

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH
COMMITTEE ON HOSPITALS

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MAY 24, 2018
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Recess: 8:01 P.M.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E:

COUNCIL MEMBERS: DANIEL DROMM
ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
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DIANA AYALA

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

MARK LEVINE
ANTONIO REYNOSO
ALAN MAISEL
CHAIM DEUTSCH
COREY JOHNSON, SPEAKER

MELANIA HARTZOG, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

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CHARLES BRISKY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN, DIRECTOR OF THE
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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AND HOSPITALS

FRED COVINO, VICE PRESIDENT AND FINANCE
HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

SCOTT STRINGER, NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER

ANIHAR GARCIA (SP?) GENERATION CITIZEN,
STUDENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR HEALTH
AND SCIENCE IN ELMHURST

TOM MANCE-PIERRE (SP?) GENERATION
CITIZEN, STUDENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR
HEALTH AND SCIENCE IN ELMHURST

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

PRESTON NIBLACK, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER FOR
BUDGET

MARLENE GIGA, TREASURER OF LOCAL 983 DC
37

JOSEPH PULEO, PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 983 DC
37

DILCY BENN, PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 1505 DC 37

FRAN SCHLOSS, PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 1757 DC
37

JOHN HYSLOP, PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 1321 DC
37

REYNALDO BARBER, PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 1482
DC 37

LEONARD PAUL, PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 374 DC
37

RAQUEL SANDERS, BEHALF OF CHILDREN'S
DEFENSE FUND, SENIOR AT BROOKLYN SCHOOL
FOR MUSIC AND THEATRE

SAVANNAH HENRY, BRONX SENIOR AT URBAN
ASSEMBLY BRONX ACADEMY OF VETTERS, ALUNI
OF GENERATION CITIZEN ACTION CIVICS
PROGRAM

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CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SENATE

MARIAH LOPEZ, START EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
TRANSVEST RIGHTS GROUP

LINDA STROWD, COMMITTEE OF 100 TO MAKE
BVG FREE AGAIN

CONSTANCE LESOLLE, COMMITTEE OF 100

VERONICA CONANT, ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN,
MEMBER OF COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

RUEZALIA WATKINS, MENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

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FDNY CUTS

LIN KIM, NEW YORK YOUTH FOODS ADVOCATE

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STEPHANIE GENDELL, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR FOR POLICY AND ADVOCATE AT
CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN

HARRIET BLANK, OHEL CHILDREN'S HOME AND
FAMILY

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TENNIS LEAGUE

JOHN WILLIAMS, COFOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR FOR REAL WORKS

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COMMUNITY HOUSE

MELISSA OAKS, AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY
HOUSE, LGBT, HIV/AIDS

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COMMUNITY HOUSE

SEAN O'RICE, AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY
HOUSE

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AKILLIA WILSON (SP?) PROJECT REACH

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FOR SPORTS AND ARTS IN SCHOOL

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CHILDREN

RANDY LEVINE, POLICY DIRECTOR FOR
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REBECCA COSTY CHENKO (SP?) ARISE

KIM MADDEN (SP?)

LORI PODVESTNER (SP?)

MICHELLE NORRIS

JOHN SENTIGAR (SP?) COVENANT HOUSE
ADVOCACY TEAM MEMBER

IETTA SATAKKI (SP?) POLICY AND ADVOCACY
MANAGER WOMANKIND

KEVIN TSE, CHINESE AMERICAN PANNING
COUNCIL

JOANN YOO, ASIAN AMERICAN FEDERATION

HIROKO HATANAKA, JAPANESE AMERICAN SOCIAL
SERVICES

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INDIA HOME

VANESSA LEUNG, COALITION FOR ASIAN
AMERICAN CHILDREN

EVE STOTLAND, THE DOOR

VANESSA DELL, MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK,
STAFF ATTORNEY

KEVIN DOUGLAS, COALITION FOR ADULT
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LITERACY ASSISTANCE CENTER

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INITIATIVES AT NEW YORK LEGAL ASSISTANCE
GROUP

JANE LEI (SP?) STAFF ATTORNEY AND
TRANSITION COORDINATOR OF THE URBAN
JUSTICE CENTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT

ERICA SARMIENTO

GREG BRENDER, UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES

LISA CASEWELL, POLICY ANALYST FOR DAYCARE
COUNCIL OF NEW YORK

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MAGGIE ANDREONI, MANAGER FOR RESEARCH
POLICY AT HUNGER FREE AMERICA

RIADA SAMPAS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT FOOD BANK NYC

ANDREA CIANFRANI, DIRECTOR FOOR PUBLIC
POLICY AT LIVEON NY

RACHEL SHARA (SP?) CITY MEALS ON WHEELS

SANDY MYERS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

SASWATI SARKAR, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE AT NEW YORK
ALLIANCE AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

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OF KING BRIDGE KNIGHT COMMUNITY CENTER IN
THE BRONX

MARISSA CHEIOLA (SP?) NORTH BROOKLYN
COALITION AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

DIPAL SHAH, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIPS AT CENTER FOR COURT
INNOVATION

SHANE CORREIA, CENTER FOR COURTS
INNOVATION

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

MARY HAVILAND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEW
YORK ALLIANCE AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

MICHELLE JACKSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
HUMAN SERVICE COUNCIL

PETER GEE, UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT

SASRAH FAJARDO, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST AT
FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCY

FAITH BAHOOM (SP?) ADVOCACY AND POLICY
ADVISOR FROM NONPROFIT INFRASTRUCTURE UJA
FEDERATION

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HOMELESS SERVICES UNITED

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DIAN DONG, CHEN DANCE CENTER

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ORGANIZATION NEW YORKERS FOR CUTURE AND
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GREG MAHALOVICH (SP?)

DOUG BERMAN

JUAN PENZONE (SP?) DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY

JERRY WESLEY, HEALTHCARE TRANSFORMATION
FROM GET HEALTHY CARE

ANNETTE GOWDROW (SP?) HCV PROJECT,
CODIRECTOR AT TREATMENT ACTION GROUP

SOFICA COMMANI, TREATMENT ACTION GROUP,
BERTAG

CLAUDIA CALHOUN, HEALTH POLICY DIRECTOR
AT IMMIGRATION COALITION

LAMOW BOYD (SP?), ACCESS HEALTH

ISABEL ABRU (SP?), COORDINATOR FOR ACCESS
HEALTH, NORTHERN MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT
CORPORATION

ZYRA HERNANDEZ CINTO (SP?) IMMIGRANT
HEALTH COORDINATOR AT INSTITUTE FOR
FAMILY HEALTH

RACHEL BYRD, PUBLIC UTILITY LAW PROJECT

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2 (Test, test, test. Today's the Committee
3 on Finance. Today's date is May 24, 2018. This is
4 recorded by Sakim Bradley.) (Test, test, test,
5 today's the Committee on Finance joint with Hospitals
6 and Public. Today's date is May 24, 2018. This is
7 recorded by Sakim Bradley.)

8 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Good morning and
9 welcome to the City Council's 12th and final day of
10 hearings on the Mays Executive Budget for Fiscal
11 2019. My name is Daniel Dromm and I chair the
12 Committee on Finance. This morning I've been joined
13 by the colleagues, Council Member Barry Grodenchik,
14 Council Member Adrienne Adams and many others will be
15 following shortly. Today we will hear first from the
16 Office of Management and Budget and then we will hear
17 from the Independent Budget Office, the New York City
18 Controller, Health and Hospitals and then the Public.
19 The Public portion of today's testimony will begin at
20 approximately 4:00 p.m. I want to remind everyone
21 who wishes to testify to please fill out a witness
22 slip with the Sargent in Arms. For members of the
23 public, the witness panels will be arranged by topic
24 so please indicate the topic of your testimony on
25 your witness slip. We understand that many seniors

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or people with disabilities who wish to testify must leave by a certain time so we will try to accommodate that need by putting you on some of the earlier witness panels. Any senior or person with disability who requires this accommodation, please make a note on your witness slip so we know who you are. For members of the Public who wish to testify but cannot do so at today's hearing for any reason you can email your testimony to the Finance Division at financetestimony@council.nyc.gov and the staff will make it a part of the official record. We will be accepting testimony until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May the entire Finance Division individually for all their terrific work in preparing for these hearings. The Towns Head and dedicated members of our Finance Division are the Director Latonia McKinney, Deputy Director and Chief Economist Raymond Majewski, Deputy Director Regina Poreda Ryan, Deputy Director Nathan Toth, Deputy Director Paul Scimone, Assistant Director Emre Edev, Community Council Rebecca Chasin (SP?), Supervising Economist Paul Sturm. The unit heads Eisha Wright, Chima Obichere, John Russell, Dohini Sompura and Crilhein Francisco. The Finance Analyst and Economists, Jessica Ackerman, Aliya Ali,

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Sebastian Bacchi, John Basile, Savanna Chou, Raymond Furlong, Sarah Gastelum, Hector German, Kenny Grace, Zach Harris, Elizabeth Hoffman, Daniel Krupp (SP?), William Karametang (SP?), Jin Lee, Kira McDonald, Jeanette Merrill, Namira Zazhat (SP?), Katelyn O'Hagan, Jimmy Reiss, John Seltzer, Kendall Stevenson, Angil (SP?) Wilbur, Steven Williams and Davis Winslow and of course the Finance Division Administrative Supportive Unit Nicole Anderson, Maria Pagan and Roberta Caturano who pull everything together. Next I want to thank my staff, Carolyn Tran, Sebastian Maguire, Michael Mallon and of course Ivia Cardozo who has been with me at all the Budget Hearings this year. I also want to thank the Sargeant at Arms who keep us safe everyday, Director of Security Carl D'Alba, the Chief Sargeant at Arms Rafael Perez, Mohammad Arshad (SP?), John Biando, Sakim Bradley, Hannah Datage (SP?), Dane Hope, McKindee Joseph (SP?), Edwin Lopez, Israel Martinez, Jessica Pelligrino and Charis Torres (SP?) and the film crew and New York City Media who watch us all. The New York City Media folks are John Vigoa, Amir Sukalic, Elliot Stern, Patrick Ullis (SP?), Anthony Austin, Isaac Sarpong, Ivan Penna (SP?), Agron Checka

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(SP?) and the sound unit are Michael Mathano (SP?),
Wayne McGregor, Paul Harau (SP?) Powell Ryan Hayes.

I want to thank them for the excellent work that they
do. On keeping to my remark, I am keeping my remarks
brief because I know we have many questions for OMB.

Over the last three weeks I have had the pleasure of
presiding over 50 hours of Budget Hearings on the

Fiscal 2019 Executive Budget along with my colleagues
on the Finance Committees and the other committees

who have joined us, we have had the opportunity to

carefully examine individual agency budgets, question

Commissioner and gather information about programs

and initiatives that affect our constituents. Now

that the hearings are concluding we move into the

next phase of the Budget Process namely negotiations

between the Mayor and the Council that will

ultimately culminate in the agreed upon adopted

Budget. These negotiations are essentially a

discussion about priorities and the resources that

are available to meet those priorities. Resources

could be identified in two ways, either through

additional revenues or through increased savings.

Historically between the executive plan and the

adopted Budget OMB has been able to find significant

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resources from both sides of the spectrum. For example, according to OMBs June 2016 Financial Plan Reconciliation, during this time period \$315 million were found for Fiscal 2016 and \$135 million were found for Fiscal 2017. Similarly in June 2017, \$279 million in savings were found for Fiscal 2017 and \$102 million were found for Fiscal 2018. We have no reason to expect that similar savings will not be found in June 2018 for both Fiscal 2018 and Fiscal 2019. Moreover revenues have been stronger than expected. In the Executive Budget OMB increased its estimate of city funds by \$1 billion due to higher than forecasted tax revenues and both Council Finance and IVO have released forecasts that are significantly above the Executive Budget. In fact, if you combine Fiscal 2018 and Fiscal 2019 both Council Finance and IVO project \$1.5 billion more than OMBs projection in the Executive Plan. The existence of these additional resources must fuel the discussion of the Council's Budget Response Proposals because it is clear that the money is there to bolster the City's Reserves to fund Fair Fairs and to give homeowners some short term property tax relief among other Council priorities. However, what the

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Executive Budget Hearings have made clear is that this point in the process is that the Council should not have to be negotiating with the Administration to use these additional resources to fund core agency services and vital programs that the Administration only funded for Fiscal 2018. Throughout our hearings we have discussed at length the problems created when Major City Programs like Summer Sonic, COMPASS, Adult Literacy and Work, Learn, Grow only receive funding in one year increments and we have discussed the Council's confusion over the Administration's failure to baseline funding for programs like the Emergency Food Assistance Program that costs relatively small amounts of money but have giant impacts on the lives of those who need the most help. While I hesitate to use the phrase Budget Bans, the Administration's position definitely represents some level of gamesmanship in an attempt to have the Council settle for the restoration of these programs in lieu of the inclusion of other Budget priorities in the Adopted Budget. For the sake of New Yorker's who rely on these programs and for the sake of consistency in the Mayor's rhetoric about a Tale of Two Cities this practice must end this year. Before we begin, I

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would like to remind my colleagues that the first round of questions will be limited to three minutes per Council Member and if Council Members have additional questions, we will have a second round of questions at two minutes per Council Member. We will now hear from Melanie Hartzog, the Director of the Office and Management and Budget after she is sworn in by Counsel.

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

MELANIE HARTZOG: I do. Good morning Chair Dromm and Finance Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. I also want to thank Finance Division Director Latonia McKinney and the Council Finance Staff for their cooperation throughout this process. I am joined today by OMB First Deputy Director Kenneth Godiner and Deputy Director Charles Brisky and our dedicated and hard working OMB staff is here to assist me in answering your questions. Earlier this month I gave this committee an overview of the Executive Expense Budget, I testified about the updated Revenue

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Projection, Agency savings of \$754 million over
Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 and strategic investments.
I also highlighted that the City had to backfill over
\$530 million in State imposed cuts, shifts and
unfunded mandates. Deputy Director Godiner testified
the next day regarding changes to the Capital Budget
since February. He highlighted new investments, \$6.4
billion in redistribution of Capital Projects and
\$5.8 billion in rescindments from prior Capital
Budgets. The Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget is
\$89.06 billion. This is less than half of 1% growth
since the Preliminary Budget. Since adoption last
June, the Budget has increased by 4.5% which is
consistent with year to year growth over the past
three years. Nearly 2/3 of that growth since
adoption is related to three funding areas. The
costs associated with funding these needs is
substantial but they represent basic responsibilities
of City Government, specifically meeting the City's
Commitment to its Municipal Workforce, Educating our
children and repaying investors who financed the
City's Capital Program. In January 2014, all City
Employees were working without collective bargaining
agreements, teachers, firefighters, police officers

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and other municipal employees had gone without a contractual increase in wages or benefits for up to five years. The City was also sustaining an inefficient healthcare delivery system for hundreds of thousands of employees. Within 18 months, the City reached agreements with Union representing 99% of the workforce. At the same time, we worked with the Municipal Labor Committee to streamline employee healthcare. As a result, Municipal employees receive better care and the City now saves \$1.3 billion annually. The Labor Contracts benefit the City and Workforce by promoting stability and predictability and in the course of negotiating agreements we were able to find savings. Funding the Labor Agreements which represent 30% of Budget growth since last adoption is both necessary and beneficial. Funding education, a joint part of the Administration and Council represent 16% of the Budget growth since last adoption. This includes the \$125 million we invested in partnership with the Council to raise a student funding floor to at least 90% citywide and average funding to 93%. We must also devote resources to paying down the Bond Debt that finances our Capital Program. Debt Service Payments represent 11% of the

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Budget Growth since last adoption. The Bonds they support fund maintenance of and additions to our asset base. This includes adding school seats, expanding hospital emergency rooms, maintaining New York City Housing Developments and Financing Affordable Housing. We also paid Debt Service of Capital Funds that the City contributes to the MTA. It is important to note that to fund our Capital Budget we continue to estimate Debt Service cautiously and ensure that Debt Service does not exceed 15% of City Tax Revenue, the benchmark of responsible Capital Financing in the City for years. The spending I just discussed represents the majority of the Budget Growth since last adoption. The remaining spending covers the other costs of Governance including Agency needs and benefits and pension payments for municipal employees. Now I would like to discuss the Executive Budget, 25% of the new City funds spending in the Executive Budget was used to backfill state cuts, cost shifts and unfunded mandates. The remaining growth went toward deepening our commitment to prior investments and expanding services that New Yorkers need and expect. A large part of the new spending in the Executive

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Budget is devoted to basic city services. We added funding to the Board of Elections to help run 2018 elections. As required by the City Charter we increased the Department of Sanitation Snow Removal Budget. The minimum wage for Summer Youth Employment Program Participants was also increased. Basic infrastructure maintenance like storm drain cleaning and water management were also funded. We also strengthened our commitment to NYCHA. In order to accelerate heating system upgrades at 20 NYCHA developments we moved \$58 million in Capital from the out years to Fiscal year 2019. We also invested \$20 million to eliminate the backlog of 50,000 work orders within two years. These investments deepen our already unprecedented commitment to NYCHA \$1.6 billion in expense and \$2.2 billion in Capital. Another example is protecting our Technology Systems from Cyber threats. Business and public entities worldwide continue to be victimized by cyber criminals and cyber attacks can put our data at risk of exposure. They may also have significant impacts on our ability to provide City Services. In the Executive Budget we strengthen our commitment to protecting the City's Technology Systems from these

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threats. The \$41 million we added to New York City Cyber Command will be used to enhance our around the clock response capacity and continue the implementation of the latest Cyber Security Technology Citywide. Safe streets are important as well. To date we have invested \$28 million in Mature Violence Program. We added \$2 million in the Executive Budget to strengthen this commitment. The majority of this investment will be used to reduce street violence by creating a mobile crisis unit in each borough that will respond to shootings. Deepening our commitment to education is also a priority. To ensure that all students are reading at grade level by third grade, we added \$30 million to the Universal Literacy Program. This funding will be used to double after school reading problems for students in shelter, provide training to teachers who work with English Language learners and disabled students and hire more literacy coaches at low performing schools. In the Executive Budget we also added \$3 million to fund a public awareness campaign for the MWBE Long Program. This investment will amplify the progress the Administration has already made in this area including more than \$1 billion of

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contracts awarded last Fiscal Year alone, the most in the City's history. Since 2017, the Administration has made substantial investments to reduce opioid related deaths. In the Executive Budget we added \$22 million to Healing NYC. This funding will create programs at more hospitals citywide, increase in lock zone distribution and training and help more New Yorkers find substance abuse treatment. The total investment in Healing NYC at full ramp up is \$60 million. In conclusion we look forward to continued discussions as we work together to implement the Fiscal Year 2019 adopted Budget and I would be happy to take your questions.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much Director Hartzog for coming in to the rest of the panel as well. Uhm let me start off with asking you some questions about the Surplus Roll. The Fiscal 19 Executive Budget estimates that we will roll \$3.6 billion into Fiscal 19. This is often referred to as the Surplus Roll. In reality the Surplus Roll is likely to be much larger than the \$3.6 billion because historically OMB finds additional resources before adoption from a combination of additional revenues and additional savings. Last year at Exec,

1 the Administration estimated the roll to be \$3.7
2 billion and by adopted had increased it to \$4.2
3 billion. This year the Council, Finance, IBO and the
4 Controller all believe the Surplus Roll will be much
5 higher than what is shown in the Executive Plan as
6 you can see from the figures on the screen. How much
7 do you anticipate adding to the Surplus Roll at
8 adoption?
9

10 MELANIE HARTZOG: And so we are currently
11 in the process of doing our own estimates of looking
12 at what the actual prepayment will be. It is in fact
13 true as you have pointed out historically at
14 adoption, I'm sorry at the Executive Budget, last
15 Exec we are pretty much in the same place uhm at
16 \$3.65 billion uhm and so as we move into the Adopted
17 Budget we will anticipate that there likely will be
18 additional prepayments of.

19 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: An increase?

20 MELANIE HARTZOG: Yes. How much? We are
21 still in the process of assessing.

22 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay uhm I want to
23 talk a little bit about the Budget structure and
24 transparency, something that has come up actually in
25 every hearing that we have held, so far, in the

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Council's Fiscal 2019 Budget Response the Council requested 123 new units of appropriation across 22 City Agencies yet none of these additional U of As were included in the Fiscal 19 Executive Budget. Uhm we have repeatedly asked for the cooperation of the Administration on this matter, yet nothing has come forward at this point. Of the 123 new U of As the Council has proposed, will you be including any of these in Fiscal 19 Adopted Budget, and if so, what?

MELANIE HARTZOG: So first let me say we really value the partnership that we have with the Council and transparency is obviously important to us and very critical. We want to be able to have you know Council to have greater insight into our Budget and so of course in terms of going into the Adopted Budget Process those are part of our ongoing conversations with you. We have looked at many of the requests that have been made around the U of As. We think there are opportunities to in fact be more transparent and as I said as moving into Adoption, we can have those conversations.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So can you tell me the level of communication that you've had with the Agencies. Some of them have acknowledged, others

1
2 have said to us that they are not sure that that is
3 actually happening, can you uhm describe the level of
4 communication that you've had with those agencies?

5 MELANIE HARTZOG: I have not had as
6 direct of a communication with the agencies. I am
7 sure that my staff have been in communication with
8 the Agencies around uhm particular requests that you
9 have made uhm and again as we move into these
10 conversations for adoptions we can have further
11 conversations about which Agencies, which U of As
12 make sense.

13 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Well some of them
14 have said outright no, others have had okay we are
15 willing to discuss it. Uhm what stock does OMB put
16 into an Agency's opinion about creating new U of As.

17 MELANIE HARTZOG: A significant amount of
18 stock. I think that part of the challenge will be
19 uhm how, you know I think one of the requests has
20 been around providing a U of A for Raise the Age
21 staff and the agencies and that is a very complicated
22 request because as you think about for instance
23 having attorneys, they are not attorneys that are
24 specifically dedicated to a Raise the Age case.
25 Attorneys work on multiple cases so you know that may

1
2 prohibit the Agency's ability to be able to have
3 flexibility in their staffing so that is one example
4 that I know because I'm aware of that and
5 conversations around that. So I do put a lot of
6 stock into what the agencies tell us but again is it
7 part of our process in working with the agencies and
8 with you, we do think there are opportunities for us
9 to be able to provide some clarity, greater
10 transparency within the Budget.

11 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So certainly in many
12 agencies where there is only one or two, uhm U of As,
13 those are areas that we really would like to see some
14 improvement on.

15 MELANIE HARTZOG: So we definitely will
16 take that as a priority for you and looking at those
17 particular agencies.

18 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Another area of
19 concern for me has been the District Attorney's
20 Budgets during the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
21 Executive Budget Hearing the Executive Director
22 Elizabeth Glazer uhm testified that her office did
23 not have insight on how the District Attorney's
24 Offices are allocating their resources, something
25 that I found a little difficult to believe actually.

1 She said that therefore she is not in a position to
2 put more money in to address salary parody issues.
3 Further she indicated the DAs have received a 32% of
4 \$89 million increase and that the funding should be
5 used for salary parody as the DAs have discretion to
6 allocate their Budgets in the way that they would
7 like. How is it possible that Mark Jay doesn't know
8 how the DAs are allocating their resources? This
9 was, I, I didn't, I couldn't understand this.
10

11 MELANIE HARTZOG: So I think the, the DAs
12 have a lot of discretion in terms of how they
13 allocate their resources, particularly around
14 salaries. Uhm we have had ongoing conversations, I
15 know that Liz has been involved. I have had
16 conversations with the Bronx DA about this and I'm
17 meeting uhm with all of the DAs throughout this
18 process leading into adoption to really gain better
19 insight into in fact not just what their salaries are
20 but in fact what their staffing levels are, how are
21 they staffed? We are hearing a lot of different
22 concerns around uhm the fact that felony cases, while
23 arrests have gone down, all caseloads have somewhat
24 gone down felony cases are becoming more complex,
25 harder and may need additional resources, so we are

1 all, all part of conversations that we are having.
2 We just don't have the insight into their Budgets to
3 see in fact how, what is their staffing models? How
4 are they uhm allocating their staff in terms of
5 tenure to particular caseloads but it is something
6 that we are prioritizing and working.

8 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Director Hartzog,
9 Elizabeth Glazer said that she could not pull salary
10 information. I don't see how that could be true
11 because those salaries are cut with a city check and
12 that information should be available to her and to
13 your office as well.

14 MELANIE HARTZOG: So again we have as
15 part of our conversations with the DAs have had
16 insight into their salary levels. Uhm what we are
17 trying to get better understanding of and it's what
18 uhm Chair you asked for at the last hearing which is
19 in fact what are the caseloads like? Are the case
20 loads more misdemeanors or are the caseloads
21 felonies? What, what level of complexity are those
22 cases? What are the resources that are needed for
23 those. That's the level of insight I think that we
24 need to be able to assess, not only the salary
25 disparity issue that has been brought up but also

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caseloads and I think this is particularly important as we move into implementation of Raise the Age. So it's unclear to us at this point and that's why we need to have these ongoing conversations with the DAs around how their caseloads will be impacted as a result of Raise the Age. While the 16 and 17-year-olds will be transitioning certain cases will be in Family Court. There are still a number of cases that will remain with the DAs. The DAs have the discretion to retain certain cases based on what the nature of the charges so there is a lot of moving parts there that we want to have better conversations and part of our process with them in understanding exactly what the needs are.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Well what was a little disturbing to me was that immediately following the hearing with Mark Jay was that I got emails from at least three District Attorneys for sure, maybe others I'm not exactly sure at this, sitting here now backing up the DAs claims that they have provided a lot of this information to Mark Jay. Uhm and they many of them have provided it over a year ago but it seemed apparent to me that Ms. Glazer had not reviewed this information, so who is going to

be responsible to ensure that the information that the DAs are providing will be reviewed and taken seriously?

MELANIE HARTZOG: Well, you are hearing me say how important I believe this is and the Mayor believes it is important. DAs are a critical partner in our Public Safety Efforts and so you are hearing from me that this is a priority for the Administration. Just in terms of I can't speak to what uhm Liz you know did or did not receive but I can tell you that I've been in communication with her. We are working on this issue in partnership with her and her team as well so again I can't really speak to what she didn't get or, or doesn't have but we are in the process of collecting that information and assessing it and meeting with the DAs.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay and that's, that's really important to me because I was not happy with those answers to be honest with you. Pursuant to the Budget Modification process between the City Council and the Administration reached prior to approval of Budget Modification MN6 the Administration agreed to provide briefings for membership either at Member Conference or another

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venue at which the Administration will make key staff available to explain major changes proposed to the Financial Plans that will be presented in a modification to City Council members before it comes to us like it did this year. The Administration also agreed that premodification presentation would be made to the finance chair to me. The Administration will present a final Fiscal 2018 Modification to the Council prior to the close of the Fiscal Year. At what point will you be prepared to brief members on that and can you tell us today uhm that that is the Final Mod for Fiscal 18?

MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm I think just in terms to be clear on the briefing process, again this is all part of our efforts to work with you around transparency so we are more than happy to brief you on what is in the Mod.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay you know things got a little crazy near the end and before adoption so when can we count on the Administration getting back to us with some times and times and dates to meet about that?

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MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm, you can, you will
hear back from us today from our Legislative
Preparers Office.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Uhm so the same
agreement includes a provision that OMB will set up
new reports regarding new insignificantly changed
programs such as school custodial services that
provide Budgetary information; however, we learned on
Tuesday at the DOE Budget Hearing that the School's
Custodial Budget may be as much as \$100 million off
but the Council is yet to see any details on this or
even receive a commitment from DOE to provide
detailed reports. Why haven't we received any
information on that as of yet?

KENNETH GODINER: Uhm we are trying to
figure out a system to be able to provide the Council
with more information, more insight into the School
Custodial Budgets on a school by school basis. We
are working through that now. Uhm.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: That estimate.

KENNETH GODINER: Uhm we want to increase
transparency in this area and have more line of sight
for the Council.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: That \$100 million is probably double I think of what it was this time last year, am I correct in that?

MELANIE HARTZOG: I, I, I actually can't speak to the \$100 million but I know that there are no cuts to the uhm to the School's Custodian's Budget. There is one time funding and there were shifts in Fiscal Year 19 but there were, but there were no reductions.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: But that brought it up to what?

MELANIE HARTZOG: So there are one time shift that happened in 19 that brought it up to 680, so as we, I'm sorry in 18 so as we move into 19 we are going to be once again assessing where we are with the Budget and seeing if there needs to be additional shifts happening with it.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So with that size of an increase, we definitely need to get more information on that.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Understood.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay. Uhm the Library System Capital Commitment Rate. The Library System has a very low Capital Commitment Rate. In

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Fiscal 17, the Library Systems Committed only 18.5 million or 4.3% of their Annual Capital Plan. At the Library's Hearing all three system Presidents expressed their frustration with DDC, testifying that 75% of DDC Projects have yet to be estimated again and that there is a hold up at every stage of the construction project. They said every single stage has been difficult for them. When OMB testified in the beginning of May you mentioned that you are working with the systems on a Reform Grant Process to improve the commitment rate. Can you describe what that process will look like? And uhm when will the new process become effective?

MELANIE HARTZOG: The, the new process is already in place and in fact I just had a conversation with the Head of the New York Public Library about three weeks ago to talk about how that process is progressing uhm and there'll be contracts in place and registered very shortly and avail, funding available for Fiscal Year 19. Uhm what we did was essentially start to treat the Capital Projects for the Public Libraries because of their unique position in that there are somewhat of a Government Agency to treat their projects more as

grants so that we can be able to give them a contract, subsidize the cost of the Capital Project again within Capital Eligibility Guidelines.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So will you expand this to other Agencies as well because this wasn't the only.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Sorry I wanted to say one other thing that we did is also look at what projects, for instance the New York Public Library could manage, that they could manage themselves versus having DDC Manage so that there was actually offloading some of the DDC Projects to the Library to manage themselves.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So will you be doing this with other Agencies as well?

MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm we actually do it for Cultural Institutions as well.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: What about Parks?

MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm you know I'm, I'm open to assessing that, good question, we should be looking into that as to whether or not there is any opportunity to do that for Parks.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay because there's been a lot of concern about that.

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MELANIE HARTZOG: Uh-huh.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I think Chair Grodenchik is here and he has been expressing a lot of concern around that. Uhm, so which Agencies do you think have the most issues with the DDC Process?

MELANIE HARTZOG: I don't think it's a matter of which Agencies have the most issues, I think that the challenge with DDC is that they manage many projects and those projects vary significantly in terms of the types of projects they manage. Some of them are very straight forward and some of them are much more complicated. Uhm I've been working with Deputy Mayor England and really looking at whether or not we can have Agencies manage more of their projects directly as one strategy to help alleviate some of the uhm, uhm burdens off of DDC because it is a big portfolio that they manage across all of the city Agencies and then it goes back to some of the other things that we have put in place that we have talked about uhm at prior hearings that we are always willing to do more of which is looking at investing and prescoping to help; uhm, we've invested more resources in terms of staffing in DDC, defined a Planning Unit and we also made an

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investment in this Executive Budget for CPSD Studies which OMB manages essentially that will help in fact alleviate some of the challenges with managing projects, particularly projects that her challenging, complex and that we have not done before.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Let me talk a little bit about H and H. During the H and H Fiscal 19 Preliminary Budget, Dr. Katz promised that Council that it would receive an up-to-date accrual based and cash based financial plan and an updated transformation plan well in advance. He said well in advance of the Executive Budget Hearing. Today's H and H Hearing was originally scheduled for May 7 but OMB and H and H both failed to provide the required Budgetary Data before that day so the hearing was rescheduled for today. Even with the extra 2-1/2 weeks time the Council was only provided with the information yesterday, I don't, it's extremely difficult for me to prepare when I only get a report the day before. In total, we have received less than two pages of information, supposedly explaining H and H \$8 billion plan with a B, billion, why did OMB fail to produce the promised documents in a timely manner?

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MELANIE HARTZOG: So Chair, I, I, I understand you are concerned about receiving it very late, uhm and you know the day before the hearing. I think context is important here. The first is that Dr. Katz came on board in January. Uhm and he then moved very quickly as I think.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Directly Hartzog not to be rude but this happens every year with them. It does and this is a major concern of the Council that needs to be corrected because there is no way that we can have proper oversight over the funding that we give them if they continuously do this.

MELANIE HARTZOG: I understand that you would like to receive further in advance of the hearings. We are happy, more than happy to sit down and brief you and your team and Council Finance on what is included in the plan. I do want to say that this has been a remarkably turnaround time for a major change to the Transformation Plan that Dr. Katz has outlined over the past, since January, in five months that we were able to then reflect in H and H's Financial Plan so I think we've worked very aggressively over the last several months with Dr. Katz to be able to reflect his broader changes that

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he wanted to see that we all support within the H and
H Financial Plan uhm but again I am happy to sit down
with you and the Council Finance Staff and go through
the details of it.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So you are
guaranteeing me that next year, this is not going to
happen?

MELANIE HARTZOG: I am guaranteeing you
that you will have the Financial Plan uhm ahead of
time and you will have sufficient time to.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: And what does ahead
of time mean?

MELANIE HARTZOG: You will have
sufficient time to review it before your hearing.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Well we are going to
have to really work on that. Because it's just
unacceptable to receive a report a two page report
two days, a day before the hearing on it. Uhm and we
still haven't gotten an accrual based financial plan
from them which is the standard I think accounting
method for large hospital systems.

MELANIE HARTZOG: We. When we do the
accrual plan in the fall and I will commit to you to

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get you the accrual plan as soon as it's completed in the fall.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay so, this is, this is going to remain a problem and uhm I'm deeply concerned about it to tell you the truth. Alright my, my District has Elmhurst Hospital in it and for us not to know what they are going to do moving forward creates huge problems and and services to the people who are the most needy in our City. So Dr. Katz really needs to shake that place up a bit. Raise the Age, uhm Readiness Plan. Over the course of the past three weeks we have held many hearings that have touched on the Raise the Age given that it is a multi-Agency initiative. Even after the hearing, assurances from DOC, ACS, Mark Jay, DDC and the Law Department and others that the Administration will be ready by the October 1st deadline. The Council remains skeptical that it will be ready. For example DOC has yet to identify and train the staff who will be at the juvenile facilities or even develop the training program. ACS has created a new job title for the facilities but hasn't even posted a job listing for it as of yet. Uhm the Law Department is planning to onboard 254 new positions but it's still

1
2 in the interviewing processing and DDC is still in
3 the very early stages of preparing the physical space
4 at Horizon and Crossroads. Will the Administration
5 be ready to implement Raise the Age by October 1st?
6 And if you if think it will, please provide this
7 Committee with some more details about how that's
8 going to happen?

9 MELANIE HARTZOG: So as, as all the
10 Commissioners and Including MLCJ have testified that
11 we are committed to meeting that timeline. Just a
12 quick update since ACS's hearing, they actually have
13 gotten the approval on the titles and are now in the
14 process of posting, uhm so things are moving along
15 uhm quickly. I think in terms of your concerns
16 around a whether or not we are going to, you have
17 enough details, we've put and reflected in this plan
18 all of the work or staffing and the resources that
19 are needed for the first phase to meet the October
20 timeline. As I said at our last hearing, we are
21 still, as we move forward that implementation will
22 then assess going forward what the needs are to phase
23 2 uhm but if you need more details on that again I am
24 happy to provide you with those uhm in addition to

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giving you whatever you need on the backup of what we
have done within the plan.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So we are concerned,
it's like four months away uhm and uhm, I'm, it's an
issue of major concern to me because it is something
that I have long advocated on, advocate for, so I
want to continue having those discussions with you as
we go through the process. Uhm let's talk a little
bit about DOE and their current Fiscal Plan. It
poses many Budget risks including accurate
projections for Medicaid Reimbursements which by the
way has also been a huge problems for years, since
I've been elected to office. Accurate projections of
State Aid and a Funding Deficit for the New York City
Support Services and Charter School Enrollment.
Specifically for DOEs Medicaid Reimbursement the
Projection is historically far less than what the
Agency actually is able to claim. DOEs Financial
Plan anticipates \$97 million annually in Medicaid
Reimbursements but last year the DOE collected only
\$40.5 million in Medicaid Reimbursement. What's
going on with that?

MELANIE HARTZOG: So uhm in this Fiscal
Year I just want to make sure that I have clarified

1
2 my fact there that we've had the biggest growth uhm
3 in their Medicaid Claiming uhm since we have actually
4 added that revenue to their Budget. Uhm it gives us
5 the confidence that they will in fact, achieve the
6 Medicaid that is Budgeted in future years and in fact
7 from Fiscal Year 15 to 17 it has grown by 89% so I
8 think that we are confident that they are going to be
9 able to achieve that.

10 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Are there still
11 issues with the C-CIS system in terms of being able
12 to correct the documentation that is needed to, to
13 collect the documentation that is needed to apply or
14 get the Medicaid Reimbursements.

15 MELANIE HARTZOG: I don't believe that
16 there are any uhm concerns around that, but I also
17 want to defer to DOE on specifics related to their IT
18 systems.

19 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: They are not as
20 willing to talk about this issue either in hearings
21 uhm and it is.

22 MELANIE HARTZOG: Then I will follow up
23 with DOE myself.

24 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay because you
25 know only getting half of what, you know what it

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could get is, is problematic at well. And I do give credit to the DOE for reducing or for improving the process I should say of getting that funding. At one time in my history here it was hundreds of millions of dollars so I acknowledge that but at the same time there is still a lot of room for improvement there. Okay do you know the uhm, the year to date accr... actuals on these collections?

MELANIE HARTZOG: So my understanding is it is still pending, there are some lags in the State Payments and so we don't yet have an estimate.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So what hap, what have you actually received?

MELANIE HARTZOG: It's about in the \$20 million range so far but let us get back to you with an actual number.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay but you are estimating \$20 million?

MELANIE HARTZOG: That's just what we've received.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay, uhm Charter Schools. IVO projects 3,115 more Charter School students than projected by the Mayor for the upcoming school year. IVO also expects Charter Enrollments to

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increase by 3,599 more students than estimated by the Administration in 2020 with the different increasing to 6,930 in 22. As a result, IVO's Spending Projections for Charter Schools are higher than the Administration's projections by \$48 million in 2019, \$56 million in 2020 and \$82 million in 2021 and \$108 million in 2022. Uhm what is the Administration's projection for Charter School enrollment this coming Fiscal Year and what are factors where, uhm what factors were considered when calculating that amount?

MELANIE HARTZOG: So our Charter School enrollment for the projected year is 117,000.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I'm sorry?

MELANIE HARTZOG: 117,000.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay that cost keeps going up and up every year and uhm Charter School enrollments are problematic, uhm and how man, how much does that take away from the Public School students? From District School Students?

MELANIE HARTZOG: It's about \$2 billion.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: \$2 billion a year.

Okay uhm what I'm going to do now is turn it over to some of my colleagues, let me say that we have been joined by Council Member Matteo, Council Member

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Rosenthal, Council Member Powers, Council Member
Gjonaj, Council Member Van Bramer and we do have
questions from Council Member Grodenchik, Rosenthal,
Powers and Van Bramer. So let's start with Council
Member Grodenchik.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: Thank you Chair, uhm
good morning Ms. Hartzog it's always good to see you.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Good morning.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: And your cast of
hundreds maybe thousands, a lot of people here. Uhm
I do just want to comment because you are the
Director of OMB and you are the guardian of the tax
payers purse more than anybody else except perhaps
the Mayor and it does trouble me that in your, in
your statement uhm you talked about the rate of
growth being about 4.5% which is consistent but it is
way above the rate of inflation and there hasn't
really been much inflation and that's just something
I want to put on the record uhm for you to think
about because as we go forward over the next few
years it is important that we, you know, understand
that these, these monies have to come from somewhere
and they are coming from the tax payers of this City
for the most part. Uhm the other thing that troubles

me is that there is no mention in your testimony today about the rate of increase, the tremendous growth in the Department of Homeless Services Budget and that according to the figures that I have is over \$300 million in a very short time and I know that you are not the Commissioner of Homeless Services and I've had many discussions with Commissioner Banks uhm and his staff but it doesn't seem there like we are getting any bang for the buck and I just, I want to put that on the record and I wanted, uhm you to comment perhaps on where you see the growth of the City Spending going over the next several years. The Mayor has three more Budgets left and he is term limited and I presume that you will be with him for the rest of his term, uhm so I just wanted to know if you had any uhm way of wrestling some of these costs now.

MELANIE HARTZOG: So the first thing I want to point out is that we actually had a Savings Plans in each and every plan, and to the tune over the course of the two Fiscal Years have saved over \$2 billion so our savings plan is aggressive. Within the Executive Budget uhm at the Preliminary Budget the Mayor announced that he wanted us to achieve at

1
2 least \$500 million in savings within the Executive
3 Budget, we achieved over \$500 million, \$734 million
4 worth of savings.

5 BARRY GRODENCHIK: But even with that,
6 the rate of.

7 MELANIE HARTZOG: In addition to that we
8 also as part of our.

9 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Is, is still high.

10 MELANIE HARTZOG: Aggressive efforts
11 around our partial hiring freeze in this plan. We
12 took down 1,000 positions for Fiscal Year 19, that's
13 \$50 million worth of savings. So we continue to look
14 for savings. Our Citywide Savings Plan has been and
15 will continue to be aggressive. The Mayor has made
16 that a priority and a charge of mine to make sure
17 that we continue to do that.

18 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Alright I hope that
19 you will be more aggressive in the future. Instead
20 of, nothing, you know certainly it's not personnel
21 but it just it uhm I get a lot of complaints you
22 known property taxes are still scheduled to increase
23 by over 20% over the next four years. It's just
24 unsustainable especially for people in my District
25 that are living on fixed incomes. So with that, I

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think I'm just about out of time, I may come back for
a second round. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: Thank you Ms. Hartzog.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Council Member
Rosenthal.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: So much Chair Dromm for
your questions and following up on the basic uhm
physical responsibility questions on the City's
Budget. It is always great to see Director Hartzog
really even my, you are really doing a great job and
I appreciate you. Uhm what I would like to talk
about is some of the items that were in the City
Council's Response to the Executive Budget and sort
of I'm trying to understand, I'm looking at what
then, wait, the response was to the Financial Plan,
right and then you have the Executive. It's my
thing, I should know that. But anyway.

MELANIE HARTZOG: The response was to the
Preliminary.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: Thank you and but those
items not showing up in Executive, while other things
seemingly equivalent are, are included, so for
example, very simply uhm Human Service Contracts?

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We've all acknowledged that they are underfunded, the Mayor last year put in \$40 million to rectify the situation, the Human Services Council puts the need at \$200 million, uhm I know that the Mayor has a resiliency working group that is trying to address some of the problems uhm in terms of expediting procurement and some of that has worked but I would put taking care of our seniors which is what we contract out for or foster care, or daycare, I would put that right up there with Cyber Security which the Mayor did put funding in \$41 million or let's take another example Pay Parody for the CBO Employees who are uhm the CBOs are doing UPK and you know we had a very lively discussion the other day with Chancellor Carranza about making sure everyone gets access to UPK. He's doing a terrific job and the way that he is doing it, the way that the Administration is doing it is by identifying every site in the school where it is possible fantastic and also any CBO that is doing the work so that everyone has access, yet, we haven't agree to pay the same workers the same amount of money so the workers at CBOs are paid less. The environment, you know the entire CBO because it's a contract service is getting less money than what's

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happening in the DOE and yet there is no money in the Budget for pay parity or again the Human Service Contracts, uhm that's one really screaming discrepancy in my mind's eye and no acknowledgment that that's important uhm another issue is you now the afterschool programs and summer programs for our youth. We, the Mayor touts this is fully funded and every kid has access to it. Look, I support him in these efforts and when I'm allocated some funding to distribute it, I allocate it to the schools that do not provide and by the way thanks to Council Member Van Bramer, I allocate it to the schools that do not provide afterschool programs so I'm luckily, some taxpayer dollars are filling that need but we know we've identified some programs that year after year we bring to the Administration to say here's how you can fully fund and they don't get funded. I mean the example, what's happening in my District is that you know uhm the city put out an RFP for Summer Youth Programs and agreed to give the money to a site that is the on the NYCHA Property that is the rival gang property to the NYCHA Facility in my District that doesn't have a Summer Program. So the expectation from the bird's eye view is that the kids in this

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NYCHA facility are going to go to that NYCHA Facility for summer programs. I'm the local Council Member, I'm here to say that ain't happening and none of us would want that to happen so why not fund the summer program that's right there at that in the facility in the NYCHA Facility in my District.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Council Member, let's let the Director answer some of these questions.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: So you get the point. Thank you.

MELANIE HARTZOG: There are several questions, let me see if I can start from the top. Uhm just in terms of the Human Services' Contracts, uhm I think there has been a significant investment in Human Services Contracts overall since this Administration has come in place to the tune of over \$600 million.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: I don't disagree.

MELANIE HARTZOG: And I.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: And it's making up for 20 years of disfunding so thank you.

MELANIE HARTZOG: I appreciate that and I personally was involved as you know with the Non-

profit resiliency committee in working on the indirect rate uhm which is over \$100 million. Originally we talked with the sector about phasing it in and we've move to full implementation in one year for them to get their needed and direct rate increases and that was in partnership with the sector, with the Council addressing major concerns of the sector. We've also said at the same time given how much we've invested that it's going to take time for us to get there. As you just pointed out, there has been disinvestment uhm and having run early childhood myself for five years at ACS during the Great Recession very difficult times for the City where there were significant cuts and I think we've done a lot to address those and turn that around. In terms of pay parody another issue that having run the early childhood system for many years, recognized that that is one of the challenges. And again coming on board, this Administration has done a lot to address that issue as well. I can't tell you about what is included in the current collective bargaining agreement for pay parody for early childhood.

KENNETH GODINER: Right so it's important to remember that uhm the the providers have entered

1
2 into a collective bargaining agreements with your
3 Union. Uhm, that collective bargaining agreement
4 takes the through 2020 uhm the cost of that agreement
5 in 19 is about \$27 million with it rises to about \$32
6 million by Fiscal 21. This provides wage increases,
7 a new health plan, pension funding, uhm and uhm
8 finally salaries will reach \$44,000 and \$50,000 at
9 the end of the contract which is in line with the
10 current salaries paid to Pre-K teachers.

11 HELEN ROSENTHAL: Saying that the
12 contract going into effect starting.

13 KENNETH GODINER: It's already started.

14 HELEN ROSENTHAL: Already started, brings
15 them to pay parody?

16 KENNETH GODINER: It brings the, the
17 provider for the under 3 year olds, to under 4 year
18 olds to parody with the uhm CBO based U Pre-K
19 instructors.

20 HELEN ROSENTHAL: And so there should be
21 no reason, if you are just looking at pay there
22 should be no reason the workers at CBOs would want to
23 work for the DOE to make more money?

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KENNETH GODINER: This is, this is parody between CBO Pre-K providers and CBO providers for the for the under 4 year old.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Where the vast majority of the seats are.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: Okay so as okay so I'm hoping it's a simple yes or no but has that been included in the Budget that, or will that pop up in Exec, Adoption.

MELANIE HARTZOG: That collective bargaining agreement was, was negotiated in 20...

KENNETH GODINER: Two years ago.

MELANIE HARTZOG: 2015, 2016.

KENNETH GODINER: Yeah.

MELANIE HARTZOG: And so that funding is already in place.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: Okay I just for the record, I'm not a childcare provider so I don't have the experience or the information on my fingertips, the organizations that represent childcare providers are telling me that there is not pay parity and all I'm asking for is a simple yes or no.

MELANIE HARTZOG: If you really.

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HELEN ROSENTHAL: Is there pay parody in
the Budget?

MELANIE HARTZOG: The pay parody that Ken
is talking about that we had is part of a negotiated
right, we are talking about the early learning
providers who are represented by 1707 and they
negotiate with their in fact providers.

KENNETH GODINER: Employers.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Their employers.
Within that, we have pay parody between CBOs for 4
year olds teachers and with early learning 4 year old
teachers there is pay parody there because that was
one of the greatest challenges that as we expanded
Pre-K there was a lot of concerns around the fact
that, the fact that early learning providers were
losing teachers to other CBOs and so the collective
bargaining agreement that was funded actually brings
those salaries up to achieve parody within those
particular teachers for that age cohort.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: So why do you think
they are still losing staff to the DOE?

KENNETH GODINER: Let me, let me address
that a little bit also if you don't mind.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: Please.

KENNETH GODINER: I think the issue of pay parody really is about the CBOs versus the Department of Education and so there's still need to work on that issue. It's still not at a level where it's comparable. So I was a daycare center teacher, a daycare center Director, I made less money as a Director than I did in the Department of Education. Some efforts have been made on the part of the Administration to bring those salaries up to close to what the DOE teachers would get but I think still more work remains to be done.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: Thank you but my larger point is this. Why are we running through circles on this and yet Cyber Security is more important than keeping our CBOs uhm fully funded for what they need to take care of our 4 year olds which is a larger point and I just don't understand how the words of priorities translate into the Actual Budget because I'm not seeing it. There are still so many things that are not funded, whether it is after school programs, summer programs for youth, whether is pay parody at a CBO, compared to the DOE and any number of fronts that we could talk about that just, where

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it feels like we are kicking the can down the road.

Chair maybe you can.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I'm going to let,
I'm going to let Director Hartzog respond and then we
are going to move to another, another Council Member.

MELANIE HARTZOG: So but we're not
running around in circles. As part of what we
announced going back even into previous Preliminary
Budget last cycle was that we were actually moving
with ACS and the Department of Education to
transition all early childhood programs over to the
Department of Education and within that, we have and
will continue to look at how do we create a high
quality and better than we have now, early childhood
system, resources within one Agency that I know, you
share that priority and we both share that priority.
What we are talking about is the first phase of us
looking at how to address pay parity that when the
Administration came on board, it was one of the first
steps that were taken, that's not to say that there
are not more steps to be taken as we move forward
with that transition.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Alright thank you very much. Council Member Adams followed by Powers, Van Bramer and then Gjonaj.

ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you very much Chair Dromm. Good morning Madam Director I'm glad you are here today.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Good morning.

ADRIENNE ADAMS: Good morning. Uhm along the same lines as uhm as the line of questioning from my colleague, Council Member Rosenthal, I too am disappointed in the Administrations to me it seems an overwhelming negative response uhm to our recommendations, to the Council's recommendations. So throughout our Executive Budget Hearings, we have discussed at length the problems created when major City Programs like Summer Sonic, COMPASS, Adult Literacy, and Work Learn Grow only receive funding in one year increments. The Council and Administration always come to some sort of agreement though in time to actually adopt a Budget, hence the perception of the "Budget Dance" year after year. So in the meantime we leave thousands of New Yorkers in a position of terrible uncertainty not knowing whether they will have or can keep their jobs in the summer

1
2 or whether or not their children will be safely cared
3 for or if they will have access to vital resources in
4 the Communities across the City of New York. So what
5 reasonable explanation can you provide to us for not
6 "simply" baselining. I use the word simply in
7 quotes. Uhm but "simply" baselining these services
8 which in large part have been championed by the Mayor
9 himself. So it's just, I'm just in a bit of a
10 quandary wondering why these services cannot be
11 baseline uhm when they have been championed by the
12 Mayor and in large part funded appropriately.

13 MELANIE HARTZOG: Why don't I start with
14 your first question around uhm the Council's
15 response. Uhm as we talked about at the last
16 hearing, I know you specifically brought this up,
17 when I read your response, uhm my staff read the
18 response, Administration takes the punch for the
19 Council as a top priority and in fact within the
20 Executive Budget we've reflected over \$700 million of
21 the Council's priorities. Uhm that is if you even
22 excluded the request that the Council made for the
23 State Budget cuts to be backfilled which we did, it
24 still represents the highest amount of funding in the
25 Executive Budget based on the Council's response

1
2 within this Administration. So I think that clearly
3 speaks to us, recognizing the importance of the
4 partnership that we have with the Council and
5 actually reviewing a response knowing what your
6 priorities are and in fact reflecting them within the
7 Executive Budget.

8 ADRIENNE ADAMS: I think that.

9 MELANIE HARTZOG: I think that reflects.
10 No it does not reflect everything.

11 ADRIENNE ADAMS: Okay but we are still
12 talking more of quantity and not quality uhm I think
13 in our estimation. So you are speaking about numbers
14 and I'm speaking about the quality of services that
15 overwhelmingly were not reflected.

16 MELANIE HARTZOG: I would disagree with
17 you I would think that it is not, I'm talking about
18 it because of the magnitude of the dollars but in
19 terms of the quality of what we have put in and the
20 things that we've actually funded that you both we
21 and the Council agree on its high quality I would
22 say.

23 ADRIENNE ADAMS: Okay and.
24
25

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MELANIE HARTZOG: You've reflected them in your response and we've put them in the Executive Budget.

ADRIENNE ADAMS: Alright and the issue of baselining?

MELANIE HARTZOG: There are some things that we have baselined in fact, you know we can go back and look at some of the priorities that we've had in the past that we have baselined. In fact, at last Adopted Budget we came to an agreement with the Council and baselined a number of different initiative. As we move into the Adopted Budget Process I'm sure we will have those conversations.

ADRIENNE ADAMS: Okay.

MELANIE HARTZOG: My, my hope is that really truly take a hard look at what we will be doing and the deficit that we will be causing to uhm the Youth across the City of New York if we don't take into serious consideration an Adoption of baselining or fully funding our Summer Youth Programs. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you. Council Member Powers.

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KEITH POWERS: Thank you. Thank you and
thank you for being here. Thank you for the
testimony. I suppose you probably haven't been on
social media much today you would see that the
Council many Council Members and the Speaker are out
today advocating, continue to advocate for Fair
Fares, something that I know you know very well is a
Council priority. I don't know if it's been asked
yet but is there any, any since the last hearing not
so long ago any, any updates in terms of the
Administrations position around funding Fair Fares.

MELANIE HARTZOG: The Administration's
position remains the same. Absolutely support Fair
Fares, uhm recognize the importance of it. Uhm a
year ago put out a proposal to include Fair Fares and
a dedicated funding stream to do that. Uhm because
that's the critical component here which is as those
fares go up there needs to be dedicated revenue
supporting those. Uhm and it fits overall in to as
we see it the broader challenge of the MTA uhm and
having to in fact have the City continue to be a
reliant source of funding which we cannot be. \$2.1
billion is now where we are at in terms of Operating

Expenses that we subsidize to the MTA for its
Operating and \$2.6 billion in Capital.

KEITH POWERS: Is the Administration's
position that, that cause I think that was a little
different than what I've heard the Mayor say so I
want to clarify. Is the Administrations position
that we should not be funding Fair Fares because it's
the State's obligation and the MTAs obligation or.

MELANIE HARTZOG: The Administrations
position.

KEITH POWERS: Or is it that we should
have a funding stream to fund it?

MELANIE HARTZOG: The Administration's
position is that we support Fair Fares. We need to
have a dedicated funding stream to be able to do that
and it cannot just be reliant on City resources to
fund Fair Fares.

KEITH POWERS: So the position is that
we, that in support of funding it if we have a
funding stream for it, not that it is a State
obligation, is that correct?

MELANIE HARTZOG: Yes, that we would
dedicate a revenue source for it.

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KEITH POWERS: Okay and what has the Administration identified what would be the, a potential revenue source for that?

MELANIE HARTZOG: In the Mayor's Proposal that he put out more than a year ago it was related to the Millionaire's Tax. It doesn't necessary have to be that. There are other ways to do it. We've seen within the Subway Action Plan although the City is now uhm responsible for \$254 million in Operating Expenses as part of that and \$164 million in Capital. There is the For Hire Vehicle and Taxi Surcharge that presumably will support those moving forward. That is a dedicated funding stream for that purpose.

KEITH POWERS: What, what is the dedicated funding stream for that purpose?

MELANIE HARTZOG: The For Hire Vehicles and the Taxi Surcharge.

KEITH POWERS: That goes to Fair Fares?

MELANIE HARTZOG: No I'm saying that there's just in the way that there was a actually a dedicated funding stream created for that purpose there are other mechanisms, other strategies to create dedicated funding streams, it does not necessarily have to be the Millionaire's Tax. The

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Mayor put out a proposal around that but is open to other options and other ideas on how we can have dedicated funding sources that support.

KEITH POWERS: Has the Administration you have a people I think very fondly of in Albany that advocate. Is there a funding stream that you are advocating for in Albany today, assuming it's an Albany funding stream because that's the Millionaire's Tax and others that were advocating for the State or the City right now to.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Aside from the Millionaire's Tax that we've presented no but they are open to other options around how to do that.

KEITH POWERS: Okay I would uhm, and then let me I guess I'll stop with questions. I know there are a lot of questions had. Is there an amount outside of a dedicated Revenue Source that the Administration would support funding Fair Fares Act?

MELANIE HARTZOG: There's, there's the overall support for Fair Fares with a dedicated revenue source, currently and we talked about this at the last hearing as well but want to point out that we do current support Metro cards for the cash assistance population to the tune of around \$48

1 million. The City in total funds, the City uhm
2 portion of that is around \$19.9 million and this just
3 speaks to the fact that there is State and Federal
4 funding behind that so it's not just reliant on the
5 City.
6

7 KEITH POWERS: Which actually was my
8 qu... was sort of as my question.

9 MELANIE HARTZOG: Oh I'm glad that I
10 answered your questions.

11 KEITH POWERS: Which is I thank you for
12 doing that but I still, I'll still revisit it which
13 is that there potentially is an amount where the City
14 would say with a matching from the State or from the
15 Federal Government that we would subsidize it.

16 MELANIE HARTZOG: This goes into the Cash
17 Assistance Grant so we are able to claim that as part
18 of the Cash Assistance Benefits that an individual
19 receives. Uhm again it is just pointing out the fact
20 that we do make a contribution to this uhm for a
21 particular population and we do get reimbursement
22 from other funding streams State and Federal for that
23 purpose.

24 KEITH POWERS: Okay in respect of time
25 for my colleagues I'll wrap it up. Thanks.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay Council Member
Van Bramer. Uhm we've also been joined by Council
Members Gibson and Chin.

JAMES VAN BRAMER: Thank you very much,
first I want to uhm associate myself with Council
Member's Powers' line of questioning having spent
part of my morning leafleting in Sunnyside on the
issue of Fair Fares but I wanted to ask you a little
bit about Shelter Re-estimate and both you and
Commissioner Banks have said that this is the last
significant adjustment for shelter spending. Uhm
what is changed uhm that makes you confident that
that's the case, obviously we've seen sort of an out
of control spending train when it comes to shelter
cost and you mentioned significant, what does
significant mean in terms of the Budget, uhm so
what's changed, why are you confident that this is
the last significant adjustment and what does
significant really mean.

MELANIE HARTZOG: So uhm, as we talked
about and I know that Commissioner Banks has
mentioned this as well, this is the first year in
over a decade that year to year the census has been
flat and that we've in fact stabilized the census. I

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1 think that's a significant accomplishment it speaks
2 to what our resources have been when the census had
3 been increasing. We talked about the fact that
4 Advantage had gone away and the census had been
5 steadily climbing uhm and we put resources into not
6 just the shelter uhm system but we put resources into
7 the prevention so we introduced the Rental Subsidy
8 Program. To date we have moved out 87,000
9 individuals working with the Council. We put Access
10 to Council in place and that is our anti-eviction
11 efforts and the most recent plan and prelim we invest
12 another \$1.9 billion in Housing 2.0 to lower
13 affordability to the very, very low income to also
14 address this. So there was a number of resources
15 that we put in place that have been having
16 significant impact. In terms of your question around
17 the investment that we made for the Shelter Budget,
18 we believe that this is in fact the last investment
19 because of all of those things I just said. The
20 efforts that we put in place, the fact that the
21 census is flat and that investment represents uhm the
22 turning of tide so we talked about the fact that we
23 are aggressively moving, Commissioner Banks and his
24 team have really done a tremendous job of moving out
25

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of clusters as quickly as possible because of safety concerns there.

JAMES VAN BRAMER: Is your, because I know we have a limited time. Your Budget, does it reflect, I guess there are 90 new shelters in the plan, there is roughly 17 or 18 that are accounted for at this point, does the, does the Budget, do have budgeted the cost for those additional 73 shelters?

MELANIE HARTZOG: The current re-estimate includes the estimated cost over the five year plan for Turning the Tide for the opening of those shelters as well as other incremental costs related to shelter operations.

JAMES VAN BRAMER: Uhm so I would just say look I mean there has certainly been an incredible amount of spending and investment. I think just being flat is not necessarily an incredible achievement particularly given everything that has gone in here, uhm and and I don't, I just am really interested to know what's the, what's the level of confidence that somehow you are going to stay there and I don't think you really answered the questions of what's, what's the significant adjustment, uhm can you put a percentage on that or a

figure on that, what do you consider a significant adjustment to the Shelter Spending Budget so that after we adopt here.

MELANIE HARTZOG: We have been doing re-estimates that are in the, right this re-estimate that is included is in the tune of \$159 million for 19, that is what I consider significant and we do not believe that there will be adjustments of that level moving forward because we have actually fully funded the Turning the Tide Plan at this point and because of all of our efforts that we have invested in in rental subsidy programs as I said the Capital Investments we made around Affordable Housing.

JAMES VAN BRAMER: So you said not at the level of 159 but it could be. It could be \$100 million. Is that significant?

MELANIE HARTZOG: We've also talked about the fact that in fact if we move forward the Turning the Tide Plan and we are able to achieve those goals that we could actually save \$100 million as well so I don't anticipate as I've said including significant increases in the re-estimate moving forward our efforts are going to be focused on all the work that we've done to actually on a prevention side and

moving forward I've also talked about the work that we are going to do to further streamline our rental subsidies.

JAMES VAN BRAMER: Sure I want to move on to, uhm Libraries in the Capital but I wanted to follow up on one other thing that you just said, so Turning the Tide ultimately you think will save \$100 million but is that at.

MELANIE HARTZOG: No I actually said if we are able to accomplish all of the goals within that and in fact the shelters openings within the cluster movements as well and I know that Commissioner Banks also talked about this, that we could in fact save \$100 million.

JAME SVAN BRAMER: So that's if we achieve all of the goal on Turning the Tide which are also surpunted into 2021 2022 even 2023. Uhm we could obviously spend a lot more time on that but I did want to move on to Libraries and the Capital Commitment Rate and the fact that they've, they've gone below and I feel like our Libraries unfairly have to deal with that. My question raised specifically for you is that look I think the Department Design of Construction just is not doing

1
2 its job. In many case when it comes to these
3 projects what is your role in making sure that the
4 Department of Design and Construction is in fact
5 doing what they need to do and since you all are sort
6 of releasing the money uhm for these projects, so
7 many of our projects are delayed, so many of them are
8 in really uhm bad shape. But but what's OMB's role
9 in making sure that DDC is doing what it should do
10 with the money and that tax payers are getting their
11 value for what is significant levels of investment,
12 hundreds of millions of dollars.

13 MELANIE HARTZOG: So the first piece of
14 that is our role in assessing what the actual needs
15 area for DDC to be able to expedite the vast
16 portfolio that they have. Their portfolio is
17 significant and those projects vary in terms of scope
18 and size. We have had a lot of investments in in the
19 front end resource planning for them and then we've
20 actually within the plan made some investments within
21 our own in house resources at OMB where we can do
22 some of the studies that help them to actually get
23 project design done up from so that they are not
24 running into this problem where we get into design.
25 There is cost overruns. It takes time to then do

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change order which also delays projects. So we've made investments there. The other people of it on the management side of OMB is working with uhm as I had mentioned before, Deputy Mayor England's office where we are looking at whether DDC uhm can have some of the Agencies manage their projects directly versus having DDC manage in the instances of the Libraries. That is the case, we've actually given some to the Libraries to manage in some instances, so we are doing as much of that as we can.

JAMES VAN BRAMER: So I'll just end, obviously we need to fix it. It's broken. The system is broken and allowing the Libraries to do more past throughs and manage their own projects obviously is a part of it but I would argue that Deputy Mayor England and even Deputy Mayor Glen and yourself really need to also uhm brain storm ways to fix the problem at DDC and make sure that these projects aren't so delayed, aren't so over budget. The people of the City of New York deserve better.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Agreed and we are.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you
Council Member Gjonaj followed by Chin, Gibson and

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then Kallos and then obviously we've been joined by
Council Member Kallos.

MARK GJONAJ: Thank you Chairman Dromm.
Good morning. My concern uhm is the reserves and the
lack of properly prepared and not to referred to the
biblical terms but seven years of feast we should
prepare for seven years of famine. Can you please
elaborate more on the reserves that this
Administration is projecting?

MELANIE HARTZOG: So our reserves
currently between the general reserve and the capital
stabilization reserve are \$1.25 billion uhm within
the Retiree Health Trust its 4.25 and prior to this
Administration it was 3. It was actually low, we've
done over \$3 billion of that. Uhm we have the
highest level of reserves, historic levels of
reserves, uhm if you think about the years of the
Great Recession where there was just to the tune of
\$300 million and obviously had to draw down on the
Trusts at those times we are very confident in our
level of reserves.

MARK GJONAJ: I don't know.

MELANIE HARTZOG: And our reading
Agencies are also as I meet with them every plan uhm

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and discuss our level of reserves with them also have confidence in our level of reserves.

MARK GJONAJ: I don't know if we should be comfortable, currently we are in a solid position but certainly indicates there is a slowdown in the future. And why are we using our, the Retirement Health Benefit Trust the \$4.25 billion which is grossly and willfully underfunded, I believe the liability is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$90 to \$100 billion.

KENNETH GODINER: It's it's, approximately \$90 yeah.

MARK GJONAJ: I'm sorry.

KENNETH GODINER: It's in the \$90 million, billion dollar range.

MARK GJONAJ: So \$90 billion liability and we're claiming comfort with a little over \$4 billion.

KENNETH GODINER: Remember the obligation of the City is to pay the the cost of retiree health in the year in which it is provided. That number represents a present value of accumulation of benefits paid way out into the future, 60-70 years from now. Uhm so we have been paying the, the

1
2 amount, the cost of health insurance for retirees
3 each year, uhm the reserve provides almost two years
4 of, of the cost of those payments at the current
5 level. But in each year the City is appropriating
6 money and spending money to pay for the cost of, of
7 the actually retiree health not drawing down on that
8 \$4.25.

9 MARK GJONAJ: Let me continue. The
10 Financial Plan shows that we will use all by \$1
11 billion of our reserves by year 2022? That's four
12 years from now and just by coincidence there will be
13 a new Administration in here that will be faced with
14 some significant challenges moving in the future.
15 That's your own Financial Plan that shows \$1 billion
16 will be left? In addition, while you look that over,
17 there has been a call by the Citizens Budget
18 Commission by the Comptroller and the City Council to
19 increase the funding and there, the lack of response,
20 the more responsibility on the right approach has not
21 been embraced by this Administration when it comes to
22 properly funding this reserve.

23 MELANIE HARTZOG: I'm going to have
24 Charles answer your question about the Billion but I
25 want to say just on your last point uhm I would and I

1
2 know the Mayor would strongly disagree with the
3 statements that we have not been uhm good financial
4 stewards and that we don't have sufficient levels of
5 reserves. Uhm.

6 MARK GJONAJ: The argument and I just
7 want to.

8 MELANIE HARTZOG: I just want to
9 reiterate that we have a record level of reserves and
10 \$1.25 billion of reserves plus the Retiree Health
11 which has Ken mentioned is there and available to pay
12 for 2 years worth of the benefits is a pretty
13 significant level of reserves. Let me have uhm
14 Charles though answer your question related to the
15 billion.

16 MARK GJONAJ: That's good but the Retiree
17 Health Benefit is 4%, we have 4% in reserves and we
18 just grew Government to an all time high making the
19 financial burden in the future unsustainable but
20 please continue.

21 CHARLES BRISKY: Let me just clarify the
22 uhm your question about the reserves please. So our
23 Financial Plan we have to submit to the Council as
24 well as the Financial Control Board, it's on our
25 website and if you look at it, I have it in front of

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me here, our reserves are not going down in 2022, in every single year we have \$1 billion in the general reserve. Each of the four years, that's \$4 billion. In each of the four years, we have \$250 million in the Capital Stabilization Reserve, those have remained stable all four years, and all of the Fiscal Monitors have validated that and have praised us for that. In addition, uhm what Melanie didn't add in as on the Trust is when Mayor de Blasio came into power uhm his predecessor Mayor Bloomberg stripped every dollar out of the Trust and it was Mayor de Blasio who put the money back, uhm or else we would have nothing in the trust at this point in time.

MARK GJONAJ: Chairman if I just may, thank you for the consideration. The Budget Reserve is available at the beginning of each Fiscal year to help the City fund unexpected events, stands at 9% of the Adjusted Fiscal Year 2019 spending. The recommended reserve ratio by the City Controller Office stands between 12 and 18% of the Budget spending. Can 9% of the Adjusted Fiscal Year Spending be considered sufficient, support for an unexpected event during the financial plan?

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MELANIE HARTZOG: I really think we are going to agree to disagree on this point. We believe that our, our reserves are at record level highest. We have significantly increased the reserves, it doesn't mean that it's not going to happen moving forward uhm but we believe that our reserves are at a high level.

MARK GJONAJ: Uhm you may believe the controller doesn't believe it, the City Council doesn't believe it and the Citizens Budget Commission doesn't believe it uhm I'll ask one last question, does the Administration have any specific target as to what that target should be or is 9% what you feel comfortable with?

MELANIE HARTZOG: You are not going to like my answer, I'm going to say it again, we believe our reserves are at record levels. This is where reserves stand. We believe we are in good financial standing and uhm as I said in meeting with our Rating Agencies and our Bond Rating is strong.

MARK GJONAJ: Uhm I guess we will believe until we're not. Thank you.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Council
Member Gjonaj, now Council Member Chin followed by
Gibson and Kallos.

MARGARET CHIN: Thank you Chair, good
morning Director.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Hello.

MARGARET CHIN: Make sure I'm here so
that the Administration doesn't forget out the
seniors.

MELANIE HARTZOG: We would never forget.

MARGARET CHIN: Uhm we appreciate you
know the money that was put in last year, the
baseline funding and the model Budget but
unfortunately the Model Budget did not include a food
component, uhm and in our you know in your Council
Budget response we did ask for at least another \$11.6
million to take care of the increasing food costs for
home delivery meal and congregate meal and uhm we
didn't see that in the Executive Budget so hopefully
in the negotiation we hope that the Administration
definitely will put that in so that our senior can
get a nutritious lunch every single day. Uhm part of
that with the Model Budget, where, we're working
together with advocates, we are asking the

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Administration to really put the money in sooner rather than by FY 2021 because that we know that another \$10 million is going to be put in so we hope that \$5 million should be put in at FY19 and then another 5 by FY20. Uhm we want to make sure that the Food Service Worker in the Senior Center get taken care of right away, because right now they have been left out of the Model Budget, alright, so that's, that's one question. Uhm the other thing is that Wait List. We still have 1,000 seniors in Wait Lists for case management uhm and even though the Administration baselined \$1.2 million last year, we still got 1,000 seniors on Wait Lists and we don't want that ratio to go up. Right now it's 1, you know one case worker to 65 seniors, that is very high and we don't want to go any higher than that and that would mean more additional resources to make sure that we don't have a high ratio and that we don't have a wait list. And there are also new needs that DIFTA should be asking. And we want to push for that, because the DIFTA's Budget is less than half of, less than half a percent of the City's total Budget. Right now it is only \$340 something million and then that minus the \$20 something million that

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the City Council put in and one of the important components that the Council has been supporting in the last couple of years are centers, senior center that serves the immigrant population and these are new centers that are not in the DIFTA portfolio, they are not funded by DIFTA but they have been serving seniors in their community uhm without Government funding but the City Council was able to support them in the last two years. Last year we supported 10 of them with \$100,000 each. We need a dedicated funding source for these centers and we want them to be included in the DIFTA portfolio in the Model Budget so we need to make sure that we have money for that and also Capital Improvement for DIFTA centers that are located in NYCHA. I know that the Mayor you know put in money year after year to try to take care of those those 13 or 15 senior center but we got to make sure we upgrade them and, and put Capital Dollars in there and then I was like surprised to find out that some of our senior centers don't even have air conditioning. And they are supposed to be cooling centers in the summer and they don't even have air condition because they are in city owned building. So these are some of the new needs that the

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Administration should be putting into DIFTA and also we have to look at our seniors differently. They have made tremendous contribution to this City. They are not a burden. They are our assets. They are helping make the City great so we want them to enjoy their time at the senior center or at the NORK. We should be making more investments so I really want to impress upon you Director to get your on our side to make sure that we advocate for our senior because all of us will be blessed if ever get to be a senior and that is a blessing so we want to make sure that we make that investment uhm so what about putting more year in FY19.

MELANIE HARTZOG: They clearly have an amazing advocate in you Council Member. The you've asked me a couple of things so I'm going to try to quickly address all of the questions. So the first is on the model Budget and that we didn't include food as part of that and that is because food is a critical component of the service delivery system for seniors. Its broader than just Senior Centers. It includes the weekend meals, home delivered meals as you said and we want to have a much more thorough conversation with the provider community around food

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2 cost in general, both the cost of the food uhm as
3 well as staffing and resources that are needed and so
4 we felt that because we wanted to address it in a
5 much more systemic way with the Department for the
6 Aging, with the providers and with the advocates and
7 with you that it needs to be part of a bigger
8 conversation that we have around the model, then just
9 Model Budgets. So didn't forget it, coming back to
10 it, getting to Model Budgets is a first step and the
11 next step is going to be looking at food overall.

12 MARGARET CHIN: How soon?

13 MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm you know, very good
14 question, I think we prioritize with DIFTA trying to
15 get the resources out on the Model Budgets, uhm you
16 know you've asked us to as you are saying to front
17 load some of it but we did it as a phase in there are
18 many of the uhm Model Budget increases that we have
19 done in this way uhm and so it will continue to be
20 phased in but I will go back to have a conversation
21 with my team and with the Department for the Aging
22 around what our plan is for food and get back to you
23 with a timeline for mapping that out. Uhm on the hue
24 of capital improvements, we have been doing an
25 evaluation on a case by case basis. There has been

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some funding added to DIFTAs Budget, uhm on a case by case basis we have as I understand it, the Agency has I should say been making investments in those senior centers as necessary. On the issue of no air conditions, I think that is one of critical importance as we are coming into the warmer months and in fact today so I would ask if we can have and I will make sure that City Legislative Affairs follows up with you around that issue so that we can immediately address that within conversations with the Department for the Aging around what the needs are there and then on your issue of the Case Management Wait List, as you know we in fact did make the investments there and baselined it so that we were addressing some of the wait lists. There is always going to be an increasing need for wait lists. Part of our conversation moving to adoption I'm sure will be around this as well as home care which you didn't mention but I know is also a priority of yours and I just want to point out to you, given all of our work together on this DIFTA has increased our Budget significantly to the tune of over 60%, you know increase for prior levels for many of the programs that you prioritized, home care, case management, uhm

Model Budgets included and we will continue to have those conversations.

MARGARET CHIN: Uhm you didn't address the one about the, a stream of funding for the Senior Center to serve the newer immigrant population that we want to make sure that they are able to get fully funded uhm there should be dedicated revenue for that.

MELANIE HARTZOG: So one of the conversations I know that Department for the Aging has been having is really around the senior centers overall. At the last hearing, you and I talked about the fact that you know if we look at NYCHUS Senior Centers, uhm, you know how can we better utilize those centers. Are there other ways, other services, other service models and so I think that is part of our overall conversation about senior centers, clearly immigrant communities, emergent immigrant communities that have not had the opportunity uhm to be part of the uhm portfolio dipped as portfolio in the way that you are saying that you have been on your side, on the discretionary side, funding these programs should be all part of that conversation that we have.

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MARGARET CHIN: Thank you Chair. We just want to make sure that the City can continue to make the investment, even though the amount of money as grown but it was gutted before. And imagine the Budget is still less than half of 1% that is unacceptable. The senior population is growing and we want to make sure that they continue to age with dignity, in the communities they helped to build. They help build the City and so that's Budgets got to increase according to the, the percentage of the population, uhm investment needs to continue. Thank you. Thank you chair.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Council Member Chin, Council Member Gibson.

VANESSA GIBSON: Thank you very much Council Member Chair Dromm. Good afternoon to you and your team, thank you so much for being here Director Hartzog, uhm I certainly want to associate myself with many of my colleagues that already talked about uhm obviously Fair Fares and certainly New York City could joint San Francisco and Seattle in making sure that is a real reality for thousands of low income New Yorkers that are really in need. Uhm I think it would put us on the map and certainly we

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would be a model for many others. Uhm I appreciate all of the work when you first came at the beginning of this process for the Executive Budget, you talked about some of the successes as it relates to Capital so I certainly want to complement you once again on the \$6.4 billion and redistribution of Capital Projects as well as the \$5.8 billion in rescindments from prior Capital Budgets. But I also want to add because that's two and that's great but I do want to recognize that we still have to do more work on the multiple Budget lines that we get that are very generic in description in terms of more descriptions of the Budget lines that we get Agency by Agency so I certainly want to see if we can get three out of three, that would be great, uhm as we continue talk about this process. So I just want to throw out a couple of things and certainly my colleagues have all talked about it. We want to get to 80,000 summer youth slots for summer jobs for our kids, 70,000 is great, we have added more money for minimum wage but I think 80,000 would be a recognition of the need that young people need a job, they need something to do this summer and so I want to make sure that I go on record for that. COMPASS and SONIC are very

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important to my District personally and we want to make sure that we get those slots for hundreds of young people, middle school, summer camp free slots for our young people to have something positive to do during the summer. Uhm I'm a big proponent of adult literacy and we certainly want to see that added in the final Budget. Pay parody for our City's Prosecutors. Uhm certainly want to continue to talk about that. I'm sure my colleague talked about EFAP because we talk about EFAP, an emergency food every single year so this is one more year that we are also bringing it to the table to make sure that we really address many of the New Yorkers that are going to bed hungry unfortunately. Uhm I have two very quick questions, uhm the Office to prevent gun violence that I worked very hard on with Mark Jay there is additional money in the Budget to now add mobile trauma units which I'm very, very excited about. I wanted to see if I can get a time frame on implementation and also the crisis management system, we are adding four new catchment areas, two in Brooklyn and the 81 and the 88 and two in the Bronx 48 and 52 and I wanted to see about the time frame of implementation on that and then my second question is

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focused on NYCHA, and you eluded to the unprecedented levels of commitment that we have put in NYCHA for both Capital and Operating and I'm grateful for more roofs and boiler and heating systems but certainly where we find trouble is senior housing. For many seniors living in NYCHA that are being asked to downsize but they have nowhere to go. There has been a plan put forth by a number of community and clergy organizations to look at senior housing on undeveloped NYCHA property and I wanted to see if there was any further discussion you could add to that because certainly seniors as Margaret Chin says are the backbone and if we are going to downsize them out of NYCHA they need somewhere to go. Quality, safe, affordable housing and then my final question focuses on, because I always have a final question. I wanted to understand with the Capital Project Scope Development which is something we talked about earlier this month, we've added \$5 million in the Exec to this program which brings us to \$35 million and I wanted to understand have you seen any successes or any challenges, have you realized any savings across agencies with giving this funding to expedite their Capital Projects in the Capital

Project Scope Development CSPD is what we call it.

Thank you so much.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Okay so let's see,
starting from the top. I think I got all of it.

VANESSA GIBSON: Fair Fares, Fair Fares.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm that wasn't one of
your questions. You had the mobile units we will be
getting next calendar year in January and February
and the four new sites before the end of Fiscal Year
19.

VANESSA GIBSON: Okay that's for Crisis
Management?

MELANIE HARTZOG: Yes.

VANESSA GIBSON: Okay.

MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm on Senior Housing
just want to put this into context because we have
done a lot and I know you have been and the Council
as a whole has been very supportive of our work
together on this area. Uhm the first is in Housing
New York 2.0, we are building 30,000 units for senior
housing with next gen. Uhm we plan, the plan is to
commit about 10,000 units on NYCHA land. Some of
that portion will be dedicated to seniors and most
recently uhm through passage in Albany we had the

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2 SCRE and the SHE programs. These are the rent
3 exemption and the homeowners exemptions which
4 provides relief to seniors. SCRE serving 60,000
5 seniors and the homeowners unit exemption excuse me
6 serving 46,000. With all of that said, though that
7 you have a proposal on the table uhm to provide even
8 more and we definitely want to work with you moving
9 into adoption to actually look at how we can
10 collaboratively continue to build upon our Senior
11 Affordable Housing Program?

12 MELANIE HARTZOG: Okay, okay on the CPSD
13 I believe that we had a series of questions from you
14 uhm and the Chair uhm around all of the different
15 projects that we funded and what have been the
16 results and I believe that we have gotten back with
17 responses to you on that.

18 VANESSA GIBSON: Okay.

19 MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm and so very
20 specific questions that you asked around have we
21 achieved any savings?

22 VANESSA GIBSON: Savings, right.

23 MELANIE HARTZOG: So I don't have the
24 specifics in front of me but we will definitely make
25

1
2 sure that you personally get them and uhm and they
3 just came to me.

4 VANESSA GIBSON: Yeah I'm we are getting
5 things in stages, I just received response on
6 Certificates to Proceed, which is great, so I'm sure
7 we will still be getting responses as we move along.
8 Okay and emergency food, really want to emphasize
9 emergency room. We've asked in our Budget Response
10 for baselining of that funds, and you know, we are
11 still having the same conversation. We need to
12 prioritize emergency food, uhm many programs are
13 overwhelmed, food pantries and soup kitchens and we
14 certainly need a recognition from the Administration
15 that although we have done great, we need to do
16 better.

17 MELANIE HARTZOG: So just on EFAB I know
18 Council Member Levin is looking at me as well for a
19 response on this. This is definitely a priority he
20 is mentioned to me.

21 VANESSA GIBSON: We are tag teaming.

22 MELANIE HARTZOG: Numerous times, uhm so
23 we have been looking at this on a year by year and
24 assessing what the actual needs are for the pantries.
25 The increases have, our funding for EFAB has

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increased each year to meet the demand. I anticipate moving into adoption we will be having those conversations around what those needs are for 19.

VANESSA GIBSON: Okay thank you so much, thank you Chair.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much, Council Member Kallos followed by Levin.

BEN KALLOS: Thank you to Chair Dromm for leading this marathon of Finance Hearings. Today is your last day of the year and you've made it and done well. I want to say a good morning and welcome to OMB Director Melanie Hartzog. I got about two minutes left in the morning uhm so it seems like we have a little bit more time than usual so usually I just ask like 10 questions but since there seems to be more time I will just ask them one at a time.

these are all questions I've been asking for the past four years so this will be my fifth year asking them and I'm hoping that you have the answers where your predecessor might not uhm, will you agree to adopt Performance Budgeting which will be tying spending to achieving goals which is already mandated in the City Charter section 12 for the Mayor's Management Report to include "a relationship between the program

performance goals and corresponding appropriations."

When I worked in the private sector and the company I managed asked for more money we tied to revenue goals that was in the private sector but they actually had to have a goal that they would meet with the money and if they didn't meet that goal we would reallocate that money?

MELANIE HARTZOG: Thank you for the warm welcome Council Member uhm and I will also say that I learned from the best. My predecessor is one of the best directors and I'm sure that he would answer this in the same exact way and I'm going to answer it the same way which is I would be happy to have a conversation about how we can work collaboratively together to look at that issue.

BEN KALLOS: The MMR has made progress, your predecessor did make progress on this but we are just looking for when you are asking for money, we, the people of the City of New York should know how you plan to spend it and what they will get in return for their return in investment. Uhm when you buy a car, do you Budget for maintenance or do you just Budget for the price?

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2 MELANIE HARTZOG: I'm not really sure
3 where we are going with this one but uhm here's what
4 I will say about the MMR and if looking at other
5 opportunities to bring greater clarity, additional
6 data points to it which is uhm especially has now I.

7 BEN KALLOS: I'll, I'll, I'll tell you
8 where I'm going with it. Will the City Budget
9 reflect out year spending to maintain the billings
10 and new Capital Construction. So we are spending
11 billions on new capital, that's great, I would like
12 to see more, all of us would but at the same time
13 when you build something either you are going to let
14 it sit there until it falls in the river or you are
15 going to spend millions maintaining those billions.
16 Can we baseline the support for the New Capital
17 Infrastructure?

18 MELANIE HARTZOG: Just in terms of look
19 at, I think what you get a state of good repair, we
20 are constantly assessing with each Capital Plan with
21 all of our Agencies what is the state of various
22 infrastructure projects. Uhm I think that even most
23 recently in this Executive Budget you will see we've
24 made significant investments particularly uhm in the
25 Environment Protection Agency around the state of

1
2 good repairs and infrastructure improvements so
3 that's an ongoing process that we continue to do.
4 It's not a we are going to baseline. It's a
5 constant, ongoing assessment.

6 BEN KALLOS: I think based on the fact
7 that the Esplanade in my District literally fell into
8 the river behind the Mayor's home at Gracie Mansion
9 and I am very glad that he has now put money into the
10 Budget to fund it but it just seems that looking
11 backwards that hasn't been happening. The City is
12 currently \$76.3 billion in debt. There's planned
13 borrowing that will take us up to \$96.2 billion in
14 debt by 2022, exceeding what I believe the City's
15 current constitutional debt limit to be which
16 basically in parlans. We've got a credit card, and
17 we are planning to maxing it out. Uhm each New
18 Yorker shared the City's debt is currently north of
19 \$8,000. A child born in 2022 will be in debt for
20 more than \$11,000 on the day they are born. Uhm
21 what, given the fact that it is possible that in the
22 future after the longest economic expansion ever that
23 there may be an economic downturn. What will happen
24 when the card is maxed out and there is nothing left
25 to borrow?

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2 MELANIE HARTZOG: So as I said, just in
3 general, within our testimony that our Debt Service
4 as a percentage is well within uhm standards. And so
5 from that perspective I don't have that concern. I
6 think also part of what we guard for when you said
7 economic downturn moving forward is the fact that we
8 have reserves. Record levels of reserves, \$1.25
9 billion between the Capital and the General
10 Stabilization as well as our Retiree Health Trust so
11 our reserves levels are significant.

12 BEN KALLOS: And the \$1.25 billion that we
13 have in reserves will get us through the \$8.7 billion
14 in Debt Service that we will owe in 2022?

15 MELANIE HARTZOG: There are many actions
16 that we can take to deal with, right, what could be
17 the economic downturn? Including Savings Actions,
18 General Reserve Takedowns, Retiree Health Trusts.
19 There are many actions and tools and I think that we
20 believe with at this point our Fiscal Prudence is
21 high.

22 BEN KALLOS: I want to thank the Finance
23 Chair for his indulgence if I may ask one final
24 questions. In particular the uhm sorry. Outstanding
25 quality of life violations on environmental control

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board debt collections increased from \$50.1 million in Fiscal Year 2015 to \$90.7 million in Fiscal Year 2017, so that was last year. You have a projection of \$51.8 million for this coming Fiscal Year. Uhm however, overall a Standing Collected Debt remains at \$815 million as of the City's most recent reporting. The Council Budget response estimated that the City can collect at least an additional \$50 million in outstanding debt next year by implementing more collection strategies, in particularly highlighted Local Law 47 which I authored which would help generate this \$50 million. I brought this to Mayor de Blasio himself directly in person. Uhm where are we on using Local Law 47 to consider repeat and outstanding quality of life violations from Agency when issuing licenses and permits or registrations from another Agency? And just to put this in a real sense, we've got a restaurant in the neighborhood. The restaurant leaves their trash out and it's greasy and it's rough and they do it every day and sanitation issues them a violation and either the pay it or not but they rack up hundreds of violations, they are not being a great neighbor. They leave oil dumped on the streets. The P writes violations, what

1
2 have you, and there doesn't seem to be any
3 accountability and I'm not really interesting in
4 raising the money I'm interested in seeing those bad
5 actors replaced by good actors.

6 MELANIE HARTZOG: So the Department of
7 Finance has made significant progress in the past to
8 improve their debt collection and they are currently
9 working on a number of different initiatives to
10 increase the debt collection going into the future
11 and I'm happy to get back to you with more details on
12 some of those initiatives that they are working on.
13 Uhm one example that I have here is that they are
14 doing a Title Search for DOB summons so that the
15 liens can be placed on outstanding DOB fines greater
16 than \$25,000. So there is some work that they are
17 doing. There is more to be done.

18 BEN KALLOS: Uhm I wrote that law too.

19 MELANIE HARTZOG: And well thank you.
20 Uhm and I think that again we can have a conversation
21 offline with Department of Finance on some of other
22 initiatives they are working on and other ideas you
23 may have.

24 BEN KALLOS: And because we, we come at
25 these from both sides, I've also heard from the

1
2 industry that in the rare instances that the
3 outstanding violations are stopping folks from
4 getting their permits, when they clear them out it is
5 taking days to weeks for them to get it and it is
6 frustration so if, if we can make sure that the
7 system that we are building, if the Agencies can
8 actually talk to each other and get things cleared up
9 immediately, that would, that would be absolutely
10 amazing.

11 MELANIE HARTZOG: Agree, I think one of
12 the things that I've, I've talked with the
13 Commissioner about uhm is just that issue, which is
14 how can we have better systems, integration and
15 communication across the agencies. And so.

16 BEN KALLOS: And just a quick thing, this
17 isn't a Commissioner thing, this is 12 Agencies that
18 need to be locked in a room until they agree to work
19 together.

20 MELANIE HARTZOG: Oh I know it's just one
21 of the things that the Commissioner of Finance has
22 brought up to me as one of the, one of the
23 initiatives that he could take to better leverage
24 his.
25

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2 BEN KALLOS: I agree but the Commissioner
3 of Finance is the Agency that is complying, we did an
4 oversight hearing on this last year, there are 12
5 other Agencies that are not.

6 MELANIE HARTZOG: Yes he mentioned that
7 to me as well.

8 BEN KALLOS: Will you commit to bringing
9 those Commissioners in under pain of the Budget of
10 just like.

11 MELANIE HARTZOG: I'm committed to
12 getting back to you on all of the initiatives that
13 they are working and what we can do better.

14 BEN KALLOS: Thank you.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you before we
16 turn it over for our last set of questions from
17 Council Member Levin, let me just ask you in terms of
18 a little bit of a follow up here. Is it true that
19 the uhm the \$3.2 billion out year deficits uhm would
20 eat up all of the but \$900 million of, of reserves?

21 MELANIE HARTZOG: Uhm I think you are
22 referring to the projected gap which would be
23 Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 20, is that \$3.2
24 billion which goes down to I think around \$2 billion,
25 a little \$2.5 billion, about uhm for the out years.

1 (clearing throat). Uhm for the General Reserve is
2 that what you are referring to? Uhm you know
3 typically what we have done as we go into a plan and
4 we are looking at the gap as we do in fact assess and
5 make an assessment in the current year, as we've done
6 within this Prelim and this Executive for Fiscal Year
7 18 and adjust downward our reserves. Uhm we have
8 done that but I will remind everyone that back in
9 Prelim we had a gap of about \$3.2 billion and we
10 closed it through a combination of efforts. One was
11 on our Savings Plan and the other was actually
12 addressing taking down our reserves.
13

14 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you and
15 now we are going to turn it over to Council Member
16 Levin.

17 STEPHEN LEVIN: Thank you very much Chair
18 Dromm. Thank you Director Hartzog and to your entire
19 team. Uhm so we've seen an increase in revenue from
20 Prelim to Exec. Our forecast show between 18 and 19
21 we anticipate uhm another \$1.5 billion in revenue
22 over what OMB is saying, IB, \$1.2 I think or \$1.5 IBO
23 is roughly around the same area and controller is a
24 little bit less at \$1.2, uhm in any regard, we are
25 seeing between 18 and 19 significant uhm revenue

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increase and it's from a number of, of sources and so
I don't get too bogged down in that. In light of all
of that, though, uhm looking at the EFAB Budget.
There is no reason in the world why this should ever
be year to year funding. This should be baseline
funding. We don't frankly Barry and I don't have to
spend all of our spring uhm you know rounding up our
colleagues and meeting with advocates and meeting
with pantries and providers, uhm you know talking
about whether or not there is going to be the same
Budget from last year for EFAB, it should be
baselined. It should be baselined at \$22 million is
truly a drop in the bucket of a \$9 billion HRA Budget
and an \$89 billion City Budget. It is really, just,
it's so insignificant but it means, it, it has such
an impact because it's the, it's the , it's the last
backstop and so when we do have an economic downturn
I don't want to have to be in position of having, I
mean, I might not even be here but I don't want
whoever is here beyond me to be in a position of
having to negotiate then to try to get more, you know
to get that one year funding back in because when
there is an economic downturn more people are going
to need emergency food uhm, and that's our backstop

1 because we don't know what is going to happen on a
2 Federal level with SNAP cuts and who knows what the
3 Republican congress is going to be doing around work
4 requirements or whatever, what have you, it is all,
5 remains to be written but you know it could go any
6 direction and so what we have control of here is this
7 small, this small, small pot of funding but we should
8 baseline it and not have to negotiate it every year.
9

10 MELANIE HARTZOG: So every year in
11 working with you, we've actually increased the EFAB
12 Budget and every year we have done it based on
13 assessment of where in fact we believe the needs are
14 working with Commissioner Banks and looking at what
15 the pantry needs are. Again moving forward into
16 Adoption I think that we are going to have the same
17 conversation about what the needs are as we look at
18 19.

19 STEPHEN LEVIN: Okay but we should get
20 out of that conversation and we should say baseline
21 it, let's not have to talk about this for the next
22 three years.

23 MELANIE HARTZOG: We've increased the
24 Budget every year for this, based on what the needs
25 area. So again.

STEPHEN LEVIN: But we should, that should be baseline. That should be caudified. Uhm the, you know the Bloomberg Administration's last November plan, he went ahead and baselined a whole lot of of funding on programs that we thought were essential. It wasn't the most, it didn't happen in probably the easiest way or the most collaborative way but you know at a certain point there is value in baselining this funding uhm it's not, I have zero desire to take credit for this every year. This is something that should be baselined as part of the City's obligation to its most vulnerable people. So it just, I'm so sick of negotiating this, we should be baselining this, likewise, when we are looking and this is all in the context of this 18 and 19 huge revenue surplus that we are seeing, whether it is our revenue forecast or your revenue forecast they are large. And and Chair I will just leave on pay parody with childcare workers, these are two things, between EFAB and pay parody these are just two things that we're, they're just kind of, they're just moral obligations, these are things where it is just the right thing to do. It's not, this is not a special interest. This isn't you know a giveaway to a

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powerful union or some type of arrangements this is just childcare workers who are working longer hours and more days than their counterparts because one's in the DOE and one's in the ACS system and they are getting paid you know 80% of what they're, of what their colleagues are making doing the same job... doing more hours, they are working until 6:30 at night every night so they are taking care of the kids of the people that have to work then who are taking care of their kids. Because they are not, they are not getting home until 7 o'clock at night so there's, and then they, and then they're the ones making \$35,000, \$40,000 a year and it's just wrong and we should just get past it and it's not, it's not something that I want to take credit for. Any of us, it's not, there are no politics here it's just we have, we do have the money now, we have the money in 18 and 19. I don't know what the money is going to look like in 20 and 21 but we have it now and we should take care of these issues and incorporate it into our Budgets moving forward so that's not something that we even have to discuss anymore. That it's just done. So.

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MELANIE HARTZOG: So at the beginning of the Administration we took the first step to address the issue of pay parity which was through uhm collective bargaining 1707, with their employers and for the Early Learning Providers, uhm actually putting funding within uhm the contract and into the early learning providers to provide pay parity phased in for 4 year old teachers to be early learning teachers, 4 year old teachers being on par with the CDO teachers. Uhm that was the first phase. The second phase of us looking at overall restructuring of early childhood was the announcement that we were going to transfer the Early Childhood Programs from ACS to Department of Education and there then start to really truly integrate the system uhm again having managed the system as you know from our time in prior five years of early childhood having the fragmented system actually has been a challenge and feeds into some of these broader systemic issues that you are discussing here today. I think the next phase of that within that conversation is going to be looking at what is the overall picture in terms of salaries and settings and what does it need to look like. I don't think that there is anyone saying or

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disagreeing that that is one of the things that needs
to be addressed when we think about the overall early
childhood system.

STEPHEN LEVIN: Okay I mean that we are
going to be having a hearing on, on the new Early
Learning Program next month and this is something
that is likely to be addressed throughout that
contract process but we should be, we shouldn't wait
for then, we should be fully funding those contracts
now to be able to provide pay parity across the
board, in schools, UPK, Early Learn, across the board
whether it is in schools or CBOs. There should, no,
no, there should no be any disparity between the
compensation for people doing the same work and in
fact people doing more work getting paid less, that
should never happen in our City. Thank you. And the
same qualifications, okay for a group teacher in a
daycare center or in an Early Learning Program has to
get a Master's Degree within five years of the start
of work, same regulation with the public school
teacher so it's the same qualifications.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Uhm just before I
let you go, uhm Director Hartzog I wanted to just ask
you a follow up about the DAs. So what concerns me

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1 about that is that Mark Jay was saying that they have
2 not been in conversations. You are telling us today
3 that they are in conversations. When do you think we
4 will have a resolution in terms of what's going on
5 with the District Attorneys in terms of salary
6 parody?

7
8 MELANIE HARTZOG: I just to clarify I am
9 in conversations with MLJ and their team and
10 obviously our team here, that's what I was saying.
11 I'm, I'm in conversations with them.

12 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay you are in
13 conversations with the DAs?

14 MELANIE HARTZOG: I've I've had
15 conversations with the DA, one of the DA offices and
16 we have meetings scheduled with them. I'm saying
17 that Liz and her team I have been in communication
18 with them and working with them on this issue and she
19 was in conversations with the DAs as well. So I
20 think in the coming weeks as we look to at least
21 start tackling some of these issues with them and
22 again I think there is a lot of pieces to this. One
23 that we have talked about is the salary issue. The
24 other is looking at Raise the Age. There is another
25 piece of that which is as I told you I've been

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1 hearing about you know as we've done an amazing job
2 on public safety and arrests have gone down and
3 caseloads you are now looking at more complicated
4 cases so what does that mean for the caseload. Those
5 are all pieces that fit together that I think we are
6 going to start to chip away at. I don't think we are
7 going to have an answer to all of that you know in a
8 week or two.

10 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Within what?

11 MELANIE HARTZOG: Within a week or two I
12 just mean there are very moving pieces to that.

13 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay so for,
14 preadoption?

15 MELANIE HARTZOG: I will work towards
16 having those conversations and at least chipping away
17 at some of those preadoption.

18 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very
19 much.

20 MELANIE HARTZOG: Uh-huh.

21 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: And I want to thank
22 you for coming in and for uhm your answers and for
23 being as thorough as you were, we appreciate the time
24 that you spent with us. Thank you very much.

25 MELANIE HARTZOG: Thank you Chair.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: We are going to recess now for a lunch break until about 1 o'clock. Okay good, we will now resume the City Council's Hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal 2019. I have been joined by Council Member Barry Grodenchik, Council Member Robert Cornegy and we just heard from the Office of Management and Budget and now we will hear from Ronnie Lowenstein the Director of the Independent Budget Office. In the interest of time, I will forgo making any opening statement and uhm Ms. Lowenstein if you are ready uhm you can begin your testimony.

COUNSEL: Swear in.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Oh, we have to swear you in first.

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

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: I do.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Okay uhm Council Member Dromm and uhm members of the Council thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today. Uhm you've just received IBOs written testimony. It's

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based upon a detailed report on the Mayor's Executive Budget that we released 10 days ago. Rather than read my testimony because you have been doing this a lot today I'm just going to emphasize a few main points. Based upon IBOs Economics Forecast and our projections of revenues and spending under the Mayor's Plan, we forecast that the City's near term physical condition remains sound. We expect the City to end this Fiscal Year with a surplus of \$4.3 billion which is about \$675 million more than forecast by OMB and while OMB is forecasting a balanced Budget for 2019 we are anticipating that 2019 will end with a surplus of \$825 million. Assuming that surplus in 19 is helped to balance the Budget in 20, we see a remaining gap for 2022 of just \$740 million which is about 1% of City funded expenditures and then if you look forward to 2021, we are forecasting a gap of \$1.5 billion which is 2% of City funded expenditures, a level that the City has routinely managed in the past. Uhm it's perhaps no surprise then that our gap forecasts are considerably lower than those of OMB, our 2020 gap forecast is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of what OMB is projecting and our forecast for 2021 is about half of what OMB is forecasting.

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Uhm this forecast of surpluses followed by relatively small and manageable gaps is not driven by a particularly optimistic viewpoint on the City's economy or growth of tax revenues. We are expecting in fact the City economic growth to slow sharply over the next several years. I think it is most readily seen if you look at City employment and particularly on a 4th quarter to 4th quarter basis. On that basis, if you look at calendar year 17 we added about 96,000. For this calendar year, we are expecting something closer to 70,000 jobs, rationing down to 60,000 in 19 and 52,000 in 2020. This slower economic growth translates into slower growth in tax revenues. We are forecasting the tax revenues are going to increase in average annual rate of 3.7% over the forecast period. Uhm if that were to occur, that would be the slowest four year rate of growth since the recovery from the Great Recession so we are seeing you know the City's physical condition is sound despite the fact that we are not projecting significant you know strong revenue growth or strong employment growth either. Of course, there are countless factors that could up end these forecasts, that could and probably will. Uhm there is some

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potential that the economic and revenue forecast will be stronger than we expect. I think most of the risks fall the other way, uhm I think two of the biggest ones to keep firmly in mind are the increased, uhm the risk of increased physical pressure both from Washington and from Albany and the possibility of a full blown recession, US Recession that then brings the City with it of course. Finally to say something about the reserves. The City has masked considerable levels of reserves. They are not enough to see the City through a recession. It is unlikely they would ever reach a level where they could do that and you could get through a Recession without having to cut spending or raise taxes or find other sources of funds but they would be sufficient to buy enough time for policy makes to respond with the necessary spending huds or tax increases or funding shifts that would bring the Budget back into balance. So having said that, thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I'd be happy to answer questions along with George Sweeting my colleague.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you, uhm
let met just talk a little bit about the uhm the

1
2 surplus, the end of the year surplus. IBO is
3 forecasting that between the Executive Budget and
4 Adoption as you mentioned in your testimony, uhm
5 prepayments from the Budget Stabilization Account
6 into the Fiscal 19 Budget will increase by \$677
7 million. Can you explain how you reached that
8 number?

9 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: It's a combination of
10 things, uhm we have about \$775 million in additional
11 tax revenues, uhm most of that is the, by far the
12 biggest is in the Income Tax and we've had the
13 opportunity now to see the April Tax Returns come in
14 and that was a big factor uhm and that's slightly
15 offset by about \$100 million in additional spending.
16 Uhm if you take a look at the report, we have lots of
17 different re-estimates of spending. Some places
18 where spending is lower than the Administration
19 expects, some places where spending is higher, uhm on
20 net we are expecting about \$100 million more than we
21 had and that's a combination of things, uhm some of
22 it is Medicaid, I'm trying to remember what the other
23 thing is. The biggest one is Medicaid, this. We are
24 getting help from the gallery, I can check.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay. We will come
back to you.

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Okay.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Yeah.

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Oh excuse me okay,
the other, the other biggest one is homeless,
spending on homeless and it's not the total dollars
have gone up but rather the City share of total
spending we expect to be larger than the
Administration does.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay, is it common
for the Bas Prepayment to increase substantially uhm
between Executive in April and Adoption?

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Yes it is. Uhm and I
think you could probably say that about the year as a
whole. I mean Mayors in general, uhm play the cards
close to their vest by not recognizing additional
rev, tax revenues until they absolutely have to. It
gives them greater control over the process.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Uh-huh, I think the
Budget Director admitted a little bit to that today,
that has a history of, of increasing, although no
firm commitment. Uhm you mentioned Medicaid, DOEs,
Finan.. I don't want to talk to about DOE and

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Medicaid. DOE's Financial Plan anticipates \$97 million in Medicaid reimbursement. Last Fiscal Year the DOE collected \$40.5 million in Medicaid reimbursements. What changes has DOE made to Medicaid claiming to achieve the budgeted target in Fiscal 18 and is DOE on track to collect \$97 million in Medicaid Reimbursement this year?

GEORGE SWEETING: Uhm in terms of changes they've made, we, we are not really in a position to observe it directly. What they have told us is that although it was about \$41 million last Fiscal Year, much of that came at the end of the Fiscal Year so they were assuming that they had resolved most of the outstanding issues with their ability to submit reimbursement claims that would be accepted by the State and the Federal Government. Uhm we, in our, in our analysis of the Executive Budget, we, uhm re-estimated, we assumed that they are going to get \$57 million less or \$41 million... you know they will get \$41 million of that \$97 million that they are looking for and the \$41 million is basically just taking last year's number. We felt quite confident in doing that because if you looked at the material that they there are some regular monitoring reports that are produced

1
2 uhm by the DOE and OMB uhm at the time we wrote our
3 report, they showed that they had submitted claims
4 for \$2 million and they had 0 cash collected. Now
5 since our report was published, they have updated
6 those numbers a little bit. They have submitted
7 claims as of about a week ago, they had submitted
8 claims for \$17 million and they uhm show cash in of
9 about \$20 million. So their, they're on, they are
10 moving towards getting \$97 million but at this point
11 in the Fiscal Year, uhm it seems like their, they're
12 probably going to come up short and so you know if
13 we, if we had that additional information that's
14 available today we might have raised the number a
15 little bit but it would not be \$97 million.

16 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Do you know what the
17 issue is that's remaining that's still not enabling
18 them to secure all the money?

19 GEORGE SWEETING: Uhm I, I, I believe it
20 is mostly around uhm speech therapy and occupational
21 therapy, those types of services that are delivered
22 and the question over more than 10 years has been the
23 City's ability to document that the services were
24 actually delivered by Licensed Therapists and they
25 actually, the, the reason that the City made a major,

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1 a multimillion dollar investment in the new computer
2 system, the CECUS System, uhm was to make it possible
3 for them to produce claims, or this is one of the
4 advantages of the new system, the produce claims that
5 would be accepted by the uhm by the Federal
6 Government. Uhm it, it, the fact that they even last
7 year only got about \$41 million and then this year
8 they again seem to be having trouble submitting
9 claims, uhm suggests that that problem continues
10 although I don't have any direct evidence of that.

12 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Uh-huh. And they
13 were supposed to be fixing or reforming or changing
14 that CECUS system now for a couple of years and it
15 doesn't seem that they've made much progress on that,
16 I, I didn't get a chance to do a follow up with them
17 today on it but it still seems to be an unresolved
18 issue for them. And in addition to them saying that
19 you know the licensing of the providers of either
20 speech therapy or other types of therapy uhm is just
21 the whole issue about CECUS and about collecting that
22 data that is necessary?

23 GEORGE SWEETING: Uh-huh.

24 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Is that how you see
25 it as well?

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2 GEORGE SWEETING: That's, that's our
3 understanding of one of the big issues. I mean the
4 other issue in CECUS is the ability to, to see
5 whether the services that are called for in an IEP
6 are actually being delivered and uhm and it's our
7 understanding that although they have made some
8 progress there they don't have that completely uhm
9 resolved yet either. So that's another, another big
10 issue hanging over CECUS.

11 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Uhm the \$97 million
12 in expected Medicaid Reimbursements includes \$10
13 million in transportation costs which the state has
14 not yet approved for reimbursement. Uhm why, why
15 does DOE's Revenue Budget still include these funds.

16 GEORGE SWEETING: Well let me first uhm a
17 small update, it's our understanding that we received
18 this from DOE just within the last week that they've
19 now approved some of uhm they've, they've done an
20 approval for part of what they expect to be able to
21 claim in transportation services so there may be some
22 progress there. Uhm but it's you know, I, I assume
23 it's their optimism they put down, they, they're
24 spending the money. You know, that's, that's not the
25 question the question is can you, can you document

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2 that you spent the money in a way that will justify
3 reimbursement from the, from the Medicaid system.

4 Uhm they were confident that they could get the State
5 to approve the kinds of reimbursements that they need
6 on, on the transportation service. We don't, you
7 know we don't really have the opportunity to look
8 that deep inside to know you know how realistic that
9 was or but the, you know and how realistic that it is
10 that they will get the full \$10 million but we do
11 know that they've had at least some, some success
12 just in the last week or so.

13 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay well they did
14 promise me today that they would get back to me on a
15 number of these issues so uhm hopefully we will get
16 to have that opportunity to have that discussion with
17 them further on. Let me talk a little bit about
18 Charter Schools which I also asked them this morning.
19 IBO projects that 3,115 more Charter School students
20 uhm than predicted by the Mayor for the upcoming
21 school year, IBO also expects Charter enrollment to
22 increase by 3,599 more students than estimated by the
23 Administration in 2020 with the difference increasing
24 to 6,930 in 22, in 2022. As a result, IBOs spending
25 projections for Charter Schools are higher than the

Administration's projections by \$48 million in 2019, \$56 million in 2020, \$82 million in 2021 and \$108 million in 2022. Can you explain uhm how you got to these projections, these predictions?

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Okay let me take that one, uhm we do two things, one is we look to what new Charter Schools will be opening uhm but then we look at existing Charter Schools and typically when Charter Schools grow they grow grade by grade uhm so what we do is we look and see well does this Charter School have a third grade now, next year let's assume they will have a fourth grade and we do that throughout the system and by looking at the new schools coming in and looking at the extent to which the existing schools slowly build to full enrollment we get our estimate that way.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay. I think they also said in the, in the hearing this morning that we are spending \$2 billion on Charter School Reimbursements, would you estimate that to be correct?

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Uhm we may have to get back to you on that one.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I think that's what they said total Charter School costs were this morning. Uhm let me talk a little bit about healthcare cost re-estimates. IBO estimates that the City will spend \$200 million less on healthcare than OMB projects for 2019 with \$73 million of the savings in the Department of Education. By 2022, IBO's forecast of healthcare spending is \$890 million below OMBs with \$341 million of the savings attribute to DOE. Can you explain your forecast on that?

GEORGE SWEETING: Uhm, our forecast works with basically, I mean there are two factors that we consider, recent experience, you know trends in, in the premium cost and then we also use some anal, we do some analysis of projections that the Federal uhm Office of Medicaid and Medicare Service generates and we, we use some of those. That, that influences our, our projection of growth rate of premium costs. I think it's been. If you look at what OMB is projecting, they've got an assumption of about 8.4% an, annual growth over the financial plan. Uhm if you look backwards a few years, the last, over the last five years I believe. The growth, the growth has averaged 4.4%. Uhm and there is reason to think that

1
2 you know particularly because of the collective
3 bargaining agreement that was done you know, almost
4 four years ago now which included savings uhm in the
5 healthcare, in the healthcare cost of City employees,
6 uhm you know that that, that there has been a
7 reduction that presumably is now, is not permanent.
8 It's now baselined in the, slowed down the rate of
9 growth there uhm so, you know our, our projection
10 winds up being about 5.5% growth compared to their
11 8.4% growth uhm and I think you know it's, because we
12 are assuming that they've had some success, in
13 controlling their healthcare costs that its, it's
14 like to continue you know closer to what the recent
15 past has been, influenced also our, our look at what
16 the Federal projections are.

17 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So are you saying
18 that the uhm, inclusion of the collective bargaining
19 moving forward is what the uhm is the reason why they
20 are projecting a much higher healthcare?

21 GEORGE SWEETING: Not that the, not that
22 the, no it's that the collective bargaining, the
23 savings that were generated from the last collective
24 bargaining, sell, agreement have you know produced
25 changes in the, in the healthcare cost of the City

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2 that we can expect uhm you know some continuation of
3 that, of that lower growth. It's still growing, it's
4 still growing at 4, at you know, our estimated it
5 will grow at 5.5% in recent, in recent years it's
6 been growing at 4.4%, both of those are quite a ways
7 from 8.4% that OMB is using.

8 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: The City is
9 experiencing extraordinary collections from the
10 personal income tax this year and the Council's
11 Finance projects that personal income tax revenues to
12 increase by \$1.4 billion in the Fiscal Year 2018,
13 adjusted for star changes, compared to only \$300
14 million in 2017. As we all know, a large share of
15 the increase has been coming from nonreoccurring
16 sources, predominantly from Federal Tax Policy
17 changes. The Mayor has estimated that out of the
18 \$800 million in additional personal income tax
19 revenue, uhm acknowledged since the Preliminary
20 Budget a full \$600 million or $\frac{3}{4}$ were from
21 nonreoccurring one shots. Does your office have any
22 rough notion as to how much the additional revenues
23 are from One Shot?

24 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Okay we don't have a
25 specific number for the One Shot and it wasn't just

1
2 the Federal One Shot it was the transition of the
3 State's Star program and the failure to change the
4 withholding tables until mid year was another One
5 Shot boost, but yeah no we don't have a forecast for
6 that but I should say that after really extraordinary
7 growth in the personal income tax this year we are
8 anticipating that it is actually going to decline
9 somewhat next year. Uhm, yeah I mean that, so a lot
10 of this was a onetime boost.

11 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: And what you would
12 think of one more factors in terms of the personal
13 income tax growth this year?

14 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Well uhm certainly a
15 large part of it was the change in Federal Tax Laws,
16 another big part of it was the run up in Equity
17 Markets combined with the misperception that there
18 were going to be changes in Capital Gains Tax Rates
19 that led people to defer taking those gains for a
20 couple of very good stock market years and then when
21 they found out that there weren't going to be those
22 changes, uhm you know, they started selling. And
23 then there were lots of people who rushed to pay
24 whatever taxes they could before the end of the year
25 to be able to get the maximum benefit from the State

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2 and Local Deduction which is now capped under the
3 Federal changes, you know that combined you know
4 some, some general economic boosts associated with
5 the Tax Cuts at least near term, you know have all
6 combined to you know I think are estimated something
7 like 19% year over year increase in the personal
8 income tax which is extraordinary and why we are
9 anticipating a very different personal income tax
10 next year.

11 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Wall Street Bonuses
12 were good this year?

13 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Yes the the, Street
14 had a very good year, very good profits, revenues
15 were all, you know revenues were high, profits were
16 high, bonuses were up. All of that contributes.

17 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: And what factors do
18 you think will contribute to uhm changes in the
19 personal income tax in 19?

20 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Well we're
21 anticipating, you know we are anticipating slower
22 growth in the local economy. Uhm the US Economy
23 stays fairly strong for a year or so but local
24 economic growth begins to slow uhm and what else to
25 say about it. You know we are past those one time

boosts in the Income Tax. Property Taxes continue moving along strongly. Uhm what else to add to that?

GEORGE SWEETING: I think it's, there were, you know we don't have an exact number for you about how big, how much of the overall increase is due to the one time but clearly they are a very large part of it and once their, you know, by definition they are one time, we are not going to see them in Fiscal 19, I think that accounts, that accounts for a lot of the, of the slowdown in the, in the growth, uhm you know of the things that, some of the, Ronnie mentioned, that Wall Street could have, there is no, no reason to necessarily assume Wall Street is going to have a bad year following or relative to what they had in 17, uhm so that, so that could, that should continue whatever positive revenue effects you get out of that. Uhm we have a, uhm you know an increase at least in the near term in our projections for the, the local economy, increase over our, our prior forecast.

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Oh, okay.

GEORGE SWEETING: You know that's, that's boosting up our sort of baseline, economic,

1
2 economically driven part of the PIT forecast,
3 separate from these onetime effects.

4 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay I'm going to
5 turn it over to the uhm Council Members for
6 questions. I just want to say that we have been
7 joined by Council Member Gjonaj and Adams and we will
8 start with questions from Council Member Barry
9 Grodenchik.

10 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Thank you Mr. Chairman
11 and thank you Ms. Lowenstein and IBO et. al. for
12 being here today. Uhm I just, I want to ask you a
13 couple of things, uhm one has to do with the property
14 tax and I have been on the administration about this,
15 that the, the rate of growth just continues almost
16 unimpeded in terms of, it's very consistent from year
17 and year and over the four year plan. It's a little
18 lower in the current four year ago but not enough to
19 celebrate and I just get concerned about the
20 sustainability of this all, many of myself and many
21 of our colleagues have many people uhm who are older
22 New Yorkers who are living on fixed incomes and their
23 houses, they may be worth a million dollars or more
24 but these increases are just unsustainable and do you
25 see any way around these uhm any other area that the

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City could grow revenues outside, I know this is the only revenue we control, so I'm just wondering if you have any insight into this?

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Other revenue sources? The City does a rather good job of tapping of much better array of revenue sources than, than other municipalities and we are sort of an outlier in that.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: Uh-huh.

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Uhm particularly the extent to which we, we rely in income taxes whether they are personal or corporate income taxes. They are not the ideal local revenue sources because they are sensitive. Unlike the Property Tax, and particularly New York's Property Tax which you're right goes up year in and year out.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: It doesn't, it's like, it's better than a river, a river could run out of water but the City Property Taxes just they go up 6 and 20 over you know that method and it's much worse, many of my constituents live in very affordable uhm working class and middle class coops in Eastern Queens, Glen Oaks being the largest example, about 3000 units but many of them are hundreds and hundreds

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2 of units. I just don't know how we are going to
3 sustain this so it's something I'd, I'd like the IBO
4 to keep an eye on.

5 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Well I think, of all
6 the tax areas that we look at this is the one that
7 we've done the most work in over the years and the
8 one we watch most closely. Uhm typically when we get
9 asked that question in public forums uhm I think we
10 tend to talk about the necessity to find a better
11 way, some sort of better circuit breaker to deal with
12 people who are sitting in houses that really could be
13 sold for a million but you know are too old or frail
14 or don't want to move for whatever reason and cash in
15 on that. Uhm.

16 BARRY GRODENCHIK: And they shouldn't
17 have to, I mean they shouldn't be, I'm sure that we
18 all agree that people shouldn't be priced out of the
19 community even if they have a million dollars because
20 you uhm because of taxes certainly uhm and that's
21 uhm. There is natural turnover. And Mr. Chair if I
22 could just ask one other question. Uhm and my
23 colleague Mr. Gjonaj asked this morning about the
24 reserves and I just wondered if you could expand on
25 your thoughts or anybody's thoughts that you have

1
2 with you today whether they are enough and you know
3 the Council has asked for an extra half a billion
4 dollars in reserves and this is obviously a time of
5 plenty for the City uhm you know the Budget Director
6 talked about, it's about another 4.5% increase in the
7 rate of growth of the Budget which is really well
8 beyond the rate of inflation and continues to be and
9 uhm she thoughts the reserves were enough. The
10 Council led by our Speaker doesn't really feel that
11 way, I wonder if you could give us some further
12 thoughts on that?

13 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: I hear view point on
14 whether reserves or sufficient or not depends
15 fundamentally on what you see the role of the
16 reserves to be. We've taken the position that the
17 City is unlikely to ever reach a level of reserve
18 that would be sufficient to sustain the City through
19 a US, United Recession. That is a lot of money and
20 on top of that the reserves themselves provide a
21 target in sense.

22 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Yes they do.

23 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Yeah uhm on the other
24 hand, the current level of reserves as we see them
25 and more is always better, we agree, but the current

1 level of reserves as we see them are indeed
2 sufficient to buy us enough time for policy makers to
3 make the difficult decisions about spending cuts and
4 tax increases and funding shifts and whatever else
5 you need to think to do in order to restore the
6 Budget to balance. So you need enough money to get
7 you through a couple of cycles, a couple of years and
8 a fair amount of policy changes, to, to bring you
9 back into balance.
10

11 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Thank you Ms.

12 Lowenstein. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Council
14 Member Gjonaj.

15 MARK GJONAJ: Thank you Mr. Chair and for
16 a future record I'm not going to let my colleague go
17 ahead of me because he takes my questions. But he
18 did give me reference so I will give him credit for
19 that. Uhm if we can elaborate a little bit more and
20 it's just the uhm term that you used, buy enough time
21 to take corrective action in case of recession before
22 we deplete any reserves. It not a very comfortable
23 notion that I walk away with. Can you elaborate a
24 little bit more about what you mean? I would imagine
25 in that scenario of much lower growth and the

1 potential for job loss and uhm perhaps 0 growth in
2 tax revenue that it would be very painful for us to
3 get ahead of any uhm reserve loss that we would need.

4
5 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Uhm no doubt there
6 would be pain. If you are talking about even a mild
7 recession, you are talking about declines in local
8 employment in excess of 100,000, sort of think that
9 as the minimum and losses in tax revenues that are
10 measured in the billions uhm and the decisions that
11 would have to be made to remedy that sort of, the
12 gaps that that would produce, uhm yeah would no doubt
13 be painful, uhm the question is whether you could
14 mask sufficient reserves and maintain them long
15 enough so that when that happened you could see that
16 through. Uhm the City has never done that in the
17 past, we've certainly. The current level of reserves
18 are far beyond what we've done in the past. Uhm we
19 are not arguing against.

20 MARK GJONAJ: Yeah but our reserves are
21 much larger so uhm are our expenses than they've even
22 been in the past. And it's stil a big gap.

23 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: That's true.

24 MARK GJONAJ: And I would, let me just
25 tie into the worst case scenario and I would try to

1 touch up a little bit of on the retiree health
2 benefit fund which is completely underfunded. Uhm we
3 project these, like a \$90 billion liability and we
4 have \$4 billion in reserves. Uhm this could really
5 turn out to be a doomsday scenario for us if we don't
6 stop planning ahead and I this morning with the
7 Mayor's office, I brought up the biblical terms of
8 seven years of feast, prepare for seven years of
9 famine, uhm they don't see it that way, they feel
10 quite comfortable and not looking at even your
11 projections of slow growth by 2022 of less than, what
12 was it 1%?
13

14 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: In, in employment?

15 MARK GJONAJ: In tax, in.

16 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Oh in tax revenue.

17 MARK GJONAJ: In Tax growth.

18 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: No we've got on
19 average, an average annual of 3.7% a year over the
20 four years.

21 MARK GJONAJ: What will that growth be by
22 2022?

23 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: I'm sorry are you
24 looking to?
25

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1
2 MARK GJONAJ: Growth, tax growth by 2022,
3 your projections?

4 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Okay George is
5 checking it. Getting them from the front.

6 GEORGE SWEETING: So 3.7 is the annual
7 growth over the period through 2022.

8 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: But that's, that's
9 not what you were asking. I'm sorry.

10 MARK GJONAJ: Alright so let's just talk
11 about I think then it would be personal income tax
12 collections will decline in 2019? Right?

13 GEORGE SWEETING: Yes.

14 MARK GJONAJ: And the growth rate would
15 be 1.4.

16 GEORGE SWEETING: Right.

17 MARK GJONAJ: Alright so in that type of
18 scenario with a major slowdown and a recession and we
19 know that one is somewhere in the future, how near or
20 far, do you feel comfortable with our reserves and
21 the liability of our, uhm the retiree health benefit
22 fund that's underfunded uhm.

23 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Okay if uhm okay uhm
24 I can't sit here and say that we shouldn't be
25 concerned about the other than personal service

1 liabilities that we have, unlike pensions which we
2 fund in an actuary LOA, we have not done that for
3 health benefits for current employees and retirees.
4 The only thing I can say in the City's defense of
5 this is other municipalities and States have not
6 generally done so either. I think it's a huge issue
7 and I think it just gets bigger and bigger and uhm
8 amongst, I'm sitting here amongst I guess, pretty
9 much everybody else, many of us in the room we are
10 counting on those benefits going forward.
11

12 MARK GJONAJ: You are counting on?

13 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Counting on you know
14 being able to get our retiree health benefits, yes.

15 MARK GJONAJ: We are counting on them.
16 I'll leave that interpretation for those, for those
17 that care to interpret that. Why aren't we treating
18 that fund like we do our pensions? Our pension fund
19 where we are paying into it in advance?

20 RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Uhm I've asked that
21 question and the best answer I've gotten and it's not
22 a great answer is that unlike the pensions which are
23 protected under the state constitution the healthcare
24 benefits are not and so if push comes to shove they
25 could be reduced.

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MARK GJONAJ: Which goes back to you hope
that you will have?

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: You got it.

MARK GJONAJ: A health benefit fund will
even exist. Thank you I would encourage you and I am
grateful to you for being here and helping us stay
focused, uhm all scenarios but I would continue to
encourage uhm continue to encourage this
Administration to be focused on the moral
responsibility that we have to get ahead of any
potential recession in the future, to adequate fund
our reserves properly.

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Thank you.

MARK GJONAJ: Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay and we are
going to end it here. Uhm we have Health and
Hospitals coming in and uhm and then we have the
Controller after that. So thank you very much for
coming in. Uhm we always appreciate hearing from you
and uhm good to see you.

RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Uhm thank you and we
will seen Ray an answer to one question that was left
standing. Okay?

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

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RONNIE LOWENSTEIN: Good.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay and we will resume in about five minutes when Health and Hospitals comes in. (long pause). (gavel pounding). Okay we will now resume the City Council's Hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal 2019. We are joined by the Committee on Hospitals chaired by my colleague Council Member Carlina Rivera. We have also been joined by Council Member Barry Grodenchik, Council Member Mark Gjonaj, Council Member Adrienne Adams, and I think others will join us as well. Uhm Council Member Mathieu Eugene just walked in. Uhm we heard from the Independent Budget Office and now we will hear from the President and CEO of Health and Hospitals, Dr. Mitchell Katz. During today's hearing we will address the Operating Budget of New York City Health and Hospitals, H and H including the \$6 million in new expense funding for Healing New York City, the citywide plan to combat the opioid epidemic. This funding will support the expansion of the Relay Program and the hospital based support system for non-fatal opioid overdoses and the implementation of the Consult for Addiction Treatment and Care and Hospitals Initiative, an inpatient

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program to engage people who have substance, uhm
substance use disorders. We will also H and H's \$2.8
billion Executive Capital Commitment Plan for Fiscal
18 through 2022. But first I must address the lack
of transparency and accountability that the de Blasio
Administration has demonstrated regarding H and Hs
finances. The Office of Management and Budget and H
and H failed to provided updated Financial Plans to
the Council prior to the Fiscal 2019 Preliminary
Budget Hearing on March 15, 2018; however, at the
hearing H and H President and CEO Dr. Katz confirmed
that the Council would receive up-to-date accrual
based and cash based financial plans as well as an
updated Transformation Plan well in advance of the
Executive Budget Hearing, almost two months later
these agencies were once again unprepared to provide
this basic financial information so the Council
extended the hearing date by more than two weeks.
The Council finally received the H and Hs cash based
Fiscal 2019 Executive Financial Plan yesterday one
day before the scheduled, rescheduled Executive
Budget Hearing. Not only was this information late,
it also proved woefully inadequate. The cash based
plan that the Administration provided grouped \$6.3

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1 billion in projected Fiscal 2018 third party revenue
2 into five Budget lines. Let me repeat that, the
3 information that the Administration provided grouped
4 \$6.3 billion in projected Fiscal 2018 third party
5 revenue into just five Budget lines and the \$8.5
6 billion in projected 2018 Expenses apparently only
7 merits four Budget lines, just four. Given that the
8 H and H system employs more than 44,400 people I
9 think that the 3000 Budget line for personnel
10 services deserves more thorough accounting and
11 subsequent analysis. These agencies also failed to
12 provide the accrual based plan promised to Chair
13 Rivera during the Preliminary Budget Hearing. This
14 is unacceptable and this cannot occur again. This
15 withholding of vital Budgetary information is totally
16 unacceptable. I hope that H and H is prepared to
17 testify today about the concrete steps it's taking to
18 ensure that this does not happen again. I will now
19 turn the mic over to my co-chair, Chair Carlina
20 Rivera.
21

22 CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: Thank you Council
23 Member Dromm. Good afternoon, so I'm Council Member
24 Carlina Rivera, I'm the Chair of the City Council's
25 Committee on Hospitals and of course I want to start

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by reiterating the Finance Chair's concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability that the de Blasio Administration has demonstrated this Budget season regarding the finances of our Municipal Hospital System, H and H. If our hospital system is going to become truly financially viable, this kind of shadowy accounting cannot continue. As Chair Dromm stated the Council received H and Hs cash based Fiscal 2019 Executive Financial Plan yesterday, one day before today's rescheduled Executive Budget Hearing. Not only did OMB and H and H limit the \$8 billion financial plan to just two pages, these two pages, the agencies failed to provide the promised accrual based plan, the standard accounting method for large hospital systems. The cash based plan that the Administration provided includes H and Hs cash receipts and disbursements. Not all of the hospital systems economic activity. The Council therefore does not have the information needed to assess H and Hs long-term Fiscal health completely and accurately. Not only does this withhold of financial information undermine the Council's ability to execute its Charter mandated role to provide financial oversight and analysis it demonstrates not only a fundamental

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disrespect towards the Legislative body but a
disservice to all New Yorkers. Now I heard, what I
believe was a sincere apology from Dr. Katz yesterday
for these omissions and I would hope to hear that
same level of regret from OMB today. We must
together commit to ending this non-transparent
behavior. I appreciate that H and H has experienced
changes in leadership over the last few years but we
have a responsibility to Health and Hospitals
patients and to New York City taxpayers to ensure our
Public Hospital System remains financially viable.
In Fiscal 2019, the City intends to provide a \$268
million subsidy to H and H building to \$367 million
in Fiscal Year 2020. This is in addition to the debt
service payments that the City has forgiven, totally
\$735 million from Fiscal Year 2017 through Fiscal
2020. The Council shared the Administration's
commitment to ensuring a strong safety net but the
Council cannot continue bump hundreds of millions of
dollars into the system without proper analysis and
oversight. Dr. Katz may be committed to turning
around H and H and I truly believe that but if the
Administration continues to hamper those efforts and
quality attempts at oversight, that turn around might

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not be possible. I hope we can establish greater transparency and accountability moving forward and I look forward to discussing your Financial Strategy in detail today. Now, thank you uhm back to Chair Dromm.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very much and I'm going to ask Council to swear you in.

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

MITCHELL KATZ: Yes.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay and if you'd like to begin that would be great.

MITCHELL KATZ: Thank you I'm, Dr. Mitch Katz I have the honor of being the President and Chief Executive Officer of Health and Hospitals and I want to profoundly apologize that the information that uhm the Council needs to do its business to public's business to be transparent was not available to you. I am profoundly sorry for that. Uhm I very much believe that Government is best done by all of us together and I have appreciated how much uhm the City Council has traditionally helped Health and Hospitals and made sure that it was around. I've

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1 appreciated in my 4-1/2 months how supportive the
2 City Council has been to be personally and to my
3 staff and I very much promise that uhm we will do
4 better. I apologize for that. I would say that
5 going into my fifth month, this is the best five
6 months of my professional career. I love being back
7 in New York City, uhm Health and Hospitals as you
8 know better than I is an amazing organization
9 starting with Bellevue Hospital, a hospital created
10 40 years before the Declaration of Independence was
11 signed. Uhm it's an amazing legacy and what I hope
12 to do working with you is to make sure that we can
13 promise that legacy for future generations. There
14 are an amazing group of dedicated doctors and nurses
15 and social workers and pharmacists and PAs and nurse
16 practitioners, technicians of every kind,
17 environmental service people, spiritual counselors
18 who get up and really make the system work. Uhm and I
19 feel my job is to working with the Council and
20 Mayor's Office to also make the Finances work uhm and
21 I think we have the ability to do that. Uhm starting
22 with the work that Stan Brezenoff did on my position,
23 uhm he really began the work on how do we get
24 sufficient revenue to sustain health and hospitals
25

1 and part of what happens when you begin uhm
2 activities around revenue is you develop
3 opportunities as you unpeel the onion. You see well
4 here is an opportunity where we can go better and
5 then you peel that onion and then you find oh here is
6 another opportunity uhm so I'm here to say that based
7 on, based on my review of Health and Hospitals that
8 together we can do this. Together we can make Health
9 and Hospitals not only a great service provider but
10 we can make it Fiscally viable. At the two prior
11 hearings, I talked about the seven strategies and the
12 Chair correctly asked me, Chair Rivera okay uhm Dr.
13 Katz we want to see the numbers, we want to see what
14 each of these is worth and so that's what I've
15 focused my testimony on. So just to review the seven
16 ones and then I will do the detail. We want to
17 reduce Administrative Expenses. We want to bill
18 insurance for insured patients and contract
19 effectively with Managed Care Plans. We want to code
20 and document effectively. We want to stop sending
21 away paying patients. We want to invest resources
22 into hiring positions that are revenue generating.
23 We want to start providing specialized services that
24 are well reimbursed because there is no mission
25

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without a margin and we want to convert on insured people who qualify for insurance to be ensured and I, I recommend Chair Rivera's Editorial to anyone who wants to see you know some of the value of insuring people. So starting from reducing Administrative Expenses. I want to start with I'm focused on the patient. That's what we are here for from my point of view. All expenses need to go to the maximum extent possible to the care of our patients. So we have reduced personnel expenses by \$250 million. Uhm we in the first four months that I have been here we came up with an additional \$30 million in savings by eliminating consulting contracts and having targeted managerial uhm reductions. I think there is additional opportunity through standardizations of goods and services and I have set my team the goal of I want to be out of all rental space. I feel Health and Hospitals, we have been here more than 300 years, we are obviously to stay. When you are here to stay you don't rent you buy, you own. We own a variety of hospitals and clinics. There is room in those hospitals and clinics, let's create administrative offices. I love the idea of all of my Administrative staff being close to where patients are taken care

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of. That would save us a large amount of money by getting out of expensive uhm rental property. Uhm we need if we are going to succeed uhm to bill, contract, code and document effectively. So when you think about the challenge of you know how did Health and Hospitals develop such a large gap. I mean Health and Hospitals will always need City money because we take care of a group of people who don't have insurance and we proud of that. We also provide services that Behavioral Health Services which no one can do on the existing dollars. But if you ask me why did all of a sudden this large deficit, this large gap open up. It opened up because Health and Hospitals was slow to change the switch on billing. Uhm our culture, our history is providing care to people regardless of their ability to pay which is a very proud culture but what has changed beginning with Lyndon Johnson creating Medicaid in the 60s then the child insurance program, the early Medicaid expansions in New York and the ACA is the world changed. Instead of uhm hospital systems like Health and Hospitals getting the money at the end of the year, uhm appropriately the Federal Government is giving people insurance and saying you don't have to

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be indigent people, you can go forward, you have your insurance card, you have Medicaid, you have Child's Insurance Program. I very much support that change but what it means now is that the payments don't come at the end of the year through Intergovernmental transfers through large dish payments, uhm it comes through insurance. Uhm but that was not a major part of what Health and Hospitals did uhm and now we are turning that switch. We are going to Bill. There is no reason to give a free ride uhm to insurance companies. There is no reason to turn away those hundreds of dollars of Federal subsidy which comes with each insured person. It will take us some time, uhm building effectively means right from the start does the person who is the receptionist, and who registers the person, do they get the insurance information. Uhm when the bill is sent, are the proper physician codes on the bill, was the bill sent to the right place uhm and more recently uhm if the insured does not way are we taking appropriate actions. So once upon a time if insurer's didn't way we said oh well, you know that shows that we can't get our dollars from insurance. Well not anymore, now we are saying our contract said you should pay

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us. We are suing uhm United Healthcare uhm for over \$11 million because of a group of cases which include a 4-year-old child who came to one of our hospitals unresponsive with a fever of 103 and the insurance company decided after the fact, after we revived the child, made the child well, sent the child successfully home that the child should have been taken care of an outpatient. I'm a primary care doctor and I'm all for outpatient care but we don't send unresponsive children to an outpatient clinic. Since children have to be hospitalized and it's in their contract that they have to pay uhm but no longer is Health and Hospitals going to be the group that just accepts this. We are going to fight for every dollar because every dollar to me is another nurse I'm hiring, it's another social worker, it's another doctor. It's caring for the uninsured but to do that we have to get the dollars that we need. Uhm we have to invest in patient and revenue growth uhm and so here I want to distinguish our efforts from some power efforts. When I talk about growth I'm not talking about I'm going to attract a whole group of patients who are not currently in Health and Hospitals. I'm talking about the patients that we

1 are already delivering care to through our health
2 plan. We are very proud that we own Metro Plus, that
3 that's the City's asset but 2/3 of the dollars that
4 are received through Metro Plus and are sent out are
5 sent out to non-city hospitals. To hospitals in the
6 private sector uhm when I was the Los Angeles County
7 Health Director, I didn't own my health plan and I
8 got 50%. Here I own the health plan and we are
9 getting 1/3. Right and it's not Metro Plus' fault
10 it's because we haven't coordinated with them to make
11 sure that we are providing the services that the
12 patient's who are enrolled in Metro Plus need. If we
13 don't have the appointments, Metro Plus has to
14 arrange for them to get their care elsewhere but when
15 we do that the City does not save money. We pay
16 higher rates for that care to be delivered outside.
17 So we are absolutely determined that we are going to
18 increase the proportion of dollars. These are
19 existing dollars, these are not new dollars, there
20 are not new patients, uhm we are going to move those
21 dollars to us. I would also point out that though
22 I've done uhm this particularly job in two other
23 cities' uhm quite new to New York City and I'm still
24 trying to learn the government structure I'm trying
25

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1
2 to learn how, how these things happen. Uhm this is
3 my first round and I apologize if any of my own uhm
4 you know newness has contributed to this but uhm I
5 certainly promise working forward. It is the
6 tradition I understand of Health and Hospital's and
7 OMB to reach together you know a plan that they agree
8 with and that makes sense to me right which would be
9 one City. The plan was available yesterday and that
10 is when it was released. I understand.

11 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: When did you give it
12 to OMB?

13 MITCHELL KATZ: I don't see, it's not uhm
14 it's an iterative process I mean many of the ideas
15 themselves we did two months ago here and, and there
16 is a level of detail and back and forth and you know
17 show me from them, from them show me Mitch why you
18 believe you can pull this off. Show me, show me why
19 you believe you can bring in these dollars uhm and
20 it, it certainly went back and forth through
21 yesterday.

22 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Alright and so until
23 now we have not received the accrual based financial
24 plan uhm which is the standard accounting method for
25

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2 large hospital systems. So when will we receive
3 that.

4 MITCHELL KATZ: Uhm I've talked with my
5 OMB colleagues and they have said that that the
6 tradition is providing that in the fall uhm to the,
7 to the City I don't, I don't have it. I again I
8 share with you.

9 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: We didn't get it
10 last fall.

11 MITCHELL KATZ: I personally have never
12 run a Health Department on a cash basis uhm I've
13 always run it on an accrual basis so I understand why
14 that makes you uncomfortable. It frankly makes me a
15 little bit uncomfortable but I'm told that it will be
16 prepared and distributed in the fall.

17 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay but we didn't
18 get it last fall so you are assuring us here and now
19 that we will get it this fall?

20 MITCHELL KATZ: Yes.

21 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay, alright, thank
22 you. Uhm let me go to another question, will H and H
23 resume making Debt Service Payments to the City's
24 Bonds, Medical Malpractice and Employee Health
25 Insurance after Fiscal 2020?

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MITCHELL KATZ: Yes.

3

4

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Is there any
outstanding patients that H and H owes the City?

5

MITCHELL KATZ: Sure.

6

7

8

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10

11

12

FRED COVINO: Uhm my name is Fred Covino,
Vice-President and Finance. Uhm currently we have
outstanding payments for medical malpractice debt
service and EMS payments which is a pass through of
revenue. The EMS is \$184 million. The uhm excuse
me, the medical malpractice is about \$230 million and
the Debt Service is \$145.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay. Uhm let's
talk a little bit about the Relay Program. In the
Fiscal 19 Budget there is allocated \$6 million in
Fiscal 19 to H and H through Healing New York City.
The citywide plan to combat the opioid epidemic. The
funding will enable H and H to expand the Relay
Program to all 11 Emergency Departments. What is
your timeline for implementing the Relay Program to
all the 11 emergency rooms?

22

23

24

25

MITCHELL KATZ: Uhm thank you very much
for that question. I mean that, I'm very proud of
the fact that Health and Hospitals has been a leader
in this. I was surprised coming from California how

1
2 ahead Health and Hospitals is in this area. For
3 example, not a where in California they need places
4 where emergency room doctors are actually doing
5 medically assisted treatments. We will be in the
6 next few months finishing all of the hospitals.
7 Several of them already have functional programs.

8 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: How will you
9 evaluate that program?

10 MITCHELL KATZ: Uhm sir I don't know the,
11 what the evaluation plan is. I'd be happy to, to
12 bring it. Certainly the, I mean it's the best
13 practice to connect people who have been, who have
14 overdosed or if at risk of overdosing to someone with
15 a similar life experience and I certainly would agree
16 that that is an appropriate intervention.

17 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay let me talk a
18 little bit about some LGBTQ Services. The Unity
19 Project specifically. The Fiscal 19 Preliminary Plan
20 allocated funding to H and H to educate direct care
21 providers on the endocrinology needs of transgender
22 youth as part of the Unity Project, the City's first
23 multiagency strategy to enhance services for LGBTQ
24 Youth. You have reported to date you have trained 60
25 providers at 7 hospitals. Can you tell us more about

1
2 the training curriculum and the overall strategy to
3 address the particular needs of LGBTQ Youth?

4 MITCHELL KATZ: I can tell you sir that
5 Health and Hospitals have gotten several awards for
6 its care to LGBTQ Communities, uhm again I would
7 point out how ahead Health and Hospitals because of
8 your, your colleagues work is even to California in
9 terms of providing so in Los Angeles I did not have
10 you know this level of support for something uhm,
11 that I think is, is so important. My sense is that
12 the program is overall going well. I would be happy
13 to provide greater detail on it to you.

14 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Sure I would love to
15 get a look at that curriculum and to have a further
16 discussion with you about it. It is an issue
17 obviously of personal importance of me coming out as
18 an openly gay teacher a long, long time ago. Uhm
19 this is an issue of importance to me. And I do
20 agree, I've seen posters in many of the hospitals
21 that I have been in, particularly in Elm Hurst
22 Hospital, the District that I represent that shows
23 the visible sign of H and Hs progress in that
24 direction so thank you for that. The Physical
25 allows, allocates \$86,000 in 18 and \$79,000 in 19 to

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1
2 conduct trainings uhm but the plan does not include
3 any funding in the out years. Do you intend to
4 continue that program in the out years and is there a
5 need to continue that? In other words, if you are
6 going to do training now and next year don't you also
7 have to do training in the out years?

8 MITCHELL KATZ: Yes sir, absolutely but I
9 don't think you always have to pay us to do the right
10 thing. I think sometimes we should just do the right
11 thing.

12 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So you are going to?

13 MITCHELL KATZ: We will continue the
14 training program in the out years.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So we can expect to
16 see that moving forward?

17 MITCHELL KATZ: Yes.

18 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay. Uhm another
19 program of importance is that through the NYPD LGBTQ
20 Liaison Unit H and H has trained Hospital Police in
21 policies, protocols and guidelines for interactions
22 with LGBTQ people. Were you able to meet your goal
23 of training all the officers system wide by the end
24 of calendar year 17?

25

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MITCHELL KATZ: I don't know sir, I'd be happy to look in to see whether or not that was, that was done but again you have my commitment but I, I certainly understand the importance of this issue uhm and that that training people on appropriate cultural sensitivity to this community is critical.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay and especially with the police officers.

MITCHELL KATZ: Understood.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay. Thank you I am going to turn it over to my Co-Chair uhm Co-Chair Rivera.

CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: Thank you Chair Dromm and I just want to say we based on my conversations with the Finance Staff there typically has not been a fall arrival of said Plan so I'm hoping that you newness attributes to a more positive impact in terms of our relationship and its cultivation. So in terms, I'm going to ask you a couple of questions because I know my colleagues also have questions uhm about Correctional Health. Uhm what challenges have you experienced in your working relationship with the Department of Corrections. I've heard from advocates and unions related to some

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1 of the problems with this relationship and can you
2 describe any of the reforms or changes that H and H
3 has proposed for Rikers specifically? That maybe the
4 Department of Corrections has rejected and what are,
5 and what are you doing about the relationship in
6 terms of uhm just how to address the issues there?
7

8 MITCHELL KATZ: Thank you Chair, I'm
9 immediately thinking in all San Francisco, Los
10 Angeles and now here I've been responsible for the
11 healthcare that has been delivered in jail. Uhm and
12 in each place the relationship is a little bit
13 different. In each place the relationship is a lit,
14 at times bumpy. I don't find that surprising and I
15 know you don't either. Uhm the I, I visited Rikers,
16 I certainly saw the, the challenges of the Physical
17 Plant at Rikers but uhm one of the things that very
18 much pleased me when I, when I visited Rikers is that
19 you actually saw correctional officers in the same
20 room as people who were incarcerated. You would
21 never see that in Los Angeles. Los Angeles runs the
22 largest county jail in the US with a population of
23 17,000 and there is never a correctional officer in
24 the same room as an inmate and that person not be
25 chained and so uhm you know my view is while there

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2 are issues and there will always be issues I actually
3 think this is one where New York City is way again
4 uhm and certainly with the plans to close Rikers and
5 move to more community based jailing, I also saw the
6 numbers and I know a number of you have put in the
7 work that resulted in New York City being the lowest
8 City in terms of incarcerating people of a major
9 City. I think that's phenomenal. I'm not aware of
10 anything is, is outstanding beyond the daily, you
11 want to get the inmate where the inmate needs the
12 care uhm and sometimes that isn't provided. Again I
13 hope it gives you a sense of pride of your own work.
14 There is also no medically assisted opioid treatment
15 in all of the Los Angeles County Jail of 16,000. 0,
16 0 methadone, 0 buprenorphine, San Francisco, yes but
17 Los Angeles 0 and here you have one of the most
18 advanced programs.

19 CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: Well just to
20 forsake of time, the New York State Commission of
21 Corrections released a report in February stating a
22 pattern of missed appointments, lapses in medication
23 therapy and long periods without services which as
24 you know it, it amounts to inadequate mental health
25 care on Rikers Island. So if you want to take a look

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2 at the report and, and of course we are going to
3 follow up after this hearing with a number of
4 question we are not going to get to.

5 MITCHELL KATZ: Very good.

6 CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: But those are some
7 examples of some of the issue that are going on on
8 Rikers that I hope that you and your team are aware
9 of that we could address together.

10 MITCHELL KATZ: Thank you.

11 CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: So I want to move
12 on to contraceptive services. As you know, with the
13 Trump Administration announcing plans to ban Federal
14 Funding to organizations like Planned Parenthood and
15 other Title 10 Funded Health Centers that
16 specifically had offered abortion services, there are
17 going to be some serious consequences and, and
18 potentially impact on nationwide Federally qualified
19 health center and they could potentially take on 2
20 million extra patients and of course our health
21 system is going to be affected. So what Reproductive
22 and Sexual Health Services including contraceptive
23 services do the Gotham Health Centers currently
24 provide? And do you think that H and H facilities are
25

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equipped to handle an increase in this kind of demand
of services?

MITCHELL KATZ: Well first Chair I
certainly, beyond everything you just said I find it
insulting as a doctor that anyone wants to tell me
what I can talk to a woman about the sake of for her
exam. I find that personally offensive that some of
the things that we are talking about not only are
denying services to people who need them but are
denying the ability of their caretakers to even
discuss services that they, that they may need, I
find that infuriating. Uhm the, you, you pose a
question in terms of Gotham. Uhm but remember Health
and Hospitals, Gotham is one critical part of it. I
think in some cases, some of the more advanced
reproductive services uhm especially abortion are
available at the hospitals, not, not via Gotham. So
I they are absolutely available uhm in Health and
Hospitals, having said that, uhm even before this
Doctor Allen our excellent Chief Medical Officer is
also an obstetrician/gynecologist from Bellevue and I
have talked about wanting to expand women's health in
a variety of places, including making sure that we
are always able to offer long acting contraception

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1
2 for women who don't want to, uhm be able, do not want
3 to deliver. I mean really our motto, which is I
4 think how it should be is that All Women of
5 Reproductive Age should be offered in primary care if
6 you want to have a baby soon, there are things we
7 want you to do even before you get pregnant. We want
8 you to start vitamins. If your sugar is high, we
9 want you to control it and if you are a woman of
10 reproductive age and you don't want to have children,
11 there are things we want to do. So either way we
12 want to be doing things and often young women don't
13 otherwise have a reason to go for healthcare, so it's
14 an area where I would like us to expand. Could we
15 possibly do everything that group like Planned
16 Parenting do? No, certainly not at the current time.
17 I mean they have amazing expertise and that's why it
18 would be such a horrible thing to block the
19 appropriate funding to them.

20 CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: Uhm I want to ask,
21 something that you mention in the testimony about
22 getting out of the renal business. So we know that
23 there are H and H employees at brick and mortar
24 facilities at buildings that are not H and H
25 hospitals and so do you think that the space

1
2 available at H and Hs facilities would be able to
3 accommodate your personnel citywide and the reason
4 why I ask is because in previous hearings we
5 discussed how to us, under, underutilized space and
6 so we discussed possibly maybe public-private
7 partnerships with nonprofits and trusted, trusted
8 organizations throughout the City. Are you going to
9 be able to accommodate both? Or do you think that
10 right now your primary focus is to put H and H
11 personnel who are in buildings for example, in maybe
12 Long Island Facility into these, uhm H and H
13 facilities citywide?

14 MITCHELL KATZ: Uhm the idea is both and
15 I think there is room for, for example, uhm the
16 Housing Project Cambria at Kings uhm is on the land
17 but that's not actually a building. So you know I
18 think we, we attempt to in some cases say here's the
19 land we just at CVIEW in Staton Island a, the land is
20 being used to create a substance treatment program
21 for women. So in some cases I think the best use of.
22 I'd like to think of it as this is the City's
23 resource so then the City needs to decide what's the
24 best use of it? I think in some cases it's you know
25 create a supportive housing program, create a

substance treatment program, move the public health lab to Harlem because there's a space and sometimes there, I think the best use is turn this into Administrative space because uhm it's actually pretty expensive to go from Hospital to Administrative space, you don't have to move the walls. For other kinds of uses like housing, you'd have to create bathrooms, you'd have to move the walls and you take a building say like Metropolitan which parts of it were built in the 20s. You'd immediately then have to abate asbestos lead pain and it could easily become prohibited if you wanted to say let's take an empty ward and turn it into something completely different. On the other hand if you say let's take this ward and erect some extra walls but leave all the existing walls, that might work quite well and so I think with each, with each asset what we should do is examine what is the City's best use of it. But I cer, I certainly like to set inspirational goals. The goal is get out of all rental space. If in five years we are out of 80% of rental space I would say that was, that was a good job.

CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: Thank you Chair Dromm.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Uhm Thank you Chair.
We have been joined by Council Member Moya, Ayala,
Levine, Reynoso and Maisel and we have some questions
now from Council Member Adams, followed by Levine,
Ayala, Gjonaj and Reynoso.

ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you Chairs Dromm
and Rivera. Good afternoon Dr. Katz, welcome.

MITCHELL KATZ: Thank you.

ADRIENNE ADAMS: Uhm Dr. Katz I just have
a couple of questions to ask. I am a proponent of
our nurses and I happen to think that they are doing
a fantastic job uhm citywide, statewide to take care
of all of us in the City of New York. I am well
aware that there are staffing issues that are very
apparent throughout our hospitals and I'm just
curious to know that uhm we realize that state
regulators are not appropriately responding to
complaints of excessive overtime from nurses in New
York so how does H and H address complaints from
nurses and other direct care providers about their
overtime hours?

MITCHELL KATZ: Uhm let me just start
first, thank you, thank you for being and advocate

1
2 for nurses. Uhm it's important for them to hear
3 that.

4 ADRIENNE ADAMS: They're fantastic.

5 MITCHELL KATZ: Someone at your level
6 recognizes that hospitals would not run uhm without
7 nurses.

8 ADRIENNE ADAMS: That's right.

9 MITCHELL KATZ: Uhm I would say second,
10 there has been a problem at Health and Hospitals with
11 both inadequate nurse staffing and with overtime.
12 Uhm and sometimes overtime happens because nurses are
13 so heroic that when they see there aren't enough
14 nurses coming in they stay, not because they want to
15 stay and not because it's the best thing but because
16 they are not going to abandon patients because nurses
17 abandon patients. Uhm so what we are trying to do,
18 certainly from Health and Hospitals is to rapidly
19 increase staffing. We took all nurses off, there was
20 a previous hiring freeze such that anytime a nurse
21 left, that position got frozen uhm and often times it
22 was months before a nurse was hired. Uhm right now
23 we are doing everything we can to boost the number of
24 nurses at all of our hospitals. We heard in the
25 Bronx yesterday, we were at Lincoln Hospital and we

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1 heard testimony very similar uhm to what we heard at
2 Bellevue, very similar to what we heard at Kings
3 County, that the nurses are inadequately staffed, too
4 much overtime that is mandatory in order not to
5 abandon patients and I know less about the more
6 general issue of, of what the state is doing but I
7 would be happy to look into that in terms of other
8 hospitals, Council woman.

10 ADRIENNE ADAMS: Terrific. Thank you Dr.
11 Katz. Are there any, can you share any success
12 stories with us uhm right now relative to the patient
13 to the nurse to patient ratio disparity? There have
14 to be some success stories.

15 MITCHELL KATZ: Oh well, there, well
16 certainly in terms of the number of nurses currently
17 be trained, uhm Lincoln is 60, nurses are currently
18 in orientation at Bellevue it's 80 so we have, we
19 have markedly increased the number of nurses in
20 training. Uhm I hope one of the things that I hope
21 to work with you and our colleagues in uhm Office of
22 Labor and Relations is Health and Hospitals has no
23 challenge recruiting nurses right out of school
24 because we are, we take nurses right out of school.
25 A nurse can work for us to two years and forever more

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1 he or she can say I worked at Bellevue, I worked at
2 Jacoby, I worked at Harlem Hospital. They got the
3 best training possible but then they might leave
4 after two years because our salaries are
5 uncompetitive and that is not a good business model.
6 Putting aside all the other reasons why it's not
7 good. You don't train someone six months for six
8 months without costs. That is half a year of
9 somebody's salary, so especially if adding a
10 retention bonus at the critical years at 2 years, 5
11 years, 7 years, well we know those are the nurses
12 leave, not only would that lead to a greater sense of
13 well being and being cared for and valued but I think
14 from a business point of view, the amount of
15 additional money it would take to provide those
16 reimbursements is less than what it costs us as a
17 system to keep training nurses for six months to have
18 them leave at two years. So I hope that's sincerely,
19 since you are clearly a nurse advocate, uhm that we
20 could work together on.

22 ADRIENNE ADAMS: I would absolutely love
23 to work, to work on that, uhm Wage Disparity, really
24 across the Board in New York. We really do have to
25 get, get something done about its, it's just glaring

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2 and remarkable that across the board in all of our
3 agencies, pretty much we are way, way, way you know
4 behind the 8 ball and just not really stepping up to
5 the plate in many, many areas that we should have
6 already been. So I thank you chairs and I thank you
7 very much for your testimony Dr. Katz.

8 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Council
9 Member Adams, now we will have questions from Council
10 Member Levine.

11 MARK LEVINE: Thank you to your chairs,
12 uhm good to see you Dr. Katz. Uhm Chair Dromm had
13 asked you some about the cutting edge in treatment
14 for opioid addiction which is medical alternatives,
15 uhm you in the last hearing that we spoke about this,
16 I believe you told us that you had only 50
17 prescribers who had completed the owners, necessarily
18 owners process of getting certified to prescribe
19 buprenorphine, etc. can you update us on how many
20 prescribers you have?

21 MITCHELL KATZ: Okay we are currently up
22 to 65 waiver providers and I also one of the small
23 steps we are working on and this is specifically
24 because you had asked me also about Bellevue in
25 particular is trying to make sure that people know

1 where, where there are doctors who are able to
2 prescribe, so for example, we learned last week at a,
3 at a meeting I had among doctors who were
4 particularly interested in this work that the, there
5 is a doctor who is particularly interested in this
6 that has space at Kings County she's like but I don't
7 have, I could see more patients but how would you
8 know that and so we realized ahh, you know we've got
9 a system gap here, right so, one of the things that
10 you need to do and maybe eventually that person can
11 come back to Manhattan to get their car, but Kings is
12 not a long way and it's right there close to the
13 Atlantic Street Stop and at least that's, that's.

15 MARK LEVINE: That's great to hear and
16 sorry just because my time is short I do want to
17 follow up so. Uhm you know there are caps on how
18 many prescriptions any one prescriber can offer,
19 which hard to see what that's marked public policy
20 but that's not your fault, that's, that's the Federal
21 Government. Uhm we have something like 75 to 100,000
22 New Yorkers who are in the grips of opioid addiction.
23 So we have a lot of work to do to connect everyone
24 for whom this treatment is appropriate to the proper
25 medication uhm and we are going to need a lot more

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than 65 people in H and H. What is your goal and when will you achieve it?

MITCHELL KATZ: The goal is by 2020 to be up to 450.

MARK LEVINE: Okay.

MITCHELL KATZ: But I'm not sure now that you are going over the numbers that even 450 but of course that H and H.

MARK LEVINE: Correct.

MITCHELL KATZ: So part of what I have to figure out is how many people are available in non H and H facilities. I will talk with the health department.

MARK LEVINE: There are already over 1000 citywide in all facilities but I think just proportionately you are going to be receiving the people who are in need or in the grips of this addition so we want you to be ready. And in my few moments left, you've done a top to bottom review of the Budget of H and H and I'm wondering to the extent that you have looked at contracted out services as a possible source of savings. If you can bring that work back in house to your work force uhm which are also good paying jobs and people who have the benefit

1
2 of union membership and overwhelmingly live within
3 the five boroughs and people we want to support.

4 MITCHELL KATZ: Yeah so you know I'm very
5 negative on the use of registry or contracted out
6 work except for temporary. Right I think I
7 understand that someone has a pregnancy leave, you
8 need to back fill a nurse, you need to back fill an
9 environmental services but what I don't agree with is
10 the use of temporary workers for years on end. Uhm
11 so I'm currently converting all of those we find into
12 permanent jobs.

13 MARK LEVINE: And services you are
14 contracting out like lab work etc. is that being done
15 in house? Could that be done in house? Would that
16 save money?

17 MITCHELL KATZ: It certainly could, uhm
18 it's a service by service instance but just today I
19 was looking at our use of locum tenens where we are
20 currently spending \$330 an hour for physician
21 services where we pay our doctors significant less.

22 MARK LEVINE: Right.

23 MITCHELL KATZ: And that's because they
24 are getting paid more in the locum tenens and someone
25 is making a profit off of their labor and I would

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1
2 like to get out as many of those arrangements as
3 quickly as I can.

4 MARK LEVINE: Well my time is up but I
5 encourage you to, to pursue that and to bring that
6 work back to our great work force which would be a
7 win win for everybody in my opinion. Thank you Dr.
8 Katz, thank you to the Chairs.

9 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Council
10 Member Ayala.

11 DIANA AYALA: Thank you Chairs Dromm and
12 Rivera. Hi Dr. Katz how are you?

13 MITCHELL KATZ: Hi.

14 DIANA AYALA: So my question is really
15 relating to the Hospital Safety. The leap frog group
16 recently released the spring 2018 Leap Frog Hospital
17 Safety Grade and with just eight uhm A grades state
18 wide New York Ranked 48 out of 50 states and
19 Washington DC. Uhm Metropolitan Hospital deserves
20 credit as the only hospital, is in my District and so
21 I want to give them a shout out to receive an A grade
22 while all other H and H acute care hospitals received
23 safety grades of C and D. How are you addressing
24 these safety concerns in order to protect patients
25 from errors and accidents and infections?

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MITCHELL KATZ: Well thank you very much and hospitals need to be safe places. They need to be places where people are protected against infection, protected against medication errors. We have hired a new system wide Safety Head, Dr. Way who is actually independently you know chose 1 to 50 of the more important safety doctors in the US and he has created a program that I think importantly begins with second victim programs that is supporting people who have had traumatizing experiences as nurses or doctors as a way of saying that the first thing if you want a safety hospital is you have to support your staff. Right, people when they are supported are much less likely to make mistakes and they are much more willing to talk about the mistakes than when they feel that there is a culture or finger pointing and I certainly have heard that people talk about that, having been the history of H and H and that is very bad for patient safety. You want people to feel that we can talk openly when things, when things happen badly. There are some very exciting programs on preventing infections and and I very much want our safety scores to improve across the board.

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DIANA AYALA: I appreciate that, thank
you.

MITCHELL KATZ: Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay Council Member
Gjonaj.

MARK GJONAJ: Thank you Chairs and thank
you uhm Dr. Katz it's pretty remarkable to hear the
aggressive approach that you are taking to not only
decrease expenses but increase revenue. It's
starting to sound like a business rather than a
doctor but I'm grateful to you for your out of box
thinking. What strikes me the most is the fight to
get the money from insurance companies that you
should be entitled to to begin with. Is this
systematic where they may be denying outright in
hopes of no follow up or follow through? Is that the
idea?

MITCHELL KATZ: I think that would have
been what would have happened in the past. It's not
just their idea I think that Health and Hospitals did
not take in an aggressive stance and one of the
reasons that I know that is when I first started
talking to people about why it was that I thought
Health and Hospitals needed to bill. One of the

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1 first answers I heard is well we never get much money
2 anyway from insurance, like well but did you send the
3 right bill to the right place with the right code and
4 then appeal it if they didn't pay you? Right uhm so
5 the insurers they are, you know they are very savvy.
6 You know you get the bill in a day late they say
7 sorry you got the bill in a day late. You didn't
8 call them for prior authorization they say oh sorry
9 you forgot to call for prior authorization and they
10 are essentially taking advantage of the fact that
11 Health and Hospital's history was we never sent bills
12 to anybody so we never really caught up with the ways
13 I mean other hospitals in New York City they were not
14 so fortunate to have a group like you to help
15 subsidize their work, right, they got very good at
16 how to charge for every Band-Aid, write how every
17 Tylenol, right in almost comical ways. You see the
18 Bill 995 Band-Aid Right. Well, we didn't even send
19 basic Bills, we would sometimes not even register
20 patients.
21

22 MARK GJONAJ: It's remarkable that this
23 has gone on for so long. What is the cost of your,
24 uhm, the expense of you having to follow up on
25

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retrieving this money? Is there a factor there that
we can relate too?

MITCHELL KATZ: Well, so uhm, we in each
case, we have netted out the expense, so uhm in the
case of improve our revenue where you know we are
saying that uhm we are going to bring in between \$240
but we are going to take it from \$240 million to \$630
million. I've already netted out what it's going to
cost me in increased billing. So of course, you,
someone has to send the bill.

MARK GJONAJ: Right.

MITCHELL KATZ: Someone has to code the
bill. But the truth is I mean that's not where the
big costs area. The big costs are delivering the
care.

MARK GJONAJ: Right. The doing the
billing is just the thing that Health and Hospitals
never learned how to do. And my last time, I'm run,
I ran out of time and right for the courtesy, the
single electronic health record and financial and
billing system which is something that has been long
overdue not only is it going to be compatible to
other New York City Hospitals. See the idea of
having these medical records, uhm available

electronically is to prevent redundancy and testing, critical evaluation and I would even imagine insurance companies would be very supportive of this but understanding that most of our New York City Residents may go to the emergency room for the same symptoms and if they don't like the treatment evaluation they just go to a neighboring hospital which would further incur additional expenses for whatever reason. Is there a model in place that would allow these electronic medical records to be part of not only the HAC system but the private hospitals as well such as the Monte's of the world?

MITCHELL KATZ: Yes and no. On the positive side, uhm Health and Hospitals chose EPIC and that is what almost all the New York City Hospitals have chosen. So the data is compatible but you still have to build a bridge and HIPPA has created certain unfortunate obstacles, the Federal, I mean, I very much believe in patient confidentiality, the patient confidentiality was never meant to prevent the patient from having their own records with their own consent being shared, uhm but it does create certain obstacles. The City has been also part of a health exchange uhm but in talking to my

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doctors at Health and Hospitals it doesn't sound like it is very heavily used. So I think it, what you are raising is an issue that is going to change. It has to because it's too wasteful to keep doing the same test over and over again.

MARK GJONAJ: And also the wellbeing for the patient so I encourage you to continue to triage from the dollars and cents, stop the bleeding, stabilize and recovery. Thank you Dr. Katz.

MITCHELL KATZ: Yes sir, thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you Council Member Reynoso. Okay alright. Okay so we will go back to Chair and if Council Member Reynoso comes back we will let him speak.

CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: Uhm so I want to follow up on the, on the rentals and sometimes when you, of course when you terminate a lease there are financial implications and I just want to put, it would be great to have a list of, these, these spaces that you are in contracts with and which ones you are planning on terminating to kind of I guess, reconfigure uhm people into the, the exchange facilities that exist. So if you could, if you could

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1
2 provide us with that data, that data I want to make
3 that request.

4 MITCHELL KATZ: Absolutely.

5 CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: Uhm thank you and
6 then in terms of Metro Plus of course you mentioned
7 that I have to give a lot of credit to my colleague,
8 Council Member Mark Levine, in terms of uninsured and
9 underinsured people. So what specific goals and
10 action steps have you established regarding the
11 retention of Metro Plus Members in the H and H
12 system?

13 MITCHELL KATZ: Uhm we've established a
14 percentage increase that we intend for the dollars to
15 have with the total of in the out years \$135 million
16 of extra money coming to us. And the way that we are
17 doing it, it's very granular. Uhm I'll give you a
18 specific example, uhm, uhm, in the case of Elmhurst,
19 uhm we Metro Plus looked at their data and said you
20 are sending out people to a gastroenterologist and it
21 would be better to keep that money in Elmhurst has a
22 terrific CEO, uhm Mr. Rocha, went and looked and say
23 that his gastroenterologists were highly productive.
24 There was no additional slack, they couldn't see more
25 patients so we said okay, so we are going to hire

1
2 another gastroenterologist and then those people are
3 no longer sent out. So, we are reviewing each
4 hospital, each area of the City, what are the things
5 that people are getting sent away for. Also by
6 hiring an additional 50 doctors in primary care we
7 will then be able to have more people who are in our
8 system, uhm and thereby get more dollars. Because
9 one of the challenges today would be can the
10 appointment get an appointment for primary care. We
11 provide great primary care, but not enough primary
12 care. So I need 50 more doctors. We have had
13 success now. We have offer letters out to 20.

14 CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: I have also a
15 question about job security and some of the changes
16 to personnel that have been happening. I want to
17 know a little bit about people who have been laid off
18 and as you make very difficult administrative
19 decisions as to your restructuring and I believe sort
20 of consolidation. So how many layoffs have
21 transpired since your tenure began and how many more
22 are planned?

23 MITCHELL KATZ: Uhm while I'm talking I
24 will do the second half of that and then as while we
25 are getting the, the exact number of people since I

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1 came. Uhm the, in terms of the future plan, so I do
2 not intend for there to be any diminishment of any
3 patient focused work. So no doctors, no nurses, no
4 social workers, no pharmacists and none of the people
5 who support those people, so for example, if you
6 can't clean a room, you can't take care of a patient
7 so the environmental service workers is as critical
8 to patient care as the doctor. So no patient focused
9 services. On the other hand, I would say when it
10 comes to administration and all of us live this, the
11 world is different than it was 30 years ago.
12 Administrative work in the days of a highly
13 computerized systems is not the same as it was 30
14 years ago and so I don't in some cases need the same
15 administrative uhm, the same Administrative, uhm
16 number is 35. Uhm but that does not, 35 positions
17 were eliminated but a large number of consultants and
18 also temporary staff were eliminated and that
19 together got it over 100, uhm but going forward I
20 think there will be need for decrease a little bit
21 further in the Administrative staff, uhm you know
22 it's never desirable but it seems to me the
23 enterprise we most need to have happen is patient
24 care. I need more nurses. I can't actually continue
25

with the number of nurses I have, it will not work.

Uhm my view is however painful and this came up even

in the 35 because when I would talk to people they

would say this is an important function in my office

and I would say to them is it as important as an

nurse and often they would say no. Right, so part of

us being viable has to be to put our resources toward

the clinical enterprise. I don't, I don't have an

exact number. Uhm I'm always happy if we can get

people to do different jobs, so for example, around

Administrative jobs I do need more people to do

billing and coding. Uhm so that's, that's an

opportunity to say well you had a particular

Administrative job, right now, not so critical for my

mission but could you do this other job and we, we

want to do that. We announced we are doing a Coding

Academy which is something I did in LA which is very

successful. Right, you want better coding? Teach

people. People want to learn. I don't go out and

hire people, I can take the people I have and put

them through a, a Coding Academy and traditional with

the City it is done by CUNY our public university.

They are going, they are going to teach our staff how

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to code better, but I think there will still need to
be some Administrative reductions.

CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: I think we agree
with you that when it comes to the patients, the
staffing levels and making sure we have enough nurses
and doctors on the floor is absolutely critical and
that when it comes to Coding and Billing that being
one of your I think practical approaches to solving
the, the Fiscal Crisis that H and H is in is really
important. I just want to make sure that we're,
we're holding each other accountable in that the
positions that you are eliminating are not going to
affect the services in any way and so I, request
title details if possible. So a list of the titles
that have been eliminated so we can just get, get an
idea of how services are being affected. We agree
with your mission and we agree with that you are
trying to do and we just want to make sure that that
transparency and accountability persists and
continues between the both of us.

MITCHELL KATZ: I'd be happy to provide
that.

CHAIR CARLINA RIVERA: Thank you so much.

MITCHELL KATZ: Thank you.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay very good, we are going to end it here. We thank you very much for coming in, we look forward to continuing to work with you and to get some of the reports that we had requested, thank you Doctor.

MITCHELL KATZ: Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay we are going to take a five minute little recess until we can start our next panel. (long pause). (gavel pounding). Okay thank you we will now resume the City Council's Hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal 2019. I have been joined by Council Member Adrienne Adams and Council Member Barry Grodenchik and uhm, we just heard from the Health and Hospitals and now we will hear from New York City Comptroller, Scott Stringer. Uhm and in the interest of time I will forgo making an opening statement but I do want to make an announcement that I have two students here from the International School for Health and Sciences in Elmhurst and its Anihar (SP?) Garcia and Tom Mance-Pierre (SP?) I think that they are, where are they? Give us a wave out there. Thank you for being here and for being interested in Government. We

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1
2 really appreciate it a lot. Thank you and with that
3 I'm going to ask Counsel to swear in our Comptroller.

4 COUNSEL: Do you affirm that your
5 testimony will be truthful to the best of your
6 knowledge, information and belief?

7 SCOTT STRINGER: I do.

8 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: And I forgot they
9 are from Generation Citizen also. So let me mention
10 that. Comptroller, thank you for being here.

11 SCOTT STRINGER: Well thank you Chairman
12 Dromm and members of the Finance Committee. I want
13 to also recognize uhm Council Member Adrienne Adams
14 and Councilman Barry Grodenchik, I am also pleased, I
15 think this may be the record turnout for the City
16 Council for my presentation so. This is truly
17 remarkable and I am very excited.

18 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Proving you are well
19 liked.

20 SCOTT STRINGER: Uhm well yes. For the
21 but uhm I also want to thank Chairman Dromm I
22 understand that you have gone through a million hours
23 of testimony and it's the talk of the town so to you
24 who is really listening to what people have to say.
25 Uhm you should also know that I am joined by a City

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Council Alum, uhm our Deputy Comptroller for Budget
Preston Niblack and we have many Comptroller staffers
here as well. So I, since my testimony here in March
our economic outlook has remained largely unchanged.
The economy, oh Laurie Cumbo as well, this is really
getting big. Okay, since my testimony here in March,
our Economic Outlook has remained largely unchanged.
The economy remains strong thanks to a strong label
market and a boost from the tax cuts and jobs act and
the Federal Budget. But increased Federal spending
and ongoing tax cuts will ultimately lead to higher
Federal Budget deficits and rising interest rates
going forward. As a result we expect economic growth
to peak this year and begin to taper off in the later
years of the Financial Plan Period. Depending on
part of how well the Federal Reserve is able to
manage this transition it should be possible to avoid
a recession and we are not projecting one as of now.
But if the Fed misjudges the timing and magnitude of
interest rate increases or if other events intervene
like a trade war, the solid footing of our economy
could be undermined. So I want to turn to the Budget
and Fiscal Outlook for the City. The Mayor has
proposed an \$89.1 billion Budget for FY2019. The

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Administration was able to increase the surplus in this Executive Budget thanks to a nearly \$1 billion increase in tax revenues this year. But as of now, the projected surplus for this year of \$3.7 billion remains below the \$4 billion surplus in FY17. The boost to FY2018 tax revenues is related to several factors, including the changes in the Federal Tax Law, uhm the uhm reparation of overseas hedge fund earnings and a booming stock market. The Executive Budget recognized an additional \$800 million in personal income tax revenues for this year, due to these various factors, \$600 million of which the Administration believes to be non-reoccurring. My office expects that Tax Revenue will ultimately go even higher this year, growing by 7.9% over FY2017. Now despite this extraordinary one time boost in revenues, the out year Budget gaps grew in the Executive Budget Financial Plan. That's because the low increased revenues for the most part do not continue through the out years, new spending commitments do. These commitments are in part to make up for gaps in the State Budget such as the cost of the close to home program and last year's Raise the Age Legislation. Let me be clear. The Mayor's

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Executive Budget included a number of important programs which I support from raising fair student funding up to the highest average in more than a decade so that we can ensure more dollars are actually reaching the classroom to funding \$418 million for the Subway Action Plan including \$164 million in the Capital Plan. I urge that we do that at the outset. These are critical steps forward that will serve students and working people in our City and that is our top priority but there is still much more work to do. We need to fund the Fair Fares Proposal to level the playing field for low income New Yorkers because no one should have to chose between buying a Metro Card and literally putting food on the table. Affordable Transportation should be a fundamental right in this City and Fair Fares will get us a lot closer to that goal. We also need to launch the New York City Citizenship Fund, the public private partnership I proposed to help tens of thousands of legal immigrants cover the ever rising cost of becoming a US Citizen. Supporting our Immigrant Communities have never been more important and creating a fund to finance the citizenship process is a realistic opportunity to make a

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measureable impact. We have to remember that Budgets aren't just about numbers. Budgets are about priorities, about creating opportunities to give everyone a fair shot and to provide a boost to people in need. That's why we cannot let even a single dollar go to waste. We must ensure that we are getting the results that we are paying for. I've been watching these numbers for a long time now and this year, to share our focus areas with the public, we launch the Comptroller Agency's Watch List. This month over the course of the Executive Budget Hearings we have released our first Watch List reports on the Department of Correction, Homeless Services Spending and the Department of Education. These agencies have seen tremendous growth in spending but it remains unclear if we are getting adequate programmatic results for those investments. I urge members of the Committee to review those reports and consider calling for increased transparency and additional metrics for Agency spending. In addition to being smart about how our, about our spending now, we need to be mindful of potential challenges down the road. When the economy is strong, we have to prepare for inevitable slow

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down. To avoid hard choices that could undermine the progressive goals that we all share, we have to increase our Budget Cushion now. The current Financial Plan projects a cushion of \$9.2 billion at the start of FY2019. This is 10% of Adjusted FY2019 expenditures. That is \$1.8 billion short of even the lowest bound of the optimal range of 12-18% of Adjusted Expenditures. Now I commend the Council for calling for a \$500 million addition to reserves but I believe we must do more. With that \$500 million the reserve goes from 10% to 10.6%. We have a 4 year spending plan. We also need a serious 4 year savings plan to increase our Budget cushion and reduce the out year gaps. As I've said repeatedly we must demand that our agencies work harder to identify efficiency savings. This year, City wide savings program by our reckoning contains only 14% of savings that are truly efficiencies. The rest are debt service savings, funding shifts, or spending re-estimates. That is not what we think is adequate. You can categorize them anyway you want but at the end of the day, agency savings represents less than 1% of agency spending in the out years of the financial plan. We need to raise the bar for agency

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1 saving targets. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not in
2 favor of the heavy handed arbitrary and
3 indiscriminate application, application of savings
4 target. That was too often the practice in the past
5 regardless of the consequences but I am in favor of
6 giving agencies real targets for their saving efforts
7 in order to push them to work harder. Over the last
8 three years, the increase in the surplus role has
9 gone down each year from \$1.6 billion in 2015 to just
10 \$147 million last year. We should be growing that
11 amount and increasing our Budget cushion. By adding
12 \$1 billion this year and next to our surplus we could
13 reach a Budget cushion equal to 12% of spending by
14 FY2021 when we may really, really need it. Doubling
15 the agency saving target to 2% per year, could get us
16 halfway there. I know the Council shares my view
17 that instead of spending our revenue windfall, we
18 should be looking for more efficiency savings from
19 our City Agencies and putting additional resources
20 aside. We talk a lot about the uncertainty in
21 Washington, that is something that should concern us.
22 We always worry about some event that we never saw
23 coming. We've been attacked by terrorists, we've had
24 serious flooding over Sandy. We just never know what
25

1
2 may come our way but the one thing that is always
3 true, whatever savings we have get depleted
4 immediately and I think this is a great opportunity
5 to fund the programs that we should but also maintain
6 a Fiscal discipline that will get us to the next
7 level as we go forward. Again I want to thank the
8 City Council. I want to thank Council Member Dromm
9 in this role, you've done us all very proud and I'd
10 be happy to take any questions you may have?

11 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you just off
12 of the top of my head, you mentioned about depleting
13 the funds, the savings, uhm should an emergency come.
14 IBO was in just prior to you and spoke about uhm
15 being able to weather a crisis, that there seems to
16 be sufficient funding there now uhm that would get us
17 to the other side of a conflict until we could do
18 some other changes, would you agree with that
19 assessment?

20 SCOTT STRINGER: No I disagree. Uhm
21 getting, having barely enough to get us through a
22 crisis is not, is not the way to look at this. We
23 need in great Fiscal times to put away enough so that
24 we just don't scape through a crisis, we are able to
25 manage the crisis without sacrifices services to the

1
2 City or layoffs of City Workers and that requires a
3 minimum in our view of a 12% savings. And so 10%
4 seems like a lot until you go to Washington and they
5 don't want to help. Until you don't have a strategic
6 plan to go to Albany and they don't help and suddenly
7 we are in it alone. If we were in a different Fiscal
8 time I would be satisfied with the 10% of savings but
9 we are not, we are in this incredible opportunity we
10 are going to actually adjust up the amount of surplus
11 we have this year.

12 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Well Albany seems to
13 be saying that they're broke and they may want to be
14 cutting back on funding toward the City, this seems
15 to be happening more and more, do you predict that in
16 the future, moving down the road, that we should
17 expect to see Albany pushing more spending requiring
18 us to spend more because of their own, their own
19 Fiscal crisis in Albany.

20 SCOTT STRINGER: Well look, I think there
21 is no secret that there has been a real city-state
22 fight that has played out over the last couple of
23 years but this, this is why I think we should
24 seriously think about this. On the one hand, you
25 could argue spend everything we have because whatever

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we have the City is going to try to take by cutting funding, and that's a fool error on our part. If we have, if Albany is taking advantage of the City's Fiscal Crisis, Fiscal condition, then we need a new Albany strategy. We can't play checkers with Albany we've got to start playing chess. But I would not sacrifice our strong financial position because of unknown, unknowns in Washington. That means we need a greater presence in Albany. That means that we have to step up our rational for funding. We've been able to do that in the Comptrollers office by issuing report after report on funding, the amount of money that New York City sends to Albany and we just have to continue to do that but I am concerned with our Fiscal position and I think we should put a little more away and by the way Danny what I'm saying here is whatever the outcome of the Budget negotiations with the Mayor, a billion is optimal but I understand the give and take of priorities but how about this, why don't we agree that in addition to a spending plan, we create a four year savings plan? And we can roll that out during the life, the life of the Financial Plan.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Uhm interesting,
very interesting, alright let me go to some questions
about judgments and claims. In the Preliminary
Budget Hearing on March 5 we noted that the City's
Judgments and Claims payouts were about \$750 million
in Fiscal 2017. At that hearing, we asked you to
share some of the payouts that were settled by your
office on the basis of notice of claim. Do you have
data available on that now, and can you provide us
with a list of those cases?

SCOTT STRINGER: So we do have data and
what share of these cases were over \$10 million, uhm
we can tell you, you asked us there were no pre-
litigation settlements for over \$10 million. There
were three related wrongful conviction claims that
settled at the pre-litigation stage for a total of
\$20.4 million when the late Brooklyn DA Ken Thompson
moved to vacate the three arson convictions dating
back to 1980. Uhm so 99.86% of the cases settled
were under \$1 million and that's 3,369 cases. We
also settled pre-litigation claims for a total of \$63
million. We also, as you know, continue to work on
our claim stat reviews where we will actually
continue to analyze claims, looking at risks and how

1
2 we settle those claims and uhm we will continue to do
3 that and work with you as we release this data
4 through a host of agencies. We are also partnering
5 now with a record number of agencies to use the
6 claim's data as a way of informing how to make sure
7 that we don't have the same claims over and over
8 again and I'm, and we are going to continue to do
9 that.

10 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay Mr.

11 Comptroller, the Daily News published an article
12 entitled Driver's are Easily Getting Money from the
13 City Comptroller to settle car damage complaints and
14 it alleged that your offices are requiring little
15 evidence to settle those claims. Uhm what procedures
16 do you have in place to decide whether or not to
17 settle a case on the basis of notice of claim?

18 SCOTT STRINGER: Well here's what we
19 don't do. We don't harass working people. And the
20 article inferred you know that we have to you know
21 bring people in, they have to sue us, they have to
22 jump through hoops. That is not what we do. The
23 Comptroller's Office reviews all claims based on
24 individual merit consistent with governing law and
25 documented facts. We have reformed the Claim's

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Process and launched Claim Status I mentioned which is a data driven approach to analyzing claim's data to reduce waste in the paths but when a case as merit we are not going to interrogate innocent New Yorkers, people in your District or in places where cars break down or there's flooding, we follow what is long standard risk management practices. Our approach to claims protects the middle class and hard working New Yorkers so it would be irresponsible to the City's taxpayers for us to insist on litigation for all claims with legal fees and court costs running into millions so we have to make a judgment, when do we settle? Which is in the best interest of the city and then when do we pursue litigation? And sometimes when you look at the totality of this you also have to factor in that we do comply with all the risk management systems but look, it's a, it's an article that comes and goes but there was no merit to this process. You know there was no merit to that, the bottom line is we have reformed our claims practices, we have been more efficient than ever, we have a data driven approach, we have a risk management approach and we are focused on claims at the earliest stages because at the end of the day the more we reduce

claims the more we have in the City Budget. And by the way, claims are down. We now have partnership with Agency, none of this ever occurred before I was Comptroller.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you uhm your office analyzes the impact of management fees on the value of the pension funds and in one study from 2015 found that external managers fell more than \$2.5 billion short of benchmark returns over a 10 year period. We have since instituted a number of changes to lessen the fees deducted from investment returns. Would you please tell us, give us an update on this area, and what has been done recently and where do, where do the funds stand in terms of policies to require the full accounting and disclosure of this.

SCOTT STRINGER: Look you know I thank you for asking about this because we have talked about fees and performance as it relates to the Pension Fund and as of January 1, 2014, all performance data is now reported net of all investment management fees. In addition, we have modernized our public market fee structure to enable more precise data accrual calculations. We have acquired that managers of private asset partnerships

1
2 adopt the extensive uhm ILPA Standard template when
3 reporting fees to BAM and we have reform the system
4 to require that all managers of private asset
5 partnership adopt the standard industry approach
6 template when report, reporting fees to us. Now
7 what's exciting is that we are in the midst of a
8 multi-year data project to work with our subcustodian
9 that's uhm, Bank street, State Bank street, and
10 additional data vendors to help us produce
11 comprehensive performance reports that segregate all
12 forms of manager compensation. Look at the end of
13 the day our job is project the employees and retirees
14 of this City. We are taking this job seriously and
15 we have now had success when people look, you now see
16 well it's not gross we are talking about its net of
17 fees and we have negotiated fee deals that reduce
18 fees and require better performance.

19 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Would you office be
20 willing to uhm regularly update and publish the
21 report that I mentioned?

22 SCOTT STRINGER: Yes absolutely. And I
23 want to thank the Council for continuing uhm to ask,
24 to ask about this.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you.
Pension Street Test. OMB, Council Finance, your
office and all the watch dogs have been closely
monitoring the economy for signs of a dangerous or
potential downturn. One area that took a major
beating during the Great Recession was public
pensions, resulting in increased contributions and a
whole new tier for New York City which has upset many
people because they don't feel that it's equal. Uhm
to the other tiers. Uhm does your office uhm
regularly analyze the impact of downturns on pension
cost and liabilities?

SCOTT STRINGER: Every day. When I
started as Comptroller, we have no Chief Risk
Officer, we had no inhouse ability to do this kind of
analysis and building up our capacity to do that was
one of our first priorities. We now have a brilliant
Chief Risk Officer now, and we regularly analyze all
kinds of these scenarios. But I want to remind
people we are in this as long term investors. So
while there will be always the up and downs in our
returns, it's the returns over the long run that
matter and on that score we have done very well. We
have averaged around 8% return over my tenure as

1
2 comptroller. We've had some very good years but
3 we've also had some tough years. The bottom line for
4 us is what is the long-term capacity of our pension
5 fund. Some of the ways we, we work on those issues
6 is we are constantly looking at our asset allocation.
7 We are constantly working with the trustees to try to
8 analyze whatever may come our way but I feel very
9 confident that when we issued the Funston Report the
10 work we did to correct some of the glaring problems
11 in the pension fund have now been squared away and I
12 think that the build up of the bureau of asset
13 management is best equipped than ever before to deal
14 with some of these challenges.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you. We
16 are going to go to some Council Member questions but
17 before we do I want to say that we have joined by
18 Majority Leader Cumbo and now we will have some
19 questions from Council Member Grodenchik followed by
20 Adams.

21 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Good afternoon uhm Mr.
22 Comptroller. It is always good to see you. I want
23 to thank you for making sure I get paid every two
24 weeks. That's, my wife is concerned about that. I'm
25 never late. Uhm I want to thank you for your strong

1
2 words on increasing reserves. You know that the
3 Council led by our Speaker has been uhm pushing that
4 and on negotiations with the Mayor on the Budget.
5 Uhm I want to talk to you a little about homeless
6 services and it seems that the number of dollars that
7 are being spent continue to rise and I have heard
8 numbers this year anywhere from \$1.6 to \$2 billion
9 but now in your testimony you have \$2.9 billion and
10 can you illuminate me a little uhm on what that means
11 across agencies and I know that we just don't spend
12 money on at the Homeless Service Agency but could you
13 expand that a little please?

14 SCOTT STRINGER: So we are now looking at
15 spending \$2.9 billion across all agencies, I think it
16 is five agencies. We are spending \$1.9 billion on
17 the Shelter System and we put DHS on our watch list
18 because at the end of the day we went from spending
19 roughly \$1.2 billion four years ago to \$2.9 billion
20 but we are not seeing results.

21 BARRY GRODENCHIK: No we are not.

22 SCOTT STRINGER: And part of the problem
23 is we still have.

24 BARRY GRODENCHIK: We are seeing results
25 but we are not seeing the results that we want.

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SCOTT STRINGER: That's right and part of the problem is we are not dealing with looking at spending as it relates to results. So if I could come here today and said yes we are spending a lot of money on homeless services \$2.9 billion but the homeless population is going down 10%, 20% and there was a long range plan that related to that increase in spending there is no one in this town more committed to eradicating homelessness than me but I think that despite rising spending for example the number of monthly subsidized housing placements for all household types has leveled off and we need to know why we need more understanding of the investment and the goals and that's why homeless services is on the watch list. I think part of the problem is that we have siloed homelessness and we don't relate it to housing and I think if you can have a conversation of building or building the housing that actually goes to the 30% of the people in homeless shelters that are working then we are never going to solve this if you spend \$5 billion so I would break the silos down. We have to merge housing with services and at the end of the day we should not be spending \$100 million on commercial hotels, we should not be placing families

1
2 with children in hotels that are dangerous. You
3 know, I did the audits of those hotels. We did the
4 audit of those shelters. We are putting children and
5 families in the most dangerous conditions in the City
6 and we are paying Waldorf Astoria prices. It makes
7 no sense.

8 BARRY GRODENCHIK: It makes no sense.

9 SCOTT STRINGER: And this is the crisis
10 that we're in and I think we should rip the cover off
11 of this once and for all which is why we did this
12 watch list. We are going to be at \$3 billion and I
13 don't want to make big bold predictions but we could
14 see a situation with this homeless population given
15 the, the challenges that people are having in many of
16 our communities between evictions and lack of
17 affordability. Could you imagine a homeless system
18 with 30,000 and I'm not saying this is going to
19 happen but we could be to 70,000 if we don't
20 radically change our approach to the homeless crisis.

21 BARRY GRODENCHIK: We are not that far
22 away right now from 30,000, I think it's 23,000,
23 24,000.

24 SCOTT STRINGER: I know.
25

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BARRY GRODENCHIK: On any given day. Uhm, children, I've had principals in tears when they talk about trying to educate these children. So I thank you.

SCOTT STRINGER: We let me go ahead and let me just tell you that over the next three years, the City is anticipating spending nearly \$1.1 billion in expenditures for commercial hotel rooms.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: But when we heard testimony from Commissioner Banks and others, and others in the Administration uhm they're not keeping that a secret, we know they are spending over \$300 million, about \$1 million a day uhm to put people in hotels.

SCOTT STRINGER: And again I just want to, I think this is a very good point. Very few New Yorkers in my view and certainly I think many of us feel this way, would stretch a Budget to help homeless families.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: I think that's a universal feeling.

SCOTT STRINGER: But there has to be some measure of progress reporting and accountability. The Dashboard has not worked. The way we look at

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1 this from a transparency perspective has not worked.
2 I'm not suggesting that the Agency has not good, good
3 things, when we issued our reports on homeless
4 conditions, uhm Steve Banks in City Hall went right
5 in and started making those repairs, but we have to
6 now figure out a way to bring down the population and
7 get children out of these hotels. It is something as
8 a parent of two young kids, uhm it's just something
9 that is not acceptable. It was never acceptable. It
10 has gone on too long. Thank you very much Mr.
11 Comptroller, thank you Mr. Chairman.

12 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Thank you.

13 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Council
14 Member Adams.

15 ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you Mr. Chair,
16 good afternoon Comptroller. Always a pleasure to see
17 you and hear you. Uhm I was going to ask something
18 else but I think I'll stay long the lines of homes
19 and shelter and you answered with great passion and I
20 certainly appreciate as being in Southeast Queens uhm
21 with one of the highest populations of. Uhm the
22 highest population of homeless shelter in the entire
23 borough. Uhm as you know we do bear the
24 responsibility pretty much of the entire borough of
25

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Queens uhm primarily within Community Board 12 and now extending only to Community Board 10 uhm where we see nearly every single hotel within Community Board 10 now occupied by DHS and homeless families which is a very sad state of affair, given who we are in New York City. Realizing that we do have to protect and serve the most vulnerable population of this City. Queens and Southeast Queens has always been in the forefront and we have been the ones to bear that burden because we have to. Uhm my plea to DHS has always equity and fairness as you well know throughout the years but I will digress if I continue along that line so let me move on to something else. Uhm in looking at, again Southeast Queens and the, the percentage of foreclosure. Uhm you know that we are among the highest if not the highest percentage of foreclose uhm some say in the country in Southeast Queens so looking at home prices now you're quarterly economic update looks at single family home prices in the City and while they continue to rise since 2015, home prices in the City have lagged behind other metropolitan areas in the country and have yet to rebound to their pre-recession peak. What do you think are some of the factors you see contributing to

1
2 this trend and what exactly does this mean for the
3 City's economy and for its tax base?

4 SCOTT STRINGER: Okay I think the
5 Affordability Crisis is reaching homeowners, renters,
6 alike. Uhm the Kayshella (SP?) Index you know is a
7 broad-based measure but it measures prices in the
8 whole New York Metropolitan area and there is
9 evidence that the City, the prices of single family
10 homes are above their pre-recession levels and it's
11 possible that the reason that this area lags is that
12 the some metro areas is due to slower recovery in
13 some of the uhm, you know in some of the suburbs
14 outside of New York City so when you look at
15 different factors, it's not surprising that we are
16 having this, this extra issue related to home
17 ownership but it speaks to what the crisis of
18 affordability is so part of what a policy perspective
19 and I would hope that with you know in the City
20 Council coming back from your Community Board days,
21 one of the things that we have to sort of look at is
22 not just take what I'm saying, crunching the numbers,
23 but there are some ways that we can sort of figure
24 this out. So we have, we did a report that spoke
25 about 15 gentrifying neighborhoods. We also saw

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rents going up but we also saw some indicators that new businesses were moving into the community. So in theory, a new business moves into the community, better jobs, higher price jobs you better can to pay the rent but that's not what's happening in the majority of these neighborhoods. What's happening is yes, new businesses are coming in but the work force development that requires the training to access those jobs are woefully inadequate. The job training is from another era. So part of what we've got to do is take our data and start thinking about ways to make sure that people have the jobs that can pay the mortgage and that can meet the high affordability cost. Obviously, we need a robust affordable housing plan that speaks to actual affordability. But in the meantime we also have to think about workforce development and all of these issues. I actually think that a lot of the issues within City government today is that we are just in silos. We are not, one agency is not talking to another. Job uhm job development and economic workforce development is absolutely linked to the high tech economy and other areas where you could see uhm rising, rising wages.

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ADRIENNE ADAMS: I absolutely agree with you uhm Mr. Comptroller. And and as we've discussed in a prior hearing today. We absolutely as, as New York City, we absolutely have to come on par uhm when it comes to living wages. Uhm because in, in too many spaces we have poverty wages where we need to see real, real living wages so thank you very much for your testimony today.

SCOTT STRINGER: Thank you.

ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you Mr. Chair.

SCOTT STRINGER: Great working with you.

ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay questions from Council uhm from Majority Leader Cumbo.

LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you Chair Dromm I'm so happy to see you here today.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

LAURIE CUMBO: I have a very important question for you, I wanted to talk about your thoughts around uhm paid family leave and the expansion of paid family leave all throughout the city of New York and for municipal workers. We had a number of hearings on Paid Family Leave and it's expansion and to what, what was brought forward to us

1
2 is that only, approximately, 20,000 city workers
3 actually have paid family leave as we identify it
4 with three months of paid family leave and this was a
5 hearing led, uhm or driven in many ways by UFT.

6 LAURIE CUMBO: And many of the teachers
7 uhm discussing that paid family leave as it's
8 currently uhm implemented you often have to utilize
9 your sick days or to utilize uhm sick days in advance
10 so you actually wind up having to owe sick days
11 moving forward so that if you had a cold or an
12 illness uhm after you had given birth you wouldn't
13 necessary be allowed to take that type of uhm paid
14 family leave moving forward so I just wanted to know
15 what your thoughts were around its implementation and
16 expansion?

17 SCOTT STRINGER: Well I, I think this is
18 one of the challenges for the City right now. Uhm I
19 can tell you from personal experience uhm that Paid
20 Family Leave is vital not just to the worker but also
21 to the child. Uhm I'm sorry I couldn't join you
22 today outside City Hall when you and your colleague,
23 Steve Levin and Carlina Rivera and others talked
24 about just running for office and having childcare in
25 the household as someone who had to, uhm with an 18-

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1
2 month-old and a 3-year-old it is a very, very serious
3 hardship and it precludes a lot of people from
4 working not just running for office. So I do think
5 we need uhm to expand the Paid Family Leave program,
6 it shouldn't just be for managers but it should be
7 for the people who work in this City. I actually
8 think that if you would have crunched the numbers,
9 you would actually see a stronger work force, more
10 people, especially women in the workforce and we
11 would also see children who have a real opportunity
12 to have that parent relationship which it's so
13 critical in the early months of their lives as you
14 and I both know.

15 LAURIE CUMBO: What do you think is
16 actually missing as far as how our budget is
17 structured that we are not able to roll out a more
18 expansive Paid Family Leave as we currently
19 understand it to exist in other cities and other
20 states. We still continue to lag behind in that
21 particular area amongst every country in the world
22 just about and so what's missing in our financial
23 infrastructure that does not allow us to be able to.
24 In these negotiations with approximately 144
25 different labor unions from what I understand. It's

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possible that 144 different labor unions could come out with radically different paid family leave programs. Some could negotiate against it, some could negotiate for three months, some could have two weeks, it could be all across the Board.

SCOTT STRINGER: Let me say, two things about it, so first, first, budgets are about priorities and for a very long priorities of children and women in the city have not been at the front of the train. I think that is changing and I hope it is changing. Uhm we are not investing in child care we are not investing enough in our children. I could spend hours talking to you about the Department of Education, go from there. Uhm we spend more money on Administration in the Department of Education of 24% than we do teachers in the classroom, so this is no surprise to us. I do think that in the years going forward we are going to have put our money where our mouth is and if this is a priority of this Government then we have to expand the opportunity for paid leave and child care and daycare if we believe that this is a way to move the City. Now the IBO did an analysis and I will go back in our office to do more work giving you those numbers but the IBO when they

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1
2 calculated this and I don't have the report in front
3 of me it wasn't all that expensive. So it sounds
4 like a lot of labor unions, it sounds like a lot but
5 it's not, it's not out of reach given our Budget.
6 Now again I come here today and tell you that we
7 should put money aside but I also think in the four
8 year financial plan this is a priority that should be
9 realized, I think the teachers are right. I think we
10 should move on that and I do think the Mayor has got
11 to get in front of this because when you provide that
12 kind of paid family leave and you actually make these
13 issues a priority, we are saving so much money on the
14 other side of this.

15 LAURIE CUMBO: Uh-huh.

16 SCOTT STRINGER: You know this. The data
17 is out there. You, the earlier you invest in a
18 child, the earlier we're going to end up making that
19 child more successful and it ends up saving us money
20 in the long run no question.

21 LAURIE CUMBO: Well I just want to thank
22 you for that because I feel that I want to work
23 closely, because I feel that during our tenure one of
24 the goals that we should see is we should see a Full
25 Paid Family Leave Program rolled out for the entire

1 City of New York. I just wanted to uhm stress the
2 importance of that because while we all recognize the
3 importance of paid family leave, we have to
4 concretely figure out how to get it done because it
5 should be a baseline of what every worker is entitled
6 to and right now it's not a baseline in terms of the
7 same work that we did for minimum wage is the same
8 work that we should do there to make it a baseline
9 and not a negotiation tool.

11 SCOTT STRINGER: You know Majority
12 Leader, I know, you have been a champion of this as
13 has Adrienne and others and Danny, we should
14 incorporate Paid Family Leave with the other issues
15 surrounding uhm child care services in the City and
16 lead the nation. Not everything has to be
17 implemented on day one. We can roll out responsibly
18 how we meet the needs of kids, but you know from a
19 personal experience as a, with these two little boys
20 that I have, it starts on day one and if you have
21 resources and you happen to be fortunate to come from
22 a family with money and zip code location the, the
23 life is much different for a child when they become
24 teenagers and going off to college than a kid who
25 doesn't have these resources and that's where we have

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2 real discrimination and it shouldn't be how you start
3 the race, it really should be how you finish the race
4 and the one thing that I've learned as a parent is
5 parents will sacrifice everything. They look at
6 their child and they realized that they may not
7 achieve everything that they want in their life,
8 right, I've looked at that my kid's in the crib and
9 you know there are certain things that you are not
10 going to be able to do that you want to do. But for
11 your kids, you think they can do anything and then
12 you start realizing that if I don't have the
13 resources, the after school program or the childcare
14 to get the kid to the afterschool program, you start
15 to see that the building blocks of life start
16 decreasing for some and not others. And I do think
17 we have a real opportunity to change that in the City
18 and we should because we will benefit a whole
19 generation of kids. It's not just getting the kid to
20 school. Uhm, it's not that simple and you know that
21 and I know that and so many people in this room know
22 that.

23 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Majority
24 Leader and our last question today will be from
25 Council Member Deutsch.

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CHAIM DEUTSCH: Thank you. How are you
doing Comptroller. What a turnout.

SCOTT STRINGER: This is great, thanks.

CHAIM DEUTSCH: So uhm I have I think two
or three issues that I would like to discuss. Number
one, uhm, just a few days ago right here in front of
City Hall there was a lady who walked into the New
York City Housing Authority and she came out
unsatisfied and she attempted suicide right here
between City Hall and 250 Broadway. Uhm I had a
conversation with her and then there was an officer
here from NYCHA I was with. And I spoke to the lady
and I told her I will bring you back into NYCHA, I
walked her in to the third floor and we, I explained
to the lady that we have to send you to the hospital
just to check you out and I would like to follow up.
She was from the Bronx. So to make a long story
short she sent me an email, this was two days ago.
Uhm yesterday morning she sent me an email thanking
me for interacting and calling E-M-S and having the
cops respond. I also had NYCHA fill out a report
that of the case. Basically she was living she is
living in a cramped apartment with her daughter and
three grandchildren. Her apartment is in much need

1
2 of repairs and she couldn't take it anymore. So the
3 email she sent to me yesterday was she promises not
4 to do that again, not to attempt suicide and she is
5 uhm is seeking a, she has an appointment with a
6 social worker, I also reached out to the City to have
7 Thrive NYC reach out to her and follow up and I am
8 following up her with her and now with NYCHA.

9 SCOTT STRINGER: Good for you.

10 CHAIM DEUTSCH: So firstly what my
11 question is, is that I requested from the New York
12 City Housing my report to see how many people live in
13 low income housing, have committed suicide or have
14 attempted to commit suicide because we need to have
15 more mental health professionals. I have went to the
16 Council asking for more mental health professionals
17 in NYCHA Housing as well as Outreach to let people
18 know that there are mental health professionals
19 available. Currently there are not enough, so I
20 would like you to look into that and we need to make
21 sure that people that uhm are low income and cannot
22 make ends meat have the mental health services that
23 they deserve. Secondly when you talk about the
24 homeless, we are looking from \$1.2 billion to \$2.9
25 billion across agencies. So I am the Chair of the

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Veterans Committee in the City Council and I made it my business to visit every single Homeless Veterans' Shelter and Supportive Housing Shelter I was in the Bronx from upper Westside and my first hearing on Budget Hearing was at the Borden Avenue Shelter. The Borden Avenue Shelter is 75,000 square feet one story building and I questioned why hasn't this property that's in a commercial area because many people or some people like who are in shelters you have those who are sex offenders you can't be near schools or children. Borden Avenue is the area that is a commercial area. It is one story 75,000 square feet. Why hasn't this property been rezoned to allow supportive housing and to put all 450 homeless veterans and there are those who are still living in the streets into one facility with all the needed resources so we need to hold the City accountable to make sure that those areas where we can accommodate more supportive housing, we should do it immediately because that building was uhm I believe that was first initiated by Ed Koch and it is still sitting there on one story, 75,000 square feet across which you couple place an entire, all the, all the homeless veterans throughout the City in one that facility,

freeing up other homeless shelters for others from
the 63,000 who are still out on the street.

SCOTT STRINGER: I think actually one of
your colleagues this week talked about the fact that
if every local district says no to a shelter and says
no to helping people then where are the most
vulnerable going to go, Keith Powers and I think we
should take that to heart. We have a responsibility
as a Government to not just throw money to problem
but engage in communities to make sure that we
protect every vulnerable citizen. Right now from a
Budget prospective I see a homeless plan that is
incomplete, that is filled with half promises and we
are spending almost \$3 billion and we are not making
the headway and more importantly we don't have a
citywide plan to deal with the crisis. So if I could
leave you with this, to make a suggestion for the
Council, we need hearings on forcing the City or the
Administration to come up with a comprehensive
homeless housing plan that also is overlaid by a
serious housing plan that meets the needs of the
poorest New Yorkers in the City. In 1938, Mayor
LaGuardia built public housing and for \$100 that was
not an apartment that was considered poor people

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housing, it was a ticket to the middle class. This City then in the 50s and 60s engaged the Mitchell Lama Housing Program which I believe was the most successful housing program ever conceived, 50s and 60s. Mitchell Lama was the backbone of the middle class for this City and in the Koch era, those buildings, those in rim buildings were turned over to community organizations to build yet again housing for the poorest New Yorkers and today our housing plan is overly focused on developers of luxury housing building in communities where the affordability component is not affordable to the people in neighborhood so you see an increase in the homeless crisis. We've got to figure this out folks. This is not sustainable. I gave you an audit years ago that talked about 1150 vacant properties that the City owns, that the City owns. Use that to go do what was done in prior administrations and build the next Mitchell Lama Two to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of people on public housing waiting lists, the 63,000 in homeless shelters. Let's figure this out in a way that the that shows there is an urgency here because whether it is Veterans or people who have been thrown out of their homes, they have to go

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2 somewhere and we have to do this and I will continue
3 to work with the Council and and all of you to make
4 sure that we change the way we are constructing and
5 maintaining housing in this City. Look at the recent
6 articles on Housing Court and Eviction Rates. You
7 can talk about the problem all you want but if we do
8 not have a plan now we are not going to be ready for
9 this in the next five to ten years.

10 CHAIM DEUTSCH: Thank you and uhm we are
11 putting in our \$418 million between I believe the
12 City and State to our transit infrastructure. So I
13 have an OPIC coming out and I would like to have your
14 support that we have about four or five HOV lanes
15 throughout the City of New York which is
16 underutilized because you need three or more people,
17 uhm so the roadways are congested and in the meantime
18 the HOV lanes are normally empty because you need
19 three or more people. So if we give a higher
20 charges, let's say even \$15 or \$20 for those who
21 could afford to go let's say for Brooklyn from
22 Manhattan to use the HOV lane which will reduce that
23 congestion and use that \$15 to \$20 that someone
24 chooses to spend their money we could use that to get
25

revenue to continue to improve our transit
infrastructure, what is your feeling on that?

SCOTT STRINGER: So, yeah, yeah I don't
like it because rich people shouldn't get to drive
faster and keep poor people in traffic. I think we
need figure out an equitable solution to this and I
don't think the highway the tolling should be a two
tier holding.

CHAIM DEUTSCH: So those that could
afford it will use the HOV and in the meantime it
would reduce congestion so the poor people will not
be sitting in traffic because it will definitely
reduce the congestion.

SCOTT STRINGER: Why don't we come up
with a plan, why don't we come up with a plan that
rich or poor everyone is treated equally on the road?
That's what I would do.

CHAIM DEUTSCH: So I would like to
discuss that with you further.

SCOTT STRINGER: Yes sir.

CHAIM DEUTSCH: Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Alright thank you
Council Member Deutsch and I want to say thank you to
the Comptroller we really appreciate you coming in

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and giving testimony and uhm sharing your thoughts on
the Budget.

SCOTT STRINGER: I really appreciate it.
Thanks for giving me this opportunity everybody,
thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Absolutely, thank
you. We are going to take a five minute recess and
then we will return for the public portion. For
those of you who are here who want to give public
testimony make sure that you have filled out a form
like this with the Sargeant and when we come back we
will begin the public portion. (long pause). (gavel
pounding). Okay good afternoon. We will now begin
the public session of the Council's Fiscal 2019
Executive Budget Hearings. I would like to thank the
Speaker for joining us and give him the opportunity
to say a few words, Speaker Corey Johnson.

COREY JOHNSON: Uhm thank you Chair
Dromm, good afternoon I'm Corey Johnson speaker of
the New York City Council. I want to welcome
everyone who has joined us for the last day on the
Council's Hearings on the Fiscal 2019 Executive
Budget. We have finally made it to the concluding
portion of our hearings when we as elected officials

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2 get to hear directly from you, the public, our
3 constituents, our neighbors and the advocates who
4 represent you. Hearing from you demonstrates what
5 the Budget and this process is all about. You are
6 the ones who feel the very real impact of the
7 spending decisions that we make every year here at
8 City Hall. You are the ones that are going to our
9 Senior Centers that the Council is fighting to
10 protect, who attend the summer youth programs that
11 the Council wants to expand who deserve Fair Fares so
12 that riding the subway isn't a luxury for a few and
13 who are paying ever rising property taxes and how
14 busy and hectic everyone's life can be so I really
15 want to personally thank each and every one of you
16 for taking on a, for taking time out of your busy
17 schedules to be here today. We are glad that you are
18 here and we look forward to hearing what you have to
19 say. I also want to give a big thank you to our new
20 finance chair, Chair Dromm who has literally overseen
21 hundreds of hours worth of hearing during the
22 Preliminary Budget Process, the Executive Budget
23 Process and he has taken hundreds of additional hours
24 and preparation time and Budget negotiating time and
25 other time and he has done a tremendous job so I want

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2 to congratulate you, Chair Dromm for leading this
3 committee and doing such a thorough and fine job
4 doing so. With that, I turn it back over to you uhm
5 Chair Dromm so we can begin the public testimony
6 portion of this hearing. Thank you.

7 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you it's been
8 a great experience, a really great experience and a
9 learning experience for me as well and I am very,
10 very happy that we have not arrived at this public
11 portion for the hearings. So thank you Speaker
12 Johnson I echo your statement and I look forward to
13 hearing from everyone this afternoon. As a reminder
14 to all the members of the public who wish to testify
15 please be sure to fill out a witness slip with the
16 Sargent at Arms. The public witness panels will be
17 arranged by topic so please indicate the topic of
18 your testimony on your witness slip. We understand
19 that many seniors or people with disabilities who
20 wish to testify must leave by a certain time so we
21 will try to accommodate that need by putting you on
22 some of the earlier witness panels. Any senior or
23 person with a disability who requires this
24 accommodate please make a note on your witness slip
25 so that we know who you are. In addition, in

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addition, in the interest of time and fairness to all of those that wish to testify, members of the public will each have two minutes to testify and we ask that you please be respectful of that clock. For anyone, for people who cannot testify at today's hearing for any reason but who would like to submit your testimony you may email your testimony to financetestimony@council.nyc.gov and the Finance Division Staff will make it a part of the official record. Testimony will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Wednesday May 30th and with that we are going to begin with our first panel. That will be Marlene Giga from the Treasurer of local 983 DC 37. Joe Puleo, President of local 983 DC 37, Dilcy Benn, President of local 1505 DC 37, Fran Schloss, President of local 1757 DC 37, John Hyslop, President of local 1321 DC 37, Reynaldo Barber, President of local 1482 DC 37 and Leonard Paul, President of local 374 DC 37. (long pause).

JOE PULEO: Okay so we are going to start, okay it's okay with me. Thank you City Council people, thank you for having us. My name is Joe Puleo, I am president of local 983. I represent the Urban Park Rangers the PEP Officers, all the

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City's Seasonal Aids for the Parks Department, the Associate Parks Service Workers. Okay as I earlier mentioned at the last meeting that we were here in City Council was that we need an increase in the number of PEP officers and Urban Park Rangers and we have 28,000 acres of Park Land. We are well under funded when it comes to Parks Enforcement. Okay we have a little over 200, we would like to see of course those numbers be in the thousands but for the time being we request that we have at least 100 additional people in this area. Uhm with the beach closures at Rockaway, we have increased drug usage, primarily in the Bronx as you have probably seen in the, in the media. We need more dedicated people to take on these specific tasks. Again we are a small unit in comparison to the NYPD. We cover the most land. We are, you know the Parks Department is the biggest land owner in the City of New York but yet we only have a couple of hundred people to do this task. So again we are urging you to place these people as a priority when it comes to keeping the residents and citizens of this City safe. We also would like to see the money that was given last time be restored as well. Thank you.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much,
next please.

MARLENE GIGA: Hi my name is Marlene
Giga, I've been a PEP officer for 17 years and I'm
also a life-long New Yorkers. The Parks in New York
City or in New York is back yard. There has also
been a steady increase in crime in parks. PEP
officers uhm they're, there to act as a deterrent and
they keep the Park safe and they keep crime down.
There are about 25 officers in each borough
currently. Uhm and then in the summertime when the
officers are deployed to stationary locations like
the beaches and pools there is about six officers to
patrol all of a borough. It is definitely stretched
then. Uhm in the summertime the man power is
completely lacking and PEP officers keep New York
City safe for all tourists and for residents of New
York City. We would ask that you restore funding for
PEP officers in all the boroughs. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Just let you, hit
that, hit the red button.

DILCY BENN: Okay, I'm sorry.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I'm sorry good
afternoon Chair Dromm and the members of the Finance

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Committee. My name is Dilcy Benn I'm President of local 1505 representing the CPWs the City Park Workers and in New York City Parks and Recreation Department. My members work on all five boroughs, conducting maintenance and operations in all City parks. I want to start off by thanking the City Council for additional funding and the Fiscal Year 2018 for the Parks Department. This funding was used to maintain the city funded lines for 100 City Park Workers and 50 gardeners. New York City Parks has over 39,000 acres of land. On the average one gardener is responsible for maintaining approximately 254 acres of park land. The Department of Parks and Recreation is distressingly underfunded. The support from the City Council is vital. In order to continue to maintain our communities by keeping these underserved parks in our communities beautiful. While we did see benefits from the Fiscal 2018 additional funds, we are still risking, in risk of losing these funds since they are not baselined for Fiscal Year 2019. If these funds are not restored, I'll, our City Park Workers and Gardeners will be laid off. I'm urging the City Council to restore and increase the funding for those above mentioned

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titles. Furthermore the maintenance and upkeep of the parks will suffer leading to uhm leading to neighborhood decay. As minimum wage in New York City.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I have to ask you to wrap it up.

DILCY BENN: Okay and as minimum wage in New York City increases to \$15 an hour and my members work and make \$15.48 to start is becoming increasingly difficult to live in the City. The City must take a long hard wholesale look at it, at taking care of its workforce. I want to thank you and I am urging City Council to restore additional funds for Fiscal Year 2019 for CPWs and the Gardeners. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very much. Next.

FRAN SCHLOSS: Good afternoon Chairman.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: We need that uhm mic yeah.

FRAN SCHLOSS: And members of the City Council Finance Committee.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Just pull that down a little closer to you, yeah.

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FRAN SCHLOSS: My name is Fran Schloss and I am President of DC 37 Local 1757 the Local represents real property assesses, appraises and housing development specialists. The City of New York has over 1,065,000 parcels that are valued on a yearly basis. The hiring of 80 additional assessors would not nearly backfill vacant districts but would serve to create manageable ones. The Commissioner of the Department of Finance has committed to push for 30 new District Assessors. We strongly advocate for all 80. It is projected that taking into account a new employee's learning curve and the cost of salaries and benefits and additional \$100 million in property tax revenue would be generated the first year and would be sustainable. The New York City Tax Commission needs a line of succession. Seven of its 11 Assessors will be eligible to retire within one to four years. The hiring and training of Assistant Assessors and Assessors that are skilled in the corrections evaluation of real property should commence now. In conclusion, additional District Assessors will help to resolve the issue of uncollected revenue. The proactive hiring and training of New York City Tax Commission Assessors

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will ensure the continuation of fair and thoughtful decisions regarding correction to a real property assessment evaluation. It will serve to help decrease potential future risks and New York City Liability. DC 37 local 1757 thanks you for your time and consideration.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much and you get an A for being under time.

FRAN SCHLOSS: I practiced.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I used to be a teacher. Alright. Next please, John.

JOHN HYSLOP: My name is John Hyslop I'm President of Local 1321 and I will be speaking on behalf of my fellow Presidents, Ron Barber of 1482, Leonard Paul of 374 and Val Colon of 1930. Chairman Daniel Dromm and fellow Committee Members thank you for giving my fellow Presidents and myself an opportunity to testify. Two months ago in our testimony on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget we documented our need for more money. We detailed the increasing demands our communities place on our members, services and facilities. Our patron's needs have not changed without additional financial support for our libraries, our libraries will not keep pace.

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Every library system still has six and seven day service. Every branch still has computers, laptops, wifis, tablets and mobile hot spots. Every branch still has more programs with more and more patrons attending these programs. We've visited and speak to our members and we hear the stories of our dedicated and engaged yet overwhelmed and understaffed they are as we strive to meet the ever increasing demands of our diverse communities. All of our work is done in the backdrop of the increasing inequality between our City citizens. For more than a century, New York City's Public Libraries have provided free services to everyone. Today our members continue this tradition and we are keenly aware of the City's yawning gap of inequality. We experience firsthand how our free services and programs help people. Whether it be the adult who needs to use the branches computers, printers and internet because they cannot afford them. The child who has a free safe place to go after school, the free entertainment to occupy a family on the weekends. The free citizenship programs for the recent immigrants. The free video visitation services we provide for family's with incarcerated family members. The free early reading

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2 programs to fall in love with reading. The free
3 books for the adults to continue their lifelong love
4 of reading. Our services alleviate one more
5 financial burden for individuals and families. At
6 the library's testimony and executive Budget hearing
7 on May 18, we were surprised and disheartened to hear
8 that all three library systems have needed to use
9 expense funds for emergency repairs and we understand
10 the importance of maintaining the infrastructure of
11 library branches. Our members and patrons want a
12 safe clean comfortable and inviting library. Our
13 elected officials must take responsibility for
14 maintaining the City's infrastructure not force a
15 library to use expense funds for emergency capital
16 repairs and you need to increase our Budget, Capital
17 Budget.

18 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

19 JOHN HYSLOP: There are two more
20 paragraphs can I finish it.

21 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Yeah we have the, we
22 have the sheet on them, right?

23 JOHN HYSLOP: Okay good thank you.
24 That's fine.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: We want to also
acknowledge and thank Speaker Corey Johnson for being
here, we appreciate you being in this hearing. And
what's your name sir?

REYNALDO BARBER: My name is Reynaldo
Barber local 1482.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: That's all.

JOHN HYSLOP: We were, I was speaking on
behalf of all.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Yeah I know but I
saw them get papers and then I was just wondering.
Did you want to say anything?

JOHN HYSLOP: We have the same sheets.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay very good,
alright so the issue of, the issues that you bring to
us are issues of major importance to us here in the
Council. We take them very seriously and before I
let you go, I just want to ask Council Member Mark
Levine to say a few words.

MARK LEVINE: Thank you Mr. Chair, I just
want to very briefly make a comment. I want to get
on to the next panel too but I want to thank
President Benn for speaking on behalf of the City
Parks Workers and the Gardeners and the Chair of the

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1
2 Parks Committee Grodenchik and I are extremely
3 concerned about these 150 men and women that are in
4 Park in low income and moderate neighborhoods and
5 this is a program designed to compensate to equalize
6 the playing field because the Parks are raising
7 private money and hiring their own staff. This is a
8 way for the City to equalize it. These are tough
9 jobs. The Administration should be paying for this.
10 These are core Agency functions we should not have to
11 come back every single year to fight to get the City
12 Council to pick this up and these men and women their
13 careers are in the balance so we want to push very,
14 very hard for the Administration to pick these up.
15 This is a Core Parks Department Function and I know
16 that our, our Speaker shares this opinion and we are
17 going to be fighting very, very hard for this. Uhm
18 for the good of, of your members and for the good of
19 our Parks in this Budget. Thank you.

20 DILCY BENN: Thanks a lot Mark, thanks
21 Corey and thanks Dromm.

22 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: You can, you can say
23 Danny.

24 DILCY BENN: Danny, thank you Danny.
25

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: We have uhm Council
Member Grodenchik that also wants to say a few words.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: I just want to uhm, I
just want to add on to what Council Member Levine
said as Chair of Parks I take this extremely
seriously. I know our speaker does and I just want
to uhm for the record state that the City is
investing \$4.6 billion over the next four years in
our Park System. It would seem to me uhm very, very
physically prudent to make sure that our Parks are
protected and that New Yorkers have the level of
service that they've come to deserve and understand
and come to expect. Uhm in our City Parks so this
will be a top priority for me as Park Chair over the
next month or so. Thank you for being here today to
let, to give us your strong opinion on this.

DILCY BENN: Thanks Barry I really
appreciate all of your hep and all of your support.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Dilcy.
Alright thank you to this panel, we appreciate you
coming in. And I'm going to call our next panel. I
have students from uhm IS 230 and Bronx Academy of
Voters Re-Civic Engagement, is IS 230 here? No.
Okay they are not here. Okay. Uhm Raquel Sanders

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on behalf of the Children's Defense Fund. They sa...
(long pause). Is Savannah Henry here? Oh okay,
alright. Savannah you are from uhm Bronx? Okay
good, we got. Hercules Reed, okay Mariah Lopez from
STAR, Linda Stroud the Committee of 100 to make BVG
Free again, Constance LeSolle, Committee of 100, and
uhm Veronica Conant. Just give your testimony to the
Sargeant. (long pause). Sure okay you want to
start. You just have to hit that mic and let the
little red light shine.

MARIAH LOPEZ: Hello everybody so first
I'm sorry for being a little late and I'm going to
read really fast but I had a conversation with
Majority Leader Cumbo on the way out and she said
something that makes me want to preface my
statements, so I'm the ED of transvest rights group
but our founder loved flowers. Her name is Marsha P.
Johnson and she is the most famous transperson of the
stomal area. So Ms. Cumbo said you are all over the
place. I don't understand why you are here for the
flowers. I'm here for the flowers because flowers
mattered to Marsha. So my name is Mariah Lopez and I
am here this afternoon to add my voice to the chorus
of Reverence and Visitors of Brooklyn asking the City

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Council and the Mayor not to forget what makes New York Great. In addition to our accents, the drinking water, the bagels, the sky scrapers and even the subway, publicly accessible Free Green Spaces including Gardens such as the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. I am here to ask that every possible effort be made to ensure that there is enough money in the upcoming Budget to guarantee that the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens is free and open to every senior, poor and disabled New Yorker who wishes to visit it. usually reserved for Trans Womens and Queer Issues I am lending my voice to the fight to this fight to make sure that Brooklyn's Botanical Gardens is open to seniors and those with disabilities, free of cost because I understand how big of an issue free beautified green spaces are to the quality of life o New Yorkers that are most trampled on, poor people, the disabled and families who love and support them. My childhood was shaped by free access to green spaces and the ability to access nature and the understanding that such places exist within big cities, sometimes feet from cantankerous construction, smog and pollution because they have to. Uhm I think that was a time warning for me so I

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1 just want to get really quick and say this, uhm I'm a
2 solution driven activist and I'm trying to wear my
3 big girl britches and step into more civic minded
4 stuff. My organization has been pushing a memorial
5 at Christopher Street for Marsha who died after
6 Stonewall but we think a Ferry there would generate
7 millions and if this Council is inclined to close the
8 Botanical Gardens to seniors free of charge, I want
9 you to gander this. If Marsha's body didn't wash up
10 out of the Hudson on Christopher Street on July 6,
11 1992 she'd be alive. She'd be an old trans senior
12 with her best friend, my trans mom Sylvia Rivera.
13 They'd both be living in Brooklyn, old trans women
14 and they'd probably want to visit the Botanical
15 Gardens. Does this, does this Council have the, does
16 this Council have the nerve to tell two old
17 transpeople or her daughter that we won't keep the
18 Botanical Gardens open to the public for free. Okay
19 that's all.

21 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Well I have to tell
22 you I remember Marsha T. Johnson because I was here
23 in the parade, I'm old enough to having remembered
24 her and as she would stand there and direct us, don't
25 go up 6th Avenue, go up 5th Avenue, she was the one

who got us to march on 5th Avenue for the first time.

So I thank you for your testimony.

MARIA LOPEZ: Thank you STAR will be
marching in the parade for the first time in a couple
of years and we'd love you to have you to be with us.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you and she
was great.

MARIA LOPEZ: Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: We will go over
here. Good afternoon, my name is Raquel Sanders and
I'm a Senior at Brooklyn School for Music and Theatre
and I am part of the Children's Defense Fund. I am
very delighted that I am here to testify today. I
believe that there is so much focus in the Budget on
school policing and I have questions about why the
School Safety Budget went up \$20 million since the
Preliminary Budget. I want to understand why the
City is pouring more money into a system that is
hurting the school community more than it is helping.
There are so many other resources that \$20 million
could go to such as more restorative supports in the
school community for the students. I know not all
students have access to these resources but
personally my school is a safe place dedicated to

1
2 practice and restore justice. Basically in this
3 environment we take the time to man and restore
4 relationships between students and between the
5 students and the staff. This environment gives a lot
6 of students reassurance and has changed a lot of
7 things as far as my education and safety. The rate
8 of students getting suspended went down and before
9 students take the risk to get into altercations they
10 come to Ms. Yuko our Restorative Justice coordinator
11 and she helps them sort their problems. School has
12 become an open place for students to talk freely and
13 there are opp, there are opportunities for students
14 to become young mediators. In the, in that program
15 that training students receive allow the opportunity
16 to understand the bigger picture and I see students
17 resolve situations before they escalate. I know how
18 much of a different this has made to my school,
19 imagine if they had it in every school. Students who
20 have another outlet other than resorting to physical
21 and verbal altercations. In the future, this could
22 take these young people a long way as far as knowing
23 how to get through static situations and dealing with
24 real life issues. As the City continues to work on
25 the final Budget, please think and give more funds to

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getting more counselors and restorative programs in school systems to help these young adults grow and have a better chance for successful futures. Overall to make school more safe from restorative, the City must fund counselors and social workers instead of criminalizing students by enhancing school safety and police. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much, next please.

HERCULES REED: Greetings Council Members, my name is Hercules Reed and I serve as the Legislative Director for the City University of New York, University Student Senate. Also known as CUNYUSS. We represent 500,000 students that attend CUNY each academic year. These students live in your Districts and go to college in your Districts and many of them voted for you. I'm here today to remind you of the priorities of CUNY students who are the future of this great City. Many students in CUNY receive Financial Aid; however, with the ever rising cost in college, students are finding it challenging to cover additional costs such as books, food and transportation. We are asking that you expand the New York City Council Mayor based Scholarship. Since

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2015, the Council has invested in this scholarship program and up to 36,000 students in CUNY coming out of high school benefit. We are asking to expand this program to \$400 per student this time around giving us about \$19.7 million to be allocated into the Budget. We are asking that you support the Fair Fares Campaign that would provide low income New Yorkers whom most attend CUNY reduced fair to go to and from classes, very often students have to decide between pursuing their education, eating or missing class because they cannot afford a train ride. Many are also arrested for jumping turnstiles. Support Citizenship Now as a Federal Government continues to attack immigrant communities, the Council and the Mayor should stand with New York Immigrants and undocumented residents. Investigating Citizenship Now would ensure that more New York Residents have a sure path to US Citizenship. This initiative has protected and provided legal assistance at thousands of immigrant New Yorkers. We are requesting \$2 million to keep these legal services in the five boroughs. Increasing investment to the University's Childcare Centers and Services, 10% of all CUNY students and 20% of CUNY Community College Students

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1
2 are parents. We are asking for about \$500,000 more
3 to continue expanding the enrollment capacity,
4 extending hours, staff and teachers. Uhm you have a
5 copy of my testimony so I just want to get to the
6 last part, uhm I also have the privilege to serve at
7 CUNY's City Council's CUNY Task Force Co-Chair and
8 uhm on the 31st of next week we are having a public
9 hearing and many of you are sponsors of this Task
10 Force and we want to make sure that this is something
11 that does not go uhm on deaf ears and I want to thank
12 you all for your support thus far for CUNY, Corey
13 Johnson, Mr. Dromm, Ms. Gibson and many other Council
14 Members, thank you.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much,
16 next please. Uhm, my name is Constance LeSolle and
17 I'm usually here over the Fire issues but I am also
18 here as you know over the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens as
19 the representative of the Committee of 100 which is
20 now the Committee of 125 to make the Brooklyn Botanic
21 Garden free again. It is very important that you
22 support us in our efforts. We are not going away.
23 This is the long term issue and we are not just
24 coming to you for money. Uhm we are going to look
25 for private moneys. We are going to look for any way

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to make this public garden public and free again.

You have a situation in Brooklyn right now where

intelligent people believe that this is not a public

garden. It was a public garden for about 100 years

into the 90s and was free all the time and then it

was established for one Tuesday by the Board and the

public was in such an outrage that they gave Fridays

for seniors and Saturday mornings for everybody. Now

there is nothing except Friday mornings except from 8

to 12. This is not tolerable. We will work hard.

The Botanic Gardens. I have a good relationship with

them but they are not particularly happy with general

neighborhood and uhm shall we say what they would

consider outside community forces coming in to help

them. This situation has to change. Memberships are

often between people whom they see as outsiders, they

are not outsiders they are members. I was a member

for almost all the 50 years I lived in Brooklyn. I,

we, we need your help in getting them back on track.

This has got to be the public garden that it was

meant to be and I, I just have to say in closing that

I have visited both the New York Botanic Garden and

the Queens Botanic Garden and I do have to

congratulate the Queens Botanic Garden on the good

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manners of all of their staff and their openness on
their programs and their fees and their free days.
They are way ahead of the rest of the public gardens
in this matter.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay. Thank you.
Let's go over here.

SAVANNAH HENRY: Good afternoon, thank
you for the opportunity to testify at today's
hearing. My name is Savannah Henry and I am
currently a senior at the Urban Assembly Bronx
Academy of Vettters. I am also an Alumni of
Generation Citizen Action Civics Program. I have had
the pleasure of participating in this amazing program
my junior and senior year. Generation Citizen is an
Education Program designed to get Civics Education
back into middle and high school classes in an action
oriented way. Through this young leaders are
empowered to use their voices in order to exercise
their civic duties. Throughout this semester long
program GC partners with schools to implement it's
twice weekly Action Civics Curriculum during in class
time to educate middle and high school students of
how to confront and take effective action to address
community issues by engaging directly in politics.

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Students start by debating what they would change if they were decision makers in their school, their City or their state. Their students build consensus to choose one issue impacting the community to focus on addressing correctively. The students analyze the underlying root causes of the agreed upon issue and then collaborate to develop and execute an action plan which may be involve lobbying of elected officials to advance Budgetary, Legislative or Policy Solutions or building a coalition. Their program culminates with Civics Day at the end of semester student finale where students present their action programs at a science fair style exhibition event. Attending a small school has many positive advantages. Our principal, Mr. Brandon Cordero Hernandez amongst others emphasizes the importance of self-advocating. Without it, no impact or change can be made. It is clear and especially stressed that there our generation and future generations have an amazing platform and it is serving that we can bring about change if the right incentives are put in place. GC can be seen as a stepping stone and is only the start of something grand. Serving as my debate teams chapter President I have acquired the

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much needed public speaking skills. Since the season is over, Generation Citizen has given me another opportunity to use my voice and speak up on behalf of not only my school but the Community as well. As a millennial, my generation faces a number of problems and who else rather than my own peers and hundreds of others across the state would be more fit to discuss and handle it than us. The Democracy coach would assist us in our community issues are choosing to be alongside us in the classroom. I had the pleasure of asking my Coach Louis why did he join Generation Citizen. He explained to me that it gave him a great sense of the community issues and that it gave him hope for the future helping youth to further themselves and thinking outside the box is key to ultimate change. These Democracy coaches take over the classroom and instructional time every Tuesday and Thursday for a semester. This gives our familiar teachers the chance to see how the students are becoming civically engaged. It is a proud moment across the board. Generation Citizen is necessary in our schools. As I conclude this speech, I would like you all to keep in mind how important it is to encourage our youth to be civically engaged. We are

1
2 the future and we need to ensure that they have the
3 knowledge and skills about how our democracy works
4 and ways in which they can participate in it. Thank
5 you all so much for the same credible opportunity to
6 speak to you today. A special thank you to
7 Generation Citizen for allowing me to voice my
8 concerns and sentiments on this matter. Thank you so
9 much to the Council Members and the Community for
10 listening to me and as Juicy (SP?) says, "Don't Talk
11 About Change. LEAD It".

12 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Uh-huh, alright,
13 thank you.

14 SAVANNAH HENRY: Thank you.

15 VERONICA CONANT: Uhm I'm Veronica
16 Conant, academic librarian member of the Committee to
17 Save the New York Public Library and past President
18 of the Rusty's Report 50/50 book association speaking
19 in my own name. Uhm I strongly support plans to
20 increase the library's operating and capital budgets.
21 Libraries are more important than ever before
22 allowing everyone safe, free use of resources and
23 helping user find reliable information. I want to
24 stress the importance of knowing how to evaluate the
25 information, a special skill of professional

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libraries to share with everybody. Uhm using my decades of expertise I would like to discuss my concerns about and the recommendations, some recommendations for the New York Public Library's Plans not discussed last week at the Executive Budget Committee Hearings. The Master Plan for the Interior Renovation of the 42nd seat library costing \$317 million result including seven floors of the book stacks for which the city owned building was built by the City in 1911 on land owned by city is a problem. According to the original agreement between the Library and the city and the city the library agreed to function as the free public research library for the city, develop the research collection and provide free access to research materials for all New Yorkers and visitors in exchange for the City to provide and maintain the building. This arrangement has worked extremely well for over 100 years and with the international respected research institution. This agreement is currently threatened, uhm five years after the library emptied the book stacks of about 3 million research material and copied them off and after the four years after they burned the Center Library Plan, they are still doing a stack study and

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1 still ignoring the need of researchers who request
2 the return of the research collection from off site
3 that is a very large off-site storage in Princeton
4 called RECAPP, Research Collections Contortion (SP?),
5 50 miles two private institution Columbia and
6 Princeton and NYPL has over 5.2 million items that
7 they want the Contortion (SP?) Arrangement to remain
8 permanent. Our public library has essentially
9 outsourced the unique research collection and hundred
10 of library jobs to Princeton and other state. We
11 need library jobs for New Yorkers in New York City.
12 Access to the outside collection has been taking too
13 long. It is poorly organized and causing research
14 and researchers severe problems. The commitment to
15 save NYPL submitted official response, I don't want
16 to go into any of this is just that the first
17 priority to me as for many, many others is to, it
18 would only cost \$46 to \$47 million according to the
19 Library's own estimate to upgrade the climate control
20 and since the City owns the building so I am
21 requesting you here please give those \$46 million so
22 that we don't have to wait another five years or
23 forever and that is alright until you know this can
24 happen.
25

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay we are going to
have to wrap it up.

VERONICA CONANT: I very much appreciate
it. I just want to make a statement because I'm out
of time but I would appreciate it if you would read
my full testimony because I say substance, but I want
to say this so everybody can hear it. Libraries are
precious and must be protected and cherished, not
sold at the time, more people are ever are needing
and using them. We must not allow the power of real
estate developers be greater than the power of
knowledge. Transparency and oversight of the entire
Library System is much needed. So please do not
allow the sale of any public library. I don't know
if anything can be done about this Business Library
but if it is possible to turn it around that would be
a financially please read the rest of my testimony.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay got it. Thank
you. Alright thank you to this panel. We appreciate
you coming in. Now I'm going to call our next panel
as well. RueZalia Watkins, Mental Health Association
of New York, Josephina San Julio (SP?) Latinas
Against FDNY Cuts, Lin Kim New York Youth Food
Advocates, Liz Accles Community Food Advocates,

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Stephanie Gendell Citizens' Committee for Children,
Harriet Blank OHEL Children's Home and Family. (long
pause). Okay why don't we start over here.

JOSEPHINA SAN JULIO (SP?): Good
afternoon Council Members, tax payers and fellow New
Yorkers. I'm dedicating my comments to the Memory of
Myls Dobson, Caleb Router (SP?) and his mother and I
extend my sympathy to FDNY bravest who lost
Firefighter Zanetis, Raguso and Davidson this year.
At the May 15th Joint Finance Committee Hearing of
Finance. The estimates were discussed for having an
FDNY speciality squad on Staton Island. Uhm Staton
Island has been borrowing the squad from Brooklyn
Park Slope which has to go to the bottom of Brooklyn,
across the bridge and to parts of Staton Island. By
the time it gets cl... on the road it's often called
back which is a waste of effort for help in Staton
Island but it deprives Brooklyn of its vital
services. The topics discussed included a one year
time frame for possibly establishing of a squad on
Staton Island that it might cost around \$4 million to
upgrade or convert an existing engine to a squad
which transforms the vehicle space and staff but does
not increase fire coverage and when it's acting as a

squad it is not available for local regular engine response. The other discussion was \$40 million to establish a new squad which is a robust way to increase New York City Fire Coverage for an increasing New York City population and in relative to housing, I suspect an extra unit would help reduce destruction of property in Brooklyn and lives spend health. Relative to...

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Pardon me, I just want to let you know that we have been advocating for this. I appreciate you being here. The Staton Island Delegation has been advocating for this so it's nice to actually hear a member of the public come and testify.

JOSEPHINA SAN JULIO (SP?): I'll chip in, I'll chip in. I have no problem chipping in. I want our squad to stay because Brooklyn consistently has uhm a very high bad statistics and it could help.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I want to let you know we are advocating for it.

JOSEPHINA SAN JULIO (SP?): Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

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JOSEPHINA SAN JULIO (SP?): And here is
relative to the cost of it. I'll keep it short, in
2009, Columbia.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: We are going to have
to move on so wrap it up.

JOSEPHINA SAN JULIO (SP?): The Columbia
University Study found that each engine can cost, can
save property worth about \$15 million against the \$40
million cost of establishing a new unit. Uhm that
would be paid off in great benefit to Staton Island
and Brooklyn and the squad would be able to come up
to Brooklyn. Thank you very much.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very
much also. Next please.

STEPHANIE GENDELL: Good Afternoon my
name is Stephanie Gendell, I'm the Associate
Executive Director for Policy and Advocate at
Citizens' Committee for Children which is a multi-
issue child advocacy organization. Unfortunately we
don't feel that this budget goes far enough for
children and their families so we have a number of
issues in the testimony and I will just mention a
few. Uhm the first one is the ongoing Budget dance
over summer camp programs for 34,000 middle school

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1 students. This money needs to be baseline so we
2 don't have to play this game with fa... with parents
3 who don't know where their children are going to be
4 next summer uhm but obviously we also need the money
5 for this summer. Uhm we have a lot of concerns
6 related to children in shelters, particularly in
7 hotels. We are hoping we support the Fair Fares
8 Proposal as you negotiate that, parents whose
9 children are awaiting busing to be arranged while
10 they are in shelter, they current get weekly metro
11 cards to bring their children to school and have to
12 get new ones every week. Uhm it would actually save
13 money to make those monthly. Uhm we also are looking
14 for additional money for busing to help foster
15 children get to school. We appreciate your support
16 for salary parity for Early Childhood Staff in the
17 Community Based organizations and look forward to
18 that uhm eventually happening, sooner rather than
19 later. With regard to homeless students, uhm the
20 Mayor is also playing the annual Budget dance on the
21 social workers in the schools. Those social workers
22 need to know from one year to the next if their job
23 is secure and we need to increase those social
24 workers to 100 as a starting place uhm because
25

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unfortunately the homelessness crisis is not getting better and we should do as much as we can to help those children get to school and be educated. Uhm and you can read the full testimony for all of the issues. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very much. Next please.

HARRIET BLANK: Hello my name is Harriet Blank and I represent OHEL's Children Home and Family Services, a recipient of several City Council Grants which I am going to kind of highlight today and we, allows us to fill service gaps for vulnerable populations. Our thanks to the members of City Council who over the many years have supported OHEL and the citizens of New York. We have received funding for OHEL's Autism Awareness Program which provides wrap around services for autistic children in afterschool and during school closing and it is important to see their typical kids feel like people understand us when they see that they can be with other children who have family members who have developmental disability. OHELs Trauma Team, Response Team which is a trained team of crisis counselor who meet with grieving and distressed

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families and community members to provide crisis and bereavement in the five boroughs in response to individual and community traumas. We have general access and case management which serves as a point of contact for persons needing extra outreach and hand holding to obtain access to outpatient counseling, supported housing services. These services help connect clients to care and keep them in the system in a healthy manner. The Holocaust Funding which allows us to help Holocaust Survivors in New York City deal with their Mental Health Issues through therapeutic humor and laughter. In addition, they are provided tools to help other survivors and family members deal with PTSD. We have an Entitlement Specialist and Limited Home Assessment while OHEL is known to serve the broad Jewish Community, OHEL serves the general population throughout New York City providing many of our programs in with services that are in Spanish, Cantonese, Creole, Russian and Yiddish. These enhanced and supportive services enable OHEL to improve the lives the hundreds of individuals and their families. City Council's continued generous support is vital and we commend you for making this a priority. From the lonely

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isolated person who needs extra care and outreach
with an elderly person and a stressed mom with post-
partum depression and families experiencing
overwhelming caregiving stress and victims and
trauma, we thank the Council and OHEL has been able
to go that extra mile. Come and see us in our new
building any of you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you.
Next please.

LIN KIM: Hello my name is Lin Kim I'm 15
years old and freshman at Hunter College High School.
I'm with the New York City Community Youth Food
Advocates, a project of Community Foods Advocates
that gives students like myself opportunities to
learn ways to solve problems that arrive in the
current Food System. I would like to take a moment
to thank former and current members of the Council
for helping to bring free lu... free school lunch for
all to take place in our public schools. It was a
bold and revolutionary step towards achieving an
ideal school food system that I believe will continue
to positively affect generations to come. The
success of Community Foods Advocates and the Lunch
for Learning Campaign and winning this is what

1 inspired me to develop into the Food Justice
2 Community and want to continue making much needed
3 changes into School Food System that impacts
4 countless students within New York City. This exact
5 success and its effects in public school is what
6 brings me here today. The Lunch Act has been in
7 place for under one year and yet school lunch still
8 lacks appeal among my peers. From a strictly
9 economic and logical standpoint the lunch being free
10 in cost should cause almost all students to eat lunch
11 in the cafeteria get in the way for kids to fully
12 take advantage of the Free School Lunch for All
13 Program. Movies and TV shows never represent
14 cafeterias to be warm and welcoming areas for
15 students and as much as I hate to admit it, the
16 cliques of grimy tables and gloomy floors are true.
17 Many of my peers hate to go down to the cafeteria and
18 sit down for lunch. Lunch time is suppose to be a
19 time for socialization and relaxation but is rather
20 stress inducing to be packed into a dim room for 40
21 minutes. I've never had a pleasant experience in
22 cafeterias due to the poor fluorescent lighting and
23 dark furniture and it doesn't make sense not to
24 change the environment of our cafeterias if it takes
25

1
2 up much of our public school space and are possible
3 to be redesigned as bright and appealing for
4 students. Uhm the time spent in cafeterias should be
5 used to distress from the work load not provide
6 additional gloom with the strict layout in colors.
7 Uhm at our organization, we think the redesign
8 cafeterias uhm to create deli style cafeterias,
9 school pickups should be in place in all public
10 schools. Uhm there would be efficient improvements
11 to recurrent serving system and save a lot of time
12 because the lines are longer and proceed rather
13 slowly. Uhm additionally creating many options that
14 are more inclusive to various dietary restrictions
15 such as kosher and halal and vegan that aren't just
16 bland PB and J sandwiches could be progressive ideas
17 to look to for the future. Thank you so much for
18 listening and I hope my personal input could help
19 create a better cafeteria environment for students
20 like myself.

21 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.
22 Did you say 15?

23 LIN KIM: Yeah.

24 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Wow, excellent job.
25 Thank you for being here.

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LIZ ACCLES: Uhm Good afternoon, I'm Liz Accles the Executive Director of Community Food Advocates and thank you for the opportunity to be here today and thank you uhm as always for your partnership in the fight for school food. Uhm I'm here uhm on behalf of Community Food Advocates and the Lunch for Learning Campaign to touch very briefly on two priority issues from the Campaign that are relevant to this Budget Hearing. One is uhm telling you there are now 30,000 additional children eating school lunch everyday since Universal Free School Lunch uhm and we are bringing in an additional \$38 million in Federal and State Revenue uhm since the beginning, we, that's fabulous but we think that's just the beginning. There needs to be a commitment to do a, we are very happy to see the ads that are running on the subways and the busses. They started in April and May but we think there needs to be a sustained creative uhm subway and bus ads as well as throughout the school system. Our understanding is that there was \$3.1 million in the Budget last year for promoting the program and marketing it and that we don't know where that is but we would like to see \$3.1 million baselined in the City Budget so that

1
2 there is money within the Department of Education
3 dedicated to promotion of school food programs. The
4 other that Lin referred to is the School Foods
5 Fabulous Redesign of cafeterias in the high schools
6 and middle schools and basically it is deli style
7 service, the food looks great, the Chancellor
8 referred to it earlier and the seating areas are much
9 more welcoming, diner style booths, round tables.
10 This chart shows the preliminary analysis of the
11 increase in participation in the high schools from
12 compounding universal and the redesigned schools and
13 you will see that the numbers have gone up
14 substantially. We would like to see \$25 million in
15 the Budget this year to expand that to 50 more
16 schools and we have a master plan that we would like
17 to see rolled out to all middle schools and high
18 schools. Thank you.

19 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: And thank you very
20 much. Next please.

21 RUEZALIA WATKINS: Good evening, Speaker
22 Johnson, also Chairman Dromm and other members of the
23 City Council. Thank you very much for all that you
24 do for New Yorkers every day. My name is RueZalia
25 Watkins. I'm with the Mental Health Association of

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New York City. Uhm we do a lot of work at MHA as you know. Part of that is working with families out of five resource centers. My work specifically has me in schools. Look at me. How many schools can I not get into to do my job but I don't want to be self-serving because it's really not about me doing my job as a child I was ambulatory. Today as an adult I still cry going someplace after traveling two hours to a school only to see that I can't get in. Tomato sauce can always get in the school. Nobody's going to be lifting cords of people, no. So for me, now I'm concerned about all of the kids like me in chairs. All of the kids like me who don't have choice. When you are talking about choice for middle school, choice for high school, how many boroughs are completely accessible? None. How many schools do we have that are completely accessible in a District? I don't know, I think that number is pretty low. I am also a member of the ARISE Coalition so I know they gave you numbers but I just want you to think about the kids like me who do not have a choice that Budget for those kids needs to be increased. That Budget for Accessibility in the School System has to be larger than it is. These children cannot wait and

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now we are going to rezoning so you are going to
rezone. First you have CHOICE, then you have
rezoning, no matter what you do it impacts on choice
for kids in wheelchairs. Please remember all the
children with mobility issues. Please think of them
because many people in DOE cannot. We need you to
protect our kids' rights for a public school
education and not for them not to be discriminated
against because they have to roll or use a walker.
Thank you very much.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much
also and of course these are all issues of concern to
the Council. We can't respond to everybody,
obviously we have 100 people to testify tonight so we
are hearing you and we're, we're, listening to what
it is that you have to say, thank you for coming in.

CROWD: Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Next up on the next
panel, Scott Daly with New York Junior Tennis League,
John Williams Real Works, Francis Grumbley (SP?)
American Indian Community House, Melissa Oaks
American Indian Community House, LGBT, HIV/AIDS,
Arura Pazza (SP?) American Indian Community House,

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Sean O'Rice American Indian Community House. (long
pause). Okay Mr. Daly would you like to start?

SCOTT DALY: Thank you very much, good
afternoon Chair Dromm, Speaker Johnson and all
members of the Council who are up there. My name is
Scott Daly and I am the Director of the New York
Junior Tennis Leagues, New York Junior Tennis and
Learning, NYJTLs free community programs throughout
the City of New York. These are made possible in all
51 Council Districts in over 90 programs that run six
to eight to nine weeks during the outdoor seasons and
20 weeks in the winter. This is all due fully as a
result of a funding by the City Council for which we
are most grateful. Right now we reach throughout the
year over 85,000 children. As I said before, all of
our programs are free. We reach them not only
through the Outdoor Community Tennis Programs but
also through a program called Schoolyard Tennis
Program where we teach gym teachers free of charge to
them and give them equipment to bring back to their
schools to introduce kids to the sport of tennis that
otherwise they wouldn't have access to. We also
reach during the summer I'm most proud to say
District 79 kids who are in school during the summer,

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1
2 they come out to all of our summer programs, each of
3 them are invited. Our programs run, we have
4 Education with Reading Club, SAT Prep Scholarship
5 Programs and Tutoring. Right now, last year, the fed
6 90 separate locations throughout the City, we hope to
7 expand that in the upcoming year. I want to thank
8 you all I, for your long-standing commitment to the
9 kids of New York. We meet the needs of the children
10 of the City. I want to thank you very much for your
11 time and I'm going to try to stop before my two
12 minutes is up. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: As I said earlier
14 you get an A too. Next please.

15 SCOTT DALY: Thank you very kindly.

16 JOHN WILLIAMS: Good afternoon/good
17 evening. My name is John Williams and I am the
18 cofounder and Executive Director of Real Works, a
19 Brooklyn based youth media nonprofit that serves over
20 800 New York City Youth annually. The entertainment
21 industry suffers from a crisis of inclusion on screen
22 and behind the scenes. But this lack of diversity
23 does not like reflect a lack of available talent,
24 especially in New York City. To address this gap,
25 there is an ever increasing need for quality programs

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that could prepare youth for careers in media and the creative economies. Founding in 2001, Real Works partners with New York City schools to bring quality arts programming to underserved communities. We provided free after school filmmaking with a one on one mentoring with professional filmmakers in our Gowanus based lab and we partner with industry to help talented young media makers gain footholds in careers through paid internships with companies like HBO, CBS and NBS. This powerful combination of quality arts instruction, mentoring and work force training has produced outstanding results in the lives of young people we serve, most of whom come from low income households and Title 1 schools. Tens of millions of viewers have seen our student work. All of our students graduate high school, about 90% go to college and over half of our working alumni make their careers in media and entertainment. Our work is made possible very much through support from the City of New York. The Department of Cultural Affairs provides essential funding to keep our programs open and free. Through the Cultural After School Adventures or CASA support Real Works has been able to cluster our efforts in communities like

1
2 Brownsville where young people are empowered to tell
3 their stories and celebrate local heros taking
4 control of their narratives and that of their
5 community. In the coming year, we will be partnering
6 with CUNY and companies like Viacom and AMC to create
7 a pathway for careers for young New Yorkers. We will
8 be partnering with the film unions to create a work
9 force training program for onset careers but we have
10 a long way to go. New York should be the leader in
11 creating a diverse work force for the entertainment
12 industry and that will require a partnership between
13 government, labor, industry and educators and we are
14 proud to be leaders in this effort.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you next
16 please.

17 FRANCIS GRUMBLY: Good evening my name is
18 Francis Grumbly, I am a board member of the American
19 Indian Community House here in New York City it is a
20 501c3 at this time, fully volunteer organization,
21 wasn't always that way. Uhm we serve somewhere in
22 the neighborhood of 30,000 Native Americans living in
23 the five boroughs of New York City. While the census
24 says there are some 100,000 we only see about 20,000
25 to 30,000. Uhm we cover social services, health

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1
2 issues, uhm some of our programs HIV/AIDS,
3 wellbriety, counseling, uhm alcohol addiction uhm
4 many services. We are in danger and community
5 services, cultural services and we are in danger of
6 losing the ability to be able to continue these
7 services to the Native American Community here in New
8 York City. Uhm while we uhm at one time we had food
9 services, we had a gallery, we have art programs
10 which some of my colleagues will mention. Uhm we
11 are, we really would appreciate it if you would be
12 able to help us continue these services for the
13 Native American community here in New York City. And
14 I'll just give you a little bit of history and I'm
15 sure many of you know it, Broadway was actually the
16 Mohawk Trail, uhm so we have a long-standing history
17 within Manhattan. Thank you.

18 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Absolutely, thank
19 you. Next please.

20 MELISSA OAKS: (SPEAKING NATIVE AMERICAN
21 LANGUAGE). My name is Melissa Oaks. I'm of the Snake
22 Clan Family. I'm a member of Iroquois Confederacy,
23 raised in Mohawak Territory in upstate New York. I'm
24 a community and cultural advocate at the American
25 Indian Community House established in 1969. My focus

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1 is (SPEAKING NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE) Native
2 American and Allies supporting our existence and
3 plight. I currently offer art design and activism
4 program in hopes to improve the connectivity and
5 cultural traditions of our community here in NYC. My
6 plan is to connect the rest of the Indian Country to
7 develop economically by operating a hub for
8 indigenous growth in mainstream society. Starting
9 with creating a foundation of equitable opportunities
10 as well as maintaining our sovereign indigenous
11 rights agreed upon within treaties. We strike to
12 protect and serve the natural environment in
13 Aboriginal people of Turtle Island by creating safe
14 spaces and places to grow and connect, I am here to
15 ask for \$500,000 in funding today. As an
16 organization that once offered health, education,
17 economic and cultural services we currently have no
18 employees and little to no funding. According to
19 2010 census NYC has 100,000 plus Native Americans
20 residing within five boroughs. We serve 20,000 to
21 30,000 without funding. We will soon be left with no
22 save spaces and remain invisible, near fodder to
23 mainstream society without your contributions.
24 Please help (SPEAKING NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE).
25

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you next
please.

AURURA PAZZA (SP?): (SPEAKING NATIVE
AMERICAN LANGUAGE).

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Just a little louder
as it is a little hard to hear year.

AURURA PAZZA (SP?): Uhm yeah I'm just
introducing myself, I'm saying hello. Uhm my name
Aurura Pazza (SP?). I am an advocate and a community
organizer at the American Indian Community House, uhm
my cousin used to always tell me that independence is
greater but interdependence is supreme. Uhm we are
tribal people, uhm supporting uhm one another uhm and
our many relatives in the kitchen, around a drum,
dancing, singing, hanging out, being together. Uhm
these communities, these activities make communities
strong and diverse strong communities make New York
City what it is. Uhm since about the 60s, the
American Indian Community House has served as a hub
for native people living in New York City and it is
important that we can stay open and it is important
that we get back to opening at full capacity uhm
especially in a especially in a city with one of the
largest and fastest growing native communities which

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1 is currently we are only open due to uhm people
2 volunteering their time. Uhm specifically at the
3 Community House what I focus on is working with young
4 native women around leadership development and
5 political education. Uhm we cover, we cover a broad
6 range of topics that affect our people uhm like
7 access to clean water, renewable energy and uhm the
8 connection between missing and murdered indigenous
9 women and prison industrial complex, uhm because this
10 promotes the diversification of leadership in our
11 society. Uhm everywhere we go in the United States
12 we are on stolen land, and the City specifically was
13 largely built by Mohawk Iron Workers. Uhm that also
14 started the Community House back in the day. Uhm and
15 yeah now of land, you know this land was once honored
16 and protected and cherished uhm and now that things
17 have changed but what hasn't changed are the values
18 and teachings that we carry as a Native people,
19 values and teachings that have helped us to survive
20 520 plus years, regardless of constant attempts to
21 silence and kill us, so uhm we want to continue to
22 offer those resources to young Native people and old
23 Native people and Native people here in New York
24 City. Thank you.
25

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very much. Thank you to this panel. We appreciate you coming in. Alright next, Connor Liang (SP?) Chinatown Planning Council, Project REACH, Don Kao (SP?) Project REACH, Katherine Chambers, Project REACH, Mae Fung (SP?) Project REACH, Sheldon Raymore (SP?) Project REACH, Sammea O'Dean (SP?) Project REACH, Akillia Wilson (SP?) Project REACH. Project REACH is in the house. (Long pause.) We are going to begin down here.

AKILLIA WILSON (SP): Okay uhm hi everybody my name is Akillia I'm a youth staff at Project REACH, uhm thank you or all of your support. Uhm we are like BFFs in my head, so you are the best. Uhm so first I would like to start and say you know this is my third year doing this where I come here and I, each year I have something different that is impacting me. Uhm this year it is especially important to me because I really got to understand that four years of being at REACH didn't mean anything to me until maybe two months ago. I actually got kicked out of school because they are extremely racist uhm in Watertown New York and I got kicked out because of their racial biases and I've

1
2 actually been working with uhm the anti-
3 discrimination branch that you all work with to try
4 and fight that and I wouldn't have been able to do it
5 if it wasn't for Project REACH being that when I
6 started I was 16 and it was the first place I'd ever
7 been to that was youth led. We actually got to have
8 veto power over the adults that get hired. And
9 that was the first time that I ever even had that
10 kind of power and it honestly is the reason that I am
11 still here. I was able to MC almost all of the
12 borough summons that I worked with with Don and
13 another organization, Destination Tomorrow and I
14 wouldn't have been able to do that without the power
15 that they have given me honestly. Uhm I know with
16 REACH that I will be okay so getting kicked out of
17 school, surviving homelessness and also being a young
18 woman of color, being able to take back my power was
19 something that I didn't understand until I came to
20 REACH, I didn't understand myself and my position in
21 the world and it would mean a lot to me if the
22 Council Members could consider helping us with one of
23 our initiatives, uhm our initiative gives back the
24 night as a twist on the take back the night campaign
25 so I'm sorry, so we are trying to help people that

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are experiencing, you know marginalized genders that are experiencing these sexual assaulted, not to be caudled but to be empowered and to be able to take back the night and fight their strength so it would be great if you guys could help us out with that.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Look how empowered you are now. Believe me you do great. Thank you. Go ahead please.

MAE FUNG (SP?): Hello my name is Mae Fung (SP?) and I was introduced to Project REACH when I was 16 and that was over 30 something years ago and I guess I so identify with her now in her story. I was first introduced to Project REACH in the 80s and I was 16 in Chinatown in the Projects and my parents were Asian immigrants that came in in the 60s and they didn't know that much English and they were very fearful and I was just a normal teenager but because of the crisis in Chinatown during that time, the gang wars, they thought I was part of the gang and they kicked me out of the home and I was a runaway at 16 and now I, I work in Finance compliance a couple of blocks away and I think about, this is a Budget Hearing and we talk about return on your investment, 30 years ago I was 16 and I thought about having a

dollar for pizza to feed myself and now when I was walking over here my daughter texted me and she got a job offer with a major corporation and beverage and I said wow, if I knew what I was going to be at 16, I wouldn't have been so scared and one of the things I been a Community Board Member with Project REACH you know which is part of CPC which is one of the largest non-profit you know organizations serving Asians and now five borough are over with different nationality and Project REACH was the only place for me 30 years ago and I remember them taking me to schools, you know colleges, talking about racism and they taught me a voice and impact of my life and now you know, for the last 17 years I've been doing fundraising for Project REACH. This is the return that we think about when we take away services from youth who are so vulnerable. I think if I didn't have Project REACH would I be sitting here. Would I have enjoyed all of these things that I have in my life? Living in Manhattan, you know paying back 30 years, I have seen the changes in me and in talking to these youth, you know every single time I go to you know another meeting and I mentioned to new youth and dad's like Mae tell your story but don't make them cry. And I

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I'm every year I come, this is the second year that you know I have testified in the hearing and you know I hope you continue supporting them, especially with funding through the years, the last 17 years I seen has shrunk so you know the Council. I know some of your stories of being outsiders. I know the outside, that's what makes me so passionate and never forget the empathy I feel with these youth and this program. Thank you for hearing.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.

SAMMEA O'DEAN (SP?) Hello my name is Sammea and I'm also youth staff. This is my first time doing this so I am a little nervous, sorry if I read off of the paper. Anyways, I was drawn into Project REACH after seeing one of Don's workshops and after speaking to him I realized you know this is what I want to, it's social justice and that is something that I am very interested in. As I became more comfortable at REACH which wasn't very hard because the staff is very friendly and accommodating, I realized that REACH was kind of like my escape from home because at home I'm not allowed to express my feelings and my thoughts whereas as reach I am able to delve into the world and really like talk about

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things that I want to talk about. And as youth staff
now I am learning how to facility and make REACH a
place, make REACH what it was for me for others as
well. And another thing that I really appreciate
about REACH is that I'm surrounded by transgender
nonconforming people and they are very different from
me and being able to learn from them and hear, hear
them out is an amazing opportunity for me because I
am learning more as I am, as I participate in REACH,
at REACH.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you. Next
please.

CONNOR LIANG (SP?): Hi I'm Connor. I go
to James Madison High School. My local Councilman is
Chaim Deutsch. He is a part of the Jewish caucus. I
am here on behalf of EXALT working at Project REACH:
EXALT is an organization that elevates the
expectations of youth. They work with children or
teens that are criminal or court involved in some way
or another. Uhm most likely these cases are minor
such as having a ticket or two. Nothing major like
arson, murder, no none of that. Uhm but at Project
REACH it offers a way for people at EXALT which
Project REACH is an interim site for us and it offers

1
2 us an ability to develop our professionalism and
3 develop uhm a better, resume for our future
4 employment ab... capabilities and I would like
5 appreciate funding for Project REACH because it was,
6 it is very reassuring to know that places like
7 Project REACH gives the people at EXALT an ability to
8 further their employ, employability in the future and
9 without a U backbone.

10 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you, Don.

11 DON KAO (SP?): Uhm good afternoon. Uhm
12 first of all uhm Speaker Johnson except I know you
13 are Corey uhm this is Akillia (SP?). She's the one
14 that you helped us with. Uhm Akillia (SP?) went
15 through a whole thing where uhm black students were
16 dis... what's the word. Were improperly treated in a
17 SUNY University and as a result of getting some
18 references to uhm Debra Glick through Speaker Johnson
19 we were able to link Akillia (SP?) and her case and
20 it's actually the New York State Division of Human's
21 Rights is now bringing, uhm that's going to address
22 the problem she was facing and it's not only her but
23 multiple black students who apparently are treated
24 differently when it is black on black problems within
25 the university and very differently from when it is

1
2 interracial and these are some of the concerns we
3 were, we were wanting to address and this is, these
4 is some of the work that we ended up doing. I
5 believe when we met you, we had to drive up six hours
6 up to New York State because they don't have places
7 like Project REACH that address these issues and so
8 we had to go up there. But anyway I just wanted to
9 give you credit, Corey, I appreciate it. Uhm my name
10 is Don Kao (SP?) I'm going to be 67 this year, I
11 should have maybe retired two years ago. I've been
12 with Project REACH for maybe 33 years and with the
13 Chinese-American Planning Council for over 35 years.
14 Uhm I often tell the students it's a way of not
15 having to write a resume anymore, uhm but in those 36
16 years for me it's been an incredible journey. I've
17 been able to create a program that is really youth
18 and adult run and uhm I'm right now I'm just a little
19 upset because I just got a text from Katherine, who
20 Danny you know Katherine. She was supposed to speak
21 with us and she's not in good shape and so uhm she
22 was not able to make it uhm Katherine is uhm trans,
23 transbingaliism (SP?) transgender female who does not
24 have support at home and has been working with us for
25 the last four years from the time she was 17 and she

1
2 is now 21 or 22 and uhm I'm worried about her and I
3 want to appreciate the support you all have given us
4 because the one last thing that I wanted to mention
5 and something that Sammea (SP?) mentioned was Project
6 REACH is the only place I've ever been by transgender
7 and gender nonconforming youth and they actually help
8 run our program and we are looking for uhm right now
9 we lost quite a bit of funding through state, the
10 state and Council Member Chin and Council Member
11 Dromm and a number of, and the Speaker has always
12 supported us. We are asking for quite a bit more
13 money so that we can go back to doing all the things
14 that we have been doing and those are in the packets
15 that you've looked at uhm because we are in all five
16 boroughs. Okay thank you.

17 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Don and
18 thank you Project REACH for coming in. We appreciate
19 all the stories that you've told us today. Thank
20 you. Alright our next panel. Jaclyn Okin Barney,
21 Randy Levine Advocates for Children, Maggie Morrow
22 (SP?) ARISE Coalition, Rebecca Costy Chenko (SP?)
23 ARISE, Kim Madden (SP?). Oh okay, alright thank you.
24 Lori Podvestner and Michelle Norris. Okay. Okay,
25 okay John Sentigar (SP?) from Covenant House (long

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1
2 pause) and Amir Sultan from Sports and Arts in School
3 Foundation. (long pause). Is Amir here? Okay.
4 Alright why don't we start over here?

5 JOHN SENTIGAR (SP?): Good afternoon my
6 name is John Sentigar (SP?) and I'm a member of the
7 Advocacy Team at Covenant House New York where we
8 serve run away and homeless youth age 16 to 24. I
9 would like to thank the Community on Finance for the
10 opportunity to testify today. Covenant House New
11 York is the nation's largest nonprofit adolescent
12 serving homeless, runaway and traffic youth. During
13 this past year, we served over 1900 young people in
14 our residential programs. We provide shelter to
15 approximately 200 young people every night including
16 pregnant women and mother's with their children,
17 LGBTQ Youth, Commercially and Sexually Exploited
18 Youth and Trafficking survivors. Our youth are
19 primarily people of color and over 1/3 of our youth
20 have spent time in the foster care system. Many of
21 our youth have experience abuse or neglect at the
22 hands of parents or other caregivers and a
23 disproportionately high percentage of our youth
24 struggle with the pervasive impacts of trauma and
25 mental health issues and substance abuse. We provide

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young people with food, shelter, clothing, medical care, mental health and substance abuse services, legal services, high school equivalency classes and other educational programs. We applaud New York City for increasing funding to the new DYCD contracts. While this will greatly improve our ability to continue to offer comprehensive and robust services, we think that we more can be done. Specifically we are also requesting increased funding for several items that will bolster our continued efforts to serve runaway and homeless youth and they are increased funding for our legal services. We are asking for increased funding for our legal services department that will enable us to hire a second attorney. Oftentimes our only attorney is in court and can't provide counsel and attention to uhm our young people on site. So we would really appreciate a little bit more funding to hire an additional attorney that will be able to assist our young people at all times. We are seeking overall support for our Workforce Development Program so our young people can be prepared for today's highly competitive job market, uhm program includes high school equivalency classes, specialized training courses and also offers

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1 scholarships to colleges and provides youth with job
2 seeking skills. Uhm we are also requesting funding
3 for our anti-human trafficking transitional living
4 program which is called ASPIRE house. It would
5 directly support our young trafficking survivors
6 residing in our state house. The funding would serve
7 up to 8 female identified survivors of human
8 trafficking and commercial and sexual exploitation.
9 Additionally we are moving our ASPIRE home to the
10 Bronx, so we would hope to make our new environment
11 look like a home and additional funding would greatly
12 support this. And lastly we stand by the advocates
13 for working for the Fair Fares Campaign and their
14 request for equal access to our public transit system
15 for low income New Yorkers. We know that our young
16 people have great difficulty affording a metrocard
17 fare and understand the importance of being able to
18 use the subway uhm and whenever possible we, we do
19 give metrocards to our young people but we do not
20 receive any from the City. So in addition to
21 standing with the Fair Fares Campaign we are also
22 requesting \$50,000 to supply greatly needed metrocard
23 fare to all the youth we serve. Uhm so I want to
24 thank the speaker of the New York City Council, uhm
25

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Corey Johnson for urging the passage of the recent
legislation and for being a champion for our youth
and rest of everyone here today, thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.
Next is.

JOHN SENTIGAR (SP?): Thank you and tell
Sister Nancy hello, we love her. She's fantastic.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Will do.

JACLYN OKIN BARNEY: Hi my name is Jaclyn
Okin Barney I'm with Advocate for Children. We want
to increase the opportunities for kids, for kids, for
kids with disabilities in the system and give
opportunities due to, to, today. I'm here to talk
about. If I can talk. That's a, disability and I
know that this is an issue that you all are aware of.
I know that you respond to the Budget. You have your
own proposal of \$125,000 to the Budget I ask you and
urge you to f, to, to for that provision. As I know
you all know the City disabilities at the highest and
the high school and the high school directory that
the City would produce, only 15% of high schools
throughout the whole City are fully accessible to
kids with disability issues. This is not fair, fair,
fair, is, the system prides itself in giving kids

1
2 choices, while these kids do not have choices. The
3 only, what, what and get to all the classes. These
4 are the only fully accessible enough, there are not
5 enough. I applaud you, I applaud you through your
6 proposal of \$150 million, it will go far in making
7 accessible. And again I urge you to make this
8 proposal a real, a reality in the 2019 Budget, thank
9 you.

10 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you and thank
11 you so much for always coming down to all the
12 hearings and for giving testimony. You are a really
13 strong advocate.

14 JACLYN OKIN BARNEY: Thank you.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Jackie I want to
16 thank you for being here and for your very
17 comprehensive testimony. It is really helpful and
18 important to see you here and how you advocate on
19 behalf of so many others. We are deeply, deeply
20 grateful that you spent so much time here today to
21 wait to testify and we are really grateful for the
22 statistics and numbers you put together for us and we
23 stand strong and wanting even more money for
24 accessibility for all schools in New York City so I'm
25 really, really grateful that you are here today.

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JACLYN OKIN BARNEY: Wonderful thank you
very much.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

MAGGIE MORROW (SP?): Good afternoon I'm
Maggie Morrow, I'm going to echo a lot of what Jackie
just said. I'm here on, today on behalf of the ARISE
coalition to urge you to ensure that funding for
improving school accessibility is included in the
City's final 2019 Budget. We are seriously concerned
about the lack of accessible public school options in
the City. There simply isn't equity in the
Admissions Process for students with physical
disabilities. Nearly every time one of them applies
to public school they are forced to choose between
full physical access and their individual interests
and talents. Partially accessible buildings which
the City relies on is only sometimes an ans... its
only sometimes a solution to the problems. Some of
those partially accessible buildings lack, lack
accessible bathrooms. Others request use of separate
entrances and others don't provide students with
access to key classrooms. Two years now since the
DOJ found that the New York City Elementary Schools
were out of compliance with the ADA. There is still

1
2 a whole lot of work to be done. The current Capital
3 Plan allocates \$100 million over five years for
4 improving school accessibility so that represents
5 less than 1% of the total budget and that money has
6 pretty much already been spent, leaving no funds for
7 significant accessibility improvements this year but
8 the work really can't wait uhm for the next five year
9 plan, that's not going to happen for at least another
10 year. We were as Jackie said very, very pleased at
11 the Council's response to the Mayor's Preliminary
12 Budget, recommended additional money for school
13 accessibility projects this year and we really do
14 urge you to stand strong to address the inequity and
15 to negotiate a final budget that includes at least
16 \$125 million to improve school accessibility this
17 year. Uhm as always, thank you for your time and
18 your attention and I can answer any questions if need
19 be.

20 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Well you are getting
21 an A too.

22 MAGGIE MORROW (SP?): Thank you.

23 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

24 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: We are going,
25 this is a very important issue. We need accessible

1
2 subways, we need accessible schools, we need
3 accessible hospitals and medical facilities, we need
4 curb cuts that work all across the City. We need to
5 truly be an accessible City and so I am really
6 grateful that you here testifying on this and we are
7 going to use this testimony in our negotiations with
8 the Administration so I'm really grateful that you
9 are all here.

10 MAGGIE MORROW (SP?): And we love to hear
11 that, thank you.

12 BEN KALLOS: I just want to add my voice
13 to that of the Speaker and the Chair of Finance. I
14 have in my District alone uhm, 5 District 75 schools
15 are headquartered there. Uhm it isn't said enough as
16 you know District 75 students go almost year round
17 and while their classrooms are air conditions uhm in
18 many cases, the common spaces such as gymnasium and
19 lunch rooms and auditoriums are not which basically
20 renders those spaces unusable in the months of August
21 and July and, and much of June as well so uhm we are
22 working very hard in my district out in Eastern
23 Queens to, to do that and I know that uhm I will join
24 the Speaker and Chair Dromm in making sure that we
25

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continue to work toward those ends. So thank you for
your work and thank you for inspiring me today.

MAGGIE MORROW (SP?): Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Next please.

LORI PODVESTNER (SP?): Hi, uhm my Name
is Lori Podvestner I am the parent of 15-year-old son
with cerebral palsy in a District 75 school and I
also lead the policy work at Include NYC. I would
like to thank you for holding this important hearing
and Speaker and Chairman Dromm thank you very much
for all of your support. We testify today to
highlight the significant lack of accessible schools
in New York City, severely limiting the choices and
experiences available to students, families and
teachers with physical disabilities. Three of the
City's 32 community school districts have no fully
accessible elementary schools, 4 school district have
no fully accessible middle school and 6 districts
have no fully accessible high school. Include NYC
formerly Resources for Children with Special Needs
has worked with hundreds of thousands of individuals
since our founding 35 years ago, helping them
navigate the complex special education service and
support systems so that all young people with

disabilities can be included in all aspects of New York City life. Over the years we've helped many young people who use wheelchairs identify alternative school placements due to a lack of available accessible schools. Examples of the ways in which schools are inaccessible to students include related services being delivered in bathrooms because there are no alternative accessible rooms available. Students missing instructional time traveling to and from limited accessible restrooms and equally important segregation from peers as a result of inaccessible cafeterias, science rooms, libraries and music rooms. Families and students report that being placed in these compromising environments can lead to social anxiety and students not wanting to attend school. None of us want this for our New York City Students. We commend the Mayor and the New York City Department of Education on their efforts to increase the number of schools that are partially and fully accessible to students with mobility impairments yet we are in full agreement with the Council's response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget that requires the Department of Education to reallocate \$125 million within the five year Capital Plan to do so. If

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adopted, this funding would allow the City to make another 15 to 17 schools accessible and to improve the accessibility of additional schools throughout the City through minor renovation projects. Unfortunately the Executive Budget omits this critical funding. As a result, we urge you to negotiate a final Budget that includes at least \$125 for School Accessibility.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you this is totally unacceptable.

LORI PODVESTNER (SP?): Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Totally unacceptable and we are going to fight for this money the, MTA announcement that was made yesterday by Andy Byford included a proposal for 50 additional accessible stations and we are going to really push hard on this, so thank you.

REBECCA COSTY CHENKO (SP?): Hello.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Hi.

REBECCA COSTY CHENKO (SP?): Uhm my name is Rebecca Costy...

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: You got to put that mic on.

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REBECCA COSTY CHENKO (SP?): Excuse me,
oh, thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Yes there you go.

REBECCA COSTY CHENKO (SP?): My name,
name is Rebecca Costy Chenko (SP?). I'm a proud New
Yorkers, a Brooklynite and the parent of a New York
City public school 7th grader. I get emotional
everytime I come here. I realized today when I was
preparing to speak that I've actually been coming to
talk in front of you for five years now about school
accessibility so for my testimony today I brought you
my testimony from October 25, 2013. Which is very
detailed about our personal story which I know that
I've come and talked to you before. Uhm the last two
years I have felt that the discrimination against
students with ADA Disabilities is truly being seen
and heard by the Council and I thank you for that.
Uhm it's a relief and importantly you are putting
your money where your mouth is and that's what
matters. Uhm thank you to you Council. I remember
testifying a long time ago in front of you at the
Education Committee, uhm Council Member Treyger,
Rosenthal, everyone, all of you, the whole Council
and your staff and thank you very much for becoming

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committed because that is really what we need. Uhm
the first time I came here I described my then 3rd
grade daughter as beautiful, joyful, silly, sweet and
bright and she continues to be all of that in the
face of great daily injustice in this City. But she
and I are both privileged because we had the
privilege that I am here right now, that I'm able to
be here, that I didn't have to wait for two hours
with my kids for Access-r-ride to get them to medical
therapies today. That I'm not working two jobs to
cover copays, that I'm not poor enough to avoid and
not rich enough to afford and uhm that I speak
English, that I'm not a single mother with multiple
kids or kids with multiple disabilities or multiple
kids with multiple disabilities and uhm today at
least today I'm not a mom who is just razor focused
on making sure that her kid's condition doesn't get
worse or that they don't die because that is the
reality for a long of parents in the City every day.
We are fighting for our kids and we are struggling
with heavy stuff all over a very highly inaccessible
City so when you see me here I want you to know that
I represent a lot of people, a lot and we don't
always have the privilege to focus on fighting for

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our kids segregation, their discrimination issues but we care and our kids need to get the education that they deserve so that they can fight for that for themselves when they grow up. The irony is that the kids who cannot rely on their bodies get the worst opportunities for their brains in this City and that is wrong and it is a Civil Rights Violation and it's a Human Rights Violation and it is a moral problem for every New Yorker. Uhm but we are here from all of the beautiful ribbons of cultural, racial, sexual, gender, ethnic diversity in New York City, we are all here, we are the minority that is all minorities. Disability doesn't discriminate and uhm even though I am feeling hurt it's not about if I'm feeling hurt at these meetings, it's going to require a kid rolling up to a school and being able to roll in and it's going to require them opening the high school book and see magic possibilities of what could be rather than doors slamming in their face and parents to not chose their child's middle school based on where they can go watch their kid in a play and typical kids, able bodied kids seeing their friends with disabilities as their friends and their classmates and their teachers with disabilities as their role

models and their principals with disabilities, that'd be great or RueZalia who was here uhm we need that everybody's minds are changed in this City not just the minds of the kids with disabilities. The regular bodied peers needs our kids in those schools too. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you. Randy.

SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: I want to thank you for being here. You know I feel very moved by the testimony but I know it's not about being moved, it is about action and money and access and getting things done and we can talk and tell our stories as much as possible and they are moving but at the end of the day it's actually about getting things done and making a change so that every, not just young person but human being is treated with dignity and respect in the City and uhm I'm going to over the course of these negotiations over the next few weeks with Chair Dromm fight as hard as I can to ensure that our City does right by your family and by all of the families that you all are representing today.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Let me add also I was just mentioning to, to Speaker Johnson as well your struggle with finding a school for your daughter

1
2 and then finally getting into a good school but not
3 being able to accept the admission because it was
4 inaccessible so this is a huge problems and we are
5 going to really fight for you.

6 REBECCA COSTY CHENKO (SP?): And I just
7 want to add something I didn't which is I spent a
8 year carrying her up the steps of our local
9 elementary school because it was so important for her
10 to be part of our community and it's made all the
11 difference in her life and I want that for all other
12 kids in the City.

13 RANDY LEVINE: Thank you for the
14 opportunity to testify. My name is Randy Levine and
15 I'm Policy Director of Advocates for Children of New
16 York. First Advocate for Children stand with the
17 ARISE Coalition and parents for inclusive education
18 in thanking the City Council for its recommendation
19 of an additional \$125 million to make more schools
20 accessible to students, parents and teachers with
21 physical disabilities and we appreciate the words
22 that you have spoken here today and encourage you to
23 fight as the Budget process concludes to ensure that
24 there is funding for school accessibility. The
25 funding that was in the five year plan for school

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accessibility has been spent and so unless we get more funding in this year's Budget we will not be able to make more progress this year on school accessibility. Next we urge you to work with the Administration to increase funding for Department of Education Social Workers and other supports for students who are homeless. During the 2016-2017 school year more than 100,000 students in New York City were identified as homeless including 38,000 students living in shelter. These students have a bizmal educational outcomes from chronic absenteeism to school suspension to low literacy levels. The City has taken a positive step by placing 43 bridging the gap social workers in schools with high populations of students living in shelters to focus on serving these students but despite a push from 30 Council Members, shelter providers and advocates to increase the number of the Bridging the Gap Social Workers from 43 to 100 social workers the Mayor's Proposed Executive Budget increases the number of social workers by only 10. Today Advocates for Children released a report showing that more than 125 schools have 50 or more students living in shelter and no Bridging the Gap Social Worker. Together

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these schools serve more than 9,800 students living in Shelter. Clearly 10 social worker, an addition of 10 social workers is insufficient and so we ask you to work with the Administration to ensure that the final Budget baselines the \$11.9 million for supports for students living in shelter in the FY19 Executive Budget and add in baseline additional funding including \$7 million to increase the number of DOE Bridging the Gap school based social workers or students in shelters from 53 to 100 social workers. In our written testimony you will find information on a couple of additional issues including evidence based practices to improve school climate, bussing for students in foster care and enhancements to Early Childhood Education and after school programs. So thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So we included this in our Budget Response to the Mayor and we will continue to of course advocate for this and we have called for additional things for homeless students so I appreciate you highlighting this today.

AMIR SULTAN (SP?): Good afternoon Speaker Johnson, Chairman Dromm and members of New York City Council. I am Amir Sultan, Program Manager

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for Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation. I grew up in New York City and attended City Public Schools. In 1992, the New York City Council recognized the need that free summer camps could fill in the lives of New York City's youth and working families. Since that initial investment the Sports in Arts and Schools Foundation (SASF) has been able to substantially impact the lives of hundred of thousands of New York City's most vulnerable youth. By leverage City Council Funding through the after school enrichment initiative, SASS, SASF has been able to not only run its Flagship New York City Council Summer Camps but also bring its school year leagues, special events, weekend programs and holiday break programming to youth across the five boroughs. None of this would be possible without the support of the New York City Council. In FY2018 SASF received \$1 million in Council Citywide funding under the Council's after school enrichment initiative. SASF leveraged these funds to serve over 35,000 youth in 210 programs and 155 school locations, provide programs that reach almost every City Council District, host 53 events to date with over 5,000 participants. In an effort to maintain the highest

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quality of services, SASF employees are paid an equitable rate of no less than \$15 an hour for over 1700 New York City residents. The quality of these programs is illustrated with 100% of our elementary sites rated as above standard in independent evaluations by Department of Youth and Community Development, 85% of our principals state that SASF supports student academics, 85% of our principals recognize that SASF supports development of 21st Century skills such as creativity and technology, 90% of our principals report that SASF supplements their school with school based enrichment activities as sports or esteem and leadership. In order to enrich and expand this programmatic impact over 35,000 youth served citywide, SASF is requesting \$1.5 million from the Council in the FY 2019 Budget, an increase of \$500,000 over its FY2018 allocation.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay can you just wrap it up?

AMIR SULTAN (SP?): Yes sir. Uhm through the City Council's continued investment in afterschool enrichment initiative (SASF) can continue its mission to provide premiere services to New York's neediest youth that rivals any for profit

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entity in New York City. SASF has been a steadfast partner to the City Council for going on three decades and aiding New York's youth to discover and nurture their unique talent while helping them develop the passion and perseverance to meet their goals. On behalf of the 35,000 youngsters we serve, the families we impact in the communities we help strengthen, we ask to support, we ask you to support our \$1.5 million FY2019 funding request and to advocate on behalf of New Yorkers neediest.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much and of course thank you to everybody on the panel, we appreciate you coming in. Thank you. Alright our next panel, Ietta Satakki (SP?) from Womankind, Kevin Tse Chinese-American Planning Council, by the way I hope I am pronouncing your names correctly, if not, please I apologize, JoAnn Yoo Asian American Federation, Hiroko Hatanaka Japanese American Social Services, Sylvia Sicter from India Home and Vanessa Leung from the Coalition for Asian American Children. (long pause).

IETTA SATAKKI (SP?): Good afternoon
Chairman Dromm, Speaker Johnson.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Just make sure that
mic that is on and pull it a little closer.

IETAA SATAKKI (SP?): Thank you. Good
afternoon Chairman Dromm, Speaker Johnson, thank you
for having me. My name is Ietta Satakki (SP?) I am
the manager for Policy and Advocacy at Womankind.
Uhm I'm sure many of you on the panel committee are
familiar with our work but Womankind works with
survivors of gender based violence and we provide
culturally matched direct services to survivors of
domestic violence, sexual violence and human
trafficking across the life span in 18 distinct Asian
languages and dialects as well as Spanish and we
annual field over 2000 helpline calls and we serve
over 1000 survivors in person and we know from
experience that Asian led, Asian serving
organizations like ours are the ones that have been
doing the work for New York City's ever growing Asian
population and we are the ones that have been doing
it well. And uhm we have gained trust from our
communities. We have the knowhow to do the outreach
and we have the cultural understanding of our diverse
population and this is especially important in doing
the work that we do which is to combat gender based

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1 violence and uhm which is a nuance and sensitive
2 issue that requires complex cultural understanding
3 and we have seen time and time again that access to
4 immediate services in the language that the
5 individual feels most comfortable communicating in to
6 a person with cultural humility is crucial to those
7 in crisis and we also know the importance of
8 connecting survivors to long term support systems
9 with linguistic and cultural understanding for them
10 to truly rise above their trauma and if immediate
11 services are the key to surviving then long term
12 services are the key to thriving and we need to
13 continue investigating both if we are serious about
14 intervening in and preventing violence in our
15 communities and we thank the City Council for funding
16 organizations like ours, allowing us to continue
17 growing and uhm Womankind and our community have
18 greatly benefited from everybody on this committee,
19 discretionary and in initiative funding and we urge
20 you today to not simply sustain but to increase
21 funding uhm to support, to help us support our every
22 growing Asian population.
23

24 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.
25

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JOANN YOO: Good evening. Thank you for, thank you Speaker Johnson, Chair Dromm and all of our ally City Council Members my name is JoAnn Yoo and I'm the Executive Director of the Asian American Federation. We are here, I am here today to representing a network of over 60 member organizations that serve the pan Asian community. As all of you know, the Asian American Community is the fastest growing in our City and many of them are also the poorest, when we talk about uhm funding, City Council Funding we did a report several years ago that showed while we are the fastest growing population we receive 1.4% of the City Council dollars and certainly that has to change, especially with uhm all of you at the home so we are thrilled to be here to share our six recommendations. Uhm we would like to see increased immigration intervention services for Asian New Yorkers. We have testified at every immigration hearing, we've receive a grant from the Governor's Office which we have shared with our member, 10 member agencies to do immigration legal services. You know that, that's a drop in the bucket. We certainly need to have more support to be able to continue building immigration legal services

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for the Asian American Community. We also stand with our allies about around funding for a community based adult literacy. For many of our member agencies, for many Asian Americans they are not literate in their own language, so when they are learning English it's the first language that they are learning to sign their own names in and to read in and I think that is just something that is tremendously powerful and it's something that you know that is the benefit of living in a city like New York that recognizes immigrants.

We also ask, number 2, we ask for protection for Asian American seniors. Asian seniors are the fastest growing senior population but they are also the poorest. Uhm we have stories from our member agencies who work with them on how they eat, how they survive. Asian American senior women, also have, seniors also have their, you know the top 10 leading causes of death is suicide and so we certainly need more support for them. We ask for mental health support. We recently, we did a report last year around Asian American Mental Health Services, as I mentioned about the Asian American Senior Mental Services but Asian American young girls also have the highest rate of depressive symptoms so we certainly

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1
2 need more support for that. We, one thing I, one
3 more thing nonprofit stabilization fund, CACF and the
4 Asian American Federation are the Asian American
5 partners and so we ask for more support and finally
6 we need to think about what is happening with the
7 census. We are a census information center. We for
8 the last two decades and have lead the charge and
9 obviously these are very scary times where people are
10 going to be afraid to fill that form out and so we
11 would love to have your support and to push the Mayor
12 to hi, to create a census outreach coordinate. Thank
13 you.

14 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thanks JoAnn. Next
15 please.

16 HIROKO HATANAKA: Good evening Corey,
17 Speaker Johnson and Chairman Dromm and distinguished
18 members of the Committee. My name is Hiroko
19 Hatanaka. I am a member of the board of the Japanese
20 American Social Services Inc. JASSI has been
21 providing an area of social services to the Japanese
22 Community over 36 years through hotline program, the
23 senior program, the caregiver program and community
24 outreach program. I am here today to share my
25 organizations story and ask for your support in

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strengthening our senior program. During 2017 JASSI fielded approximately 1500 senior inquiries, 53% of Japanese American senior members live alone. Some of them dementia, some of them have dementia and/or homebound. Those senior members oftentimes concerned about their safety and wishes to have someone check in with them. Here are some couple of examples of our client voices. My home health aide won't be able to come for two weeks. Can I have somebody to make sure that I'm safe at home during these period. I'm used to being alone at home and doing everything fine by myself now that I have to go through a surgery I feel really lonely and I need someone to look after my safety. JASSI's socially bend and monthly gathering for seniors has been successful for the past few years as those activities helped many seniors avoid isolation. JASSI has been also providing the friendly visit and hospital escort services to the seniors in need. We are planning to expand our senior program by offering an assurance call to senior members who live alone to ensure their safety and well being. We believe that this new intervention can also provide social contact and emotional support for seniors and enable us to reach

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1
2 out to more Japanese seniors. We need your help to
3 provide services to those in need and to strengthen
4 the community. Thank you very much for the
5 opportunity to speak today.

6 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much
7 for your testimony. Next please.

8 SYLVIA SICTER (SP?): Good evening
9 everyone. Thank you very much for the opportunity to
10 testify in front of you. My name is Sylvia and I am
11 representing India Home I'm the care coordinator.
12 India Home is a pioneer service provider for the
13 senior salvations living in the Queens. For the past
14 10 years, India Home has been the only secular
15 nonprofit in the New York area providing cultural
16 competent, linguistically appropriate direct services
17 aimed to the salvation of seniors. Our basic senior
18 center offering culturally dietary and linguistically
19 appropriate services to seniors in Jamaica Queens and
20 the largest one of the kind in the New York City and
21 serves over 100 seniors every program date. We run
22 once a week Senior center programs in Sunnyside,
23 Queens, Kew Gardens and Richmond Hills which serve an
24 additional 100 individuals each week. We go above
25 the bend for our kinds besides the senior center

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1 service like case management, care coordination,
2 benefit and assistance supportive contact, mental
3 health counseling and we are planning to assess some
4 of the new programs. For that, we need your support.
5 Currently in their home provide services are four
6 locations through partnership with existing community
7 centers. This model wide workable, it is not ideal
8 to complement our kind work in their home, identify a
9 site just up Hill Side Avenue in Jamaica State to
10 serve as a permanent location. For that, we are
11 requesting \$1.5 million to have our own space to
12 cover two primary functions, program space and office
13 space. Besides that, we are also requesting for
14 \$685,000 US Dollars for our grand expenses and the
15 programs expenses which is the congruent meal program
16 for our senior centers members. Funds through the
17 supporting their homes creative aging programs in
18 their homes culturally prevent health and wellness
19 programs and the case management service as well.
20 Thank you very much.

21
22 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you also.
23 Vanessa.

24 VANESSA LEUNG: Hi good evening. Sorry,
25 good evening everyone, thank you so much Speaker

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Johnson and Council Member Dromm, uhm Council Member Gibson, Grodenchik and Council Member Chin, we thank you for holding this uhm this hearing. I'm Vanessa Leung, Executor Director of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families and since 1986 the AACF is the nations only pan Asian children's and families advocacy organization and we fight for improved and equitable policy systems, funding and services to support those in need. Uhm the APA community is over 1.3 million people here in New York City and comprises over 15% of the population yet the needs of our community are often overlooked, misunderstood and uncounted and this means our communities and the organizations that serve them really lack the resources to provide the critical services to those in need. Uhm we work with 15 member organizations today who speak out on common challenges and needs across the APA community and we also lead the 15% in growing campaign. A group of over 45 Asian lead and serving organizations that work together to ensure that New York City's Budget really protects Asian Pacific American New Yorkers who have the most need for vital services. So what we are asking is during these budget deliberations we

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ask that the City Council protect the most vulnerable members of New York during these really tough financial times. Any budget cuts should not be detrimental to New Yorkers with the greatest needs. Uhm the City must especially preserve services to recently arrived immigrants, low income, limited English proficient children and seniors and despite the model minority stereotype the APA Community also overcomes many challenges including like one out of two APA kids are born into poverty, 40% of New York City APA youth are not college ready upon graduation from high school. Nearly 25% of Asian Americans live in poverty in New York City which is the highest poverty rate across all ethnic groups, uhm we have the highest poverty rate in City among full time year round workers so we really ask and looking to the Council's leadership to really restore key initiatives that can really address and support really culturally competent language accessible services and investing in those so that communities can access services in a timely basis and avoid kind of more costlier interventions later on. And we have our list of our priorities that I am sure that you have seen as well.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Vanessa
when I started in the Council it was 12% and growing.

VANESSA LEUNG: Yeah it was.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: So it means two
things, one that the Asian community is growing and
I'm getting old.

VANESSA LEUNG: We are growing fast so it
wasn't that long.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Council Member
Grodenchik.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: Chair Dromm you are
correct on one count, the Asian Community is growing,
you are just get, you are not getting old you are
getting older so there is a difference so. I just
want to thank this panelist especially today uhm I
have the second largest Asian American Community in
the City of New York at 43% and growing and it is
critical, it is absolutely critical that especially
for social services such as domestic violence
services and alcohol and substance abuse where it is
so difficult to get people to come forward to seek
help uhm that they receive the culturally competent
services that uhm many of the organizations
represented here today and so many others have been

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1
2 able to provide and I look forward to working with
3 you over the next three years and four months and
4 hopefully beyond that uhm and to continue to do those
5 great things at least in my part of the world, so
6 thank you.

7 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you to this
8 panel. We are going to call up the next group and
9 that will be Eve Stotland the Door, Vanessa Dell,
10 Make the Road, Kevin Douglas from the Coalition for
11 Adult Literacy, Ira Yankwitt of the Literacy
12 Assistance Center, Lisa Rivera New York Legal
13 Assistance Group, Jane Lei Community Development
14 Project, and Erica Sarmiento. (long pause). Okay
15 who would like to start over here?

16 EVE STOTLAND: Sure, good afternoon,
17 thank you so much. My name is Eve Stotland. I am
18 speaking today on behalf of The Door. I run the
19 Doors Legal Services Center and also on behalf of the
20 I Care Coalition and I also speak today as a resident
21 of Jackson Heights Queens, uhm wonderful to see you
22 Danny. Uhm the I Care Coalition which the Door is a
23 member represents over 1,250 children and families
24 who are in deportation proceedings. These are New
25 York residents, uhm the testimony I submitted

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1 includes a list of the children and families we
2 represent by their Council District and you can see
3 that they come from all over the City including
4 Jackson Heights. Uhm these are children who are in
5 great danger. The Federal Government is raging a war
6 against immigrant children and locally here in New
7 York City the best way that we can fight back is to
8 continue funding legal help for immigrant children
9 and families and we are so grateful to the Council
10 for its historic commitment to this initiative to
11 protect immigrant children and families, uhm we
12 currently receive \$2 million in Council Funding and
13 we are asking for an enhancement to \$3.9 million so
14 that as the Federal Government increases the attack
15 we can increase our defense. Thank you so much.

17 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you. We
18 love Jackson Heights Residents, believe me. Yes.

19 VANESSA DELL: Hi I'm Vanessa Dell a Staff
20 Attorney at Make the Road New York. Thank you for
21 the opportunity to testify on behalf of Make the Road
22 New York and its 22,000 members. The communities we
23 serve face a range of attacks on their respect and
24 dignity especially with the Federal Governments
25 attempts to break up immigrant families and a road

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the safety net for low income people. The City Council has a vital role to play in protecting all New Yorkers subject to these attacks. The funding that the City Council has provided through its initiatives is critical to this mission and it should maintain overall funding. These initiatives sustain important work that Make the Road does including legal and health services, youth development and arts and adult education. Programs that serve thousands and immigrants and low income New Yorkers. Based on the experiences of our staff and the New Yorkers that we serve we ask that the City Council baseline \$12 million for the Adult Literacy Initiative to prevent disruption of life changing learning that is happening, allocate \$2.2 million to the Access Health NYC initiative and continue allocating funds for the Immigrant Health Initiative. Additionally, the Council should increase funding to \$22 million for the emergency food assistance program and restart Action Health NYC. These programs are essential to addressing healthcare disparities and nutritional disparities. As one of the, as one of nearly 40 workforce development providers who partner with the contortion for worker education Make the Road New

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York asks that the Council allocate \$5.3 million for jobs to build on and \$2.2 million for the worker service centers. We thank the City Council for making possible generous funding for immigrant legal services including critical initiatives like NYFUP and I Care with stress that the need today is greater than ever as ICE Ramps up deportations without regard to impacted families and communities. We need the City Council's Leadership to address the contracting delays and requirements that are wreaking havoc on nonprofits that are forced to float unsustainable amounts of money or delay at providing critical work in wait of a contract. We urge the City Council to increase flexibility for legal services, providers, as cases become more complex requiring attorneys to engage in a pilot and Federal Litigation and Rapid Raids Response to protect our families. We also ask that the City Council fight back against the Mayor's Proposed Carve Out which would create an unjust barrier to legal services for immigrant New Yorkers with certain criminal convictions, denying due process for those who most need representation. We are also asking the City Council to support two initiatives, the Low Wage Worker Initiative which

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would provide critical legal services for exploited workers increasingly subject to abuse by employers and the transequity initiative which would support the economic educational and social well being of the transgender and gender nonconforming community in New York. Uhm we ask that the City Council allocate \$5 million and \$2 million to these programs respectively. Lastly we ask the City Council to invest in building health and inclusive school communities. Uhm to expand the Council's restorative practices, citywide initiative and the DOEs restorative practices program and to pilot a mental health support continuum initiative, investing \$2.6 million for each of the next three years. These programs are critical to addressing the School to Prison Pipeline and creating Healthy and Inclusive School Communities. Sorry that was long-winded.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: You got it all in there, though, I tell you, you got it all in there.

KEVIN DOUGLAS: Hi good afternoon, Chair Dromm, Council Member Grodenchik and Council Member Chin it's a pleasure to be here this afternoon with you. Uhm my name is Kevin Douglas and I'm testifying on behalf of the New York City Coalition for Adult

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1 Literacy. Uhm I just want to actually point you to
2 my testimony as I am speaking. I hope you will take
3 an opportunity to flip through. There are pictures
4 of immigrant New Yorkers, native born New Yorkers who
5 are identifying and telling you in really short words
6 what adult literacy classes mean to them. Uhm many
7 adult literacy students are working two and three
8 jobs to make ends meat and so they can't be here
9 today for a couple of hours to testify and tell their
10 stories to you, so please take a look through the
11 packet and just look at those pictures and and see
12 folks of all ages, races, backgrounds talking about
13 what these programs mean to them. I think this City
14 was really disappointed a couple of weeks ago when a
15 gentleman very angrily decided to yell at women in
16 our City about their speaking Spanish and you know
17 told them that they need to speak English and this is
18 something that our immigrant communities are told on
19 a daily basis from the President on down, learn
20 English, speak English and unfortunately if they are
21 living in the City they are hard pressed to actually
22 find affordable resources to do that. We have over 2
23 million individuals in the City who lack English
24 proficiency and many of them want to enroll in Adult
25

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Literacy Classes but there is no stable funding for them. Uhm this Council with your leadership has come to an agreement with the Mayor for the last two years to fund adult literacy programs at \$12 million which doesn't begin to meet the need uhm but it does serve a valuable resource for those 7400 individuals. That funding has been proposed to be eliminated again and were hoping that the Council work with the Mayor not only to renew the funds but to baseline them so the students are sort of told at the end of every year, we don't know if you have a class to come back to. So the teachers are told, we got to lay you off, we don't know if you are going to have this program. So we are part of the Literacy List NYC Campaign, I hope that you will check it out, see what the students are saying online and also want to ask that you baseline the funds so we can get a new procurement. We have a very odd situation where DYCD Commissioned a study to find out what does it cost to run a high quality adult literacy program and my colleague here will tell you a little bit more about that in a second but until this funding is baselined we are going to be unable to adjust those rates to capture the full cost. So Chair I know that you've been a huge

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1
2 supporter of immigrants and adults literacy and just
3 really hope that the Council can see this through in
4 the Budget negotiation.

5 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: (SPEAKING SPANISH).
6 So if he, that guy who was screaming in the
7 restaurant he should know that even if this City
8 Council we can speak a little Spanish too. So.
9 Thank you Kevin.

10 KEVIN DOUGLAS: Thank you.

11 IRA YANKWITT: Thank you Chair Dromm and
12 Members of the Committee for giving me the
13 opportunity to testify and my name is Ira Yankwitt.
14 I am the Executive Director of the Literacy
15 Assistance Center and I just want to thank you Chair
16 Dromm personally for holding the hearing back in
17 September when you were chairing the Education
18 Committee. That is the first hearing that I remember
19 in 20+ years that actually focused on adult literacy
20 education as an education issue so thank you for
21 that. Uhm I'm going to piggyback a bit on what my
22 colleague Kevin Douglas just said as Kevin mentions
23 today in New York City there are approximately 2.2
24 million adults who lack English language proficiency,
25 a high school diploma or both, yet funding for Adult

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Literacy Education is so limited that fewer than 4% of these adults are able to access basic education, high school equivalence, or English language classes in any given year. This is nothing short of a citywide crisis and I want to express the great appreciation to the City Council for recognizing the urgency of this crisis and championing a \$12 million increase in funding for Adult Literacy for the past two years. New York City has historically been a national leader both for its vision for Adult Literacy Education and its level of investment. Unfortunately the \$12 million still doesn't match the level of investment made the Koch Administration in the mid 1980s and astonishingly the Mayor has once again omitted this \$12 million in his Executive Budget. Failure to renew this funding will lead to over 7000 adult literacy students losing their seats in classes and the contradictions between the administrations political rhetoric and this potential reality are striking. Over 75% of the students in City Funded Adult Literacy Classes are immigrants and over 90% are low income. While the Mayor talks of being a sanctuary City and a City of opportunity for all immigrants his Executive Budget would cut the

English language classes that are providing immigrants with critical information about their rights along with the language and literacy skills they need to support their children in school, navigate the healthcare system, speak out and advocate for themselves and their communities. Further while the Mayor talks about economic opportunity for all New Yorkers, his Executive Budget would cut the basic education in high school equivalency classes, that are enabling low income New Yorkers to build critical academic and work force skills, classes that are serving as a stepping stone to better jobs, higher education and greater economic mobility so I just want to echo Kevin's call to restore this \$12 million to baseline it uhm and I would be happy separately to talk about our report which talks about level of funding and the inadequacies of the funding rates. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you and I have dreams of that #12 so. I may have to play that number. Thank you. We will be happy to see you in on that. Please.

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JANE LEI (SP?): Good evening Chair Dromm,
and uhm Council Member Chin, Council Member
Grodenchik. My name is Jane, I'm a staff attorney and
transition coordinator at the Community Development
Project of the Urban Justice Center. The Community
Development Project was formed in 2001 to provide uhm
to strengthen the impact of Grass Roots Organizations
in New York City's low income and other excluded
communities and for the last 17 years we've won legal
cases, published community driven reports, assisted
with the formation of new organizations and provide
technical and transactional assistance in support of
their organizations work toward social justice. I am
here today because the Community Development Project
is requesting \$200,000 from the City Council and the
Speaker to fund the work and expenses we need to
become our own independent nonprofit organization.
Although we are a staff of around 50 people our
impact is much larger than the size of our
organization because we are elevating the deep
partnerships we have in local communities. Unlike
most legal service providers, our partnerships uhm
which include over 50 nonprofit grass roots based
organizations throughout New York City give us deep

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roots in the communities that we serve which allows us to reach marginalized New Yorkers. We expand access to justice and open doors for smaller organizations to receive City funding. For example, our model of applying for funding in contortion with our community partners and has lead to the financing of important Grass Roots Work for immigration anti-tenant harassment and other areas of need. Our participation in the IOI program allows six smaller community based partners to access City Funding for legal services. By convening Stabilizing NYC we harness the power of 16 Community Based Organization to combat predatory equity in the housing market, facility resource exchange and develop citywide strategies to address common problems. In total, the Community Development Project serves as a clearing house for over \$1.3 million in City Council Funding and over \$2.5 million in City Agency Funding. Our commitments to providing Community Based Legal and Policy work has helped shape New York City for the last 17 years and we hope that the Council will support our request so that we can continue to serve New York Communities for many years to come.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.

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ERICA SARMIENTO: Hello my name is Erica Sarimento, this is my daughter Victoria Sarmiento and we are here to speak about the summer camp Budget that was cut for SONIC uhm this is something very crucial, of course Victoria is small but I have another son who is in middle school and it is very crucial not just for him but like they said almost 34,000 students that needs this program for many reasons. Mothers are working, fathers are working, uhm where are they going to leave these kids at. Uhm you know the area we live in is not as healthy as other communities and we need this place as a lot of people call it their hub and we need that for them so they can continue growing as, as how they are growing now because uhm my run right now he's in after school with Cypress Hill and I can see his motivation in school and education and I can see also how he is socializing with his other friends and this is something very important in today's technology. Kids are always on the uhm telephone as I am right now and uhm not only that there are a lot of parents that uhm that don't have support from other parents, other families and they need to be uhm they have health issues. I have a friend who is actually in that

1
2 situation and where she is going to leave her
3 daughter for summer camp, she cannot travel far to
4 the other location. She doesn't have a car. The uhm
5 the train even that is far, and so how she is doing
6 to go and have her car uhm another thing that it's
7 important for us. It's the community, the community
8 there uhm I just moved there about a year and a half
9 ago and in East New York and I feel very bonded with
10 the community. The school where he attends, Liberty
11 Avenue Middle School, it's very, close. They make
12 you feel at home so I can imagine a lot of kids who
13 need this community and the after school and summer
14 camp as well. My time is up.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.
16 We think it is a rotten change that summer SONIC was
17 not included in the Budget and we are fighting for
18 that. We included that in our Budget response and we
19 are going to continue to fight for that. Thank you
20 very much. Thank you to this panel, everybody for
21 co... oh I'm sorry, I didn't see you over there.

22 LISA RIVERA: No that's okay. Alright
23 thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. I
24 my name is Lisa Rivera and I'm the Director of
25 Strategic Initiatives at the New York Legal

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Assistance Group. NYLAG uses the power of the law to
combat social and economic injustice.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Ma'am, before you go
I think your daughter's sweater is here.

LISA RIVERA: Today I.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I I'm a teacher, I
was a teacher so.

LISA RIVERA: Today I want to highlight
some of the most important uhm legal service
initiatives funded by the City Council uhm and
encourage your prioritizing the specific particular
funding streams. Thank you for your commitment to
immigration legal services. As you know the Mayor's
office has recently increased funding through IOI for
serve clients and removal. None removal defense work
though remains a critical need for New Yorkers such
as affirmative applications for Domestic Violence
Victims and trafficking. Our concern is that with
the focus of removal, these particular populations
will now become underserved, even though there is a
very good purpose for shifting funding opportunities.
Increased funding for IOI should be seen by the
Administration to be seen as a supplement not a
replacement for City Council Funding and we ask that

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you increase this, this pot of money. We are also asking for an increase to the Immigrant Health Initiative Funding that assists immigrants with health issues. NYLAG is partnered with New York City Health and Hospitals for nearly two decades to ensure that patients have access to legal services because many are unaware that they qualify for lifesaving Medicaid. We ask that City Council expand IHI to allow NYLAG to continue to provide these critical services. In addition, the DOV Initiative has provided funding to organizations, obviously to provide services for survivors of intimate partner violence. The need for services for survivors grow each year for the capacity of organizations to take these numbers, increased numbers have not increased in tandem. Without legal services, survivors are unaware of their rights, they are intimidated by the system and unable to access competent legal services. Expanded funding through DOV will allow us to increase the number of survivors in New York City. Lastly I want to bring to your attention low wage workers. City Council has highlighted this for New York or for Fiscal Year 2019 but it is currently unfunded in the Executive Budget. Low wage workers

1
2 are persistently impoverished and experience
3 discrimination across the board on a rarity of issues
4 and need experienced attorneys to represent them that
5 have been doing this work for years. Yet funding is
6 difficult to come by. For several years now, many of
7 my sister organizations in NYLAG have small
8 employment law projects that are impossible to fund
9 without support of Government Agencies. We
10 enthusiastically support the \$5 million initiative
11 proposed by City Council and to provide funding for
12 this particular work and thank you again for the
13 opportunity to testify today.

14 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you,
15 thank you very much. Thanks to the panel and we
16 appreciate you coming in. Okay now Greg Brender from
17 the United Neighborhood Houses, Lisa Casewell from
18 the Daycare Council of New York, Maggie Andreoni
19 Hunger Free America, Triada Stampas from the Food
20 Bank. Is Triada here? Oh there you are, okay.
21 Andrea Cianfrani LiveON New York. Rachel Shara (SP?)
22 City Meals on Wheels. Is Rachel here? She's coming
23 back. Okay. Sandy Myers okay there's Sandy. Okay
24 want to start?
25

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GREG BENDER: Thank you uhm thank you Council Member Dromm, Council Member Grodenchik and Council Member Chin for staying for the public testimony and hearing all of this. It is really kind of cool that you do this and that this part of our democracy.

CHAIR DANIEL DROM: You know they congratulate me but I think they are great for staying for this whole time.

GREG BENDER: Yeah.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Yeah thank you.

GREG BENDER: It's good to see how many folks here. Uhm I'm Gregory Bender and I am here on behalf of United Neighborhood Houses we are New York City's Federation of Settlement Houses and Community Centers. Uhm we have 39 member agencies in all five boroughs serving more than 750,000 New Yorkers and as we talk about a progressive City, settlement houses and other community based organizations are really part of the guts of making a progressive city work. Uhm as there are new programs that come to support New Yorkers in all sorts of communities uhm the City continually looks to the sector of community based organizations to provide these services and to do so

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in a quality way and an efficient way. Therefore it is disappointing to see in the Executive Budget a lot of the key funding streams that support uhm the human services, that supports settlement houses and the great work that they do uhm are not covered so I just wanted to briefly discuss some of our key Budget priorities, many of which we are really grateful to the City Council for including in your Budget response and for advocating for. Honestly you've heard about the cut to SONIC summer camps. This is something that really we need the Council to push to baseline because this programming needs to be there early. The programs can't open in just a week. You'll also hear more about the need to invest in salaries for early childhood educators, the staff and community based organizations are paid much less than their counter parts in public schools and you are seeing people leave those programs that are most important for serving low income communities. Uhm you've heard a lot about adult literacy. It is outrageous that this funding that is so key to these programs at 7,000 students depends on is in the kind of Budget dance uhm and lastly I wanted to talk just briefly about uhm senior centers and particularly

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investing to increase the full rate, increase \$12.1 million to support food programs for just a \$1 a meal increase. And looks like I just it all in time but I hope that you we have details on all of the specific programs in our written testimony and again I am really grateful for you hearing us out.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you.

LISA CASEWELL: Thank you for being here as well. My name is Lisa Casewell I'm the Senior Policy Analyst for the Daycare Council of New York. For nearly 70 years our nonprofit members have provided quality early childhood education programs to families across the five boroughs. At this time, more than 200 of these centers are contracted with the Administration for Children Services under Early Learning. First we would like to say that the City Council support on the issue of salary parity has been invaluable and while we watch you press forward on a range of critical priorities we know where you stand as the nonprofit early education system prepares to transit from the Administration for Children Services to the Department of Education. Today in any one of our centers, a state certified Master's Liberal Teacher of 2 year olds will early

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\$3000 less per year than her colleague who is teaching in a UPK Classroom in the same building. They will not reach parity with each other until 2020 when the current labor contract expires. As you know the situation worsens when certified teacher salaries and nonprofit settings are compared with those available in school based settings under the UFT where the difference can be as high as \$16,000. It is difficult enough to have teachers working side by side with the same qualifications and earning different amounts. We have got to give them a reason to stay with us and we can't wait two more years to do it. Attached you'll find our most recent current, oops, attached you'll find our most current research on the above issue. We hope it is helpful to you in the coming weeks. Finally as a member of the Campaign for Children we appreciate your strong support for afterschool and summer programming and we really mean your support has been invaluable. I just want to say that. It's been a long fight and there will be more years to fight but you are right with us and.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I think you know I was a daycare teacher and then a Director and I think you know why I left daycare.

LISA CASEWELL: Yep.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Because in I in the DOE I could get more money, right so.

LISA CASEWELL: I, we can't afford to have all of these ...

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I've lived this experience, here.

LISA CASEWELL: Yeah yeah but thank you again.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

LISA CASEWELL: Yep.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I mean we were, we were bringing it to the attention of the Administration this morning very forcefully.

LISA CASEWELL: We heard you, yeah. Thanks so much.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

MAGGIE ANDREONI: Hi I'm Maggie Andreoni I'm the manager of research policy and advocacy at Hunger Free America and I just wanted to thank uhm Chair Dromm as well as Council Member Grodenchik and

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Chin for coming uhm and listening to us here testify as well as working on behalf of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. Uhm I'm here to reiterate that Emergency Food Assistance Program needs to be baseline funded at \$22 million. In the Mayor's Executive Budget he cut it from \$16 million to \$8 million and that is just unacceptable. Uhm especially uhm as we see with the Farm Bill uhm getting a revote and those cuts to SNAP will be even more devastating to New Yorkers so that Emergency EFAP funding is even more crucial this year than it really has ever been before. And every year we do research study about all the food pantries and soup kitchens in New York City and we found that last year, 6%, they saw a demand rise. So demand is, even though SNAP is decreasing, SNAP participation, we think that often has a lot to do with partly due with the increasing uhm climate of the economy but it also has to do with the fact that there is a lot of fear around public charger, around the fact that there is a lot of uhm kind of vitriolic rhetoric coming from the White House so we as a City need to stand strong and to support these hungry low income New Yorkers and make sure that that funding is there and allows

1
2 them to kind of, to be able to access those programs.
3 I'd also like to reiterate that SNAP is getting
4 harder and harder to apply for as bureaucracy is
5 increasing especially within the SNAP Bill and so we
6 would like to do just do a small plug for our own
7 organization as we do great work to help people apply
8 for those benefits and we want to make sure that we
9 continue to do that as well as the neighborhood
10 guides to Food and Assistance, our free guides that
11 we put out to all the boroughs. We have it in
12 multiple languages and we have been losing our
13 funding uhm from large corporations that no longer
14 want to fund these guides saying that they are not
15 useful but we still give out over 10 tho... 100,000
16 we gave last year and we found that they are really
17 crucial. We want to make sure that we can keep doing
18 that. Thank you so much and have a great one.

19 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you also and
20 uhm good stuff. Triada.

21 TRIADA STAMPAS: Hi good evening, my name
22 is Triada Stampas I'm Vice-President for Research and
23 Public Affairs at Food Bank for New York City. Uhm I
24 can summarize my testimony as what Maggie said uhm
25 uhm but first let me thank uhm you Chair Dromm,

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Council Members Grodenchik and Chin and the entire City Council for championing Emergency Food Funding between being the driver behind the consecutive increase to funding that has been achieved in the City Budget for the past several years, the initiative funding that you put in place to support Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens uhm your support has been invaluable and incredibly meaningful to Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens throughout the City and the 1.4 million New Yorkers who rely on Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens for the food that they need. Uhm if there is one, if there one take away from my testimony today it is baseline. Uhm the funding increases has been incredibly important but there have been uhm real difficulties with managing growth in the program that we have seen and one, you know an easy example I can give you, between Fiscal 13 and Fiscal 17 Food Funding for EFAP went up 56%. The number of Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens having access to the program went up by 5. Not 5%, 5 food pantries. Uhm this year, nine more were added but when even HRA does not know how much they have to work with year to year they're not able to plan for growth. We recently learned that we would fall short

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by 1.2 million pounds in Federal Commodities from the
USDA and we have asked HRA to take a look at letting
additional emergency food programs come into EFAP and
get access to that and we are very grateful that they
are willing to do that but that's in response to a
crisis that hasn't been part of a plan and the
ability to plan and manage growth and give vulnerable
New Yorkers access to what is really the most
important source of food in the Food System, it is
year round. It's nutritious. It's all five food
groups. There's nothing else like it, uhm would be
incredibly meaningful so thank you for everything you
are doing and for prioritizing this.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Council
Member Grodenchik.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: Thank you Chair Dromm
and I, it's been a pleasure to work with you and I
know Rachel is no longer with Food Bank uhm but so
many organizations are behind this and I am confident
uhm the Speaker this is a top priority for our
Speaker and for the Chair of Finance and I cannot
possibly overstate my disappointment. I wrote this
out so I wouldn't misspeak at the politics being
played with Emergency Food uhm the other side of City

1
2 Hall is hiding behind hungry women and children
3 especially and it is shameful and I especially want
4 to thank you for being such a stalwart (SP?) Partner
5 I have every confidence that will prevail and I was
6 raised in it, a table where everybody was welcome to
7 eat and nobody and I mean absolutely nobody should go
8 hungry in the City of New York period, end of
9 sentence. So thank you for your efforts and I look
10 forward to seeing you out there. Uhm you have the
11 full backing of every member of the City Council,
12 thank you.

13 CARLINA RIVERA: Thank you and from your
14 lips too to the Mayor's ears.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: He hears us, he
16 hears us well. Okay

17 ANDREA CIANFRANI: Good evening uhm I'm
18 Andrea Cianfrani I am the Director for Public Policy
19 at LiveON New York. Thank you for being here to hear
20 this testimony tonight and we look forward to working
21 with you to make New York a better place to age.
22 LiveON New York represents 100 community based
23 nonprofits serving over 300,000 older adults annually
24 with critical community based services. New York
25 City's Budget is a reflection of its priorities and

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to be truly the fairest big City fairness must extend across the life span. The DIFTA Budget is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% and that is not fair to older adults. So how can we work together to address this fairness. Well here's a few ways. First in our priorities this year we are highlighting to fully fund senior centers. We acknowledge that \$10 million was added in FY18 for model senior center Budgets. It's a critical first step but much more is needed. The FY18 Funding is not yet actually registered into all the contracts although we do acknowledge DIFTA is working very hard to make that happen before the end of Fiscal Year. A few clarifications on this process that are directly relevant to the FY19 Budget, I wanted to highlight. Not all senior centers receive funding through the Model Senior Center Budget Progress. Secondly seniors can only use this funding in some specific key areas such as direct staffing and consultants. This means that no senior center got funding for meals or meal staff who are a critical part of Senior Centers and the Senior Center team. Nor funding for other costs that are associated to run a senior center. The City also promised an additional \$10 million by 2021 but the urge the City to allocate

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1 this money as soon as possible as well as making
2 critical investments to fully fund these centers.
3 Second, is senior hunger. We are asking the
4 administration to add \$12.1 and new baseline funding
5 for senior center and home delivered meals. Again
6 they are not included in senior center Budgets and
7 seniors rely on these and report that they receive
8 over half of their daily intake of nutrition for
9 senior center and home delivered meals. Uhm next we
10 want to address the important role that City Council
11 has played in supporting uhm system wide and district
12 wide senior service programs throughout the years.
13 You have been such a strong supporter of programs
14 such as NOARK (SP?), Sucassa (SP?) and support our
15 seniors and others and we ask for your critical
16 investment to continue these programs. Finally, I
17 just want to uhm note that LiveON New York supports
18 the Agency wide investments in the Human Service
19 Sector which you will hear more from my colleagues
20 uhm including Trend, it's a long day. Transacter
21 Cost Escalation as well as uhm increases in indirect
22 and other costs so we really look forward to working
23 with you and thank you for your support and and
24
25

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working to spread awareness of these important aging programs. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much. Sandy.

SANDY MYERS: Thank you good evening. I think we can switch to. I am Sandy Myers, I am on the Vice-President for external affairs and communications, a self-help community services. I am just going to highlight two points in my testimony since you have that in front of you that are a significant priority for self-help. So first is around the continued support of the City Council for initiative funding. We saw uhm the recent news in terms of the funding for Fair Fares that might be coming out of the initiative funding and on behalf of self-help as well as for Aging Service providers. The initiative funding that comes out of the City Council is not only nice to have addition to our program, they are cored to keeping our programs open and uhm Chair Dromm even if your District one of the, one of Newark is supported through the Newark Initiative completely and without that funding those doors would be closed. We are also a big recipient of the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivor initiative that

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supports the more than 50% of the Holocaust survivors living at or below the poverty line. We also know that to support our seniors and the Digital Inclusion Initiative uhm our, homebound older adults are able to access the outside world through our virtual senior center and without these programs we are concerned that a lot of vulnerable older New Yorkers are going to be at risk and we know that about 9% of DIFTAs Budget comes from City Council Initiative. This was included in the testimony that they delivered at their Prelim Budget at the Prelim Budget Hearing so we want to be sure that that funding is continued as it is a huge support for both self-help and the aging network overall. And then I want to echo Andrea's points around the Model Budget, self-help did receive a nice investment which we are incredibly grateful for and grateful to DIFTA for their work to try to quickly register these contracts but we are concerned that food and meal costs and kitchen staff salaries were not included in this go around that as Andrea said that's a core part of Senior Centers and if you walk into any of our five you see how important the food and meals and the kitchen staff are to the daily operations of the

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senior center so we want to see that included as well
as the money out sooner rather than later. I'll wrap
up there.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thanks Sandy and the
only thing I will say is don't believe everything you
read in the newspapers.

SANDY MYERS: Fair enough.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay.

SANDY MYERS: We appreciate that. Just
wanted to underscore it. Thank you for the
opportunity.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you to this
panel also. Thank you. Uhm okay now I'm going to
call my next panel Saswati Sarkar, Sarkar, I'm sorry,
New York Alliance Against Sexual Assault, Norris de
Jesus Patrone uhm King Bridge Knights Community
Center I think. Marissa Cheiola (SP?) North Brooklyn
Coalition Against Family Violence, Dipal Shah,
Justice Reform, I'm sorry Center for Court
Innovation, Shane Correia, Center for Courts
Innovation, Mary Haviland, New York Alliance Against
Sexual Assault.

COREY JOHNSON: Chair Dromm I want to
apologize to anyone who was in the audience who I may

1
2 have missed. I went out to the Planned Parenthood
3 Rally, spoke and then came back so uhm I was trying
4 to do some justice outside and so I apologize if I,
5 if I missed anyone's testimony here today.

6 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: And we need your
7 voice on that uhm Speaker so thank you. Okay would
8 you like to start over here.

9 MARY HAVILAND: Yes thank you my name is
10 Mary Haviland. I'm the Executive Director of the New
11 York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault and I want
12 to thank Chair Dromm and Speaker Johnson and Council
13 Member Grodenchik, and Council Member Chin for
14 sitting through these, uhm these hearings, I really
15 appreciate it. Uhm I'm here to advocate on behalf of
16 the Sexual Assault Initiative. Uhm we have two other
17 members who are going to follow me uhm in testifying
18 around the Sexual Assault Initiative. I think you
19 are aware of this initiative and you will see on the
20 back of my testimony that there is a one page
21 summary, uhm but I want to just briefly tell you
22 about the initiative and who's in it. Uhm so the
23 groups are the New York City Alliance Against Sexual
24 Assault, King's Bridge Heights Community Center, Mt.
25 Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention

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1 Program. The Crime Victims Treatment Center and
2 we've newly added the North Brooklyn Coalition
3 against Family Violence and this year we are asking
4 for uhm an increase in the uhm in the initiative and
5 the reason is specifically to provide services in
6 Brooklyn where there is a lack of uhm if rape crisis
7 services being provided in that borough. Uhm and so
8 we are asking this year for \$1 million. I want to
9 point out that rapes have not uhm decreased over they
10 last five years. They've increased over the last
11 five years in New York City and that this initiative
12 uhm has served over in 2017 served 3,000 victims and
13 provided 12,500 Counseling or Training Sessions. Uhm
14 I don't want to go over my time but I do want to
15 point out that each program provides a different
16 service for uhm victims of sexual assault, CBTC
17 provides services to mend, uhm savvy provides
18 services to treatment to trafficking victims and you
19 will hear from two other groups. The New York City
20 Alliance trains and I'll finish in just a second.
21 Uhm uses the City Council Funding to train or sexual
22 assault forensic examiners uhm in this City. It is
23 the largest training program uhm in the Metropolitan
24 area uhm and we train 100 medical professions but we
25

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also train uhm over 900 other uhm social service uhm providers in providing help to survivors of sexual assault and I thank you very much for listening tonight.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Mary I want to thank you for always being here every year advocating for this money. We really appreciate it and are really proud of the work that the Council's done on asking the tough questions of the PD on the SVD and getting the appropriate uhm numbers and needing to understand what the funding is and the number of detectives that are actually needed for that division inside the NYPD and you have been doing this work for years, and years and years and I am really grateful uhm for the Alliance and for the work that you all do here in the City as well as the Coalition and the work that you do up in Albany on the Child Victim's Act and all the other work that the coalition does so I'm really grateful that you hung around today and that every year you are here advocating on this tremendously important issue.

MARY HAVILAND: Thank you so much you made my day.

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CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you Mary.
Next.

MARISSA CHEIOLA (SP?): Uhm my name is
Marissa Cheiola (SP?) and I'm here on behalf of the
North Brooklyn Coalition. The Coalition is a
community based organization that has been providing
case management, therapy and support groups to
victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in
both English and Spanish since 1998. We also conduct
Community outreach and provide training to local
community based organizations and NYPD precincts to
ensure victims are receiving adequate care and
services. Over the last two years we have seen an
increase in the number of victims of sexual assault
seeking services. We have also seen a lack of
victims, specific services and local emergency room
sand precincts which has resulted in the victims
experiencing discrimination, being blamed for their
rapes and treated without respect or dignity. Most
recently a victim of sexual assault requesting a rape
kit at the local ER was accused by responding
officers of lying about her rape. This victim's
experience would have been different had the local ER
provided a Rape Crisis Advocate and had the local

precincts been treated on best practices of responding to victims of sexual assault. Unfortunately this is not an uncommon occurrence and we at the coalition are continually having to advocate for victim's rights as they move through the criminal justice system. We are requesting that the initiative to combat sexual assault be awarded \$1 million in funding so that the coalition can utilize \$200,000 of that funding to formalized our Sexual Assault Supportive Services Program. We will use this funding to hire one full-time program coordinator and one full time community outreach and training specialist to train rape crisis advocates to respond to rape victims at Woodhull Hospital, provide training to the local precincts on best practices when responding to victims of sexual assault, provide case management, personal advocacy and criminal justice advocacy for victims of sexual assault, provide short and long term mental health services and counseling to victims of sexual assault. The majority of our victims accessed our services live below the poverty line and are Spanish Speaking and we hope that the City Council will provide the initiative with our full ask of \$1 million so that we

at the coalition can continue to advocate for
marginalized rectums and ensure they are treated with
dignity and respect throughout the process of seeking
safety and justice. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very
much. Next please.

NORRIS DE JESUS PATRONE (SP?): Hi uhm.
My name is Norris de Jesus Patrone. Sorry, my name
is Norris de Jesus Patrone, I am the Director of the
Changing Futures program located at King Bridge
Heights Community Center in the Bronx. And we
provide completely free mental health services for
survivors of sexual abuse as young as 3 all the way
to adulthood to their families. We also provide
group therapy uhm and we have play art and therapy
and we have been providing since 1982 and in about 11
years ago we also expanded and provided services for
domestic violence survivors. And there is a
correlation with sexual abuse and domestic violence.
Uhm I would also like to share that there was an
interesting experience that I had yesterday and I
knew I was coming here to testify and I thank you for
this opportunity and always the conversation comes
up, what do you do for a living? With this person I

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1
2 was conversing with and I explained that I uhm, that
3 I am the Director of a program that provides services
4 for survivors of sexual abuse and she said how can
5 you do that? And I said how can I not? It's a
6 beautiful program that we, that we, it's a beautiful
7 service that we provide uhm to see children smiling
8 once again, seeing families uhm, uhm communicating
9 after the disclosure, there is so much awkwardness
10 and sadness and pain uhm but through the services
11 there is this connection and there is also disclosure
12 of the, of the parents as well. So this is trans
13 generational uhm from generation to generation of
14 abuse and uhm so we service the whole system if you
15 will. Uhm one out of three girls and one out of six
16 boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18 so
17 we also provide preventive services in the form of
18 good touch, bad touch and uhm we even use puppets for
19 the little ones, for the 3 year olds about what's a
20 good touch and what's a bad touch and how to say no.
21 We teach them to yell no and to create the boundaries
22 that they need to protect themselves so thank you.

23 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.

24 Next please?

25

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SASWATI SARKAR: Good afternoon, my name is Saswati Sarkar, I am the Director of uhm Program Administration and Finance at New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault. Uhm I'm here today to testify on our funding request uhm to support one of our really dear program that has youth at the center of its, at the core. Uhm you do have a copy of my testimony so I'm going to summarize it really briefly for us here. This funding that I'm going to talk about a little bit is part of the Young Womens Leadership Initiative, uhm this fund has been really central to the work that we have been doing around preventing sexual assault in various communities uhm including Arab, Black, LGBTQ, Latina, Southeast East Asian Communities who often times gets left out of the conversation around sexual violence prevention. What we see in many of these Communities and we have worked with advocates across different community groups and we keep on hearing how many times these prevention work and messages and curricula that are out there does not really look at the history that of you know racial injustices, colonization, poverty, immigration, that these communities are facing and that has really further marginalized these

1 communities from participating in some of these uhm
2 you know, much needed conversation around sexual
3 violence prevention so the funding that we received
4 in FY18 really helped us push that conversation to a
5 deeper level. We were able to engage with groups of
6 young people from black, Latinex communities as well
7 as you known Southeast Asian Communities to kind of
8 rule that conversation around sexual violence
9 prevention, healthy relationship consent that they
10 told us that there are no spaces for them to have
11 those conversations so the time we brought it up.
12 Uhm and we were excited because what that initiative
13 helped us do was reach close to 400,000 New Yorkers
14 and young people with the messages and young people
15 came back to us telling us how grateful they felt to
16 be taken seriously in these conversations so I really
17 wanted to thank uhm, the Council member for
18 considering this program and we really hope that
19 there would be an effort to kind of continue this
20 funding that we have so deeply appreciated. Thank
21 you.
22

23 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you, next
24 please.
25

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DIPAL SHAH: Good evening. My name is
Dipal Shah and I am the Director of Strategic
Partnerships at the Center for Court Innovation.
Terrific seeing all you here today and I just want to
say a special thanks to uhm Chair Dromm who recently
visited the Queens Youth Justice Center and the kids
there still ask about you and Speaker Johnson thank
you for your continued partnership. We will be
celebrating Midtowns 25th Anniversary Midtown
Community Courts so we would love to have you come
and, and visit and uhm help us out with that too.
You know the center is a place that is more than just
courts. It is an access to justice organization. It
is a criminal justice reform organization. We have
30 operating projects throughout the City in every
borough. Last year we served about 75,000 people you
will see in the testimony that I've submitted today
uhm the numbers and how we spread across the City and
we've applied for a number of initiatives this year,
some of the initiatives we have asked for expanded
funding, others we are asking for continued core
support. These services are integral. They decrease
criminogenic risk factors, they resolve a lot of the
issues that we hope to see resolved in communities

1
2 and prevent uhm issues that you've heard about from
3 other people who have been testifying from here today
4 as well. Uhm today's uhm testimony is really going
5 to focus on the initiative request that we have made
6 \$500,000 in core support, \$500,000 additional, across
7 five boroughs to expand access to justice and youth
8 justice services in light of Raise the Age. We are
9 thrilled to see that in the response to the Mayor's
10 Budget you requested additional funds for Raise the
11 Age and we do hope that some of that is allocated to
12 the center's needs. Uhm additionally uhm I'm also
13 here to really express our, our work that's being
14 done to help close Riker's and the, and the
15 initiative that we have really, really ruled out in
16 an effort to ensure that that's a successful uhm
17 action that takes place. Thank you.

18 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Dipal I want to.

19 DIPAL SHAH: Sorry Chair Dromm.

20 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: I want to thank you
21 for the work that you do at the Center for Court
22 Innovation and the work that you did in my District
23 for Midtown Community Court. When I visited I was
24 really amazed at the amazing programs and the real
25 diversion from getting folks involved in the criminal

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2 justice system whether it be fathers or veterans or
3 immigrants or vendors. So I really appreciate of
4 course the work that uhm the Center for Court
5 Innovation does and the work that you did in my own
6 District so thank you for being here. Thank you so
7 much, Speaker Johnson.

8 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Good evening, I'm
9 here to support the Center for Court Innovations
10 Missions and programs, uhm programs that are proven
11 by research, objective research to help lower
12 recidivism, to help increase trust among communities
13 or color and law enforcement and to increase
14 opportunities to the poor and people in marginalized
15 communities. I want to share from a personal
16 perspective at someone who grew up in the South
17 Bronx, I'm a gay, brown, formerly homeless child of a
18 janitor, 16 years ago I entered a Center for Court
19 Innovation Program when two of my siblings were being
20 tried for murder. It was at the Center for Court
21 Innovations Youth Justice Board that I learned the
22 skills that motivated me to go to Law School and to
23 go back to my community and work at the Bronx
24 District Attorney's Office for the past three years
25 where several of the Center for Court Innovations

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2 Programs are today. The Center for Court Innovation
3 has programs in other marginalized areas and I ask
4 the Council to consider the modest Budget increase
5 request so that the Center can continue its mission
6 in increasing access to meaningful opportunities to
7 other marginalized youth such as I was. Thank you.

8 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Chaim it's great to
9 see you. Congratulations on this new opportunity.
10 I'm really grateful for the work you did in the Bronx
11 DAs Office so it is good to see you up here.

12 CHAIM DEUTSCH: Thank you.

13 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you,
14 thank you to this panel. We appreciate you coming
15 in. We are going to call up our next group and that
16 will be Michelle Jackson, Human Service Counsel, uhm
17 Peter Gee University Settlement, Sarah Fajardo from
18 Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Faith
19 Bahoom (SP?) from nonprofit infrastructure UJA
20 Federation, Catherine Trapani Homeless Services
21 United, Jackie Devoe (SP?) Stabilizing New York and
22 Alejandro Altero (SP?) from Star Horizons. Okay.

23 MICHELLE JACKSON: Good evening, thank
24 you Council Member Dromm, Speaker Johnson and the
25 rest of the City Council Finance Committee for

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1
2 allowing me this opportunity to testify today. My
3 name is Michelle Jackson and I'm the Deputy Director
4 of the Human Service Council. We are a 170 member
5 organization of nonprofit Human Service providers in
6 New York City who provide a range of services, many
7 of whom you have already heard from this evening on
8 various issues and I'm really here to talk about.
9 People who testified testified about a lot of
10 important programs and all of those programs are
11 underfunded by the City of New York. It is not a new
12 problem. It's not this Mayor. It's not this
13 Council. It's something that's decades in the
14 making. Uhm we appreciate the support of the Council
15 last year and this year and helping to write size and
16 beginning to write size of the contracts with the
17 important investment last year and the recognition
18 that the Human Services Sector has been operating for
19 far too long at a deficit, uhm filling gaps the best
20 they can with initiative funding or with private
21 philanthropy but the gap has just grown too large.
22 The investments last year and indirect and in the
23 model Budget uhm have really helped uhm but we are
24 looking for more funding to make sure that the sector
25 can fulfill the mission of building strong

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communities and to provide the quality programs that you are looking for at the City Council. This year, we're, as a sector we are united and ask, and it has been asked for the Human the Services Advancement Strategy Group that is made up of many of the major coalitions in New York. We are asking for cost escalators and new procurements so this is a Policy change so when procurements come out in the future that they fully fund the cost of the programs that you are asking for. Uhm we are also asking for a 15% indirect end contracts and allowable 37% fringe rates so that we can pay our employees appropriate and for cost escalations of 10% in insurance. Insurance goes up every years as does occupancy cost. Uhm the Mayor and the Council have made a major commitment to our communities. We appreciate being included in the Council response this year and these investments go a long way into ensuring that we have strong institutions so that we can deliver quality programs. As you heard from a lot of people today the work that we are doing in communities really changes lives and these organizations are really operating at the brink, 68% say they will not be able to provide services to everyone who comes through their door in

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the next year and we need these investments so that
we can deliver the quality services that you count
on. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you next
please.

PETER GEE: Good evening Speaker Johnson,
Council Member Dromm, our Council Member Margaret
Chin. My name is Peter Gee. I am with University
Settlement America's First Social Sediment House with
serving 40,000 New Yorkers living in Manhattan,
Brooklyn at 32 sites. Uhm I'm just here to echo uhm
some of my colleagues at United Neighborhood Houses,
the Campaign for Children, the New York City
Coalition for Adult Literacy, the Coalition for
Behavioral Health, LiveON New York on five issues.
One equal pay for equal work. Our child, early
childcare providers deserve equal pay for equal work.
Two adult literacy, we serve over 450 immigrants,
wanting to learn English and we are asking uhm that
the \$12 million get restored to the Budget for Adult
Literacy. Three: Mental Health Initiatives, uhm you
know the, they Mayor didn't include funding for two
important mental health initiatives that serve our
communities, the children under five initiative helps

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us serve 800 children annually to develop positive coping skills and resiliency to face the stressors in their challenging lives. The second the autism awareness initiative, uhm 1 in 88 Asian Pacific American children are identified with autism in the United States but language barriers, limited community infrastructure and social stigma create significant barriers for our community. Funding for the autism awareness initiative uhm supports 100 youth and young people with autism at our House Entry Center. Four: Uhm summer camp. We uhm stand united with all of our colleagues, we rely on the funding for over 400 slots of free summer camp and so we say Save Our Summer Camps and five: Uhm we definitely appreciate the Council's efforts to equalize funding for senior centers as LiveON New York and other members have mentioned, it is not enough so we totally support the more than a meal campaign. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.

FAITH BAHOOM (SP?): Good evening, Chair person Dromm and, and Speaker Johnson and members of the Committee on Finance. My name is Faith Bahoom (SP?) and I am advocacy and policy advisor at UJA

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Federation of New York. On behalf of UJA our network of nonprofit partners and those we serve I thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Budget. Uhm so there is a lot of echoing going on here, is that we are incredibly supportive of having salary parity for our community based organizations who are UPK providers uhm and also in support of restoring and baselining funding for summer SONIC slots, uhm also to what Michelle said, uhm we are a member of the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group and we request the Council continue to support the nonprofit sector and address critical funding shortages, shortfalls for fringe benefits and occupancy and insurance cost. Uhm something else that is also very important to UJA is provided culturally sensitive meal services for seniors and we are particularly concerned about reimbursements rates for Kosher home delivered meals, uhm we urge the City Council and the Administration to include rate increase that are adequately flexible and cultural competent for congregant and home delivered meals. Uhm our naturally occurring and retirement communities or NORCs play a crucial role in helping seniors to continue to live safely in the community and we

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1
2 recommend that the City Council increase the NORC
3 initiative to \$5 million to support discretionary
4 award enhancements, nursing services and our new
5 pilot programs in underserved parts of New York City
6 uhm we applaud the leadership of the City Council and
7 it's continued investment in New York City's
8 Holocaust Survivors. Our City is home to roughly
9 45,000 Holocaust Survivors, 20,000 of those live
10 below the national poverty line so we requested the
11 City Council increase funding for the Holocaust
12 Survivor Initiative. And we support, we have our
13 nonprofit partners receive funding through a number
14 of mental health initiatives including autism
15 awareness, geriatric mental health, children under 5
16 and court involved youth and we request your
17 continued support on each of these. Thank you very
18 much.

19 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you, next
20 please?

21 SARAH FAJARDO: Good evening, my name is
22 Sarah Fajardo and I am a senior policy analyst at
23 FPWA, an anti-poverty policy advocacy organization
24 with a network of nearly 170 human services and faith
25 based members. Uhm thank you to Chair Dromm and

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Speaker Johnson and the members of the committee for the opportunity to testify today and I will be focusing on three Council initiatives and then ask for the Administration. Uhm the first Worker Cooperatives: Offer entrepreneurs control over their working conditions, higher wages, more benefits and better job stability. We are grateful for the over \$8 million of Council funds over the past 3.5 Fiscal Years and urge the Council to continue this momentum by enhancing the worker cooperative business development initiative to \$3.95 million in FY19. We also thank the Council for your continued support of the Day Labor Work Force Initiative and ask that you invest \$2.23 million in this initiative in the coming year. This investment would support the expansion and development of the four distinct day laborers centers and will create one new day laborer center in the Bronx in FY19. Given the continuing Federal threats to health, equity and access for immigrants, LGBTQ, low income and otherwise vulnerable populations in the City we believe enhancing the Access Health Initiative is crucial for New York's Public Health. We are grateful for the Council's past commitment and request an enhancement to \$2.5

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million in FY19. Finally in FY19, we encourage the Council to continue its leadership in addressing chronic underfunding of Senior Services by seeking an additional investment of \$22.1 million. This funding would support congregate meals, DIFTA run NYCHA Senior Centers and Social Clubs, home delivered meals, case management, home care, transportation, elder abuse prevention and caregiver supports. Additionally FPWA requests that the Council push to expedite the implementation of the full \$20 million in the model Budget Funding, excuse me by FY20 rather than the proposed FY21. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you.

CATHERINE TRAPANI: Thank you and good evening. My name is Catherine Trapani and I'm the executive director of Homeless Services United which is a Coalition of the nonprofit mission driven homeless services providers in New York City. Uhm I have written testimony that has quite a bit of detail but this evening I am just going to very briefly touch on a couple of things that have come up over the course of the Budget hearings. Specifically we have heard quite a bit about uhm increases in the Budget of the Department of Homeless Services but I

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1 just want to make very clear that those investments
2 have not been realized yet or implemented in the
3 Budgets of the mission driven nonprofit service
4 providers, only five homeless service providers in my
5 network have received any of the additional funds
6 from the \$200 million investment that Commissioner
7 Banks has continually testified about. So we still
8 are in desperate need for quick implementation of the
9 Model Budget Process. Uhm, further I want to echo
10 what Michelle talked about earlier which is there
11 were quite a few things that were not included in
12 Model Budget that are, that are straining our
13 provider's Budget including increases to fringe and
14 direct rate and other cost escalations that are
15 really crucial to the survivor, uhm survival of
16 quality services for homeless people which is what I
17 think we all agree is desperately needed given the
18 record highs. To that end I want to thank the
19 Council for the support of the children and families
20 of the New York City Shelter Initiative, this Council
21 funded initiatives has provided specialized services
22 for children and families in shelters, uhm that are
23 not otherwise supported by DHS and I just want to
24 point out that this year we are asking for an
25

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1
2 increase in that funding to keep pace with the growth
3 of the system and also to scale up the proven
4 initiatives that our members have pioneered and
5 piloted with very promising results and so I just
6 want to thank you for all of your support of the
7 sector despite, I, I know it's been a challenging
8 time for all of us uhm and I just want to again
9 emphasize the need for a mission driven nonprofit run
10 homeless services uhm that have Budgets that we are
11 able to sustain. Thank you.

12 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you. Next
13 please.

14 ALEJANDRO ALTERO (SP?): Hello my name is
15 Alejandro Altero (SP?). Dear City Council, thank you
16 for this opportunity to feel heard. My daughter
17 Zaria (SP?) turning 6 next month was diagnosed with
18 lead poisoning at 1 year of age and most likely had
19 it in her system while in the womb from dusting
20 effect. Five years later, I am still dealing with
21 this issue from section 8 apartment unit in a
22 previous NYCHA Controlled building that seems to have
23 been passed on to a landlord network of building to
24 hide the fact that the dusting effect of peeling
25 paint from the entire building needed to be fixed.

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How many buildings have gone through this privatization of health contaminants? It is absurd that the lawyer is only representing the child via the mother and not both parents. Furthermore there is no family support groups to assist in the mentally taxing problems associated with life transition in a world capital. The protection and power that the insurance companies and back channeled NYCHA backed landlords is immense and I have had to drop most of my career goals to educate organizations from grass roots to grass tops, excuse me from City Councils to people within the United Nations. How is it that this grand City is unable to provide continual and current wellness support? No checks and balances systems exist to overview and guide the thousands of lawyers making their livelihood at the cost of our children's lives and welfare and have nothing to offer in the present. There is plenty of space such as the Abandoned Basement Fallout Shelters and the Pseudo privatized buildings to provide comfort and safety zones for the families in emotional distress from these barbaric health and sanitation conditions. Follow up and upgrades should exist within the protocols these firms use to attain more than 1/3 of

1
2 the monetary compensation which could be gained by
3 the affected child from the lawsuit. I am open to
4 form a Z Foundation to assist in this process if one
5 does not exist. Thank you very much City Council for
6 all you have done thus far to address this twilight
7 zone of consciousness.

8 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very
9 much to this whole panel. We appreciate you coming
10 in. We are getting closer to the end of the hearing
11 and we will wait to hear everybody who is here but
12 let me see if these folks are still here. Dian Dong
13 from the Chen Dance Center? Lucy Sexton, okay come
14 on up. Joanna Underwood, Mark Winston Griffith,
15 okay, that, Evie Zandow (SP?) no, Greg Mahalovich
16 (SP?) no, Doug Burman, Juan Penzone (SP?) okay come
17 on up Juan. Alright Jerry Wesley okay, Annette yep.
18 And Sofica Commani (SP?) okay. So we only have one
19 group left after this so if you folks are going to
20 testify hang in there and we are going to be here for
21 you.

22 LUCY SEXTON: Hi my name is Lucy Sexton
23 and I am the head of ARTOG Advocacy Organization New
24 Yorkers for Culture and Arts. We are working with
25 both the larger CIGs organizations and the many

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smaller cultural program groups across all five boroughs of the City. I am here today to employ you to increase the City's investment in Culture. The data on the impact of culture and the arts on so many aspects of our Civic life of indisputable when arts are in schools, academic performance improves. Our new school Chancellor likes to say when you want to improve schools culture eats strategy for breakfast. When arts are in our senior centers, life expectancy itself is dramatically increased. When culture is regularly available in our communities mental health improves. Supporting culture is the best investment you can make on behalf of the lives of your constituents. In terms of aging I'm a Sucasa teaching artist at the Open Door Center in Chinatown. Deputy Leader Chin was at our performance two nights ago when a man in his 80s talked about working in factories since he was 15. He cried on stage as he said that these past few years taking arts classes at the center were the happiest time in his life. The time when he felt valued and truly part of a community. We had our follow up discussion yesterday with my seniors and they all asked if we could do this storytelling and movements class against next

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year. The center's manager safely said it depends on the funding. In terms of mental health, my 9th grade daughter recently had a friend commit suicide. As you can imagine she and her friends are reeling. Last weekend, their dance group Locomotion performed and I know that's a group that Speaker Johnson has championed. They give scholarships so that a whole range of kids can participate from every background and seeing those kids together hold each other in this time of tragedy I can tell you that it answered all of the things that their mental health professional told them that they needed, a place to have their feelings, a place to do something with those feelings and a place to be held in the community that understood those feelings. So the new cultural plan rightly calls for New Arts Equity so we can provide access to culture in every school, every senior center, every neighborhood and now we need to put our money where the, where our mouth is. For FY19 the Cultural Community asks for your support of a \$30 million increase to the DCLA Budget to be split evenly as it was last year between the CIGs and the program groups so that we truly can bring culture, arts, mental health and wellbeing to every community,

every school all across the City. I really appreciate your effort in this.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: What was that culture eats strategy for breakfast?

LUCY SEXTON: Yes isn't that good.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Yeah I like it, I like it thank you.

LUCY SEXTON: Yeah.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Next please.

JOANNA UNDERWOOD: I'm Joanna Underwood and my mic is not on. Just press it. There Joanna Underwood and I am the Founder and Board Member of a national environmental organization called Energy vision and one of our key goals is to see every City across the country have bus and truck fleets which provides such essential services everywhere. Do so, in a way that doesn't sacrifice public health and doesn't spew greenhouse gases into our air, that means do so without relying on diesel fuel. In partnership with the New York League of Conservation Voters we act for environmental justice. Two former sanitation commissioners and leading health experts. We are calling on New York City to get its Municipal Fleets off of diesel. Better alternatives exist now

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and the City Budget process could require this shift.
We ask the City and the MTA to spot allocating funds
to buy new heavy duty diesel trucks and MTA buses.
Focus new purchases on the best alternatives electric
are worth testing and natural gas fuel is fully
commercial, especially now, the renewable form of
natural gas made not by drilling but from organic
waste called renewable natural gas, burned in a new
super clean natural gas engine. And to approve the
funds needed finally for infrastructure and fleet
garage modifications to support implementation of
these alternatives. A new energy vision report
called Ending the Diesel Era, documents clearly why
this shift is vital and timely. A few of our key
findings, the City can't meet its ambitious clean air
and greenhouse gas reduction goals unless it is, is
that two minutes? How did I do that? Alright, if it
doesn't move away from diesel fuel I will condense.
Diesel exhaust is much more dangerous than gasoline
fuel, it's carcinogen 13% of the children in this
City under 18 have asthma and diesel is a large
cause. We've been using it for 50 years because it's
all we had, now we don't need to do it anymore. A
second finding is that renewable natural gas fuel, a

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commercial project and these new near zero natural gas engines are extraordinary. They are clean, they are commercial, they are low in greenhouse gases. Their emissions are 90% below the environment protection agency standards. This fuel can be easily deployed in New York City through existing natural gas refueling stations and that has been confirmed by our own research and our two former sanitation commissioner. Just two more points, uhm electric is worth experimenting with but a new program in New York City by the Department of Sanitation testing what they call renewable diesel is hardly worthwhile. It is a fuel that is not petroleum but it is made from animal oils and feed stocks that are not environmental. It is not clean. It's emission from health are the same as those of conventional diesel. It reduced greenhouse gases 60% versus renewable natural gas, 80% and finally even though it allows the City to keep using noisy outdated diesel engines it is not a saving because the fuel cost \$1.50 per gallon more, that's \$26 million a year. It's not a good investment. It's a way to try to avoid change but lots of other cities are doing this and going away from diesel now. I'll just name a few, London,

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Sacramento, Los Angeles, Seattle, Vancouver, Toronto, Phoenix. We have seen the programs. We have seen the fleets. It can be done and it's time for New York City to do it for the sake of our families and the sake of our sustainable future.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you, thank you very much. Next please?

JUAN PENZONE (SP?): Hello my name is Juan Penzone (SP?) I'm the Director Health Services at the Community Services Society. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would like to talk about how the City can continue closing the gaps in health inequities in New York City by funding or increasing funding for three programs. The first program is Community Health Advocates. Which is the states independent consumer assistance program, community health advocates helps consumers navigate the health care system use insurance and access the care that they need by providing assistance through a center helpline and a network of 27 community based organizations was originally a New York City funded program called Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program that operated between 1990 and 2010 and we lost that funding in 2011. Uhm fortunately we've

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1
2 been able to operate a program through Federal funds
3 and more recently state appropriations. The problem
4 was when we transitioned the program from a New York
5 City based initiative to a statewide network uhm New
6 York City lost important resources for its
7 underserved communities because the funding now has
8 to be distributed across the, the entire state. As a
9 result, only 11 of the 26 former agencies remain in
10 our network so there is less help available for low
11 income communities of color, immigrants, consumers
12 with special needs, culturally and linguistically
13 isolated communities. I urge the New York City
14 Council to reserve \$1 million in funding to cover the
15 linguistic and cultural diversity of the network.
16 Uhm the next program is Harlem Health Advocacy
17 Partners uhm and this program serves about 13,000
18 residents and 5 NYCHA developments. The program is a
19 community based approach that has been very
20 successful in reducing health disparities and serving
21 the healthcare needs for NYCHA residents and we
22 believe that implementing similar approach in the
23 larger scale could be equally effective in reducing
24 health inequities in parts of the city and finally I
25 would like to talk to about Access Health NYC and

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urge the City to increase funding for Access Health NYC from \$1 million to \$3 million. The additional funding will allow the lead agencies and 17 community based organizations to continue to reach those uhm who are uninsured and those are who disconnected from the healthcare system. Uhm these are additional money will also allow CSS to continue increasing the capacity to provide assistant services over the phone and support the community based groups are a part of this initiative and the City Council constituents. Thank you for the opportunity to.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much also. Next please.

ANNETTE GOWDINO (SP?): Good evening, Chair Dromm, Speaker Johnson, Deputy Leader Chin and Council Member Grodenchik. Thank you for having us tonight. My name is Annette Gowdino (SP?) I'm the HCV Project Co-Director at Treatment Action Group. I'm here representing a citywide coalition that includes Housing Works, The Harm Reduction Coalition, Local New York, The hepatitis C Mentor and Support group and the Coalition on positive empowerment. We have a very simple ask, we would like to ask you to continue to fund and to in fact expand the City

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Council's Viral Hepatitis Initiative. As you know there is about 150,000 New Yorkers currently living with hepatitis C and additional 100,000 New Yorkers living with hepatitis B and we see about 14,000 new cases of viral hepatitis each year in New York City. Uhm, thankfully the City Council saw it wise to fund the Viral Hepatitis Initiative in starting Fiscal year of 2015, uhm, it currently funds 30 community based organizations to do peer education and patient navigation services and also do clinical trainings. It has been a very successful program and we have an additional 7 community based organizations that would like to join on to the program and get funded to meet these needs. About 10,000 New Yorkers have been reached in 2017 including 3500 people infected with Hepatitis B and C that were linked to medical care. The Navigator Training Program has trained over 1200 clinical providers, 79 hepatitis C peer navigators and 56 hepatitis B and hepatitis C patient navigators. Our efforts have been spotlighted in international conferences uhm and New York is releasing as a leader so we would really like to continue the work that we are doing here in New York City on viral hepatitis and like I said expand the

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work that we are doing. I will just add that personally I grew up in the Bronx and live in the Bronx. About 2% of all residence have chronic hepatitis C. That's twice the national rate and over 4-1/2 times the rate of human immunodeficiency virus so we hope that you will continue to fund this program. Thank you very much.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you next please.

SOFICA COMMANI (SP?): Thank you Chairman Dromm and the Finance Committee Members for your commitment to prioritizing funds for the wellbeing all New Yorkers and thank you to Council Member Levine for your leadership to restore funding to combat the growing threat of tuberculosis in New York City. My name is Sofica Commani (SP?) and I'm from the Treatment Action Group Bertag. We are independent community based research and policy activists fighting for the end of HIV, TB and hepatitis C. We at TAG and our partners represent immigrant communities, housing rates and public health expertise are alarmed by TBs largest rise in New York since the 1990s. TB is airborne infectious meaning anyone who breathes is at risk of contracting

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the potentially deadly disease. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reported a 10% rise in TB cases in 2017. This includes an increase of drug resistant cases which are more difficult and costly to treat. A single case of drug resistant TB costs an average of \$294,000 to treat. Without urgent action we are putting all New Yorkers at great risk. Community groups and clinicians protested at City Hall a few weeks ago to call attention to this unacceptable increase in cases. The Chair of the City Council Health Committee is warning us of repeating the dangerous history when an outbreak of TB could cost New York City over \$1 billion to control. The Daily News Hovington Post, New York Post and other outlets have all recently called attention to the rise of TB in New York City. New York City is hosting the first ever United Nations High Level Meeting on TB in September. Is this the kind of publicity we want the world to see about New York. We were disappointed to hear in Commissioner Bassett's testimony last week that there is still increase to their Health Department for TB. The modest increase to TB that is so funded from the Health Department only allows the Bureau of TB

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Control to restore baseline staffing levels and potentially keep the City's few remaining clinics open to end TB rather than barely keep it at bay we must do more. Community organizations need funding to conduct prevention and testing outreach to our Immigrant communities who bear the largest burden of TB and are being driven away from seeking public services in this challenging political climate. We can TB in New York City but to do so we need real political will and funding. We reiterate our ask to increase TB funding by a measly \$6.3 million per year to a total of \$14.8 million. Thank you all for your leadership.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you next please.

SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: I want to thank TAG for being here. I am a big, big TAG fan. Tell Mark Harrington I said hi.

JERRY WESLEY: Thank you Chairman Dromm, Speaker Johnson and Committee members I am Jerry Wesley Healthcare Transformation Futures from Get Healthy Care a 501c shared service, corporation. Uhm when it comes to implementing new technology the healthcare industry lags behind every other industry.

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I am here today seeking emergency funding to implement change to remedy an urgent crisis of the dire physical health of New York City Health and Hospital Corporation and its inability to generate enough revenue to remain viable. The low value, low grade of care being administered to consumers, residents and constituents and the need to take immediate steps that lead to longer, stronger and healthier lives. While external factors might contribute to NYCH and H troubled physical health, as its core, this problem exists because NYCH and H is bleeding internally from nearly all of its organs that generate, uhm that generate revenue. Based on CMS 5 star rating, there are 34 one star hospitals in New York State that are labeled with an unhealthy one star rating. 22 of these one star hospitals are located in New York City. New York City H and H is home to 10 hospitals with an unhealthy one star rating, Bellevue, Coney Island, Elmhurt, Harlem, Jacoby, Kings, Lincoln, Metropolitan, Queens and Woodhull. This does not in any way diminish the value of the hard working people who work at these facilities. It is simply a reflection of the changing healthcare landscape that NYCH and H is

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continually responding poorly to. For nearly 8 years if not longer, all of the hospitals have either been unwilling or incapable of advancing the low value, low grade of care on their own. This leaves New York City at risk of being left further behind as the healthcare industry moves from volume based to value based care. We are here today seeking your partnership in helping us secure \$40 million, a historic investment to retrofit New York City Health and Hospital Corporation work force so that they can be a viable organization in the 21st Century Healthcare. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much and thank you to this whole panel. We appreciate you coming in and waiting to the second to the last panel. We are very interested in what you had to say, thank you. Alright Claudia Calhoun New York Immigration Coalition, Lamow Boyd (SP?) Access Health, Isabel Abru (SP?) Access Health, Northern Management Improvement Corp, Zyra Hernandez Cinto (SP?) The Institute for Family Health and Rachel Byrd Public Utility Law Project. Hi Claudia.

CLAUDIA CALHOUN: Hi.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Hi Claudia.

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CLAUDIA CALHOUN: Hello.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Good to see you.

CLAUDIA CALHOUN: Good evening. Uhm my name is Claudia Calhoun, I'm the health policy Director at the New York Immigration Coalition. I would like to thank Finance Committee Chair Daniel Dromm and of course Council Speaker Johnson and uhm Council Member Chin and, and Grodenchik for being here at this hour.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: Grodenchik.

CLAUDIA CALHOUN: Grodenchik, I'm so sorry.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: It happens all the time.

CLAUDIA CALHOUN: Okay.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: He loves it.

BARRY GRODENCHIK: It's an epidemic.

CLAUDIA CALHOUN: I'm so sorry, uhm alright, so I'm here to talk about two Council Initiatives that are really important that we hope that uhm something can be potentially enhanced and definitely sustained. One is action health... sorry, wow uhm Access Health NYC and the other the American Health Initiative. Uhm Access Health NYC is

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something that we have worked for many years with the Speaker on when he was Health Committee Chair uhm and it's a cri... we believe that it's a critically important initiative on the panel. You will hear from some of the other organizations that use it to support outreach and education on health access and coverage and rights and then the Immigrants Health Initiatives supports service providers to improve immigrant health access and services through CBOs and also through health centers. I, all of these organizations uhm provide uhm sort, push out clear, simple, accessible version of complex, rapidly changing highly technical information to communities that are deeply affected and right now they are even more vulnerable in terms of fear and instability and of course we work on the training for access health and we uhm work and many of our members are a part of the immigrant health initiative. Over the last three years Access Health NYC funded organizations have hosted more than 800 workshops on health access and coverage made almost 3700 referrals to navigators and enrollers uhm made nearly 1200 referrals to health and hospitals, corporation sites, almost 1000 referrals to community health centers and 1700

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2 referrals to SNAP enrollment. Uhm with the new
3 changes from the Federal Government where there might
4 be changes to public charge consideration and
5 penalties imposed on immigrant communities for using
6 public benefits, these initiatives are going to be
7 even more important in helping people make some of
8 the hard decisions about what benefit programs to
9 continue participating in and what ones they may want
10 to, may want to disenroll from and so I hope you will
11 consider enhancing Access Health to \$2.5 million and
12 sustaining the immigrant health initiatives and we
13 also endorse the Tuberculosis investment that was
14 discussed.

15 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you next
16 please.

17 ISABEL ABRU (SP?): Uhm good evening,
18 thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My
19 name is Isabel Abru (SP?) and I am the Coordinator
20 for the North Manhattan Improvement Corporation and
21 we are one of the only organizations that have
22 benefited from for the Access health initiative and
23 uhm having this funds have allowed our organization
24 to do many things from the community and especially
25 for vulnerable diverse immigrant communities and some

1 of those things that we have done, uhm as an
2 organization we have developed multiple literacy and
3 outreach activities that we have used to educate the
4 people about affordable healthcare options, immigrant
5 healthcare rights, emergency Medicaid and
6 applications uhm for Medicare for seniors, many
7 referral services uhm and also we have been able to
8 connect uhm many immigrants in vulnerable communities
9 to uhm many Human Services uhm that are not only
10 related to healthcare but related to other needs that
11 come with uhm when people come to us with uhm asking
12 for uhm accessible healthcare. Usually we ask about
13 all the needs that they may have so being an
14 organization has also allowed us to uhm have
15 resources to develop partnerships in the communities
16 that we serve so that we can connect and refer people
17 to uhm all the services that they need. Uhm so I
18 want to use an example uhm and this is just one
19 isolated case but there are many cases like this one
20 and uhm many situations are like difficult, being out
21 there, working as an Outreach Coordinator has given
22 me a lot of insight into uhm many of the needs for
23 our community like Claudia mentioned before. That's
24 a lot of fear and this fear is preventing people from
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1 coming to us so it's very important that we have the
2 funds to have people going out there and to expand so
3 that we can have more outreach organizations trying
4 to fill the gaps. So uhm in the past 12 months I
5 have been encountering a lot of situations where like
6 families and individuals have been prevented from
7 accessing uhm essential services that they need, uhm
8 and especially health, access to healthcare. And so
9 in this case I have one mother and the daughter they
10 are undocumented and the daughter has an autoimmune
11 disease and uhm they were trying to control the
12 devastating impacts of the disease by using over-the-
13 counter so they were not seeing a health professional
14 and uhm a partner organization from the Bronx
15 referred them to us and immediately our navigators
16 spoke to them about uhm the resources in their
17 neighborhood but also helped them apply for Medicaid
18 and so the mother has Medicaid for emergencies and
19 the child has CHIP. So uhm after two surgeries, this
20 14-year-old is now back in school focusing on her
21 academics and enjoying the life of a teenager and uhm
22 you know leading a productive and hopeful life. Uhm
23 so it's very critical that we continue to sustain but
24 also expand these funds so that we can have more
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1
2 organizations. This is important we are a
3 progressive New York who believes that uhm access to
4 healthcare is a human right. I am proud for work for
5 NIMIC I am so proud to be part of this initiative and
6 I hope that you continue to support the initiative,
7 expand the initiatives so that we can live up to
8 those words, Access to Healthcare is a Human Right
9 and we need meaningful resources to keep that going.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Okay thank you very
12 much. Next please.

13 ZYRA HERNANDEZ CINTO (SP?): Good
14 evening, my name is Zyra Hernandez and I am the
15 Immigrant Health Coordinator at the Institute for
16 Family Health. Uhm I would like to thank the Finance
17 Committee for giving us the opportunity to provide
18 input on the Budget and for your support of community
19 health centers like the institute. I am here today
20 to talk about the value of the immigrant health
21 initiative for our organization and for New York
22 City. Over the past three years, thanks to the City
23 Council funding we have increased our Outreach in the
24 Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. We have
25 assisted more than 2400 individuals obtain healthcare

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services by providing health education and screening at organizations as well as in mosques, churches and at community events. Establishing ongoing healthcare for immigrants improves health outcomes and reduces costly emergency room visits. We have been able to connect New Yorkers to services like the Purple Clinic at the Institute which provides care for victims of domestic violence, sexual exploitation and those subjected to sex and labor trafficking. Our immigrant outreach services allow us to educate the individuals we meet about healthy eating, chronic disease management strategies, and healthcare rights and protections. Immigrant New Yorkers face many barriers in their interactions with the healthcare system including delays in getting appointments, long wait times, language barriers, poor customer service and affordability concerns. Uhm through our work we have helped people to understand how the system works by steering immigrants in the appropriate direction to obtain the healthcare they need. Immigrants often forego seeking preventative healthcare because they don't feel safe in the current political climate. Many people have expressed distrust in health, policing and educational institutions and are scared

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of being taken away from their families. One patient we helped was a 34-year-old woman experiencing vision problems from a growth on her cornea and skin growths. We were able to get her a complete physical examination followed by appointments with an ophthalmologist and a dermatologist to treat her condition. Before meeting us she struggled with getting connected which is why it is imperative that you, you continue to support this work during a time of extraordinary hostility toward immigrant communities at the Federal level the programs that link immigrants to health services are more important than ever. We hope the Council will continue to fund the immigrant health initiative with an FY2019 commitment of \$1.5 million or more. Thank you.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.

Rachel?

SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Rachel we are leaving the best for last. You have the best graphics by the way. That put together is amazing. Turn your mic on.

RACHEL BYRD: I thought it, there we go. Thank you uhm I appreciate. I have brilliantly written six pages of brilliantly written testimony

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here but when I gave a training on Utility rights and handed these out about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through they, one of the constituent service directors I spoke to said uh the training has been great but this, does my job for me so I thought well I'll have the testimony itself later but I thought this would be uhm at least for the end of the day an amusing, something to read. Uhm so let me first thank you all for staying this late. I've been to a number of the hearing, uhm Chair Dromm and I have compared notes and I can't come close to beating him on his endurance for these, all of these hearings but also Speaker Johnson uhm Deputy Leader Chin, Member Grodenchik as well as the committee staff and the Council staff and the Sargeant at Arms who have to do all of this work for all of these days. It's an awesome undertaking that you do. Uhm the Public Utility Law Project is a unique organization. It is the only organization that advocates, educates and litigates on behalf of low income utility rate payers. That means rates I'm sorry, right that people have no idea that they have. They are about as obvious and well known as the fine print you see in credit card statements and uhm utility bills. So we authored and put into practice

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the Home Energy Fair Practices Act which is a model, consumer, utility consumer bill of rights that has been copied in other states and uhm I was, as I said I have a list of things that I will summarize briefly but it is actually appropriate. Oh my goodness that was quick. It's appropriate that I come after these folks because many of the issue that a number of the other soci... service organizations speak to end up in our world. Today I got a deferred payment agreement for an 85-year-old Syrian woman whose only living child in Elope Syria with her grandchildren. She has cl... she's developing slowly, I've worked with her for several months mental difficulties. I was able to connect her with a social, with a social work intern who is committed. He is staying in his vacation time to help her. She's have balance problems. The reason I would do that part of this work is because we are not social workers at PULP is her utility services, her utility discounts, benefits, are often dependent on her public assistance benefits. So if we don't know what those are and they are not well coordinated she can't get it and she got in touch with us by accident through a legal services entity that we had done training for.

1
2 We've been training legal services, constituent
3 service reps, CBOs all sorts of community based
4 organizations for the, with the Council's help for
5 the last years we've done utility clinics, we've
6 helped over 100 individual consumer families. We
7 just, we're asking for a bit more money this year to
8 help us continue doing this work. We are just
9 getting on our feet. Thank you.

10 CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Thank you very much.
11 I have to say thank you, thank you Mr. Speaker for
12 being here. This is unprecedented. I don't remember
13 a speaker staying for the whole public portion and we
14 are very grateful to you. It shows your concern for
15 New Yorkers. Thank you. Uhm.

16 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Chair Dromm I just
17 want to put on the record. I want to thank you for
18 all your courtesy's that you've extended not only to
19 me but to all the members of the Finance Committee
20 and the other committees and I also want to thank the
21 speaker for being here. I think it is critical that
22 the people that came to testify here today hear from
23 our leader and uhm he does it so well too. He does
24 it so well. So thank you all and especially to the
25

committee staff as well and Rachel you were
absolutely right it is exactly 8 o'clock.

CARLINE RIVERA: I just want to take the
opportunity to thank all the uhm you know
constituents and all the nonprofit groups and all the
advocates for coming but yeah thank you to the
speaker, it's great that the speaker is here to
listen to the public and I think all of us learned
something new about these programs. And initiative
that we've been advocating you know since last term
and to see the results. That's pretty amazing and
thank you to our Finance Chair, Danny for Chairing
all these meetings and really uhm doing a great job.

CHAIR DANIEL DROMM: Well thank you both
also for your uhm for staying with us as well. We've
been here since 10 o'clock this morning and so it's
been a long day for us but we are very, very pleased
to be able to do it and uhm to have this opportunity
to serve the City so let me just finish with the
formalities of this and then I'm going to hit the,
bang the gavel. This concludes the City Council's
Hearing on the Mayor's Fiscal 2019 Executive Budget.
Thank you to the Speaker and to all my colleagues for
being active and engaged in these hearings over the

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past three weeks and thank you to all the members of the public who took time out of their busy schedules to be here with her today to have their voices heard. We hear you and we appreciate you. As one final reminder to the public if you wish to submit testimony for the official record you can email your testimony to the Finance Division at financetestimony@council.nyc.gov and the staff will make it part of the official record. We will accept testimony through 5 p.m. on Wednesday May 30th. Thank you to everyone for being a part of this years Budget process. This hearing is now adjourned (Gavel pounding).

SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Let me just say one final thing, even though it's adjourned I want to thank you Danny for.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date June 22, 2018