

**STATEMENT of the HONORABLE AMANDA M. BURDEN, AICP,
CHAIR of the NEW YORK CITY PLANNING COMMISSION and
DIRECTOR of the DEPARTMENT of CITY PLANNING
before the LAND USE COMMITTEE
of the NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
on the MAYOR'S FISCAL YEAR 2009 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
and FOUR YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN**

March 6, 2008

Good afternoon Chair Katz, Chair Avella and distinguished members of the Land Use Committee. It is a pleasure to discuss with you the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2009 Preliminary Budget and Four Year Financial Plan as it relates to the Department of City Planning. As always, it is a privilege to work with each of you and to serve the City of New York as Director of the Department of City Planning and Chair of the New York City Planning Commission.

To date, 79 areawide rezonings, encompassing over 6,000 blocks in 88 neighborhoods, have been adopted in partnership with the City Council. Those rezonings encompass nearly one-sixth of the area of New York City. More rezoning has occurred in the past six years than had been achieved since 1961, under the past six mayors, combined.

Since I appeared before the Land Use Committee last May, much has been achieved. The neighborhoods of **Dyker Heights, Wakefield/Eastchester, Forest Hills South, and St. Albans/Hollis** were protected through the mapping of contextual zones. In **Bedford-Stuyvesant, Ft. Greene/Clinton Hill and the Upper West Side**, rezonings were adopted to reinforce the built character and provide opportunities for affordable housing.

We also saw the adoption of two important zoning text amendments. The rules for **Privately Owned Public Spaces** were streamlined and strengthened, ensuring that the design and operation of plazas will better serve the public interest. And, for the first time, new **Commercial Parking Lots** will be more sustainable, attractive and safe through design standards adopted in November.

And finally, last fall the City Council adopted a landmark 368-block rezoning plan for **Jamaica**. One of the largest rezonings ever, the Jamaica Plan will bolster the downtown area while providing for appropriately scaled development in the neighboring low-rise communities.

As always, we are moving forward with more initiatives to respond to community goals and concerns. Last week, the City Council approved the rezoning of 40 blocks of **Briarwood**, to prevent out-of-character development. The Department worked with Councilmember Gennaro on this plan and we are grateful its adoption.

Later this month, the Council will consider two more contextual zoning initiatives. In partnership with Councilmember Reyna, the Department is proposing to contextually rezone 13 blocks of **Grand Street** in Williamsburg, establishing height limits on this retail corridor and protecting its adjacent residential lots. The Department is also advancing an application to rezone portions of the **Westerleigh** neighborhood to prevent future out-of-character development along narrow streets. Councilmembers McMahon and Oddo were instrumental in moving this rezoning forward.

Next week the City Planning Commission will vote on the **125th Street Rezoning**. Working with the Harlem community, the Department has advanced a balanced proposal to maintain and enhance 125th Street's unique character and identity as Harlem's Main Street. The proposed special district will strengthen arts, culture and entertainment through zoning requirements, as well as newly created Arts Bonus to incentivize the creation of not-for-profit visual and performing arts space. We've been

working closely with Councilmembers Dickens, Jackson and Mark-Viverito to fine-tune the plan and look forward to the Council's consideration of it next month.

The Department is moving forward with implementation of two PlaNYC initiatives. Soon, the Council will consider zoning text amendments for **Street Trees** and **Yards**, which both serve to help green the city by mandating street tree planting city-wide, and requiring planted front yards, respectively.

When we look beyond this immediate horizon, there are many more initiatives on which the Department is currently engaged; a number of which we expect to certify this year. The majority of these initiatives demonstrate the Administration's continued commitment to neighborhood preservation and to updating outdated zoning rules that have hampered reinvestment in key areas of the city.

In Queens, the Department is pursuing a finely grained rezoning strategy for 40 blocks of **Dutch Kills** to remove current restrictions on residential development and provide incentives for affordable housing. The Department anticipates certification in the spring and thanks Councilmember Gioia for his partnership on this plan.

More than 250 blocks of the **Rockaways** will be rezoned to reinforce neighborhood scale on area side streets and modestly increase density in targeted locations. Councilmembers Addabbo and Sanders have been key partners in this effort and we expect to certify this proposal by May.

The Department is refining its recommendations for a 220-block rezoning of **Laurelton** to protect the one- and two-family character of this neighborhood. We are working closely with Councilmember Sanders to finalize this plan and expect a spring certification.

In the Bronx, the Department certified a rezoning for **Hunts Point** in January. The 70-block Special Hunts Point District will encourage the expansion of the food industry

sector on the peninsula, while creating a buffer between the manufacturing district and adjacent residential areas. Our Bronx office is working on a number of other initiatives to promote housing along key corridors, including **161st Street and the Lower Grand Councourse**.

In Brooklyn, the Department is working with EDC, Parks and HPD on a plan for **Coney Island** to make it a year-round amusement and entertainment destination. We recently began the environmental review and expect to commence ULURP later this year.

In **Canarsie**, we are poised to share rezoning recommendations for 300 blocks of this neighborhood to preserve its unique character. We will work closely with Councilmembers Fidler and Barron to build consensus on this ambitious rezoning and move it forward to certification.

As promised after Mayor Bloomberg's visit to **Sunset Park** last year, City Planning launched a 100-block rezoning study in consultation with the community and Councilmember Gonzalez. The proposed rezoning will introduce contextual zoning and inclusionary housing for the first time in Sunset Park.

In Staten Island, we are moving forward with a strategic rezoning for **St. George**. With its excellent transportation infrastructure, St. George is poised for appropriate residential growth and expanded retail opportunities. We are working closely with Councilmember McMahon, the Borough President, Community Board 1 and area stakeholders to fine-tune this proposal and move it toward formal public review in the coming months.

Together with EDC, we've taken important steps toward a planning framework for the **West Shore** of Staten Island to guide future land use and transportation decisions. The framework will balance the open space and wetlands protection with new job opportunities, and identify where transportation improvements will be necessary. We will work with business owners, civic groups and elected officials to make this important planning initiative a success. This study will be followed by an RFP for a complimentary study of the **North Shore**, which was just issued yesterday.

In Manhattan, the Department is completing environmental review for a comprehensive rezoning of 114 blocks of the **East Village and the Lower East Side**. We will certify a rezoning proposal this spring that preserves the established neighborhood scale and character, and provides incentives for affordable housing along selected corridors. We continue to work closely with Councilmembers Rosie Mendez and Alan Gerson and thank them for the strong leadership.

As you can see, the Department's workplan continues to be ambitious and seeks to protect the city's cherished neighborhoods and realize opportunities for growth where our infrastructure is well-suited to accommodate it. I thank you for all the City Council has done to provide leadership on these important endeavors and believe we all can be proud of the collective record we've established to protect communities and catalyze investment to promote healthy economic development.

Let me now turn to the budget.

The Department began FY2008 with an expense budget appropriation of \$29.7 million, which consisted of \$16.4 million in City funds and \$13.3 million Federal funds. Thus, 55 percent of the budget was City dollars and 45 percent Federal dollars. When the current budget was adopted in July 2007, the Department of City Planning's authorized headcount was 294 staff positions, of which 158 were tax levy funded, and the remaining 136 positions were funded with federal dollars.

Since Adoption, the Department has undergone two financial plan changes pursuant to directions from OMB:

- The November Financial Plan reflects the rollover of Community Development Block Grant, as well as other Federal and State grant funding totaling \$636,835 to cover programmatic needs. Of this amount, the Department's Community

Development budget increased by \$77,284 in FY2008, while the Federal and State grant budget increased by \$453,597 and \$105,954, respectively.

- There were several adjustments made in the January Financial Plan. The plan reduced the Department's Tax Levy budget by eliminating four tax levy positions to reflect a savings of \$240,000. To offset this staffing reduction, the Economic Development Corporation will fund four positions for the Department. These positions will not be reflected in the Department's headcount, and they are to be funded for a period not to exceed two years from the date they are filled. The January Plan also modified the Department's FY2008 Tax Levy and Community Development Budget by a total of \$35,341 for collective bargaining increases. In addition, the Department's Heat, Light and Power budget was reduced by \$23,501.

As in the past, the start of the FY2008 budget reflects a portion of the total anticipated Federal and State grant funding, and only a portion of the existing staff funded by these grants. The January Plan added twenty five (25) positions to bring the budget in line with current staffing, and it added \$2.7 million from Federal and State Grants to fund these positions. Included in this total, are rollovers of \$900,000 from FY2007 Federal and State Grant funding. In addition to the rollovers, new grant funding of \$1.8 million in Federal and State Grant funding was added to the Department's FY2008 budget. The portion of the

Department's budget funded by Federal and State Grants is now at the actual budgeted staffing level of 42 positions and total funding of \$4.3 million.

- For FY2009, the January Plan calls for the elimination of two (2) additional tax levy positions valued at \$120,000. Combined with the reductions from FY2008, the Preliminary Budget for FY 2009 and subsequent years reflects the elimination of a total of six (6) positions with a combined annual savings of \$360,000. In addition, the adopted FY 2008 budget had included \$200,000 to continue funding for three staff members working on the redevelopment of the Hudson Yards project. However, the Preliminary Budget for FY2009 eliminates these positions and their funding pending further analysis by OMB of alternative funding sources.

As a result of these changes in the January Financial Plan, the Department's FY2009 Preliminary Budget calls for a total allocation of \$23.4 million. Tax Levy funds constitute \$10.1 million, or 43 percent of the proposed budget, while federal funds constitute \$13.3 million, or 57 percent of the proposed budget. This provides for 285 budgeted staff: 149 City funded positions and 136 federally funded positions.

On the revenue side, the Department is projecting, based on recent and current activity, over \$2.5 million in FY2008. Of this amount, collection of ULURP and CEQR application fees total approximately \$2.4 million with the balance generated through publication and subscription sales.

We are committed to find ways to meet the challenges and demands of our growing work program. As you know, we must also identify additional savings for FY2009. Nevertheless, we seek your support of the proposed Preliminary Budget for FY2009. It will enable the Department of City Planning to continue to realize an agenda vital to the long-term growth and viability of the City, and we look forward to your active participation in the planning process.



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TESTIMONY OF THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Before the Land Use Committee of City Council

RE: FY 2009 Budget for the Landmarks Preservation Commission

March 6, 2008

Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) is a non-profit organization that aims to protect the architectural and cultural heritage of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo. We urge you to baseline the additional \$300,000 that the agency has received the past two years and to consider the agency's additional need for funding and resources.

GVSHP understands that difficult choices may need to be made this coming year regarding the City's budget. However, the city's recent construction boom has put a strain on the capacity of the LPC's staff and resources. Last year alone, the LPC, which is one of the City's smallest agencies, issued over 10,000 permits for work on historic buildings. Without a well-funded and adequately staffed LPC, work rehabilitating and renovating the over 26,000 landmarked buildings in the city can be delayed and inhibited. GVSHP regularly hears from our constituents who own and live in the over 2,000 landmarked buildings that we work to protect, and many of them have expressed frustration over the effects of the agency's budget restraints.

In addition, GVSHP is just one of many groups across the city seeking more landmark protections for our neighborhood. Adequate funding is essential to ensuring that new historic districts and landmarks are identified and protected before they are lost. In FY 2008, the LPC received a \$300,000 increase in its budget, which was a renewal of similar funds granted the year before. As a result, since July 2007, a noticeable and commensurate increase in survey and designation activity has been seen at the Commission, much to the pleasure of the public and the preservation community.

GVSHP is grateful for this additional funding and to the LPC for using the money to expand the agency's designations. However, this good work cannot continue if the additional \$300,000 is not baselined this year and particularly if the LPC's budget is cut further.

I urge you to baseline the LPC's additional \$300,000 in FY 2009 in order for the agency to continue its work and maintain its level of operation. Moreover, when more funds are available, GVSHP and others in the preservation community would like to see the LPC's budget increased by \$1 million, which would return the agency's budget to its 1991 levels in real dollars.



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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March 6, 2008


Statement before the City Council
Preliminary Budget Hearing on the Landmarks Preservation Commission

The Historic Districts Council is the citywide advocate for New York's historic districts and neighborhoods meriting preservation. The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the only city agency specifically tasked to ensure that New York City's historic buildings and neighborhoods are preserved. Other city agencies affect our neighborhoods and as New Yorkers concerned with the continued physical well-being of our city's historic communities, we must stop expecting the LPC to solve every problem a historic neighborhood faces. That being said, a strong, efficient LPC is critical to the health and vitality of our historic city and it is my pleasure to testify before the City Council regarding the agency's preliminary budget.


Over the past two years, the City Council has proven itself to be a strong partner to the LPC, twice increasing the agency's budget which has borne remarkable fruit. These increases have enabled the LPC to sustain itself during a record period of construction and development activity; in this past fiscal year the agency having designated over 1,000 buildings in all five boroughs over and issued close to 10,000 permits for work on buildings under its oversight. When the current size of the agency is considered – 60 or so fulltime staff and an annual budget of less than \$4 million – this productivity is even more remarkable.

Given both the demand on the agency and its recent success in meeting it, the Historic Districts Council feels it is imperative that the Landmarks Preservation Commission is able to continue to operate at its current level. That is why we have asked Mayor Bloomberg to ensure that the LPC budget not be cut, despite a tough budget climate, and that the \$300,000 added by the City Council last year be base-lined into the agency budget.

HDC appreciates that the Mayor's plan for 2030 understands the importance of neighborhood character. Historic districts help protect that character, raising property values and providing popular places to live and visit. Addressing the demand for additional districts while maintaining appropriate oversight of existing districts is a crucial part of ensuring that New York City will meet the challenges of the years ahead. In fact, HDC is about to host a series of panels on that topic this weekend.



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL



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The Council should be aware that, to the best of our knowledge, there are currently more than 50 areas, in every borough, where citizens and community groups are asking for new historic districts to be designated. These proposed districts encompass over 18,000 thousand buildings and thousands of New Yorkers. These are regular citizens who want the City's help to maintain and enhance their communities . The best way to do this is through a strong, efficient Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Should the Mayor base-line the additional funds that the City Council has so generously provided over the past two years., we do ask that the Council contemplate how to best enhance and strengthen the agency further. A few suggestions would be the enactment of Intro 542; the Landmarks Protection Bill, holding hearings on the Tax Assessment Bill introduced by Councilmember Gioia last spring and even revisiting the Demolition Delay Bill introduced by Councilmember McMahon early in this session. Even more radical ideas for enhancements would be an investigation of preservation incentives – be it an increase in the Community Block grants already administered by LPC, some kind of Main Street or façade improvement program or perhaps something I haven't even thought of yet. Landmarking is forever and by making an investment in it, we are making an investment in our city's future. What do WE want New York to look like in 20 years?

DRAFT LIST OF POTENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Manhattan	Sponsoring Group	Approximate Number of Buildings
Mt. Morris Park Extension	Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association	200+
NoHo Extension	NoHo Neighborhood Association	25+
Park West Village	Park West Village Residents Committee for HD Designation	10+
SoHo Extension	Victorian Society in America, Metropolitan Chapter	50+
South Village	Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation	750+
Tribeca Extension(s)	Tribeca Association/Manhattan Community Board I	150+
Upper East Side Extension(s)	Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts	200+
Upper West Side Extension(s)	Landmark West!	200+
West 54 – 56th Street (individuals)	West 54-55th Streets Block Association	15+
West Chelsea	Community Board 4	25+

Queens	Sponsoring Group	Approximate Number of Buildings
Addisleigh Park	Addisleigh Park Civic Organization	500+
Broadway-Flushing	Broadway-Flushing Homeowners Association	1,000+
Douglaston Extension	Douglaston/Little Neck Historic Society	25+
Jamaica (individuals + small districts)	Central Queens Historical Society	50+
Jackson Heights extension	Jackson Heights Beautification Group	200+
Kew Gardens	Kew Gardens Civic Association	500+
Laurelton	Concerned Citizens of Laurelton	500+
Parkway Village	Parkway Village Historical Society	100+
Rego Park	Rego Park-Forest Hill Preservation Council	100+
Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill Historical Society	75+
Ridgewood	Ridgewood Property Owners & Civic Association	1,000+
Rockaway Bungalows	Beachside Bungalow Preservation Association	100+

Staten Island	Sponsoring Group	Approximate Number of Buildings
Harrison Street/Stapleton Nook	Mud Lane Society for the Renaissance of Stapleton	30+
Snug Harbor East	Snug Harbor East Association	400+
Tottenville (individuals)	Tottenville Historical Society	10+
Westerleigh	Westerleigh Improvement Society	150+

Compiled by the Historic District Council
February 29, 2008

DRAFT LIST OF POTENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

The Bronx	Sponsoring Group	Approximate Number of Buildings
Fort Independence Park	Fort Independence Park Community Association	50+
Grand Concourse	Historic Districts Council	250+
Oxford/Cambridge	Citizens for Oxford/Cambridge Historic District	10+

Brooklyn	Sponsoring Group	Approximate Number of Buildings
Bedford- Stuyvesant (includes Alice & Agate Court)	Brooklyn Community Board 3	500+
Beverly Square West	Beverly Square West Association	250+
Boerum Hill Extension	Boerum Hill Association	750+
Brooklyn Heights – Court Street/Fulton Street	Brooklyn Heights Association	75+
Carroll Gardens Extension(s)	Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association	2,000+
Caton Park	Caton Park Association	100+
Clinton Hill Extension(s)	Society for Clinton Hill/Lefferts Place Civic Association	300+
Cobble Hill Extension	Cobble Hill Association	500+
Crown Heights North Extension(s)	Crown Heights North Association	750+
Ditmas Park West	Ditmas Park West Association	150+
Fort Greene/BAM Extension(s)	Fort Greene Association	250+
Ocean on the Park	Lefferts Manor Association	10+
Park Slope Extension	Park Slope Civic Council	4,000+
Prospect Heights	Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council	750+
Senator Street	Senator Street Historic District	25+
Wallabout	Historic Wallabout Association	200+
Williamsburg (individuals + small districts)	Williamsburg Greenpoint Preservation Alliance	100+

Manhattan	Sponsoring Group	Approximate Number of Buildings
Audubon Terrace/Audubon Park	Manhattan Community Board 12	25+
East 93rd Street (between Lexington & 3rd Avenues)	93rd Street Beautification Association	25+
East Village (individuals + small districts)	East Village Community Coalition	100+
Fulton – Nassau	Historic Districts Council	50+
Gramercy Park Extension	Gramercy Neighborhood Associates	25+
Lower East Side	Lower East Side Tenement Museum	150+
Madison Square North Extension		75+
Morningside Heights	Morningside Heights Historic District Committee	500+

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES ON LAND USE AND TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2009 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon Chairs Katz and Brewer, and members of the City Council Committees on Land Use and Technology in Government. My name is Paul Cosgrave, the Commissioner of the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, or DoITT, and New York City CIO. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about DoITT's preliminary budget and some of the agency's initiatives, accomplishments, and goals for the year to come. With me today are Ron Bergmann, DoITT's First Deputy Commissioner, Mitchel Ahlbaum, General Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Franchise Administration, and John Winker, our Associate Commissioner for Financial Services.

DoITT's Fiscal 2009 Preliminary Budget provides for operating expenses of approximately \$345.9 million, a decrease of \$1.7 million from the Fiscal 2008 Adopted Budget, and a net decrease of \$5.4 million over Fiscal 2008's current modified budget. The budget includes \$72 million in Personal Services to support 1,097 full-time positions, and \$273.9 million for Other than Personal Services. Of the \$345.9 million, \$108.3 million represents Intra-City funds to be transferred from other agencies to DoITT for the services it provides. Telecommunications costs represent the largest portion of the Intra-City expense. Fiscal 2008 Intra-City telecommunications expenditures are budgeted at \$95.8 million, while total telecommunications costs are budgeted at \$101.5 million.

During this year's budget process, agencies were asked to identify recurring savings or revenue enhancements to help close projected budget gaps in Fiscal 2009 and the out-years of the financial plan. DoITT was able to identify \$11.8 million in recurring revenues to meet its reduction target. These recurring revenues are primarily attributable to increased cable franchise revenue collections. In addition to these revenue enhancements, a 50% citywide hiring freeze has been enacted, which will result in an 83-position reduction to DoITT's authorized headcount for Fiscal 2009.

Despite tighter budgetary constraints, at this time we do not anticipate any significant impact on critical agency operations or projects in Fiscal 2009. In the coming year, as New York City's technology agency, DoITT will further its mission of coordinating citywide IT policy and planning; designing, building and maintaining information systems that support City operations; providing public access to City information and services; and administering the City's telecommunications franchises.

PLANIT

To build on the City's technology accomplishments during the Bloomberg Administration, and create a strategic approach to new initiatives going forward, in November we unveiled PlanIT: Better Government through Customer Service. The result of DoITT's work with over 130 participants from nearly 40 City agencies over the past year, PlanIT is the City's first-ever comprehensive technology strategy for coordinated, effective and efficient citywide IT implementation. Last year at this time I had the pleasure of testifying before the Council's Technology in Government Committee about the citywide IT strategic direction, which was the first step in developing *PlanIT*.

With an overarching theme of customer service, *PlanIT* contains 23 strategic technology initiatives across all of the City's six mission areas: Economic Development and Sustainability, Public Safety, Social Services, Education, Community Services and City Infrastructure, Citywide Administration and Legal Affairs.

PlanIT also includes nine foundational technology programs, ensuring the IT infrastructure is in place to implement the plan's 23 strategic initiatives. These foundational projects include consolidating and greening the City's data centers, launching the New York City Wireless Network, creating citywide information security policies and standards, and strengthening the City's backup and recovery capabilities.

From the City's public-facing functions to its back-end support systems, PlanIT has one overarching theme: to transform New York City government through the innovative use of technology, making the City more accessible, transparent and accountable as a result. In so doing, we strive to improve customer service for residents, businesses, employees and visitors by providing information and services when and how desired, and eliminating the need to understand how City agencies are organized. The City should be viewed as a single provider of services regardless of how a customer accesses those services, or where they are actually delivered.

I would now like to detail some of these efforts, beginning with DoITT's significant citywide role in building systems and developing technologies used to enhance public safety.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

As part of the overall Emergency Communications Transformation Program (ECTP), a multi-year, multi-agency effort to modernize the City's Emergency 911 System, in 2008 Police Department and Fire Department call takers and dispatchers will move into the completed Public Safety Answering Center (PSAC 1). PSAC 1 will serve as the primary call-taking environment for all of the City's emergency first responders. As a result, NYPD and FDNY staffs who handle emergency calls from the public—people who perform an incredibly important function—will for the first time be seated side-by-side under the same roof and use the same telephone system, greatly improving emergency communication and coordination. The subsequent milestone, for deployment of a unified call-taker function, combining call-taking functions for NYPD and FDNY, is due for completion in March 2009.

As you know, the City is also planning a second Public Safety Answering Center—PSAC 2—to serve as a fully-redundant, load-balanced backup facility. Notably, the Department of Design and Construction has begun the Uniform Land Use Review Process application and a Draft Environmental Impact Study, while proceeding in parallel with preliminary design of the facility. The City anticipates starting construction on PSAC 2 in 2009.

NOTIFY NYC

In conjunction with Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler and the Office of Emergency Management, DoITT is supporting the integrated public notification pilot program known as "NotifyNYC," which launched last December. *NotifyNYC* will enhance the delivery of emergency information and assess the viability of launching a citywide system to disseminate information to the public about emergencies, City services and community events. Accordingly, the City has engaged two vendors to conduct simultaneous, eight-month pilot programs in various neighborhoods¹ using email, SMS text messaging, and—for the less technical—traditional voice messaging.

¹ The communities in Pilot #1 include Lower Manhattan (Battery Park City, Civic Center, Financial District, TriBeCa) and the Rockaways (Rockaway, Far Rockaway). Those in Pilot #2 include southwestern Staten Island and the northeast Bronx (Co-op City and City Island).

THE NEW YORK CITY WIRELESS NETWORK

Another major public safety program is the New York City Wireless Network, or NYCWiN. Last week I testified at a joint City Council oversight hearing on the status of this unprecedented, next-generation mobile network, and for your convenience I have appended my remarks from that hearing to my testimony today. NYCWiN will give first responders high-speed data access to support large file transfers, automatic vehicle location, and full-motion streaming video. It will also support a host of additional public service applications, providing substantial improvements over existing technologies by automating and streamlining time-consuming transactions and processes. Through the network, the City's mobile workforce will have the ability to work from anywhere, at any time, accessing a wealth of data such as agency files, databases, high-resolution photos—or any application otherwise accessible from the worker's office-bound, desktop PC.

NYCWiN is the result of nearly four years of collaboration with the NYPD, FDNY, Office of Emergency Management and Department of Transportation through which we developed robust technical requirements and defined network specifications. After RFP issuance in June 2004, DoITT and its agency partners reviewed responses from some of the country's top systems integrators, completed exhaustive technical evaluations, and selected two vendors to participate in a pilot program to assess which best demonstrated the ability to meet the City's requirements. The result of these efforts was a \$500 million contract with the Northrop Grumman Corporation to build, equip and maintain NYCWiN, and to provide technical support to DoITT, over five-year term. To help fund network build-out, the City also secured roughly \$20 million from the Department of Homeland Security, and is seeking additional Federal funding.

In total, NYCWiN will consist of 400 network sites across the five boroughs, managed from two fully-redundant network operation centers (which have already been completed) protected with 24-hour generator backup power and staffed around the clock with technical support. Unlike commercial wireless networks, NYCWiN is designed specifically for public safety, thus ensuring greater reliability, resiliency and redundancy. It will provide prioritized access for first responder data transfers in the event of an emergency, thereby ensuring the City the ability to manage network traffic, which can otherwise degrade performance.

As to the 400 sites themselves, the vast majority—over 95%—consist of rooftop antennas sited with approval from the Department of Buildings. The remaining sites, fewer than 20 citywide, require additional zoning approval by the Board of Standards and Appeals and/or City Planning Commission. As DoITT proceeds with these sites in particular, we have taken the opportunity to brief a number of Council Members, elected officials and community groups in these districts before submitting BSA and CPC applications. NYCWiN sites are lower-powered and less obtrusive than their counterparts typically used by wireless carriers.

Since January 2007, NYCWiN has been operational throughout lower Manhattan and is now being built throughout the city. Initial launch of the network is scheduled for April, with 95% of the city to be completed by this summer and coverage of the city's entire 322 square miles achieved by year's end. Currently, some 53 applications across 19 agencies are planned or in trial on the network, allowing agencies to evaluate citywide opportunities for programs that run the gamut of the City's key service areas: from public safety to inspectional services, from citywide administration to health and human services. When complete, NYCWiN will provide robust, reliable and resilient data communications, enhancing coordination and ensuring that critical information reaches our mobile workforce, to the benefit of all City agencies and the people they serve.

CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE ADMINISTRATION

Moving now to economic development, as I mentioned earlier DoITT also administers the City's telecommunications and cable television franchises. In Fiscal 2009, we anticipate collecting more than \$100 million in franchise revenues, primarily attributable to cable television. The City's current cable television franchise agreements with Cablevision and Time Warner will expire in October, and the renewal process for these contracts is now underway.

In January and early February, DoITT hosted public hearings in each of the five boroughs to gather consumer feedback on the performance of the City's current franchisees. These hearings attracted over 600 attendees and more than 200 speakers, a majority of whom expressed support for public access programming and identified technical and customer service-related concerns. DoITT is also accepting written comments via the web through NYC.gov and by traditional mail until the end of this month. This public input provides DoITT with valuable insight as we begin renewal discussions with the incumbent cable providers this spring.

Through DoITT, the City is also encouraging cable competition in the New York City marketplace. As you know, pursuant to the City Council's authorizing resolution we are currently in discussions with Verizon about a potential new citywide cable television franchise, and anticipate future discussions with other cable providers, such as RCN.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRANSFORMATION: 3-1-1

As important as DoITT is in ensuring the City's franchisees provide the best quality service to New Yorkers, we are also responsible for the direct provision of a number of public services, most notably 3-1-1, NYC.gov and NYC TV.

This past June the 311 Customer Service Center received its 50 millionth call since inception, and to date has serviced nearly 61 million callers overall (having taken its 60 millionth call on February 15). This coming Tuesday, March 11, 3-1-1 will celebrate its fifth anniversary.

In servicing 15.3 million calls overall in 2007, the 311 Customer Service set a new record for calls handled in one year, surpassing the total call volume in 2006 by 14% and besting the previous-record of 14 million calls handled in 2005. For the first time in its existence, the call center received more than one million calls in every month, averaging nearly 1.3 million every 30 days. Beyond the sheer quantity of calls, however, was the quality with which they were answered: of the more than 8.6 million calls serviced by Call Center Representatives, fully 97% were answered in 30 seconds or less, with an average waiting time of six seconds. For six straight months in fact, from August through January for 160 consecutive days, this service level did not drop below 90%.

This streak of prolonged service excellence is attributable to a number of improvements made at 3-1-1 in the wake of the tornado and heavy thunderstorms the city endured in early August, which resulted in the flooding of subways, highways and severe damage in certain neighborhoods. Over 127,000 calls were made to 3-1-1 on the morning of August 8, 2007, more than three times the average number of calls on a summer weekday. In response to this significant increase in call volume and resultant decrease in service levels, the call center enacted a number of steps to meet these challenges going forward, including increased staffing, better use of automatic messaging and direct routing to City agencies, and improved mobilization of 3-1-1 personnel during emergencies. Incidentally, these preparations also informed our actions as we rolled out the *NotifyNYC* pilot program.

To better gauge the quality of service we provide the public, DoITT is now conducting a 3-1-1 Customer Satisfaction Survey on *NYC.gov*, aimed at assessing callers' views on both the call center and the subsequent work performed by the City agencies in fulfilling service requests. This survey will also capture how our callers perceive the level of service they receive and help identify areas for improvement.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRANSFORMATION: *NYC.GOV*

Also, as part of *PlantIT*, "3-1-1 on the Web" is envisioned as a means of providing a new choice to New Yorkers by allowing them to manage their interactions with 3-1-1 through *NYC.gov*. The goal is to have a fully-complimentary approach, offering access to City services and information across both channels.

Accordingly, since January customers can now visit *NYC.gov* to enter the service request number of a previously-filed 3-1-1 complaint where they will be provided with the status of that service request (SR), including the date created, type of request, request details, the borough and address of the incident, the status of the service request, and the last time the request was updated by the servicing agency. All 311 service requests filed over the past 45 days are available. To date, the 3-1-1 SR Lookup page has had over 24,000 visits and more than 110,000 page views.

Also in the next month, DoITT is planning a pilot to allow New Yorkers and visitors alike to submit pictures and video to 3-1-1 and *NYC.gov* for certain types of quality of life concerns. Customers will be able to submit images to 3-1-1 about broken parking meters, street signs and parks conditions by calling 3-1-1 and receiving a link that can be used to upload their images through *NYC.gov*. Pictures and video will also be accepted directly through *NYC.gov* to provide valuable information related to graffiti, traffic signs, street, highway and sidewalk construction, lot cleaning requests and public pay telephone complaints.

Elsewhere on *NYC.gov*, DoITT continues to leverage the Internet to make City government more accessible, transparent, and accountable:

- o The ***Doing Business Accountability Project*** is a unified database to track entities and their executives that do business with the City of New York, as well as provide an interface allowing the public to access this database. Now available on *NYC.gov*, over the next year this project will expand to include information about land use, real property transactions, contract proposals, grant recipients, and economic development agreements and pension funds;
- o The ***e-Lobbyist*** application enables lobbyist clients to file their annual reports, which include a full accounting of expenses paid to lobbyists throughout the year, as required by legislation passed in May 2006. It replaces the fully paper-based, manual process managed by the City Clerk's Office. In 2008, enhancements will be completed to enable better integration with the Doing Business Accountability solution;
- o ***Citywide Performance Reporting (CPR)***, announced by Mayor Bloomberg last month, provides City agencies with the enhanced management information tools needed to better anticipate demand and manage operational performance, both at 3-1-1 and at an agency level. CPR includes 500 hundred "critical" outcome measures, more than 200 of which are being reported for the first time, and all of which will be updated and posted monthly on *NYC.gov*, making it easily accessible to all City agencies, elected officials, community groups, and the public.

THE CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

As to website development and hosting—a service DoITT provides to all City agencies—we were pleased to launch the redesigned, NYC.gov-hosted New York City Council website in early December, featuring custom TeamSite templates and workflow and allowing the Council's central staff, and the 51 Council Member offices, to manage content in their respective areas. The site connects seamlessly to Council-hosted databases to facilitate legislative searches, and also includes integration with DoITT's GIS functionality to allow the public to locate their Council Member by address. We have received positive feedback from the Speaker and other Council Members about these efforts.

As you know, DoITT also maintains an ongoing, active relationship with the City's Community Boards, meeting with Chair Brewer and district managers each quarter to discuss both the Local Law 47 reports and related matters of interest to them. As with other City agencies, DoITT also offers the Community Boards email and website hosting services, as well as desktop and network support. To date, we have built and host five community board websites on NYC.gov, with a half-dozen more currently in the works. We also worked closely with the boards on the latest "3-1-1 on the Web" functionality, having piloted and tested with several of them the Service Request Lookup functionality prior to public launch.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRANSFORMATION: ENHANCED 3-1-1 INITIATIVE

While 3-1-1 and the growth of NYC.gov have been among Mayor Bloomberg's most enduring and successful accomplishments, we have been working to move 3-1-1 beyond a means of simply accessing City government to serving an important role in helping New Yorkers better their own lives.

The Enhanced 311 Initiative, coordinated under the direction of Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs involves expanding 3-1-1 to include access to comprehensive human services information and referral (I&R). By leveraging the infrastructure of the 3-1-1 environment, the City will be able to apprise callers of an even wider array of services provided by government agencies and community-based organizations. The first phase of E-311 included the consolidation of the Department for the Aging's I&R Unit in November 2006. This has led to 3-1-1 playing a critical role in expanding services for the city's aging population.

Also, this past November, 3-1-1 began offering enhanced services for people in need of food when the City's Food and Hunger Hotline was consolidated into the call center. Through this new service, trained specialists speak with callers about their particular needs and inform them of the locations and hours of convenient food programs—while also apprising them of various nutritional programs, green markets and other food-based services.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRANSFORMATION: HHS CONNECT

However, the City's efforts to improve access to human services using technology go beyond 3-1-1. In order to improve information sharing across the City's health and human services agencies, the City has created a new Health and Human Services Office, known as "HHS Connect." Reporting to Deputy Mayor Gibbs and housed at DoITT, HHS Connect oversees and coordinates the development of a common case management system across HHS agencies to create a more client-centric approach to service delivery, increase the accessibility of information, and maximize the use of modern technologies.

A significant part of HHS Connect is ACCESS NYC, an NYC.gov application customers can use to be screened and begin the process of applying for food stamps or school meals. Eventually, if they so choose, residents will only have to provide their information once, regardless of the program for which they are applying. The system will grow to provide online pre-screening, eligibility, verification, enrollment and case management tools that can be utilized across City agencies. Since its launch in October 2006, approximately 180,000 New Yorkers have used ACCESS NYC for information about 35 different City, State and Federal benefit programs, creating more than 8,700 pre-populated applications and nearly 3,500 accounts on the system.

CITYWIDE CONTRACTS SAVINGS

I will conclude by emphasizing a recent agency accomplishment aimed at significantly reducing the cost of software and contributing to the City's overall efforts to reduce the cost of municipal government.

As you know, DoITT has pioneered the development of citywide contracts, enabling the City to leverage its considerable size and purchasing power to ensure significant cost savings for IT goods and services. As a result of a recent citywide aggregate purchasing agreement between DoITT and a major software vendor, the City is expected to avoid spending more than \$11 million over five years on purchases of software licenses; indeed, what would have cost the City a total of \$24.4 million will now be reduced to \$13.3 million. When added to similar previous agreements, such as the contract negotiated in 2006 for citywide voice and data services, the City can expect ongoing annual efficiencies of more than \$20 million. While these savings are not directly reflected in our agency budget, they demonstrate DoITT's commitment to help do more with less in a time of fiscal restraint.

Thank you for your time this afternoon. We would now be pleased to address any questions you may have.

**Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications
Testimony before the City Council Committees on
Fire and Criminal Justice Services, Public Safety, and Technology in Government
Oversight – Implementation Status of the New York City Wireless Network
Monday, February 25, 2008**

Good morning Chairpersons Brewer, Martinez and Vallone, and members of the City Council Committees on Technology in Government, Fire and Criminal Justice Services, and Public Safety. My name is Paul Cosgrave, Commissioner of the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, or DoITT. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the New York City Wireless Network. When complete, this network will represent a truly historic and unprecedented enhancement to the administration of both public safety and public service across the City of New York. Joining me today is Chief Thomas Gangone from the New York City Police Department, Chief of Communications John Coloe from the Fire Department, and Deputy Commissioner Henry Jackson from the Office of Emergency Management. As you know, the City's public safety agencies are major beneficiaries of this network, and these agency representatives are here to answer questions you may have about their plans to utilize this technology.

New York City has made substantial improvements in communications technology for first responders during the Bloomberg Administration. In describing these improvements, however, it is important to first distinguish between traditional voice communication, achieved through radios used by public safety personnel, and data communication—the subject of today's hearing—which will be greatly enhanced by the New York City Wireless Network.

Nearly four years ago, DoITT issued a Request for Proposals aimed at addressing the City's critical need for a high-speed network to provide advanced, interoperable data communications among and across key agencies. In developing this RFP, the City embarked on a collaborative process of developing robust technical requirements and defined network specifications that included the Police Department, Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, the Department of Transportation, and DoITT. After issuing the RFP in March 2004, this committee reviewed responses from some of the country's top systems integrators, held vendor presentations, completed exhaustive technical evaluations, and selected two vendors to participate in a pilot program to assess which best demonstrated the ability to meet the City's requirements.

The result of these efforts, announced by Mayor Bloomberg in September, 2006 was the selection of the Northrop Grumman Corporation to build the New York City Wireless Network, or NYCWiN. To build, equip and maintain NYCWiN, and to provide technical support to DoITT, the City awarded Northrop Grumman a five-year, \$500 million contract. To help fund network build-out, the City also secured roughly \$20 million from the Department of Homeland Security.

The most aggressive commitment by any municipality in the country to provide a next-generation public safety network, NYCWiN will give first responders high-speed data access to support large file transfers, including federal and state anti-crime and anti-terrorism databases, fingerprints, mug shots, city maps, automatic vehicle location, and full-motion streaming video. A fully-interoperable, IP-based network, NYCWiN will enhance coordination by linking first responder personnel, on-scene, with incident managers at remote sites through real-time data and video feeds.

As significant as NYCWiN will be in enhancing public safety, its role in improving the daily delivery of non-emergency City services will also be transformative. NYCWiN will support a range of additional public service applications, providing substantial improvements over existing technologies for the City's mobile workforce by automating and streamlining time-consuming transactions and processes. Through NYCWiN, the City's mobile workforce will have the ability to work from anywhere, at any time, accessing a wealth of data such as agency files, databases, high-resolution photos—or any application otherwise accessible from the worker's office-bound, desktop PC.

Since January 2007, NYCWiN has been operational throughout lower Manhattan—the area below Canal Street, river-to-river—and is now being built throughout the city. Initial launch of the network is scheduled for April, at which point approximately 70% of the City's police precincts and fire houses will be encompassed within the service area. By this summer, the service area will have expanded to include over 95% of the City, with full coverage for the city's entire 322 square miles achieved by year's end. On the attached map, the shaded yellow region represents the area of the city covered at initial network launch in April; light green, the portions added by this summer; and dark green, the citywide implementation by year's end.

In total, NYCWiN will consist of 400 network sites across the five boroughs, managed from two fully-redundant network operation centers (which have already been completed) protected with 24-hour generator backup power, linked via multiple diverse fiber circuits, and staffed around the clock with technical support from the vendor. From an agency perspective, DoITT will be dedicating nine staff members to full-time operational support of City agencies running applications on the network. Unlike commercial networks, NYCWiN is designed for greater reliability, resiliency and redundancy. It will provide prioritized access for first responder data transfers in the event of an emergency, thereby ensuring the City the ability to manage network traffic, which can otherwise degrade performance.

As to the 400 sites themselves, the vast majority—over 95%—consist of rooftop antennas sited with approval from the Department of Buildings. The remaining sites, fewer than 20 citywide, require additional zoning approval by the Board of Standards and Appeals and/or City Planning Commission, due to the need for unipoles to achieve appropriate coverage in certain neighborhoods. As DoITT proceeds with these sites in particular, we have taken the opportunity to meet and brief a number of Council Members, elected officials and community groups in these districts to gather input before submitting BSA and CPC applications. NYCWiN sites are lower-powered and less obtrusive than their counterparts typically used by wireless carriers.

In advance of April's initial launch—and since the network first became operational in lower Manhattan early last year—we have been working with our agency partners to test a variety of public safety and public service applications on the network. As a result of this testing and our close collaboration with City agencies, the first devices will be ready for deployment on NYCWiN following launch in April. These include wireless vehicle modems for the NYPD, FDNY and OEM, wireless traffic control modems for DOT, and handheld units for agencies conducting enforcement and inspection activities in the field. In addition, wireless cards will be available to all City agencies for use by their mobile staff in accessing agency systems remotely via NYCWiN. Currently, some 53 applications across 19 agencies are planned or in trial on the network, allowing agencies to evaluate citywide opportunities for programs that run the gamut of the City's key service areas: from public safety to inspectional services, from citywide administration to health and human services.

As it relates to public safety, for example, the network will enhance emergency response, command and control, and situational awareness capabilities by enabling real-time access to vital information. NYCWiN will enable police officers to access real-time photo, warrant, and license plate databases, for the identification of suspects in criminal investigations, and enhance access for detective units to the NYPD Real Time Crime Center. In addition, mobile cameras can operate on the network and be tied back to existing command centers to support, for example, the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative. NYCWiN can also support wireless emergency call boxes for the public to summon emergency responders when needed. These self-contained, IP-based phone boxes, operated by solar battery power, are intended for deployment in areas without access to wired telephony or commercial power.

Through NYCWiN, the Fire Department will be able to establish reliable, wireless connectivity between its Operations Center and responders in the field to transmit on-scene data and full-motion streaming video, and provide remote access to operating procedures, maps and other geographic information.

Another type of application supported by NYCWiN is Automatic Vehicle Location, or AVL technology. As you know, this technology has already been installed in nearly 1,100 fire trucks and ambulances citywide—contributing to decreased ambulance response times—and the network will further enhance these systems by providing real-time map and database updates.

By also allowing for the expansion of AVL technology to the vehicles of other City agencies, NYCWiN can help attain more efficient fleet management and increased safety for field workers. For example, the Department of Sanitation is currently using the network to pilot the use of AVL technology in more than 50 collection, supervisory and salt-spreading vehicles in DSNY's Queens 8 District. Moreover, as mentioned by Mayor Bloomberg in his *State of the City Address* last month, we are currently working with the Department of Education to explore the use of AVL technology in City school buses to help measure on-time performance and keep track of the fleet. Other agencies planning to install AVL technology utilizing NYCWiN include the Departments of Correction, Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Administration for Children's Services.

In addition, a number of public service agencies will be utilizing NYCWiN at launch to more efficiently conduct inspections and various maintenance activities in the field. For instance, with the Department of Environmental Protection, we are coordinating citywide rollout of an Automated Meter Reading system, or AMR. Implementation of this technology comes on the heels of a pilot project conducted on the meters of 800 homes in lower Manhattan and Brooklyn Community Board 1, and will be more efficient than conventional methods of water meter reading. This technology will also improve customer service by increasing actual read rates, providing customers with better consumption information, and detecting potential water leaks. Other agencies rolling out handheld devices on NYCWiN include the Departments of Buildings, Health and Mental Hygiene, and the New York City Housing Authority.

Finally, the Department of Transportation is utilizing NYCWiN to enable its Wireless Traffic Signal Control program, which through the use of wireless modems will expand the City's ability to remotely monitor and program traffic signal controls, both on a daily basis and during emergency events. NYCWiN will provide secure, redundant and reliable transmission of incident information—including photos and video—and further enable DOT to ensure that lights remain in sync, ease congestion, and improve response times to traffic signal control and maintenance issues.

Beginning with the April launch of NYCWiN, DOT will be installing 2,400 of these wireless traffic control modems throughout the City over the next year, and plans to eventually equip all the City's intersections with NYCWiN-enabled modems.

As we implement the network citywide, we are also conducting demonstrations and briefings for various elected officials and agencies to apprise them of NYCWiN's capabilities. Included in these have been:

- o Workshops for City agencies to review NYCWiN's capabilities and strategize about options for migration to the network, including demonstrating devices that receive broadcast alerts, streaming video, and provide access to agency systems as well as the City's intranet;
- o A demonstration of NYCWiN's capabilities in lower Manhattan in December for the United States Department of Homeland Security's Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security and Telecommunications. The Assistant Secretary was pleased with what he saw in New York City, and the meeting fostered excellent exchange of information with DHS about the City's wireless initiatives; and
- o Demonstrations and briefings for several Council Members and their staffs, which we would be pleased to extend to all Council Members.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. As you can imagine, my colleagues citywide and I very much anticipate the launch of NYCWiN in the coming months. When complete, this system will provide robust, reliable and resilient data communications, enhancing coordination and ensuring that critical information reaches our mobile workforce, to the benefit of all City agencies and the people they serve.

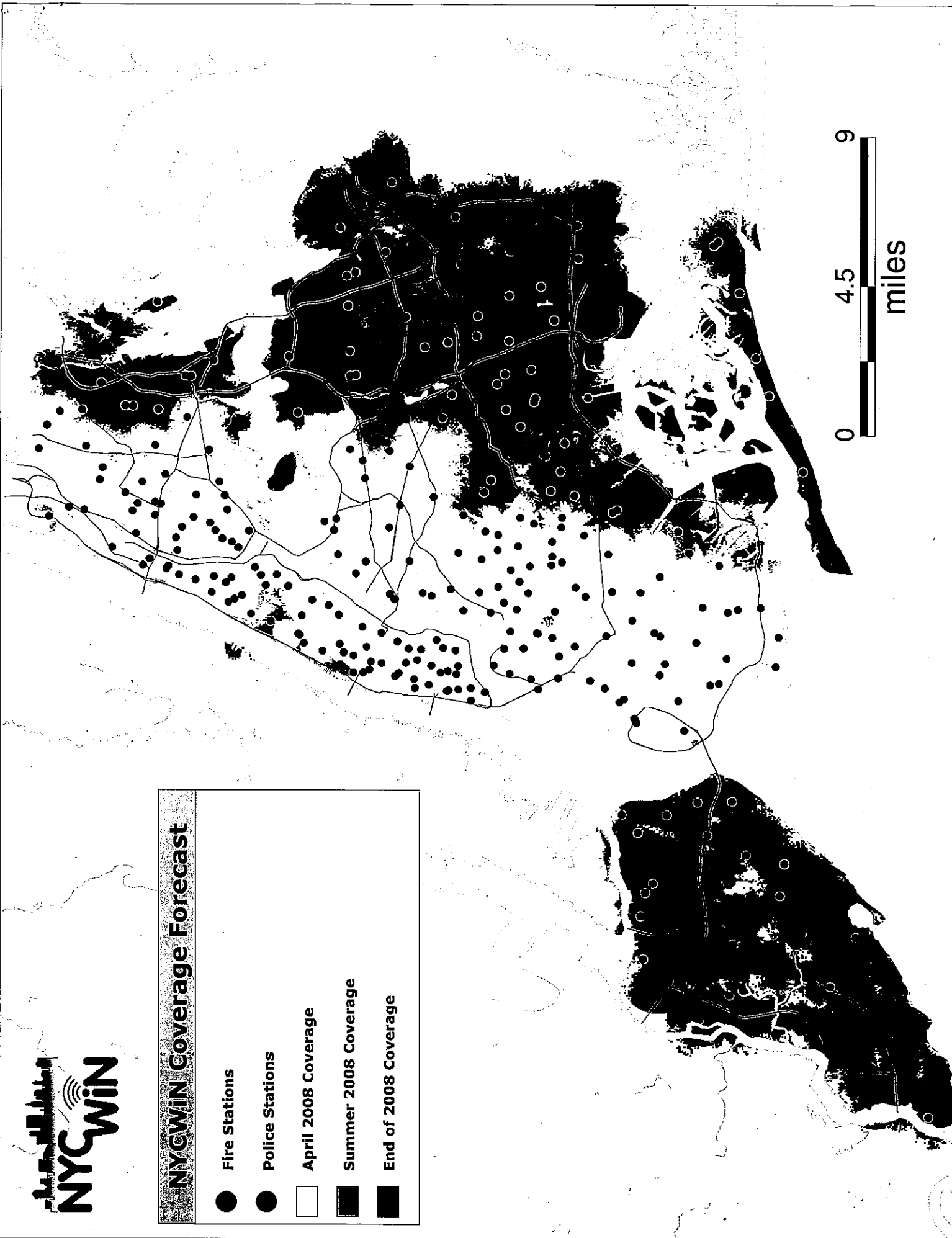
Thank you for your support of this important initiative. We welcome your feedback and comments, and would now be pleased to address any questions you may have.

Thank you.



NYCWIN Coverage Forecast

- Fire Stations
- Police Stations
- April 2008 Coverage
- Summer 2008 Coverage
- End of 2008 Coverage



**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT B. TIERNEY, LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION CHAIR, BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL LAND USE COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 2008**

Good morning Chairwoman Katz and Honorable Councilmembers. I am Bob Tierney, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before your Committee about the Commission and its FY 2009 preliminary budget.

As you know, the Landmarks Commission is the city agency responsible for identifying and protecting the city's historical, architectural and cultural heritage. The Commission carries out its mission by designating individual landmarks, interior landmarks, scenic landmarks and historic districts; and by regulating proposed work on buildings under our jurisdiction. To date, the Commission has designated 1,182 individual landmarks and 90 historic districts, with 12 district extensions. With all of our designations this past fiscal year, I am proud to say we now have more than 25,000 buildings designated throughout New York City.

Our Fiscal 2009 budget is approximately \$4.3 million dollars, with \$3.75 million in city funds and \$589,000 in community development funds. Although the Landmarks Commission is one of the smaller New York City agencies, we remain the largest municipal preservation agency in the country, with a total of 68 staff members.

First, I want to thank you all for the additional \$300,000 we received from the Council this past fiscal year. This money, which was increased from the initial \$250,000 we received in FY2007, allowed our survey team to continue its invaluable work and also enabled us to hire one more member of our Preservation staff. Both our Research and Preservation departments are at the largest they have been in more than a decade, and as a result, we have had a very successful year.

Let me give a report on our survey work to date and take you through the process. Since September 2006, when the additional staff came on board, the Commission has surveyed more than 19,000 buildings in all five boroughs. Senior staff and the Research Department determine the areas to be surveyed based on its own knowledge and expertise about the city's historic areas, requests from the public, elected officials, preservation groups, and other interested parties, as

well as the need to update previous surveys conducted by the Landmarks Commission staff. Many of the areas we have surveyed have been in Queens, including the neighborhoods of Addisleigh Park, Ridgewood, Flushing, the northeastern section of Queens and potential individual landmarks in downtown Jamaica. We have also surveyed Prospect Heights, Alice and Agate Courts, and Fillmore Place in Brooklyn; Harrison Street and Vanderbilt Avenue on the north shore of Staten Island; the Lower East Side and midtown Manhattan, from 14th Street to 57th Street, river to river, and the Art Deco buildings along the Grand Concourse and the Hub in the Bronx.

These surveys are the first step in the Commission's review of a particular neighborhood or individual building. More importantly, they serve as planning tools that enable us to establish priorities and set goals. In the case of large areas that we're studying for potential historic district designation, the staff takes streetscape photographs and drafts recommendations for district boundaries. For proposed individual landmarks, the survey staff collects basic information, including the construction date, style, architect and any other relevant information and takes a new photograph of the building. The Research Department reviews every building and presents their recommendations to me and the senior staff so that I can determine what may move forward in the designation process.

Beyond the increased survey capacity, the expansion of the staff in the Research Department has had the immediate effect of increasing the number of buildings we've designated. Last fiscal year, we granted landmark status to 1,158 buildings across the City, which is the highest number of designations for any single year since 1990. Included in this list are the designations of several important historic districts outside Manhattan, notably Sunnyside Gardens in Queens and Crown Heights North in Brooklyn.

In this fiscal year we have already designated 21 individual landmarks and two historic districts, and we expect many more designations over the next four months. As many of you know, two of my goals as Chairman have been to increase the number of historic districts outside Manhattan, and to protect examples of the City's remarkable industrial heritage. We have

continued to do both since I testified before you last year and let me highlight just a few of these designations.

In Brooklyn, we have made great strides in protecting the City's industrial heritage, particularly along the waterfront. Just a few months ago, we designated the Filter House, Pan House and Finishing House of the Domino Sugar Factory complex in Williamsburg and the Eberhard Faber Pencil Company Historic District in Greenpoint. In December, we designated a historic district in DUMBO, a neighborhood that helped establish Brooklyn as the nation's fourth largest manufacturing center in the late 19th century through the first decades of the 20th century. In addition to Brooklyn's industrial buildings, we plan to vote shortly on the Fiske Terrace-Midwood Park district, a planned development of approximately 250 Colonial Revival and Shingle Style houses constructed during the first two decades of the twentieth century.

In Queens, the Commission designated the Jamaica Savings Bank on Jamaica Avenue, an exuberant Beaux-Arts style building designed for the oldest and most prestigious banking institution in Jamaica. We also designated Congregation Tifereth Israel, a rare, early synagogue in Corona; and the Voelker Orth Museum -- a picturesque house in Flushing. In addition, we have started the outreach process for a small extension to the Douglaston Historic District, which includes 21 buildings that contribute to the historic and architectural character of this important commuter suburb.

In the Bronx, we designated the American Bank Note Building, an important industrial symbol for the American Bank Note Company, which was the leading producer of money, securities and other types of printed and engraved products. We also designated the interior and exterior of the Crotona Play Center, one of seven WPA pools designated since 2006.

In Manhattan, the Commission designated the Manhattan Avenue Historic District, a cohesive enclave of forty rowhouses designed in Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles, built during a five year period, from 1885 to 1890. We also designated several Federal style rowhouses in lower Manhattan as part of our ongoing effort to protect the city's very early heritage. And of course we can't forget the modernist buildings like Manhattan House on the

Upper East Side. Considered to be the first white brick building and home to notable residents like Grace Kelly and Benny Goodman, it remains to this day, one of the most distinguished examples of housing built in New York City since the Second World War. Going forward, we're going to hold a hearing on another modernist icon, Silver Towers, and begin the designation process for the proposed West Chelsea Historic District.

And finally, in Staten Island, the Commission designated the Standard Varnish Works building, which was once part of the largest varnish works complex in the country; 103 Circle Road, a Greek Revival style mansion that was moved to the Island from Enfield, Massachusetts; and 190 Meisner Avenue, a villa on Lighthouse Hill.

At the same time that our Research Department has been working on surveys and historical research, our Preservation Department has been meeting the challenge of greater economic activity in the city by issuing permits at a record pace for work on designated buildings. Last fiscal year, in fact, we issued a record 9,800 permits. That figure has almost doubled since the mid-1990s and we are on target to set a new record this year.

As we allow buildings to grow to meet modern needs, we have been helping the City realize its plan to make a greener, more sustainable city by encouraging the adaptive reuse of landmarked buildings. Some of the highlights of our regulatory process include approvals for the adaptive reuse of several long-vacant waterfront buildings such as the Battery Maritime Building in lower Manhattan, the Administration Building in the Snug Harbor Cultural Center in Staten Island, and a barracks building on Governor's Island, which will become a campus for Brooklyn's Harbor School. In the Bronx, the Commission also approved the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Lion House at the Bronx Zoo for its new Madagascar exhibit.

Also on the regulatory side, the Commission has been issuing permits expeditiously for owners in Sunnyside Gardens. Since designation in June 2007, we have issued more than 40 permits, with about 90% issued at staff level pursuant to our Rules and the other 10% approved by the full Commission at a public hearing. The permits approved at staff level were issued, on average, in less than a week from the time we receive a completed application. We have been working with

Councilman Gioia's office to schedule office hours this spring to expand our ongoing outreach efforts to the community.

We have been expanding our outreach efforts to other landmarked communities throughout the city as well. We've had countless meetings with owners to let them know of their rights and responsibilities as owners of landmarked buildings and the importance of working with the Commission to obtain the necessary approvals before proceeding with work on their buildings. We continue to improve and update our website to make the filing process easier for homeowners. Users can download the Commission's Rules, public hearing and public meeting agendas, application forms, instructions for filing, and get information about what materials will need to be submitted in order to obtain a permit. We have also embarked upon a \$1.5 million capital project that will upgrade existing internal databases and integrate them into one user-friendly database that will include digitized versions of essential LPC records. This unified system will significantly increase the efficiency of Landmarks staff and improve the public's access to critical historical and regulatory information concerning the more than 25,000 landmarked properties in the City. We started this project in November 2007, and expect its completion by the summer of 2009.

Another great program I want to bring to your attention to is the Commission's Historic Preservation Grant Program, which is a great benefit for landmarked property owners. Funded through Community Development Block Grants, this program offers grants and matching grants to low and moderate income homeowners and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations to help to restore or repair the exterior of their landmarked buildings. The average grant is \$20,000 and preference is given to owners who use other funds along with the grant to restore their building. This fiscal year, projects funded by the Grant Program include the restoration and adaptive reuse of the chapel at Prospect Cemetery, spearheaded by the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation; the roof restoration of the Merchants House on East 4th Street; and the restoration of the community center for a low income housing development at 745 Fox Street in the Longwood Historic District in the Bronx. We have also earmarked \$90,000 for several low-income homeowner restoration projects including two projects in the newly designated Crown Heights

North Historic District. The Commission's Grant Program staff works closely with the grant recipients to help move projects along and spend the funds in an efficient manner.

Finally, the agency continues to enforce the Landmarks Law aggressively. Our Enforcement Department investigated 564 complaints in the first eight months of this fiscal year. In this same time period we have issued 753 warning letters, 178 Notices of Violation and 41 Stop Work Orders. Approximately two-thirds of the warning letters result in owners applying expeditiously to the Commission to address their violations. As some of you may remember, several years ago the Council passed and Mayor Bloomberg signed the Demolition by Neglect Law, which has greatly enhanced the Commission's enforcement capabilities. We've had our first major success as a result of this legislation. In January 2006, the Commission initiated a lawsuit against the owner of 135 Joralemon Street, a Federal-style house in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District. Because of the diligent work of our staff and the new owner, the building has been saved and completely restored. Next month, the building will receive a Lucy Moses Award from the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

What's particularly remarkable is that all of this activity has taken place against the backdrop of one of the most robust periods of growth the City has ever seen. In fact, I believe it proves that moving our City forward and preserving its great heritage are by no means mutually exclusive. They can, and they do, go hand in hand.

I would like to thank you all again for your continued support of the Landmarks Commission. Through your efforts, you have enabled us to continue our mission of designating and protecting New York City's historic resources. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.