

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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April 19, 2016
Start: 10:25 a.m.
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HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:
MATHIEU EUGENE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Annabel Palma
Darlene Mealy
Margaret S. Chin
David G. Greenfield
Andy L. King
Laurie A. Cumbo

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

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[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Good morning. My name is Mathieu Eugene and today's hearing topic is about the availability of summer program for both elementary and middle school students.

As you may know, I have devoted decades to improving the lives of children in New York City; it was through this work with children that I realized how important it is to provide our youth with positive outlets. Summer programs are an extension of classroom learning in addition to offering children recreational and educational outlets. **[inaudible]** good summer programs are a wonderful way for students to maintain the skills they learned in the previous school year; many students are left out because they are unable to enroll due to high volume; high demand. Even the Summer Youth Employment Program **[inaudible]** providing safe, productive and meaningful opportunities turns away many of the children who apply for work opportunities due to the lack of funding. Good summer programs are extremely important for our children for many reasons. For example, we are aware of the phenomenon known as summer learning loss,

where students lose up to one month of good labor skill each summer. The latest research informs us that for low-income students the loss is even greater, with a three-month learning gap due to the summer break.

The reality is that working-class parents often have the struggle to put food on the table and pay for rent, childcare and hosts of other expenses; this often forces them to prioritize certain expenses and they will often forego paying for a summer program because they cannot afford it. Working-class parents understand the importance of obtaining good educational skills, preventing the summer learning gap and certainly desire the same kind of experiences for their children as wealthier parents; they just lack the resources and means to provide them to their children.

Finally, we want to explore the values of summer learning. I know the demand for a summer learning program is particularly high in minorities, such as my own district and I have learned that 75 percent of parents in working-class communities would like to enroll their children in such a program; we cannot overemphasize the benefit of the quality

summer programs. Any youth fortunate enough to be selected, and particularly students in low-income families, has a much better chance in life to graduate high school and enroll in college; no child in New York City deserves less than this.

I'd like to thank my committee staff, Kiwoo Dishuoo [sp?], Michael Benjamin and Jessica Dodson, and also my staff, Davitas [sp?] Rice and Vanessa Ogle for their work in preparing for this important hearing.

And now let me recognize the council members who have joined us; we have Council Member Palma and Council Member Cumbo. Thank you very much.

And before we start, let me thank all the members of the panel; those who are going to testify, and I want to thank everyone and each one of you who are here today for this very important hearing, because we all know that summer programs, they are very, very important; I don't have to make a long speech about that; we have been through that last year; here again we are here to do the same thing and all of you, you belong to the same team; I say that all the time, a team, you know, where people are working together to improve the quality of life of

the children and to provide the best opportunities also to the children and to the youth in New York City. We will achieve the goal of helping the young people become better citizens only if we work together, but we have do so much and I commend DYCD, the service providers, the Mayor's Office, the Commissioner, and all of you for what you have done, but we all know that we have to do better and we have to do better, especially today we are here to save -- I see the sign; I love this sign "Save Our Summer Camp, Our Summer Program"; that's the reason why we are here today and I do believe that we have the will, we have the skill, the people with the skill and we have dedicated people who are willing to do it and we hope, I hope that we will make it again this year.

I want to take the opportunity to thank Commissioner Haskell; thank you very much for being here, and my friend here also; thank you very much. And without any further ado, now I would like to ask the counsel to swear the speakers in.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth

in your testimony before this committee and to respond honestly to the council members' questions?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes we do.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Just say I do in unison, so I'll do that again. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in your testimony before this committee and to respond honestly to the council members' questions?

[I do in unison]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

Let me mention that I will have to leave very soon for a few minutes because I have to go to vote in the Committee on Health and I will be back soon, and I have two wonderful council members; one of them will take over for a while. So [background comments] call the first panel.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Deputy Commissioner Haskell; you'll be testifying?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay, thank you.

[background comments]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Good morning, Chairman Eugene and the members of the Youth Services Committee... [crosstalk]

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CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [inaudible]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Go ahead?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [inaudible]...

[crosstalk]

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: If you can just put the microphone closer to you, please.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Can you hear me? I'm Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services at the Department of Youth and Community Development; I'm joined by Darryl Rattray, Associate Commissioner of Community Centers and Strategic Partnerships, as well as Mike Dogan, Assistant Commissioner for COMPASS. Thank you for inviting us to testify about elementary and middle school summer programs.

As Commissioner Chong testified at DYCD's preliminary budget hearing, this year is the 20th anniversary of DYCD. As we celebrate this milestone, Mayor de Blasio has made strong investments that have led to historic growth for this agency, allowing tens of thousands of more youth and family members to benefit from DYCD-funded programs.

Under the administration, DYCD has stabilized funding for elementary COMPASS after-

school programs; last year we issued two RFPs for \$61.8 million in baselined elementary COMPASS funding; prior to that, funding for these programs was restored one year at a time.

We successfully expanded the number of SONYC (School's Out NYC) middle school after-school programs across the city to include more sites, including public schools, nonpublic schools and in community centers.

We increased the number of Cornerstone Community Centers in New York City Housing Authority developments from 25 to 94. Several weeks ago we announced awards for a new three-year Cornerstone contracts that begin July 1, 2016. Including the 80 Beacon Community Centers, DYCD now administers funding for 174 community centers citywide.

Increased funding for runaway and homeless youth shelter beds. In January, Mayor de Blasio announced the addition of up to 100 shelter beds a year over the next three years for a total of 753 funded shelter beds by FY19, tripling the commitment to residential services since the beginning of his administration.

We operated the largest Summer Youth Employment Program in DYCD's history last year, proving a summer job to over 54,000 young people. Summer is a great time for young people to develop new friendships, learn a new skill, be creative, develop their identities, and have fun.

For summer 2016, DYCD plans to serve over 70,000 youth in summer programs in existing Beacon, Cornerstone, COMPASS elementary, and SONYC middle school programs. To ensure a stimulating and productive summer for the participants, our providers schedule recreational, arts and athletic activities and field trips to explore the city's cultural institutions.

A breakout of our planned summer 2016 service levels is as follows:

We anticipate 18,700 middle school youth; 9300 through SONYC and approximately 9400 in Beacon and Cornerstone Community Center middle school programs, and we anticipate serving 51,500 elementary school youth; 39,000 in COMPASS elementary programs and approximately 12,500 in the Beacon and Cornerstone Community Center programs.

For the third summer in a row, Cornerstone Centers will have extended summer hours, offering youth and their families evening activities, including on weekends; the centers will be open until 11 p.m. daily.

Each summer DYCD forms partnerships to bring additional quality programming to cohorts of DYCD summer providers. Examples of summer 2016 already include the New York Junior Liberty League, powered by DYCD Girls Basketball, BookUp, Book Clubs, Boom Writers, Express Yourself Writing Project, Young Audiences Visual and Performing Arts, Building Beats Digital Music Productions, Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, Map in Motion, Sensibility with the Museum of American Finance; the New York City Department of Design and Construction and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are both offering enrichment for DYCD programs; also, the New York Hall of Science and the Bronx Zoo.

Thank you again for the chance to testify today about summer programs for elementary and middle school youth; we appreciate the Council's strong commitment to New York City's youth and for your

unwavering support of DYCD; we're happy to answer your questions.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Thank you. We have been joined by Council Member Chin, thank you.

Could you tell us; what are the programs that you have in the summer for elementary and middle school children?

[background comments]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: For elementary school students, we are planning to offer approximately 39,000 COMPASS seats; that includes 22,000 elementary seats that were baselined for the first time last summer, and that means that at this time those families are able to rely upon that funding coming this summer because that money has been baselined in the budget; we did issue an RFP, so that's a total of 39,000 elementary school youth; in addition to that, through the 174 community centers that we have across the city, we anticipate another approximately 12,500 elementary school youth served; total, about 50,000, over 50,000.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Over 50,000. So how many students apply?

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't have that information.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You don't have it?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Our providers do outreach in the community for themselves, so they input their participants into our online data system; I know there have been some advocates that have done research into demand, but we don't track that centrally at DYCD; we have participation data.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, I don't think this is the first time that we asked this type of question, because every time that we are doing something, we've got to evaluate what we are doing, you know the service that we are rendering to the people, we've gotta know how many people have been served, how many people, you know were not able to receive the services; that means you don't know how many young people were not able to get into the programs, you don't know that.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We don't track that data. We do know that the elementary school programs are fully enrolled; that the demand

for the approximately 51,000 seats that we have is there, so.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Can you get this type of information for us and forward it to the committee; it is possible...? [crosstalk]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We don't collect that data; I'll have to take that back and we'll see if there's anything we can provide.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: What I would suggest, advise strongly; to try to keep the work order and to track, to know how many children or young people applied for a summer program and how many accepted and how many in need of summer a program and they were not able to get into, because this is very important, because we believe that it is very important that we; when I say we, I mentioned the team before that; that we do anything possible to make sure that all the children get access to the summer program, because we all know the importance of summer programs; I'm not going to talk too much about it; we know the benefit for the children, the benefit for the parents, and even the benefit for the City of New York; it is a part of their education that we are obligated to provide to the children.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I do understand your point; I think we would have a challenge with so many programs, over approximately 400 serving elementary alone; identifying the young people who were not served who may have done outreach to multiple programs, but as I said, I'll take that back and see if there's any additional information we can share.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So could tell us about your outreach system; how do you inform the parents about the program?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We use social media; DYCD has a Youth Connect unit that advertises; markets through Twitter, Facebook, Instagram posts. The most significant outreach happens at the local level with our program providers; they have relationships with the families in their community and they do flyering [sic] and orientation meetings for young people. We also have a new application called Discover DYCD; you just Google Discovery DYCD, it pulls up a map and you can search in your area for all DYCD-funded programs. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: When you say social media; I was going to ask you the question, but you answered part of it, because social media, you know, this is very important tool that we all use, social media and this is wonderful, but we still have to use all ways, so that means the community opportunities and resources that we have, but could you tell us about your community contact or the people that you use; how do you do the outreach using the community opportunities or organization?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well very often the summer programs are happening in schools, so in that way programs can work with parent coordinators; they're doing outreach specifically to the student body; that might include backpack mail or informational meetings, and then many of our programs are also in community centers...

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Uhm-hm.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: including the NYCHA Cornerstone community centers; they're reaching out to residents, working with [background comment] resident councils to do outreach to let people know.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Do you work also with the other nonprofit organizations in the community; the churches, because the pastors, they know their constituents or do you use any local media system?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We do, we make all efforts to work with local media, including, you know, in as many languages as we can get attention. DYCD's External Relations Unit is reaching... we try to make sure that even the smallest community organizations, including faith-based or just local groups are aware of our services; we do put a lot of effort into that.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: In terms of reaching out to the immigrant community, or the immigrant communities, if you want, could you tell us what is the technique that you use in terms of languages, because we know that many other communities, they don't speak English you know, proficiently; they need to have the information in their languages; could you say something about this reality?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes. Our best connection with immigrant communities is through the community organizations themselves, so we fund

many organizations that work specifically with immigrant communities. We also translate our enrollment documentation into I believe seven languages and we have, through the Youth Connect hotline, that I think I referenced earlier, access through the language line to hundreds of languages, if people are not served by the seven that we're translating to.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And translating the information into different languages is wonderful, but do you have staff members who speak different languages and could you tell me those languages, please?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: As I said, our best position to connect with immigrant communities is through our community-based providers and I'd be happy to get back with you on a list of our community-based organizations that are working specifically with immigrant communities.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But in terms of languages, you know are used by DYCD, could you tell me just a few of them, people's...

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: You mean by DYCD staff?

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2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We use the

4 Language Line interpretation, which allows us to

5 communicate through telephone interpretation in

6 virtually any language, if needed.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Anybody from the

8 panel can mention a few languages for me...

9 DARRYL RATTRAY: So...

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: few foreign

11 languages that your staff speak...? [crosstalk]

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: We do translate in...

13 [crosstalk]

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No, I'm talking

15 about staff speaking other languages; not

16 translation. Do you have any other staff [background

17 comments] members who speak other languages...

18 [crosstalk]

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We have a

20 very multicultural staff... [crosstalk]

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yeah.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I can't

23 give you the list of languages right now, but I... we

24 can get back to you... [crosstalk]

25

DARRYL RATTRAY: Yeah, we have staff who speak Creole, French, Chinese, Mandarin; a multitude of languages at DYCD. But the recruitment and the outreach happens primarily at the local sites, so our charge to our providers is that they do hire staff who speak the languages of the community, and those are the folks on the frontline, as Deputy Commissioner Haskell said, who go out, recruit folks in; the translated documents are helpful, because folks are looking at that, filling out the enrollment forms in their native language.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, very good. You know the reason I put emphasis on that is because there are many, many people in our city, hardworking people; they want the best for their children, they are looking for the best, but there is a barrier and the barrier is cultural barrier or a language barrier. The services are there, wonderful, good services, but they don't get access to the services because of the language barrier, and I appreciate any effort that you can do to continue to use people who speak other languages to make sure that everyone in New York City, regardless of their ethnicity or where they came from, can have access to those wonderful

opportunity that we have in the good city of New York. I'm sorry; I've got to step out to go to vote in the Committee on Health; I would love to ask one of my colleagues; since Laurie is close to me, would you please take it over? Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, thank you so much for... [background comments] You're back?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: That was quick.

[laughter]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: It was very, very quick.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Boy, my moment in the sun just [laughter] got shady real quick.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So I was just informed that I am excused; very good thing.

So let me turn it over now to my colleagues for some questions. Anyone? [background comments] Laurie?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You are ready, huh? Alright.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, thank you so much for the opportunity to be here; thank you, Chair Eugene for this very, very important hearing and opportunity to gain further clarity for so many of our middle school students, 34,000 to be exact, I believe, and wanted to make sure; the cut that we're discussing is about \$20 million, affecting about 34,000 middle school age students for summer camp programs; is that correct?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Last summer the City funded expansion for middle school youth that was... the funding amount was approximately \$20 million for up to 34,000 seats; that's right.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Now we're heading into the summer months, it's April; I believe last year notification went out to the parents in March so that they could apply for this summer opportunity in the summertime; have you informed those parents in any way that this opportunity that they were able to take advantage of will no longer be available to them?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well you're absolutely right, that this is the time to start thinking about summer programs and we are working

1 hard on the planning for the 580 or more programs
2 that we will be operating this summer for elementary
3 and middle school students, so we're working to
4 ensure that their sites are secure and that the
5 facilities will be ready; that staff is being hired
6 and trained. And in reference to the middle school
7 expansion seats, since last spring it's been very
8 clear that that was a one-year investment only, so we
9 have communicated that very clearly for the past
10 year.
11

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So parents,
13 particularly these are... what we're talking about are
14 predominantly single-headed households, predominantly
15 in communities that are not economically rich, but
16 rich in many other ways with a gazillion things on
17 their minds, so how was this communication imparted
18 to them that you've stated over the last year; was it
19 a letter that was sent to each household; was it
20 information that was sent to each community center;
21 was there an e-mail that was distributed? My fear is
22 that parents are anticipating, 34,000 of them are
23 anticipating the opportunity to have a summer program
24 that I'm sure they benefited from greatly last year;
25 I'm sure they're just waiting any moment now -- oh,

what day do we have to fill out the application. Do you feel confident that those 34,000 parents right now understand at this time today that that program is not going to be made available to them?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well I wouldn't say that any specific young people or their families should be discouraged from seeking opportunities for the programs that we do fund; as I said, we are planning for approximately 18,700 middle school youth to be served this summer; I wouldn't wanna discourage any of them from contacting us and contacting the provider to get engaged with the programs that we will be funding. But I believe that it has been made very clear, even before we activated the expansion seats last year, to the providers who are the ones who are communicating directly with families through the public announcements that that was one-year funding only. So yes, I believe we've communicated that effectively.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: How was that communicated? And Council Member Eugene, I'll turn it right back to you. How was that communicated?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Publicly it's been communicated through the press and through

statements of the administration, but I think more importantly, it's being communicated through our providers who are the ones who are doing outreach to the community to let them know what is available and what services we will have operating this summer.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: For me...

[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry...

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just wanna say that I just think that that's unacceptable, but I'll turn it back over to Council Member Eugene...

[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No, no; just one second and I'm gonna give it back to you again. I just want to capitalize on one of your questions, yes.

In terms of time, because Council Member Laurie mentioned that we are in the middle of April; that's very, very important; now I'm thinking about the providers, because of the time factors, even if the funding is added, would they be able to meet the capacity; would they be able to set up and to program to make sure they provide the services during the summer? Because they have to hire people; they have

1 to know in advance how many young people they are
2 going to be able to accommodate. If the money is not
3 there now, do you believe that they will have enough
4 time to get ready to provide the summer programs to
5 the 34,000 children?
6

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We're not
8 expecting that funding for this summer.

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We're not
11 planning for that funding for this summer.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Say it again.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We're not
14 planning to have the expansion funding for this
15 summer, so we're not... to your point, the preparations
16 that are taking place now are for the 70,000 seats
17 that we will be funding this summer.

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So are you saying
19 that on the 31... I think 31,000 slots; we are not
20 going to see funding for them?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We have no
22 expectation of that funding for this summer and that
23 point has been made very clear; my commissioner
24 testified; I was here with him last year at the
25

Executive Budget Hearing; I think we could not have made it more clear that that was one-year funding.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So there will be no funding?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's the plan.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I don't think that's... I'm sorry, but I don't believe that should be... that could be the plan, but I don't believe that should be the reality for the children of the hardworking parents in New York City. As you know, we have been fighting to save the summer programs, the youth programs, and I think we are going to continue to do that; we have to find a way to bring the funding, you know for the summer programs and I want to commend the Speaker and my colleagues in the City Council; we are advocating, we are doing everything possible to make sure that those young people, they have a place where they can go to continue to learn and to spend the summer and I think this is the direction that we should take; the plan I know... we know that, you know from last year the administration said that, you know, there is no intent to put the money again and we didn't see the

1 funding in the preliminary budget, but we do hope
2 that the administration is going to change the
3 situation and change the plan and restart the money,
4 because it is very, very, very important. I cannot
5 imagine this summer without the funding for the
6 summer programs for those young people. And I want
7 to commend all the advocates for their efforts; let's
8 stay together and continue to fight to save the
9 summer program for our children. Council Member
10 Laurie, I turn it back to you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
13 Member Eugene. We also, as City Council members and
14 representatives have not received notification that
15 this particular funding allocation, other than
16 through this hearing that happened previously, was
17 actually going to take place, so for us to rely on
18 the administration and providers, without any uniform
19 approach to informing parents that this opportunity
20 would not be made available to them, because again,
21 this concept of it being one-year funding and that it
22 was not baselined and it's one-year funding, that's
23 all inside baseball talk, but when we're talking
24 about families who have to put food on the table,
25 that have to go to work, that are working two or

1 three jobs, that are sending their children to
2 school, they don't understand the dynamics of the
3 inside baseball game that we're talking about, and my
4 concern is that, twofold, that they have not been
5 informed as of yet that this opportunity is not going
6 to be made available and let's say that due diligence
7 was done; they don't even have at this point the
8 resources or the wherewithal to be able to provide
9 some other opportunity that's probably going to be
10 very expensive for them at this late date for summer
11 opportunity. Many of these parents don't have the
12 opportunity to send their children to sleep-away camp
13 or to have expansive programs in some of our
14 institutions and that sort of thing; they won't have
15 that opportunity. So you mentioned that there was
16 going to be opportunities maybe for about 18,000
17 young people in addition; what happens from the
18 34,000 minus the 18, that remainder that would be
19 left?
20

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think to
22 your point, one of the most important things is that
23 families have time to plan and I think we did a good
24 job last year when we did fund providers and letting
25 them know that that investment was one year only.

And we do have opportunities for middle school youth and I hope that the families who were served last year will pursue that. We have, for example, I mentioned in the testimony the Cornerstone Community Centers; previously those community centers were closed at 6:00 because of the... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Um-hm.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: **[inaudible]** hours; I wonder if I could ask Darryl to just say a little bit more about the opportunities that that creates for young people, including middle school youth.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Uhm-hm. So back in FY15, the administration, as far as the Mayor's Action Plan for Public Safety, decided that we would now keep community centers open at the time to 11 p.m... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Late at night [sic], yeah.

DARRYL RATTRAY: and on the weekends at centers with gyms, to 12:30 a.m.; we have now converted that to 11 p.m. seven days a week. At the time; that was the first time in, I believe

1
2 **[inaudible]** 30 years that the centers had stayed open
3 in the summer past 6 p.m.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I think that's
5 great.

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: What that did was, it
7 created a platform for young people, middle school,
8 high school; adults, to come in, have a safe space in
9 the centers, do creative structured activities and
10 also do unstructured activities; a place to hang out.
11 You know I went to the centers in Far Rockaway 11:00
12 at night, 10:30 at night and I walked into a center
13 that had... a center full of young teens who had a
14 place to stay, **[inaudible]** eating; they always have
15 like this buffet, but it was an opportunity to open
16 those doors, have a safe space. One partnership that
17 we had from the initiative was with NYPD, so NYPD was
18 actually at the centers; each center -- in that case,
19 **[inaudible]** now, and it was great interaction going
20 on; we saw officers playing with the young people; in
21 some cases they were building bookshelves, in other
22 cases they were playing basketball, and in the best
23 cases they were just chatting and talking.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Let me interrupt
25 you for a second, because I know I have limited time.

The idea of a summer camp is very different from the idea of a drop-in program and so from visiting, you know, not a visiting program, but just a drop-in space, so you could go to let's say in my district, the Ingersoll Community Center, and you could check in, check out, come when you want, leave when you want; there's no necessarily an instance of attendance being taken, that you're structured to be here from this time to this time and so my question is for me; in the whole entire budget, if there was any one thing that was going to be funded, to me it would be this particular program; summer camp for middle school age students; after that, we could negotiate everything else, but this to me is the most critical component of what everything that we're doing in this entire city is about. You know and we're talking about this, you know, do you all have an understanding, like let's say for example, and we all know that idle hands are the devil's workshop, right, so for unintended pregnancies, we have 17,000 unintended pregnancies that happen every year in the City of New York; do we know at what time of the year that our young people are most vulnerable to risky behavior, behavior that's happening when their

1
2 parents are work; do we understand those numbers; do
3 we also understand the numbers of when gun violence
4 and gang activity and recruitment happens throughout
5 the 12 months; do we know those answers prior to
6 making a decision such as this? Because I feel like
7 we're putting the whole city of New York at great
8 risk by making a decision of this caliber; this is
9 dangerous, in my opinion.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well I'm
11 glad you mentioned periods of risky behavior; in the
12 after-school hours, from 3-6 p.m. is for young people
13 a very risky time if they're not engaged and I think...
14 you know I've been a youth worker like since... 20
15 years or more and the investment that this
16 administration has made in those hours and after-
17 school for middle school is mind blowing, I mean we
18 have a seat for virtually every middle school student
19 who wants it in after-school services through the
20 SONYC expansion program. So I do think this
21 administration understands that and we have made an
22 unprecedented investment in those times, the 3-6 time
23 slot, when young people are vulnerable to crime;
24 they're vulnerable to be victims, they're vulnerable

to be persuaded for perpetrators and for teen pregnancy... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: But what about during the year; what are the months that young people are the most vulnerable; what months are young people the most vulnerable in the City of New York; when are they most susceptible to crime and violence?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I know during the school year the 3-6 timeframe is very important... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Not... Not 3 p.m. and not to... what month; February to March...

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't know that.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: June, July and August; December and November? When are young people the most susceptible to violence?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't know the answer to that; I can look into it.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: The fact of the matter is, crime and shootings escalate during the summer months, so from a DYCD perspective, I'm confident that you would know that; that crime and shootings happen -- you know they say that, you know,

the wintertime, snow is a policeman's best friend; crime doesn't happen as often in the winter months, but they certainly happen at its highest level in the summer months.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We do recognize that and it's why we're focused not only on the expansion hours of the Cornerstone programs but on the Summer Youth Employment Program and we're talking today about elementary and middle school programs and SYEP isn't my area of domain, but we had 54,000 young people and we know from the evidence of research that it does save lives and it does prevent crime and so we are addressing that for the older population 14-24 through SYEP; there's nothing more valuable for that age group in terms of being engaged than a summer job and so we are aware of that.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: What about teen pregnancies; do you understand what time of the year teen pregnancies occur, in terms of when sexual activity is up for unintended children?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well as I said, I'm not an expert on that data; I can look into it to get back... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I think those are crucial decisions or data to know before we make a decision such as this to eliminate a program for 34,000 middle school aged youth. Was the program that you funded for this "one year"; was it successful; did you find it to be a failure; did people participate; was there actually an overflow of people that actually wanted to participate in the program and could not; were you struggling to fill seats or was there an overwhelming desire and need for the program?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Of the funding for the 33,000 seats last summer, we were able to fill approximately 27,000 of those seats.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So it was 27,000 seats; what were the outcomes from the program? Because I know in my district many families were upset that they could not participate because either they missed the deadline or the program was full, and that was at the Ingersoll Community Center. Was it successful; was it not successful; was there any evaluation; is there any way of understanding if it was successful?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think all of our programs are successful; I think any time a young person is engaged with one of our community-based programming it's a benefit to the young person. We didn't do an evaluation; it was a limited term investment, but we did evaluate the SONYC expansion, which was the after-school program; more than 110,000 young people engaged all school year long and the results were overwhelmingly positive about young people being engaged and positive behaviors; families being happy, parents being happy. We are results oriented and the results, which were really just a couple weeks ago, are amazing; we worked with American Institute of Research to look into those results.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I'm gonna turn it back to the Chair, because I know that my other colleagues also have some questions. My concern is that there was no evaluation done of this program; my other concern is that there's not been enough data to understand how vulnerable our young people are in the summer months; I feel that by making such a major cut we are endangering the lives of our young people and the entire City of New York; we're recognizing that

there are unintended teen pregnancies that continue to happen in New York City; we recognize that gun violence continues to plague our city; we recognize that there is gang and crew recruitment that happens during these summer months; I believe we're putting our young people as well as the entire city at risk by not funding such a critical program, and of all the programs that we're doing in the city of New York, this is a critical issue for the safety and the viability of our young people; we also understand that there is significant summer slide that happens when young people are not engaged in activities, in social activities and academic experiences. So I continue to be alarmed at this decision; I think that this decision has not been well thought out; I think that a \$20 million investment for our young people is the very least that we could do as a city to make sure that every young person has an opportunity to succeed and not become a negative statistic this summer. So I'll turn it back to my colleague, Council Member Eugene.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Council Member Cumbo.

When we think about the benefits of the summer program and when we think about the amount of money that we will spend to save those children and to save the summer program, I think that that would be a wise decision, to make sure that we restore the funding. Council Member Cumbo, you know said it eloquently and mentioned the benefit that the young people would have if we restored the money for the summer program, and we all know; I don't have to talk about that again, the benefit that the young people are going to receive if they will have the opportunity to go to the summer program.

But let me ask you one thing; did you have any conversation with the administration in terms of restoring the funding for the summer program?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: No, the...
[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Is there any conversation with the administration?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: This conversation happened last year and as I said, it's been made very clear since then that that was a short-term, one-time investment. I think... you know,

DYCD testified last year that we had made a mistake and there was a miscommunication to providers, a misunderstanding about what would be available; the budget hadn't been finalized, and to ensure that our miscommunication didn't put any families at risk because they had made plans, the administration put this funding forth for one year only and that was communicated very clearly. So we worked this out last year in the best interest of families.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, but you worked it out last year, but it doesn't mean that this is the best thing to do for our children and for the good City of New York; we have to do better than that and we can do better than that. Because when we think about, again, the risk that the young people are going through during the summer, I think it would be wise to do any effort possible to restore the money. How much did you request [sic] to restore the 34,000 slots?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Last year it was budgeted for \$20 million.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: \$20 million, you know; what is the budget of the City of New York this year, approximately?

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: The whole
3 city?

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: The whole city.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: \$90
6 billion; I don't have [inaudible]... [crosstalk]

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [inaudible]; how
8 much is it?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't
10 know the answer to that; many billions of dollars...
11 [crosstalk]

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Come on, about 80...
13 about \$82 billion, approximately, so that means \$20
14 million, I don't... this is a drop in the bucket and I
15 think that you know this is something that we have
16 the moral obligation to do, to make sure that we
17 provide to our young people the opportunities to stay
18 in the positive thought [sic].

19 So let me now recognize Council Member
20 Chin for some questions.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair.

22 I know that we had the hearing last time
23 with Commission Chong and he was reiterating the same
24 line that oh, it was a one-year commitment and I
25 really question that, because I think when the Mayor

expanded the SONYC program, the after-school program for middle school kids, the understanding was that that would include a summer program and I think the advocates will tell you that's what they wanted, and for the administration, that the money was originally put in for FY16 and then somehow, because you needed more money or the administration needed more money to do the renewal school, they took that money out and then when all those so-called confusions happened and because there was a public outcry and the Council fighting so hard for it, the administration put the money back. But I think there is no way that people will accept that it's just a one-year program to correct a so-called mistake. We all know, and I know that you're sitting there; you work very hard on fighting for our youth and you know how these programs will help them and that's why in our budget response to the Mayor in the preliminary budget that we wanna make sure this money is put back and it should be baselined, because we know the benefit of these programs; parents should not have to worry about what happens to their kids in the summer and their kids should not have to stop learning in the summer; that opportunity needs to be there, and when

1 the Chair asked you how much money; I mean last year
2 the budget was \$27.7 million that was put back and
3 you said that 27,000 kids took advantage of it; those
4 are 27,000 lives that we were able to reach and we
5 need to continue to do that, and that's why we wanna
6 see this money added back into the exec budget and it
7 needs to be baselined.

8 I feel... you know, I mean you're there
9 defending the position, but I know that deep down in
10 your heart you know what the right thing is; that we
11 need to fight for our kids, especially the middle
12 school kids and a summer program is so critical, so
13 let's work together and put that money back in there,
14 out of this \$82 billion City budget. We're talking
15 about less than \$30 million; that's something that I
16 expect DYCD to be working with the City Council to
17 make sure that the money is in there, 'cause youth
18 programs are so critical in our city. So I really
19 don't wanna combat, you know and argue back and forth
20 with you; we should be working together on this,
21 because we know it's the right thing to do. So...
22 'cause all the programs that you talked about in your
23 testimony, you said that this budget you anticipate
24 that you're gonna serve 18,700 middle school youth,

right, 9,300 in the SONYC program, but the stats include the summer program; it's these 18,700 youth that you are gonna be serving; are those kids included in the 34,000 slots were supposedly lose?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: These seats, the 18,700, are happening this summer and our providers are doing outreach to families and young people right now; these are baselined summer funding seats for middle school youth. And I just wanna say for clarification, on the middle school expansion SONYC, you know from the onset, in the RFP, it was described as a school year program; it really was designed to ensure after-school services for all middle school students during the school year.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But I think when we talked to advocates, I think the understanding was that they also advocated for the summer component and somehow it was left out and it should not have been. I mean the summer part, the summer program should be part of the whole expansion, 'cause what are these kids gonna do in the summer; then everything that they have gained during the school year could be lost and that would be very, very unfortunate. And you've been doing youth programs for many, many years; you

1 know that we need it all year round, and that's what
2 the parents expect too and we cannot expect parents
3 to find the money to pay for summer programs; a lot
4 of parents cannot afford it. So I think we just need
5 to make sure that this money is included back in the
6 budget, because the 18,000 kids that you are talking
7 about, that doesn't cover all the other slots that
8 are gonna be lost. In my district alone, I'm gonna
9 be losing 800 seats for this summer, 800 families are
10 gonna have to find some program; no, that's
11 unacceptable. So you're not meeting the target, so
12 we just have to fight to get the money put back in
13 there and I hope that DYCD will be working with the
14 City Council together to advocate for this funding to
15 be put back. Can we get a commitment from you?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: No, we're
18 not planning on that funding for this year and I also
19 wanna add, you know, based on some of the things that
20 you referenced that there is a big picture and DYCD
21 is part of that picture and we are an important part,
22 with 70,000 seats; there are other services available
23 for young people in this age group during the summer;
24 there are programs through Parks, there are
25 libraries, the Department of Education has some new

1 programming this summer, including, as you mentioned,
2 at community schools; my colleague Mike is working in
3 partnership to ensure that the programs we are
4 funding are collaborating effectively with their
5 programs, so we are an important game, but we're not
6 the only game in town and there are other resources
7 for young people, which I hope they will be able to
8 take advantage of.
9

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But can you
11 guarantee to the Council that every single kid that
12 you served last summer, you said 27,000 kids took
13 advantage of the program; can you guarantee that
14 those 27,000 kids, or the ones that are in my
15 district, they will be in a program this summer?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: No.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Then how do we get
18 to the point where every kid has a valuable summer
19 program, 'cause we're not funding at least 31-34,000?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: As I said,
21 we're focused on -- you know, it does take to the
22 point about planning and preparation; we are focused
23 on ensuring that hiring is happening, that staff are
24 getting trained, that licenses will be ready, that
25 space -- we have a lot of work to do for the 70,000

seats that were planned; we have a lot of work to do with our new Cornerstone contracts that are beginning July 1 to ensure that the expanded hours are effective; we're working in partnership with Department of Education... [interpose]

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But are you working with the nonprofit provider that's been providing these programs, the one that directly... with the parents; they're the one that's sitting out here; they're the one that's reaching out to the City Council, letting us know how our district is being affected; I'm losing 800 seats in my district and other colleagues are losing seats in their districts, so we have to make sure that those seats will be put back in the Executive Budget and that's in a few weeks we will see. You know it will be just like last year; we will fight to get the money back in and DYCD will make sure that ever kid in the middle school will get a summer program. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Council Member Chin, thank you. You know it seems that based on what you just said, there is no way we're going to get the money back to save those slots, but I think that should not be our attitude,

we members of this team, while the obligation to provide to the young people in New York City, the opportunity that they need, and I say it all the time, to succeed, because investment in the young people, investment in the children is a good investment in the future of New York City; it is a good investment to fight against crime, violence and all the negativity that we know that our young people are going through; if we don't do that, we're gonna end up paying more money to fight against crime, violence. If we spend the money in our children now, if we spend the money on those young people now; our city will be safer and those young people, they will become the leaders of tomorrow, they will become positive citizens; they will contribute to the fabric of the community, of this city, but if we don't do it, we will have to pay more for that later on. I think that we have to do any effort possible to restore the money and I know that all my colleagues in the City Council, we are fighting hard and we want the money to be restored and we are going to continue to do that, and I commend also the service providers and the advocates for their effort and their commitment to the young people; we have to do

1 everything possible to restore the funding for the
2 summer program for the children. I said that I
3 believe last year, but those parents, they deserve a
4 safe place to put their children while they will be
5 working; because they are working, they are paying
6 taxes, they're contributing also to the economy of
7 the City of New York; we have to provide to their
8 children the summer programs and I think that we have
9 to continue to fight and to make sure that we restore
10 the money and to make sure that their children can
11 have a safe place to go during the summer, because as
12 I said before, the children, they are on vacation,
13 but the parents, they are not on vacation, they have
14 to go to work and they cannot stay in the house to
15 take care of their children; it is our responsibility
16 to give to those children a safe place where they can
17 live.
18

19 How many SONYC slots are currently
20 included in the DYCD budget this summer?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL:

22 Approximately 9,300... [interpose]

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Approximately?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL:

25 Approximately 9,300.

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52

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: 9,300.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Plus an additional approximately 9,400 in the Beacon and Cornerstone community centers.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I've got additional questions, but before that, let me recognize Council Member King and Council Member David Greenfield. I think... Council Member Palma, would you please, before you go, I know that you have some questions you want to ask. Thank you very much. Council Member King, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Mr. Chair; appreciate today's conversation, as always. Thank you for being here; I know we've had a lot of conversations over the years of how do we make sure our young people have access during the summer to stay safe, let alone continue to keep developing whatever they learned in the winter months or haven't learned in the winter months; what we can give them in the summer months. So I have like two or three questions in regards to how do you proportionately spend your money in communities that are less fortunate than others. At the end of the day, if I'm making \$7.00 an hour and I know my life, whether I'm

1 living in a shelter or I'm struggling to make ends
2 meet, I cannot afford to place my child in any summer
3 anything; I'm relying on those who made a commitment
4 to take care of our children to do so during the
5 summer months; not to be discriminatory at all, but
6 just looking at the realities of New York, where we
7 have some neighborhoods who do really, really,
8 really, really, really, really, really, really,
9 really, really, really, really, really, really well;
10 how do we make sure that we're not over putting money
11 in those communities where they will be okay if they
12 didn't get a couple slots, where this community and
13 these children will actually fall off the grid if we
14 don't take care of that neighborhood; that's my first
15 question I wanted to know. And for those kids that
16 you do not **[inaudible]**, if I'm hearing this right,
17 18,000 slots I heard you just talk about; if kids are
18 not able to be part of these summer programs, what
19 alternatives are you offering? Being in youth
20 development for over 40 years, I understand that it's
21 not necessarily always having to have money; I always
22 say lack of funding shouldn't diminish lack of
23 service, so we've still gotta figure out ways, and
24 I've said it a hearings before, how are we partnering
25

up with DOE when we don't have funding for slots by using voluntarism during the summer months that allow kids still to stay engaged and still possibly get school credits; they don't have to get paid, but their payment in school credit; something outside of the box that still keeps our youth engaged during the summer months. So if you can help me with those; that can move us a step closer, whether we have the funding or we don't have the funding.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I

appreciate that question. In terms of highest need, the expansion seats were not based on need that were implemented as a one-time investment last summer; the seats that are baselined are in middle school programs that came through an RFP that was directed particularly towards areas of higher need in the middle school programs. The additional middle school services are gonna be at Beacon community centers which also were based in high-need communities and then finally, at the 94 NYCHA community programs. So the services that will happen this summer are disproportionately directed towards the areas where we know families are in the highest need. And I'm really glad that you asked about service; I wonder,

Darryl, if you want talk a little bit about Summer of Service and also the Youth Leadership Councils.

DARRYL RATTRAY: So we, for the past four years now, four or five years we've been operating the Summer of Service program, which is a generous grant from the Neuberger-Berger [sic] Foundation where we are able to give small grants to some of our nonprofit providers at Beacon, Cornerstone or SONYC sites; throughout the summer they create service projects. So these projects are both identified and designed by young people; the role of the young people working on the project is to get their peers to also come in and help out, as well as get the community. So last year I believe we had received upwards of \$45,000 from the foundation and we did close to 15-20 service projects throughout the city, and that happens every summer, and I believe we are waiting to get word on whether or not we're gonna do it again this summer.

In addition, one of the hallmarks of what we do is our Youth Leadership Councils, so our expectation is that every program that we have, whether it be a Beacon, Cornerstone, SONYC program; that part of the leadership development for young

1 people is that they create a youth council that
2 becomes the central point for young people to feel
3 connected to the program, to have a voice in the
4 program and also have a voice in their community. So
5 we now house a Mayor's Youth Leadership Council
6 that's been working with the councils throughout the
7 city on different projects happening this summer;
8 actually, the next week of spring break as well.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: How do we use the
11 churches in this whole summer process or someone who
12 might not be on, not say your conventional list, but
13 those who you normally readily work with, all the
14 agencies that you normally work with, but those who
15 have applied for city funding, who get city funding,
16 who are in pockets of neighborhoods who are saying we
17 wanna do more, 'cause I know a lot of pastors always
18 say they wanna do more; we have Sister Marys always
19 trying to do more, but how do we tap them in to what
20 you're trying to accomplish, whether it's space or
21 slots or how do we tie them in?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's a
23 good question. We have an External Relations Unit;
24 we do the best outreach that we can to the
25 communities and then we invest in, including faith-

1 based organizations, community-based organizations to
2 do that work. But we have also started a workgroup
3 at DYCD to ask these questions, like who is not
4 getting reached and who are in pockets where it's
5 been difficult to reach and we have a planning group
6 that's talking specifically about how we can
7 centrally at DYCD support our providers to identify
8 how we can do better to reach deeper into the
9 community to groups that may not know about our
10 programs, they may not know about the application or
11 the hotline or you know the website about how you can
12 access services.
13

14 DARRYL RATTRAY: And through the vision
15 of our commissioner, and one example is the
16 Cornerstone RFP where we had an expectation that
17 providers who are applying for a cornerstone program,
18 one of the 94 in NYCHA public housing, that they make
19 deeper connections with local groups throughout that
20 community, and what we saw coming in through the
21 proposals were connections that we haven't seen
22 before, with local churches, with other local groups
23 that we were just learning about, all in the vision
24 of strengthening that neighborhood by creating the
25 community center as the focal point; that if you have

a small organization or if you are a church, that you can bring your services into that center and provide more for the neighborhood and for the community.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: 'Kay.

Mr. Chairman, I'll round it with just this; first, I would like; if I missed it, excuse me; I would like to know what your number that would make everything whole and you can do whatever you want, I'd like to hear that number and secondly, if there was two things that the City Council can do to help DYCD, briefly; what would it be? Other than money.

[laughter]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Darryl has like 10 ideas that he'll start rattling off.

DARRYL RATTRAY: I... I... Just one thing. And we see it where there's a stronger connection with the City Council and a particular provider or program location, but a lot of times we see small ads pop up in the local papers; the Council Member may have a column in one of the local papers; a lot of times our providers are able to advertise what they're doing in that column, so connections like that where they can get the word out about the programs and serves that are occurring through that...

for example, in the Bronx there's the Penny Pincher and I know that PAL Beacon program always puts a piece in there through Council Member Vacca, and so things like that is one idea; we have more [sic].

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I was gonna add that we could follow up on our request for additional mentors, because the mentoring programs that we do have at DYCD are being expanded and where they were previously just middle school, it's gonna be high school now, so we're always gonna be looking for more in the fall and to the extent you have people in the community who want to give back and provide that support, we would love to take your referrals.

[background comment]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: DYCD, our budget has grown; I did mention before you got here that our budget has grown immensely, like we are thrilled with the investment in youth services, it's unprecedented; I think we are just really excited about the investment of this administration, whether it's runaway and homeless services, the Cornerstone programs, the SONYC expansion, the baselining elementary...

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you, Council Member King, thank you very much.

When we talk about the funding, we talk about the funding cuts and the cost of the 31,000 or 34,000 slots; is it a question of lack of funding really or the way we prioritize of expenses? Is it lack of funding or a priority issue?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: DYCD...

[interpose]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Because we have, you know, \$82 plus billion, you know for the budget of the City of New York and when I see the amount of money that we would need for those slots is about \$20 or \$21 million, so is this a lack of budget or the way we prioritize our issues?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I mean I think we're focused on the investment that has come into DYCD, so our priority right now is launching, again, the 70,000 seats that we do have for elementary and middle school programming; we are focused on the Summer Youth Employment Program and working to ensure that we have as many seats as possible; that's, as I said, 14-24; that includes,

you know, some 14-year-olds are in middle school;
this is like, you know a bridge to the upper level --
we have our charge, our budget is set and we're, you
know, excited to keep working on the initiatives that
we have in our budget.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: What is the
breakdown of demographics served by the COMPASS and
the SONYC programs?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL:
Specifically, COMPASS and SONYC. Specifically, I
don't know the answer to that question; I think it's
approximately 50/50 in terms of gender, you know we
looked at the numbers in terms of SONYC expansion and
we're pleased to learn that the overwhelming majority
of those seats went to the highest needs young
people. We can get you data on specific
demographics, run on whatever numbers you'd like.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But did you identify
geographic areas or communities that are not served
sufficiently...

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Absolutely,
we... [interpose]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: are underserved?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: every RFP that goes out, we look very carefully at geography; it's one of the main criteria for our funding; it's very important to us that it's distributed to areas where there are fewer services or where there is a tremendous need.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So that means you did identify, you know, communities that are not served sufficiently?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: When we release funding for DYCD programs, we work very hard to direct those resources towards the areas that need it most. And... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Now the...

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: to ensure that we have geographic diversity.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And the question is; did you identify areas or communities that are not served sufficiently by the summer programs?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, for example, the COMPASS elementary school programs; there were those 22,000 seats that were baselined last year for the first time, so when we did an RFP we were very careful to keep the investments in the

communities where they had originally been identified to need. Yeah, the answer is yes, we look very closely at the needs.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So what has been done exactly to make sure that those communities, they are served properly?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: When we are making awards let's say in response to an RFP, we'll put a map up there and we'll document where existing programming is and we'll look for gaps where there isn't as much program; we have a unit, the PRPD, the Program Research and... PRPD... [background comments] Policy Program... yes, Planning Program... [background comment] Planning Research and Program Design that runs the data on different communities to help us identify if there are target areas, and usually that's... you know, that would be very clearly outlined in the RFP. That's one of the most important... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But...

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: criteria when we're making funding decisions.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Based on your experience, because I know that you have been

1 providing services or working with New York City for
2 a while, do you see that the winners of those award
3 -- when you send your RFP; do you see that the same
4 organizations are the same winners of the award; they
5 are the same organizations that have been providing
6 summer programs or services for many years; are they
7 the same? Because the reason I'm saying that is; to
8 respond to the award, you've gotta know how to do it;
9 you've got to have qualified people to respond,
10 right, and did you observe that the winners of the
11 award are the same for many years, or the service
12 providers are the same for many years?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: There's
15 always turnover; when we do an RFP, there are always
16 new programs that come in and I think DYCD has made
17 efforts; again, my colleagues in External Relations,
18 doing presentations in areas to help smaller groups
19 that may have not received City funding before
20 understand how the proposal process works and how to
21 access our fees through HHS Accelerator and you know,
22 walking them through the opportunity to get access to
23 RFPs and you know, as it turns out, when we do make
24 awards, it almost always includes turnover; some
25 existing groups don't get funded and new groups are

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But now how do you evaluate the success of those programs, you know the service provider, the program provided to the young people; how do you evaluate those services to ensure that they are successful?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think we have a really strong system of monitoring our contracts and our program providers; it starts with data; we have electronic systems or people will input the participants, so we have information about how many people they're serving and how often they're serving them; we have staff at DYCD, our program managers, their essential task is to connect with their portfolio of the providers, go out and visit, do site visits; we have a program quality monitoring tool; the results of that site visit information is also put into a data system which we can run and see where we have programs that, you know, maybe need a little extra support; aren't always getting the strongest possible, you know quality and then we'll send teams out; we fund professional development to

gonna require additional resources, you can apply for additional funding.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Talking about the youth with special needs; what about the homeless youth, runaway youth and sexually exploited youth, because they are very, very... they're considered as special target community [sic] because they are facing challenges and they are mentally and physically traumatized; they need people who can understand what they are going through. The people who are providing services to those young people; are they trained; do they know exactly how to address the issues of the runaway and homeless young people or sexually exploited young people... [crosstalk]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Absolutely...

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: do you keep training them and you know, make sure that they are qualified, they are informed; they are able to provide the services needed by those young people?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We work with approximately 25 different providers to implement services for runaway and homeless youth, including crisis shelter, transitional independent living programs; we have drop-in centers and also

1 street outreach, and they are really experts in this
2 field of working with vulnerable youth and we also
3 use their expertise to learn about how we can bring
4 that knowledge to a broader population. With respect
5 to sexually exploited youth, we have a partnership
6 with ACS through the New York State Safe Harbor
7 funding to help try to identify young people who are
8 being commercially sexually exploited or experiencing
9 sexual exploitation and we have specific residential
10 services geared towards them and we have specific
11 services in our drop-in centers that are geared
12 toward them. We have a really outstanding group of
13 providers in the runaway and homeless youth services
14 portfolio, very knowledgeable and the Mayor has
15 essentially committed to tripling the investment in
16 services for runaway and homeless youth, so it's a
17 very exciting time for that population for our
18 providers [sic]... [crosstalk]

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Let me get back a
21 little bit to the language barrier and the cultural
22 barrier, and we know that many children also, our
23 youth who come from immigrant families; you know they
24 have difficulty to speak English properly and to
25 understand; what do you have in place to make sure

they also fully benefit from the program, in terms of, you know, helping them understand or make the transition from their language to the English language?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think we spoke a little bit about this before; I think our best asset in the community is when we fund community-based providers who are working specifically with immigrant populations; we fund specific groups to work with the Chinese population, we have specialized programs in Staten Island; we look at areas where there are big surges in immigrant populations for Central America, for example. Our best asset is not as DYCD, as government bureaucrats, but in the providers who speak the language and understand the culture and are best equipped to translate to parents, for example, what's happening in the after-school and how they're supporting young people.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So that means DYCD doesn't work alone, so you use the power of the team; you have a team working... [crosstalk]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: [inaudible]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: together with you;
right?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Everything
we do we do through our community-based providers,
so... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: As a team.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: it's out
goal to support them, absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Absolutely; I agree
with you, and that's the reason I believe that as a
team also, we can work together to restore the money,
because... [laughter] DYCD alone cannot do it; with
DYCD, with the City Council, with the service
providers and the parents, I do believe that our
Mayor will listen to us and we will achieve this so
important goal, restore the money for our summer
program.

Now let me call on Council Member Laurie
Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Chair
Eugene.

Just wanted to add to this hearing; while
hearing your testimony, I understand that you all
have come to a full conclusion as far as these

1 particular summer slots for after school, so while
2 you've come to that conclusion, I have not come to
3 that conclusion and from what I've heard today, my
4 colleagues have also not come to that conclusion and
5 as council members, you know a large part of our role
6 is ultimately voting on a budget and it's gonna be
7 very difficult to support a budget that cuts 34,000
8 slots for our middle school age students.

10 My question, final question is, while
11 you've stated that there are many other programs that
12 youth could take part in, have you, as far as this
13 communication that you're talking about in terms of
14 informing parents that this is a one-year program;
15 did you all at any time ever give parents an entire
16 listing of these are all of the other summer options
17 that you could take part in? This is the program
18 let's say in the 35th District; these are the Clinton
19 Hills Libraries; you could go to Grand Army Plaza
20 Library; there's a program at the Brooklyn Museum;
21 there are all of these other services that are
22 available to you that you could participate, because
23 as the inside baseball, this was only a one-year
24 funding program; here are all of the other options
25 that you could take part in and that there is also

going to be additional funding for you to be able to take part. Are parents equipped and prepared with that information?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes, I think that through the, as I mentioned, our new application, Discover DYCD and the Youth Connect Hotline, which is, again, fully accessible to all languages, we supplement that -- the DYCD application is focused in DYCD-funded programs; the Youth Connect Hotline can introduce young people to other programs in their community; they have resources that are not only DYCD-funded, and then every year we print the Summer Fun Guide, which is intent to connect with -- [cough] excuse me -- with families and young people about all of the free resources that are available in New York City for young people and... [interpose]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So you feel confident that these 34,000 families have all gotten this information with links, with an understanding to know the deadline for the library program is April 1st, the deadline for the Brooklyn Children's Museum is February 2nd; you feel confident that just me running around in my district and we say, "Hey girl; do you know about the program that's happening at so

1 and so and so?" "No, girl; I didn't hear nothin'
2 about that." You're saying that's not gonna happen;
3 they're gonna say, "I got it right here in my bag; I
4 got the newsletter that tells me what else I can do
5 right here; look, Council Member." Is that what's
6 gonna happen or the first option?
7

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's what
9 we're trying to make happen; that's what we're
10 working to make happen; we welcome your ideas about
11 communication; if you can help us to push the
12 communication out into your districts, I think that
13 would be one of the most important ways that you can
14 help us. Our job is to help make sure that
15 information is available and we're doing the best we
16 can with that; we certainly welcome your ideas about
17 how to do better to reach communities; that's our
18 goal for sure.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay, well I don't
20 have any further questions; I'm extremely
21 disappointed in this entire process and I think this
22 is a very irresponsible decision and I feel that if
23 we continue in this route, unfortunately we will read
24 about this particular decision in the summer, so
25 thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Council Member Cumbo. To conclude, let me say that, you know again, all of you who are here, advocate service providers, you are doing a wonderful job on behalf of our youth and our children and we have to continue to work as a team to make sure that we restore the money, the administration restore the money, because it is not, it doesn't make sense that in the great city of New York that we cannot find \$20 or \$21 million to provide food, critical services to the children and to the young people in New York City, you know we all know the benefit of those services and this is **[inaudible]**; it is not acceptable, and those parents also they deserve more, they don't deserve less than that; we have to do everything possible to make sure that the administration restore the money, like you know the Mayor did last year; we can do it also. This is a drop in the bucket, \$82 billion something money, so we've got to make sure that we reach that point and we achieve that goal and I know that we will do it. And I commend, take the opportunity to commend also my colleagues in the City Council; I know that they are working very hard, and the Speaker is trying hard

1 also, so I think that we will get it. So it is not
2 acceptable to say that no, we are not going to put
3 the money back; we have to put it back and as I see,
4 you know my friend hold the sign over here, "Save Our
5 Summer Camp," that should be the goal; that should be
6 what we should have in our spirit and our mind and we
7 have to work toward achieving that goal. Having said
8 that, thank you very much to all of you and remember,
9 we are part of the team, we are not fighting against
10 each other; we are just trying to find out altogether
11 we can do the best for our children [sic]. Thank you
12 very much. Thank you. [background comments]

14 The members of the next panel are Robert
15 Busan from New York Center for Interpersonal
16 Development -- thank you very much -- Drema Brown,
17 Children's Aid Society; Yvette Loni Van Drin [sic],
18 [background comments], Lori [sic], I'm sorry, Lori --
19 thank you very much -- [background comments] thank
20 you -- David Startrake [background comments]. Thank
21 you very much; please state your name before you
22 start, but I just want to remind you, each one of
23 you; you have only two minutes. [background
24 comments] Thank you very much. Would you please
25 start?

ROBERT BUSAN: Yes. My name is Robert Busan; I represent New York Center for Interpersonal Development, a not-for-profit on Staten Island that has been providing youth services for over 40 years. I am the Director of an after-school service at PS 861, the Staten Island School of Civic Leadership, a Title I school situated in the west end of the north shore of Staten Island. We have a DYCD SONYC middle school program that is the only available after-school service in our catchment area. Our students are diverse; approximately 65 percent African-American, 20 percent Hispanic and 15 percent Asian, Middle Eastern and Caucasian.

I've been in this school since it opened seven years ago and over that time the neighborhood has grown increasingly impoverished. There is a community park, but no other structured programming in the immediately vicinity. Simply put, we are the only show in town; our students have access to wonderful activities, courtesy of the DYCD funding. Our students are involved in leadership, civics, art, dance, sports, chess, comics, literacy, cheerleading, homework assistance, and great STEM programs in engineering, photography and computer coding;

1 additionally, during the summer weekly trips take
2 students places they would normally never go. Our
3 students love all these activities and parents love
4 that their children are in a safe environment, being
5 taught and able to grow educationally, emotionally
6 and socially under the guidance of caring individuals
7 who have students' best interests at heart. So here
8 we are again, no funding allocated to summer
9 programming; our students and parents are always
10 excited about summer and the notion that we are here
11 once more pleading for these important dollars to
12 keep young people active and engaged during the
13 summer months instead of spending time [bell] either
14 at home -- almost done -- or out in the streets
15 without supervision is clearly, completely and
16 absolutely a crime. So I ask you humbly on behalf of
17 the young people on Staten Island and around the city
18 to help us all and provide the funding that is so
19 sorely needed. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
22 Next speaker.

23 DREMA BROWN: Good afternoon. My name is
24 Drema Brown and I'm the Vice President of School Age
25 Programs at the Children's Aid Society. I'd like to

thank Chair Mathieu Eugene and the members of the Youth Service Committee for the opportunity to give testimony about the importance of summer programs for youth across New York City.

Children's Aid is a multi-service organization that provides programs and supports to children and families living in our target neighborhoods to fulfill their potential and capitalize on their talent. As a member of the Campaign for Children, Children's Aid is here today to testify for the restoration of summer program funding for three main reasons: 1. children and families need year round consistent support; 2. high-quality summer programs have an impact on children beyond the summer months, 3. our programs support low-income and working families and provide significant summer employment opportunities in the communities we serve.

We were truly dismayed by the Mayor's FY 2017 Preliminary Budget which did not include summer programs for nearly 31,000 middle school students, impacting over 400 programs citywide, which were all part of the successful expansion of middle school after-school programs through COMPASS SONYC.

Children's Aid serves approximately 2,500 students in our after-school programs and summer programs at five sites across Washington Heights, East Harlem and the Bronx and we are at risk of losing nearly 400 summer program slots, impacting hundreds of our families across the city. The children and families we serve thrive with year round consistent support; our summer programs are structured, high-quality, provide a range of experiences for youth and in those schools and communities where they exist, our young people are thriving. In one particular school the results are amazing; this is a school where 30 percent of the students have special needs and nearly the same amount live in temporary housing. These young people feel connected and see college and a life beyond what they typically have in front of them.

This funding also... [bell] The cost of these programs, without the City's support is about \$800 per child for six to seven weeks this summer; while this might be quite affordable in certain parts of the city, that figure is far beyond the reach of the vast majority of the families we serve in some of New York's poorest communities. In the South Bronx

alone, where we're losing 100 summer camp slots, the median family income is \$23,500 and a fee like that is simply not feasible, especially with no notice.

We thank you for the opportunity and we thank you for your vigorous support of summer programs.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Next one.

NOELLE VAN DER TUIN: Hello, my name is Noelle Van der Tuin and I'm the Assistant Division Director for Youth and Family Services at Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation. Our organization hosts four COMPASS programs, three SONYC programs and one Beacon program, all in Cypress Hills and East New York.

For summer programming there is a very high demand; at one of our sites 400 applicants vied for 150 slots and we have waiting lists for most of our COMPASS programs.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the young people in our care; these are young people who are not an abstract number to me; I know them and I have seen the young people who come to us hardened and who learn how to play and

recover their innocence, even in middle school, in a neighborhood that is not particularly safe.

With us over the summer, middle schoolers will have the opportunity to learn to swim, to put together robots and test their STEM and literacy skills; they will have the opportunity to keep the gains they have earned over the school year; they will develop leadership skills; they will explore the arts, and we will also give about 30 slots to older youth in the SYEP opportunity. We are making a very full experience for these young people and for the older youth in our neighborhoods; without us, our kids will be on the streets, they will be unsupervised or parents will have to make choices about whether they can earn their income or have the safety of their children, and these are choices we don't want our parents to have to make.

Last year, within a month of getting the green light for summer camp we were able to have two campsites up and running [bell]; we can do that again. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I agree; we can do that again. Thank you very much. Next one.

LORI VAN DREAMER: My name is Lori Van Dreamer [sp?] and I'm the Director of Development for the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, one of the largest human service providers in the Bronx, serving 35,000 people of all ages every year. We wanna thank the City Council for all the support you have provided for our programs in the past.

At this time we want to provide testimony regarding SONYC summer program for middle school students. We are deeply troubled by the plans to cut funds for this program, which across the city will force thousands of working families to rethink their summer plans or scramble to find alternatives to keep their children occupied in a safe, enriching environment while they have to go to work; students will mess out on activities proven to combat summer learning loss and many part-time workers who provide summer program activities, including college students, will lose their summer job, which they were counting on for tuition and offsetting daily living costs. At MMCC alone, more than 570 low-income students from four schools will be affected and 70 summer jobs will be lost.

Eliminating the summer program undermines the Mayor's own plan to expand support for middle school students through the SONYC Initiative. To get the SONYC program started, we have successfully led a big outreach effort to engage low-income families in our community; just as the benefits of the program start to manifest themselves, the summer component is being yanked, leaving these families in a lurch to find often costly alternatives or not being able to afford services at all. Once again, low-income students will be at a disadvantage compared to their more affluent peers, therefore widening the achievement gap and depriving students of opportunities to build a foundation for future educational success.

We urge the City Council and the administration to restore funding to the SONYC summer program and we urge City Council to restore funding soon so parents and providers can plan their summer. We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of the youth and families that we serve; your support is vital to ensure their continued success. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

DAVID SLOTNICK: Good morning. My name is David Slotnick and I'm the Director of Community Based Youth Programs at the Samuel Field Y located in Little Neck, New York. On behalf of the communities in Queens that we serve, we're extremely concerned with proposed cuts to the middle school summer programming budget.

The Samuel Field Y oversees six COMPASS programs, three SONYC programs and three Beacon programs; there are over 1,400 elementary and middle school students who utilize these recreational, educational enrichment programs during the summer alone. These children and their families are unable to afford paid quality alternatives; without the summer funding, working parents are left with a choice of having their children out on the street all summer or giving up their job and staying home, further diminishing their poor financial circumstances.

The proposed cuts to these programs over the summer will mean that over 200 youth from our programs alone will not have the opportunity to participate in an enriching summer program; they will lose invaluable experiences and meaningful

friendships and will not have access to a safe environment with adult attention and role models.

This proposed cut to funding will also negatively impact youth who do attend the programs; our Beacon programs are already resource starved, as they are funded at a much lower rate than any other city-funded youth program. Eliminating the summer enhancement funding that had brought essential program enrichments that helped engage additional numbers of community youth diminishes the impact to which we all are dedicated to provide. This money was used for activities and enhancements, such as trips, entertainment, STEM and literacy subcontractors; a cut in this funding means that youth will have fewer opportunities to succeed, learn to make healthy choices and to become culturally more aware. Not investing in these programs means not investing in our city's future; the loss of funding will not only affect the summer, but there is a trickle down effect through the fall, since programs are forced to use money earmarked for fall programming to supplement the loss of funding in the summer.

The decision to cut the funding is shortsighted and will negatively impact the overall economy as well, since this funding allowed programs such as ours to enroll more participant; it also allowed us to hire more staff. Not only will youth not be able to take advantage of what summer camp has to offer, but older youth will not have the opportunity to work; seemingly a mixed message, considering the City's investment into the Summer Youth Employment Program. [bell]

These programs offer members of the community a chance for hope, growth and achievement; there's nothing good about this cut in funding and I'm here today imploring the City Council to help restore it so that thousands of New Yorkers can have access to the services they so genuinely need. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much; thank you. Let me state that the reason we asked you to speak on for two minutes; not because we don't appreciate what you are doing; we know that you have been serving young people for many years and we want to thank you for your dedication, your commitment in doing that and as you state that we can do it again

and we will do it again and I know that you are very disappointed and you are right to be disappointed because that shouldn't happen in the good city of New York. Again, thank you very much on behalf of the community and the City Council; thank you for your wonderful job and your dedication and your commitment to serving young people. Thank you very much.

Thanks.

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just have one question.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I think there is one or two questions, and one or two.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay. My first question; very quickly, just wanted to know, with the 34,000 slots that are proposed to be cut through that particular aspect of the summer programming; were you turning away young people or was it an effort over the summer to fill those slots? So was it an effort or were there an overwhelming amount of young people that you were prepared to serve?

ROBERT BUSAN: I'll go first. For us on Staten Island, we over-enrolled and we always have more kids and parents clamoring to get into the

summer program, as we do during the school year.

DYCD allows you to over-enroll a certain amount, but the parents are just continually coming, you know wanting to get slots and there's only so many slots we can fill.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: have parents, as was stated in the testimony by DYCD, have they been informed that this program has been cut and that this service will no longer be provided and that there are other options at this time for them to apply for different programs?

ROBERT BUSAN: For us on Staten Island, DYCD doesn't provide us with that assistance; it's something we do ourselves; we've informed parents; parents are on pins and needles, as are the students; every day they're asking me questions, what's going on with the funding and same thing that happened last year, when we finally got restored we were up and running within moments... [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So families are in limbo right now...

ROBERT BUSAN: Everybody's in limbo, yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Got it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
Council Member. Council Member Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair.
Just a quick question. When the funding was put back
last year, did you have the understanding that it was
only gonna be for one year and that's it?

DREMA BROWN: I mean I don't think any of
us up here who spend time in communities working with
children would think that that makes sense; I mean I
think at the time we all assumed that you know, the
Mayor said what was, you know, expedient at that
moment and tried to keep his options open, but
that's... realistically... like that's just now how this
works in communities; like families expect -- they
come to rely on a certain level of support from us as
service providers and given the work that we do with
children during the summer, there's a seamlessness to
that work, you know like for us, the kids who come to
our summer programs, they attend school at higher
rates during the school year, so it doesn't make
sense to just pull two months of programs for no
other reason other than 'cause I said so a year ago
and we can't communicate with families like that; I
mean it doesn't make any sense.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, thank you. I
5 think we all agree with you; it makes no sense that
6 it was...

7 ROBERT BUSAN: No.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: just a one-year
9 commitment...

10 ROBERT BUSAN: Yeah.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: so we're all going,
12 you know with ideas; we're gonna have to fight to
13 keep the money back in so that we can continue these
14 programs, but I also urge you to get the parents and
15 the kids, write to the Mayor and remind him how
16 important these programs are so that you can work
17 with the Council to make sure that this funding is
18 gonna be there. Thank you.

19 ROBERT BUSAN: Baseline the funding,
20 that's what has to happen.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

22 LORI VAN DREAMER: Can I just add for one
23 second; these other programs that DYCD say at the
24 library in here; if they're not all day so the
25 parents know their kids are there and they're giving

1 didn't wanna communicate with other kids, but my mom
2 enrolled me into one of these summer programs and it
3 was an opportunity for me to break out and actually
4 make friends instead of just always being surrounded
5 with my family. I remember one of the highlights of
6 being part of the summer camp was our first week,
7 that Friday where we were able to present our unit to
8 the rest of the camp and come up with cool names,
9 where we were able to give ownership of who our group
10 was and what we wanted to provide that summer and
11 what we wanted to learn; summer Olympics was a
12 combination of elementary school students and middle
13 school students working together to achieve goals and
14 it was just a bonding experience with kids my own age
15 that I probably wouldn't do in school because I was
16 too shy to associate myself with them. But as the
17 program had developed and I grew up in the program,
18 so once I grew out of being part of the age range of
19 being there, I volunteered my time to work with the
20 kids in the program and we're now providing great
21 programs like gardening, where kids are able to learn
22 about plants and how to do planting within their own
23 home, even though they live in New York City and it
24 may not be a farm, but they're able to grow things
25

1 within their yard or putting things next to their
2 window; Food Justice, where they get to learn about
3 healthy eating, and we actually visit our community
4 garden with the kids and give them examples of what
5 they can do on their own, or we have team-building
6 activities where we teach them how to work with each
7 other to accomplish a common goal, and it's hard to
8 believe that this budget is being cut, especially
9 because at times I'm the one who has to translate
10 this information to parents to tell them, your child
11 may not be able to, when I know this family myself; I
12 have personal connections with the community, since I
13 grew up in the community itself, so [bell] I really
14 hope that this budget does get restored.

16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
17 Next speaker, please.

18 MARIBEL: Hi, my name is Maribel and I
19 also work in Center for Family Life and I'm a group
20 leader. I'm gonna talk based on personal experience.
21 I started off working as a volunteer, as a young
22 adult, inexperienced; very, very shy and quiet and I
23 used that opportunity to learn about not only myself,
24 about my community, about the children, about other
25 people that I work with, and I wouldn't be here today

1 if it wasn't for that; I wanna be able to speak up
2 and have a voice and I think it's so important for
3 like the children to see that as us, as young adults,
4 we can come and have a voice and just knowing that a
5 budget is being cut is like saying to a kid that they
6 don't have that opportunity to have a voice in the
7 community or become leaders that they can be, and it
8 has impacted my life, just like she was saying, with
9 the families and getting to know families and
10 learning not just... not the children just learning
11 from us, but learning from the children and just
12 being able to turn away a child and saying no, you
13 cannot share this wonderful opportunity with us and
14 have a voice and be a leader is really, really
15 difficult. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

17 VALERIE ROSARIO: Good afternoon; my name
18 is Valerie Rosario and I am a student at Tech
19 International Charter School. I am also in the SONYC
20 program at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and
21 in the program we learn about building beats;
22 building beats is basically where we produce our own
23 music and this is basically like a start for musical
24 prodigies; we also do engineering, which is basically
25

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much;
15 thank you. Let me take the opportunity to commend
16 you, to commend you for what you have been doing for
17 choosing doing the positive thing, the right thing,
18 and I want to also to let you know that you are in
19 the better position than anyone to talk about the
20 benefit of the youth program and good luck and
21 congratulations in your...

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes. And I want to
24 let you know that you are speaking not only for you,
25 but also for the many, many, many young people and

1 children in New York City who deserve the summer
2 program and I commend you, honestly, from the bottom
3 of my heart and you are doing the right thing and
4 please stay in the **[inaudible]**. Thank you very much.
5 And you are an inspiration for many other young
6 people. Now let me call on Council Member Chin for a
7 question.
8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair.
10 I just wanted to thank these young ladies for being
11 here today, and I'm just so proud of you. You are
12 gonna be our future council member, our future mayor,
13 so keep it up, and I know that's how important these
14 summer programs are, 'cause it gives you the
15 opportunity to really learn and thrive and become
16 leaders. So I also encourage you to write to our
17 mayor and write to your council member; let them know
18 how these programs are helping you and why you think
19 that the funding should be there. Okay; let your
20 voices be heard and let them hear from you too.
21 Thank you.

22 [background comment]

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
24 Council Member Chin, and thank you very much.
25

Stephanie Gendell, Citizen Committee for Children; [background comments] Gregory Brender, United Neighborhood Houses; Christie [background comments] oh, Hodgkins from CAMBA. Okay. Valerie Matos [sp?] [background comments]. Thank you very much.

I would be remiss if I didn't take an opportunity to thank also Campaign for Children, all the wonderful members and advocates from Campaign for Children, for the wonderful job you are doing on behalf of the children and also on behalf of the parents. Because of your advocacy we were able to get the money back last year and I know that this year, you know working together, we, I hope, and I'm convinced that we're going to have it again. To all of you from the panel, thank you very much, because I know the wonderful job that you are doing.

STEPHANIE GENDELL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much and welcome.

STEPHANIE GENDELL: Good afternoon, I'm Stephanie Gendell; I'm the Associate Executive Director at Citizens Committee for Children and a member of the Campaign for Children. Like you, we

are deeply disappointed to be back here talking about this issue again. Just last week the Mayor was touting the success of the after-school program that he created for middle school students, talking about "how it keeps kids safe and busy while parents are at work, building their confidence and closing the achievement gap in communities across the city." We agree with the Mayor wholeheartedly; this is the exact same program though that he is cutting. Notably, when Mayor Bloomberg created the Out-of-School-Time Program there was never a question that it included summer programming; now that we've had an expansion, it's become a question, yet these are the programs that keep children safe while their parents are at work and DYCD said today they have no plans to bring it back.

As has been mentioned before, we're talking about \$20 million in an \$82 billion city budget; the nerd in me calculated that; it's .2 percent of the budget that we're talking about for a program that when we surveyed parents, 91 percent rely on it to work and two-thirds of them are relying on it to feed their children healthy summer meals.

We've included in the testimony a map of where the cuts are; you see it hit the communities that need these programs the most the hardest, but we have a problem and the problem is the timing; we greatly appreciate the City Council support and we feel your support for bringing back these programs; we have a timing problem in that the Executive Budget's gonna come out the end of April and the programs need to know sometime in April, early May at the latest, whether or not there are summer programs; parents need to know, programs need to plan; they need to hire people, so unfortunately we can't wait till you would give us the money in June, which we know you would and we need to figure out how to get it sooner. Thank you for your help.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

GREGORY BRENDER: Thank you; I'm Gregory Brender from United [bell] Neighborhood Houses and we are the federation of the settlement houses and community centers; our member agencies provide many of these programs and are eager to provide them this summer; they are already seeing lines of families who want to join these programs and they are being forced to turn them away, so there is, despite all the

challenges with bring something back very late in the game and understanding of the incredible importance that these have for families and a desire to see them going and make sure that kids are not stuck out on the street but that they are in programs where they're leaning, where they are active, where they're making new friends, and you know actually, I think the Mayor, his quote from his press release was better than what I have in my testimony, so I'll just read that and say, "kids are learning and they like it, we're growing tomorrow's leaders, keeping kids safe and busy while parents are at work, building their confidence and closing in on the achievement gap." I really appreciate how much this Council, and particularly you, Council Member Eugene and Council Member Chin and others have been so active in fighting for this; we need the Mayor to put this in the Executive Budget so that these programs can be ready for summer. And I know you know this, but I'm just gonna say it again; we will be back at City Hall on Monday, April 25th at noon rallying to save these programs before the Executive Budget and we look forward to keep working with you on it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

Next speaker, please.

CHRISTIE HODGKINS: Chairman Eugene and members of the City Council, thanks for the opportunity to testify today. I'm Christie Hodgkins; I'm the Vice President for Education and Youth Development at CAMBA, which is one of the city's largest and most trusted community-based organizations growing in direct response to the needs of the community and now serving about 45,000 individuals and families very year in Brooklyn and beyond.

You know, I wanna just echo what folks have already said about the importance of summer programs; one, for the young people as youth development programs, places where they can have a love of learning, where they can explore interests and talents; things like that, and also for families and working parents as a place that they can know that their children are safe so that they can go to work and that they can go to school. CAMBA also shares the concern that the Mayor's preliminary budget is moving in the wrong direction and that these cuts will be very harmful to our communities.

At CAMBA last year, we had about 3,000 children in our summer programs and that was from COMPASS elementary to SONYC, Beacon and Cornerstones, and about 700 fewer kids will be able to participate this summer if this funding is not restored. So you know, in the strongest terms possible I want to convey that we would like to have this funding restored. I wanna echo what Gregory said, that we need to know now; I think it was Council Member Cumbo had asked, you know, when you found out you had the money last summer, how... you know, did you have to scramble for families? Well the SONYC funding we were told about -- it was I think put back in the Mayor's Executive Budget, right; we... [background comments] yeah, we knew I think in earlyish [sic] May, and we were able to [bell] fully enroll those programs, but our summer elementary programs that had additional slots, but we didn't find out till early July, families had made other arrangements and it was hard to find children then; it was hard to hire staff and I just wanna say quickly that though, you know, CAMBA and... I won't speak for other community-based organizations and providers, but you know, we... I think that we all do amazing work, but we say, you

1 know, we can turn on a dime and make this happen; you
2 cannot plan a quality, safe summer program in a week
3 or two, it's not possible. So in addition to
4 restoring quickly, we would really like to see this
5 funding baselined in future years so that there is
6 not a scramble for families in uncertainty and also
7 for providers. Thanks.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
9 Before I call the next speaker, I just want to
10 acknowledge that we have been joined by Council
11 Member Mealy.

12 VALERIE MATTOS: My name is Valerie
13 Mattos and I am the Program Director at Washington
14 Heights Academy, I.S. 366. When I was hired for this
15 position at Inwood Community Services, I was handed a
16 blank canvas, a budget and the freedom to shape this
17 program however I saw fit. Being a member of this
18 community for the majority of my life has provided me
19 with the insight necessary to create a program that
20 serves the needs of our youth. With the help of my
21 team I have designed an arts-based program centered
22 on our three A's, academics, art activism and art; we
23 offer homework help, financial literacy, dance,
24 acrobatics, [inaudible] sculpture, print-making,
25

1 film, hip hop, basketball, poetry, music production;
2 every activity has a literacy component and is taught
3 with an artistic edge. Activism and leadership are
4 explored in our Youth Power Studio; once a week each
5 class meets with two student activists who run
6 workshops and activities that teach our students
7 about oppression, power dynamics, socioeconomics,
8 sexism, gentrification, racism, and so much more;
9 these are concepts that are far beyond the confines
10 of day school curriculums and could not be more
11 relevant and vital to the development and survival of
12 our youth; it is evident that we provide more than a
13 child care service.

14 I stand before you to reiterate the
15 importance of continuing our work during the summer;
16 it seems counterintuitive that the communities most
17 affected by these summer camp cuts have some of the
18 highest child poverty rates and lowest academic
19 scores. In Washington Heights, our child poverty
20 rate is at 31.6 percent and at risk of losing 798
21 camp slots; this will be a devastating loss; most of
22 our parents will not be able to afford alternative
23 support; many of them will be at risk of losing their
24 only source of income; many of our students will be
25

1 left alone; summer camp being their only opportunity
2 to remain positively engaged, safe and to prevent
3 summer learning loss. My staff will also be greatly
4 affected; most of them are working students who are
5 paying their way through school; the loss of this job
6 will mean setbacks in their education and
7 professional development as well and if my words do
8 not [bell] suffice; please allow me to be the voice
9 of my students -- Ashley, grade 6: "If we do not
10 have a summer camp, I am not sure what will happen;
11 my mother cannot afford to send me anywhere where she
12 will have to pay." Marlene, grade 6: "It is
13 important for us to have a summer camp so that we can
14 continue working towards a better community."

16 Our community is not asking for a
17 handout, they're asking for a fair shot. Removing
18 these resources will only reinforce disastrous
19 impacts of economic inequity.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
21 And again, you know I want to thank you for your
22 advocacy and for the wonderful job that you are doing
23 on behalf of young people. Thank you very much.

24 And let's stay together, let's continue
25 to fight; alright. Thank you. Alright.

Next panel -- Jessica Kruskamp from New York Junior Tennis League or Learning, I'm sorry; Sheila Wells, [background comments] Sports and Art in School; Louis Cabrera, [background comments] Inwood Community Services; Michelle Yanche, Good Shepherd Services, and Carlyn Cowen, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.

I know that you had the breakfast this morning; yeah, but I'm sorry I couldn't be there because of the public hearing, but you know I wanted to be.

Okay, you can start; before you start speaking, please state your name and the organization that you run [sic]. Thank you.

JESSICA KRUSKAMP: Good morning, my name is Jessica Kruskamp; I am the Chief Education Officer for New York Junior Tennis and Learning, and thank you so much for hosting us. Chair Eugene, a lot of the things that you've said today about building relationships with families and trust have really hit a cord in my. Council Member Chin, I like you; I share the same number; I have 800 families across my network that are directly impacted that I'm answering to and representing today.

NYJTL is the largest and most successful scholastic tennis program in the country, annually reaching over 110,000 New York City school children for our tennis and education programs. Our mission is to develop the character of young people through tennis and education for a lifetime of success on and off the court and the New York City Council has pledged longstanding support to our work, over 45 years; we were founded by Arthur Ashe, and we thank you very much.

Every day after school 400 New York Junior Tennis and Learning employees work with 4,000 students citywide in COMPASS and SONYC programs. Every day we provide opportunities in tennis, academics, healthy living, character education and multidisciplinary activities. Families count on NYJTL for a safe, fun and enriching environment, both after school and summertime and we thank you so much again on behalf of our communities for your leadership and prioritizing summer learning.

NYJTL urges the Mayor to restore summer funding to the 31,000 students in the SONYC program. Again, this loss directly impacts 800 of my families in my network alone and further, this impacts over

100 of my employees and nearly 50 SYEP students during the summer. Many of my employees who I have personally selected and recruited and trained count on this work in the summer and those that seek employment elsewhere are likely not to return, for stability for their own family's sake; this is a major setback in my capacity-building efforts over the last two years.

I have 12 middle school SONYC programs, 3 will be funded this summer and 9 will not be and it is up to me to go to the families that are not funded [bell] and I please and I urge the Mayor to very quickly let us do what we've been tasked to do and give us time to plan effectively. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Next speaker, please.

SHEILA WELLS: Good afternoon. My name is Sheila Wells; I'm the Deputy Director for Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation. SASF is a proud member of the Campaign for Children and requests the support of the New York City Council to fund summer programs in New York City.

Through all of our programs, SASF annually serves 25,000 students throughout the five

boroughs; the overwhelming majority of youth are from the neediest neighborhoods in the city. In the summer of 2015, Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation provided underserved public school students in New York City with high-quality sports and arts programming that provided summer programs to 99 camps serving over 8,000 children; it reduced the rates of childhood obesity, improved school attendance and academic performance, combated youth on youth violence and provided jobs for youth, adults and community residents, partnering with DYCD. Each camp offers instruction by top specialists in a variety of sports instruction, visual arts and performing arts.

Included in this testimony is a list of sites that are slated to close for the summer if the budget is not restored. Overall, SASF will close 42 sites that serve 4,588 middle school students in the highest-need areas of the city. The negative impact of those cuts to working parents and their children are tumultuous; the support and leadership by the City Council is needed and greatly appreciated. The following sites are impacted: 46M, 51R, 61K, 66K, 83X, 116Q, 122Q, 125Q, 151X, 178K, 180M, 207Q, 208Q, 225X, 238Q, [bell] 242X, 262K, 285K, 287X, 289X,

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308K, 318K, 352K, 353K, 354K, 355Q, 362K, 382K, 384K,
289X, 429K, 452K, 454K, 45K, 484K, 499M, 57K, 590K,
663K, 644K, 588K, and 12; a total again of 4,588
students.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
Next speaker, please.

LOUIS CABRERA: Good afternoon. My name
is Louis Cabrera; I've been providing services for
youth for over 15 years; I currently work at Inwood
Community Services.

These cuts are re-effecting [sic] most of
our vulnerable youth in Northern Manhattan; we work
in Councilman Rodriguez' district and most of the
population of the borough youth are newly incoming to
this country, there is a huge language barrier and we
provides services to ensure that the integration into
our culture and into our community is great. We're
losing approximately 798 kids in the Northern
Manhattan district; in our area alone, north of 196th
Street and Broadway, 280 of those kids are being cut
out of middle school programming, which is
approximately 40 percent of the cuts in Northern
Manhattan. Three out of seven schools have been
slated cuts are losing approximately the 280 kids,

1 which equals out to 300 families, 20 staff members
2 and approximately 40 SYEPs without being able to
3 provide services for the youth that are in serious
4 need in Northern Manhattan. We're tired of doing
5 this constant fighting it seems like every single
6 year; couple of years ago we were able to pack the
7 United Palace in a huge rally back when Bloomberg cut
8 across the city all this programming for youth and it
9 seems like we have to do this all over again and
10 we're tired of using the kids as pawns in order to
11 continue putting programming back for their needs.
12 I'm sorry; I'm just a little nervous.

14 We just wish overall that these kids are
15 not being used as pawns for elected officials and
16 whatever **[inaudible]** they have, we just wish that
17 we're able to continue to streamline this funding and
18 ensure that, especially the vulnerable youth that are
19 being affected, have a safe place for them to work
20 during the summer. Thank you for your time; I'm
21 sorry for my nervousness.

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.
23 Thank you so much, thank you.

24 MICHELLE YANCHE: Good afternoon. My
25 name is Michelle Yanche; I'm Associate Executive

Director at Good Shepherd Services; I share the feelings of the Council Members and my colleagues at being very sorry to have to be here today.

As a member of the Campaign for Children, we joined the Mayor in Albany during the UPK NYC efforts to advocate for the funds that came from the state, \$190 million to fund the SONYC expansion and I'm very dismayed to have to be here to advocate for those same programs to get that funding that we advocated for.

I agree with you, Council Member Eugene; we have to find the funding and we need to make sure that those funds are really invested in ensuring that SONYC middle school programs are at full capacity, and that includes having a summer program. After-school is year round; after-school is not school year. The National Summer Learning Association has shown that the majority, if not all of the achievement gap is attributable to summer learning loss. If we do not wanna make sure that that does not happen for these 31,000 young people in our most at-risk districts; I don't know how we can really be serious about closing the achievement gap.

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For Good Shepherd Services, this is what's at stake: 710 young people that we serve across the districts of Council Member Cabrera, 111 slots; Council Member Salamanca, 134 slots; Council Member Barron, 50 slots; Council Member Cornegy, 115 slots; Council Member Menchaca, 150 slots; Council Member Torres, 150 slots. You know by my mentioning this districts that these are young people who live in communities that desperately need these services.

I also wanna reiterate what my colleagues have said; this year is different than last year; last year we had already enrolled [bell] and more importantly, and this is extraordinarily important to understand; we had already hired our staff; this year we cannot pull off these programs in the same timeframe because we have not hired the staff to work in them; it takes a minimum of two months to get the fingerprinting and clearances that are needed for these staff to work, so that is different. We cannot have these funds come in the budget that you, and I know that you would allocate in June; they must be in the Executive Budget and I'm speaking for Good Shepherd Services, for these 710 young people; we cannot pull this off if these funds are not committed

two months before the start date of the program and that will take a herculean effort. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, well said, thank you very much. Miss. Uhm-hm.

CARLYN COWEN: Good afternoon. My name is Carlyn Cowen and I'm a Policy Analyst at the Federation of Protestant and Welfare Agencies. I'd like to thank Chairperson Eugene for the opportunity to testify and all the council members for your tireless efforts on these issues.

I join the other advocates, providers and the amazing young people that testified today in saying that we're all dismayed that we're here again for this hearing, but thank you for continuing to fight for these programs.

As a representative of an organization that works on poverty issues, the statistic that I'd like to highlight today is that close to 1 in 3 children in New York City live under the poverty line, which means about 500,000 children. While the loss of summer programs will impact all 31,000 children negatively, the ones that will be hit hardest are the children living in poverty, where we

1 know that the achievement gap hurts low-income
2 children the most.

3 In addition to that, their parents, the
4 low-income parents that rely on summer programs to
5 keep their children safe while they work and keep
6 their children fed during the summer will also be
7 impacted greatly.

8 Thank you very much for the opportunity
9 to testify, thank you for continuing to work for
10 these programs and thank you to all the other
11 speakers today.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much
13 and on behalf of the children, their parents and on
14 behalf of the committee and the City Council, I wanna
15 thank you for the wonderful job that you are doing
16 and for your advocacy and you know the name of the
17 game; we've got to continue to fight to make sure
18 that the administration restores the funding; we
19 cannot go backwards and I agree with you; we have to
20 move on, we've got to make sure that we continue to
21 fight to make sure that the administration restores
22 the money; this is too important and those programs,
23 they are critical for the wellbeing of our children,
24 of the children of New York City and also, as I said,
25

1 this is a good investment in the future of New York
2 City and this is one of the best ways to fight
3 against crime, violence and all the negativity that
4 we are observing among our young people. Thank you
5 very much for your partnership; let's continue to
6 fight and I am you know convinced that we are going
7 to achieve the goal of saving the summer program.
8 Thank you very much and God bless you. Thank you.
9 And the meeting it adjourned.

11 [gavel]

12 [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 May 17, 2016