500 – and as many as 10,000 – Links will be installed citywide over the coming years as the network grows to be among the largest, fastest, and most secure free municipal Wi-Fi system in the world. Privacy, too, has been a foremost consideration from the start: With LinkNYC personal info will be kept personal, and will never be shared or sold for third party use. To date, more than 140 Links have been installed, with 65 currently powered on and available to the public.

I appreciate the opportunity to underscore some of DoITT's top budget priorities for the year to come. This concludes my prepared testimony, and I will now be pleased to address any questions.

Thank you.

Testimony of  
Dominic Mauro, Staff Attorney, Reinvent Albany  
before the  
New York City Council Committees on  
Technology and Land Use  
Preliminary Budget Hearing on March 29, 2016

Good afternoon. My name is Dominic Mauro, staff attorney for Reinvent Albany, which is a member and co-chair of the NYC Transparency Working Group. Like this committee, we are big supporters of the NYC Open Data Law, and have worked hard for the successful implementation of the law.

Over the last few years, this committee has heard testimony from civic technologists, public interest groups, and scholars about what is working and what is not working with the Open Data Law. In response to public concerns, City Council recently passed seven new laws intended to increase agency compliance with the Open Data Law.

These new laws impose a number of new mandates on the City's open data team and will require more staff. Currently, the implementation of the open data law is directed by the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics, in conjunction with staff from DOITT, who operate the City's open data platform and automate the publication of agency data. This structure was established on April 17, 2013, via Mayor's Bloomberg's Executive Order 306, which also created MODA.

Importantly, under the Bloomberg executive order, the head of MODA is both the Chief Analytics Officer and Chief Open Platform Officer. ("Open Platform" means "Open Data.") At the time of the order—April 2013—the head of MODA reported directly to the Deputy Mayor for Operations and was a peer of the head of the Mayor's Office of Opera-

tions. Today, the head of MODA reports to the head of the Mayor's Office of Operations, who in turn reports to Tony Shorris, Deputy Mayor for Operations.

This is effectively a major demotion for the head of MODA, which we believe has led directly to problems with agency non-compliance with the Open Data Law, including the complete absence of a public feedback process for reporting and correcting problems with agency data.

While we greatly respect MODA's management team, we believe they are like a data analytics fire brigade, running from one massive data challenge to another, including the UPK and the Legionnaires' disease outbreak in the Bronx.

Our impression is that this running from one data challenge to another has led to a lack of continuity and inability to put in the necessary processes and systems to make Open Data work in New York City.

Accordingly, we suggest that this Committee ask the mayor to issue an executive order separating the jobs of Chief Analytics Officer and chief Open Platform Officer, and creating a new, full-time Director of Open Data and full-time Deputy Director who are both 100% dedicated to the Open Data Law's implementation. This full-time open data staff should either report directly to the Mayor's Office of Operation or Chief Technology Officer. Funding for this new full-time Open Data management staff is already in the budget.

To put it bluntly: open data is not going to work until it is someone in City Hall's full-time job to make it work.

Thank you.



Admin

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I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: JOHN WINKER

Address: 255 Greenwich ST

I represent: DOTT

Address: 255 Greenwich ST NY 9th Fl

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Name: Carl Weisbrod

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Department of City planning

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Meenakshi Srinivasan

Address: Commission Chair

I represent: Landmarks

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Sarah Carroll

Address: Exec. Dir

I represent: LPC

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Gardela Caphart

Address: Budget Director

I represent: LPC

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/29/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dominic Mauro

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Reinvent Albany

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Charles R. Frase

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: General Counsel, Do ITT

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Annette H. McIntyre Deputy Commissioner

Address: NYC DoITT FMA

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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