

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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October 30, 2008

Start: 10:25am

Recess: 12:25pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:

KENDALL STEWART  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Barron  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Mathieu Eugene  
Annabel Palma  
David I. Weprin

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

Guillermo Linares  
Commissioner  
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Joseph Salvo  
Director of the Population Division  
New York City Department of City Planning

Peter Cheng  
Director  
Indochina Sino-American Community Center

Njoya Hilary Tikum  
African Services Committee

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Good morning.

My name is Kendall Stewart and I am the Chair of the City Council's Committee on Immigration. I would like to recognize my colleagues Council Member Barron from Brooklyn and Council Member Mark-Viverito from Manhattan.

Today's hearing will focus on the shifting demographic trends in the city's immigration populations. New York City is incredibly diverse with people from all over the nation and the world. As of the 2000 Census, there were approximately 8,000,000 city residents. Approximately 3,000,000 of those residents were immigrants. Many things happen however these things have been changing since 2000. Whether it be changes abroad or here in the U.S., people regardless of citizenship status are adjusting to these changes.

We would like to know how these changes have impacted our local immigration population. As the immigrant population has grown, groups moved out of certain parts of the city and into other areas. And if so, what is the cause of that movement. We have testifying before

1  
2 us today the Commissioner Linares from the Office  
3 of the Mayor and also we have Mr. Joseph Salvo  
4 from the New York City Planning. I notice there  
5 are three people sitting there but I'm not too  
6 sure. You'll introduce him. Without further a  
7 due, we would like to start. So I will ask--I  
8 don't know if my colleagues have any opening  
9 statements or would like to make a statement.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I would  
11 just like to say that just to put immigration in  
12 perspective, I know it's a major, major issue.  
13 This is probably totally irrelevant to what's  
14 going to be said here today. But I just find it  
15 ironic that all of this question of immigration is  
16 done by our people who really are the immigrants,  
17 so called majority society, who really immigrated  
18 here. Then when it comes to some of the very  
19 indigenous people of this land, they become the  
20 immigrants.

21 When people try to reunite their  
22 families and try to get services, immigrants  
23 surely pay billions and billions of dollars in  
24 taxes and provide a lot of services. Yet when we  
25 look at the budget, it's not a priority for the

1  
2 Mayor, for the Governor and for the people in this  
3 country because the budgets to do the work around  
4 immigration is usually very, very skimpy to say  
5 the least. So I just thought I'd throw that out  
6 there as a preamble to what happens today. Thank  
7 you.

8 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: So without  
9 further a due, if you would please identify  
10 yourself and you may begin.

11 GUILLERMO LINARES: Good morning  
12 Chairman Stewart. To my right is Deputy  
13 Commissioner, Eric Paulino of my office and he is  
14 joining us this morning. I'd like to say good  
15 morning to you Mr. Chairman and the members of the  
16 Immigration Committee and the City Council that  
17 are here with us today.

18 My name is Guillermo Linares and I  
19 am Commissioner for the Mayor's Office of  
20 Immigrant Affairs. I would like to thank you for  
21 giving me the opportunity to come before you today  
22 to discuss the immigration population trends that  
23 comprise our great city. To update you on the  
24 work of my office, the Office of Immigrant  
25 Affairs, has been doing to assist immigrant New

1  
2       Yorkers integrate into the social, economic and  
3       cultural landscape of the city.

4                 Let me begin by sharing with you  
5       the role of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant  
6       Affairs. In 2001 New York City voters passed a  
7       referendum establishing permanently the Office of  
8       Immigrant Affairs within the Office of the Mayor.  
9       Building on its core mandate, the Mayor's Office  
10      of Immigrant Affairs promotes the well being of  
11      immigrant communities by recommending policies and  
12      programs that help facilitate successful  
13      integration of immigrant New Yorkers. The  
14      Office's core mission is to promote the full and  
15      active participation of immigrants in the civic,  
16      social and economic life of New York City.

17                The Office serves as the bridge  
18      connecting immigrant New Yorkers with city  
19      agencies and services. Our work is not done  
20      single handedly but in collaboration with leaders  
21      within immigrant communities, civic leaders,  
22      advocates, city officials and other key  
23      stakeholders such as yourselves, working together  
24      to address the needs of the immigrants in New York  
25      City. The work undertaken by the MOIA is truly

significant when you consider the city demographics.

I have the great pleasure of being joined today by Joe Salvo, with whom I work very closely, the Director of the Population Division of the New York City Department of City Planning. He will provide the members of the City Council with a thorough overview of the demographic makeup of immigrants in New York City, the city which has one of the largest immigrant population than any city in the United States.

But let me lead by providing the members of the Council a broad overview of the city's expansive immigration population. According to the 2000 Census, there are 3 million foreign born persons living in the city, which makes up almost 40% of the city's entire population. When you account for the children of the foreign born population in the city, that figure rises to two-thirds of the city's residents. And approximately 45% of the city workforce is foreign born. Thus the participation of immigrants is critical to the success and vitality of our city. I'll let Joe, who is an

expert in the field, provide you with more detailed information about the integration and population changes in New York City.

As a result of a sizeable number of recent arrivals to New York City, integration has become an important issue in bringing about sustained inclusion of the different groups that populate the city. We believe that local government plays a critical role in developing policies that support immigrant communities and respond to their distinct needs as they integrate into the new environment.

During the past four years, our office has advanced a number of important initiatives to promote access to city services and to encourage New York City residents, no matter the language they speak, the immigration status they hold or the country in which they were born, to become more fully engaged in the city's economic, social and cultural life.

One way in which the administration has sought to increase access is to the city's private policy, Executive Orders 34 and 41, otherwise referred to as Don't Ask, Don't Tell. A



1  
2 policy meant to promote access to city services of  
3 all New Yorkers by protecting the privacy of a  
4 wide range of information belonging to people.  
5 According to the Executive Order, city workers  
6 must protect the confidentiality of a broad range  
7 of information belonging to people seeking city  
8 services, including the person's immigration  
9 status.

10                   There are many city services and  
11 programs that are available to immigrants  
12 regardless of their status. However, fear of  
13 having their status disclosed to federal  
14 authorities may impede a newcomer from accessing  
15 vital services and hinder his or her ability to  
16 successfully integrate into their new environment.  
17 The privacy assurances set out by the Executive  
18 Order helps ease the fear which increases the  
19 likelihood that our newest New Yorkers will avail  
20 themselves of city services and benefits that they  
21 may be entitled to.

22                   Another initiative meant to  
23 increase access to service is through a provision  
24 of language assistance services. 3-1-1 is a  
25 signature achievement with this administration in

1 providing access to city services to all New  
2 Yorkers including those who are limited in  
3 English. As you already know, 3-1-1 is New York  
4 City's phone number for government information and  
5 non-emergency services, which allows customers to  
6 call one easy to remember number in order to  
7 receive information and access the city government  
8 services.  
9

10 All calls to 3-1-1 are answered by  
11 a live operator 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.  
12 And each caller has immediate access to  
13 translation services in over 170 languages. In  
14 recent months the system has been enhanced to  
15 offer comprehensive and simplified access to  
16 information and referrals to an array of social  
17 service providers, through a well established 3-1-  
18 1 call center.

19 The Office of Immigrant Affairs has  
20 been working on language access initiatives for a  
21 number of years, providing language access,  
22 guidance and technical assistance to targeted  
23 agencies so they can more effectively serve and  
24 communicate with limited English proficient New  
25 Yorkers. In 2003, Mayor Bloomberg signed Local

1  
2 Law 73, also known as the Equal Access to Human  
3 Service Law. This city law strengthened language  
4 access services for limited English proficient  
5 individuals seeking vital health and human  
6 services. My office has worked with the four key  
7 agencies and social services that implement their  
8 language access plan.

9 In 2005, Mayor Bloomberg delegated  
10 the Office of Immigrant Affairs to convene an  
11 inter-agency task force on language access in  
12 order to strengthen access to city services. This  
13 task force has represented from over 30 agencies  
14 and convened regularly to explore best practices  
15 to provide meaningful access to city limited  
16 English proficient in immigrant populations. The  
17 active participation of agencies in the task force  
18 help lay the ground work for my office's most  
19 recent achievement, Executive Order 120, signed by  
20 the Mayor in July 22, 2008.

21 The Executive Order is meant to  
22 enhance public access for people considered  
23 limited English by providing language access  
24 services. The passage of this Executive Order is  
25 testament of the administration's commitment of

1  
2 serving immigrant communities and strengthening  
3 their language access services. Currently, my  
4 office is in partnership with the Mayor's Office  
5 of Operations to work with city agencies in  
6 developing their language access implementation  
7 plan as mandated by the Executive Order.

8 In conclusion, the Office of the  
9 Mayor will continue to build upon these and other  
10 initiatives through partnerships with city  
11 agencies, immigrant communities and the City  
12 Council and other stakeholders. I thank you for  
13 allowing me the opportunity to appear before you  
14 today and provide you with an overview of the  
15 initiatives put forward to advance access to all  
16 New Yorkers, including the newest New Yorkers.

17 I look forward to working with your  
18 Committee on common goals of supporting immigrants  
19 and welcome any questions you may have at the  
20 conclusion of Mr. Salvo's testimony. Thank you  
21 very much.

22 JOSEPH SALVO: I don't have written  
23 testimony. I have a handout, some charts and  
24 several copies actually. The audience can have a  
25 few. If people could share it, I would appreciate

1  
2 it. We're trying to save our paper, color copies  
3 strain our budget.

4 First off I want to thank you all  
5 for having me here today. Mr. Stewart, Mr.  
6 Barron, Ms. Viverito. I appreciate it very much  
7 that you give me the opportunity to come here and  
8 talk about some of the facts regarding immigration  
9 in New York. As you just heard, Commissioner  
10 Linares pursues a whole variety of strategies for  
11 outreach to the immigrant communities of New York.  
12 We in the Department of City Planning--

13 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: [interposing]  
14 If you don't mind, could you just identify  
15 yourself for the record.

16 MR. SALVO: I'm sorry. I'm Joseph  
17 Salvo, Director of the Population Division at the  
18 New York City Department of City Planning. As I  
19 was saying, Commissioner Linares provides a  
20 variety of services and those services and  
21 outreach to the immigrant communities of New York  
22 are based on a strategy. And that strategy has a  
23 foundation and the foundation that we try to  
24 provide to the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs  
25 and to all the other agencies of this city is a

1 foundation of data, data about the city, who we  
2 are here in the city.

3  
4 We build a picture upon which  
5 policies, programs and outreach are formed. So  
6 what I thought I would offer you today are five or  
7 six observations that I would like to provide you  
8 with so that this could perhaps provide you with  
9 some very relevant context for the decisions that  
10 you have to make frequently on a daily basis.

11 The first observation, on page two  
12 you see a series of bars and a chart. It's called  
13 Estimated Components of Population Change. You  
14 see the top chart there. We always hear about how  
15 New York City relies on its immigrants. This  
16 chart explains why, demographically, that's true.  
17 If you look at the bottom bar, that orange bar on  
18 the bottom you'll see that New York City between  
19 2000 and 2006, in its exchange with the rest of  
20 the nation lost about 800,000 people. That is net  
21 800,000 more left than came in.

22 This has been the case since the  
23 1950s. New York City generally sheds people to  
24 the rest of the nation. It's one of the reasons  
25 when you travel you see there are so many New

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1  
2 seen that we gain population because of that blue  
3 bar we call natural increase. We have close to  
4 400,000 more births than deaths between 2000 and  
5 2006, resulting in an overall population increase  
6 in this period of over 200,000. So you see that  
7 the components that go into our change are quite  
8 varied.

9 I want to focus a minute on the  
10 population that is added through natural increase.  
11 If you go to the next chart underneath, this is  
12 births. Births in 2005 117,000 resident births,  
13 53% of those births were to foreign born mothers.  
14 So not only do immigrants contribute to the growth  
15 of this city through their presence but also  
16 through the fertility through the number of births  
17 that they produce. In fact, if you look at the  
18 top five countries you see that's close to 25% of  
19 all the births in New York City are linked to five  
20 foreign born groups. You see Mexico and the  
21 Dominican Republic on top of that list.

22 This also gives us an indication  
23 which way the city is headed. An increase in  
24 Hispanic population is very likely. If you flip  
25 the page, you go to page three, this will confirm



1 what Commissioner Linares just said. On the  
2 bottom you will see that the city's population of  
3 foreign born has topped 3 million in 2006. It's  
4 getting close to 40% of the total. It is double  
5 what it was in 1970. Think about this. Our  
6 foreign born population would be make the list of  
7 the top five cities of the United States by  
8 itself. The foreign born population rivals  
9 Chicago and Los Angeles. Think about that. Huge  
10 foreign born population in the city, which is  
11 obviously something that we're very proud of.

12  
13 If you flip the page you'll see the  
14 change in composition. This is a hearing about  
15 ethnic composition of New York City's immigrants.  
16 Here it is, 1970 we were largely a European city.  
17 The City of New York was over three-fifths  
18 European white in 1970 and you see the evidence  
19 here, the countries on the left. And today, how  
20 incredible, we are a combination of nations from  
21 all over the world, especially the non-Hispanic  
22 Caribbean, South America, Latin America of course,  
23 Asia, Eastern Europe. All of these countries  
24 coming together in a way that really defies  
25 description and this makes us different from the

rest of the country.

You look at the major cities outside of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, you will see that there are certain groups that dominate the picture. In New York, no group dominates the picture. Groups are all substantial a mix.

If you go to page five, I want to leave you with this chart because this is my division's attempt in one slide to define the population of New York from a standpoint of its ethnic origins. And I just want to highlight a couple of things here. One is the increased presence of the Caribbean influence on the city's Black population. The population with origins in the southern states has been leaving the city for three decades and is being replaced by a Caribbean population. That is no surprise to several people in this room.

At the same time, we have a new African population emerging in places like Hybridge [phonetic] in the Bronx, most heavily from Ghana, places like Gambia and Mali. We think that currently it may be upwards of 8% or 9% of

our total immigration now is from countries of sub-Saharan African.

Look at the Hispanic population here on the lower left, once two-thirds Puerto Rican and now about a third Puerto Rican. You see Dominican, Mexican, our Hispanic population has diversified full tilt. What this means is that this demonstrates what kind of a diverse city we are. But on top of that, what it also shows is that we have many challenges associated with this because we have many groups here with different origins, with different governments, different countries from which they originate.

Finally let me just say the Asian population is still about 47%. It's always been between 40% and 50% Chinese. You see the Asian Indian influence, the Korean influence, Philippino, Pakistani. And not on this list yet and will be very shortly is Bangladesh. Bangladesh has become a major force, top ten source of immigrant to New York City now. If you go into places like in Northern Queens, Astoria, you see that very quickly.

Let me end, I have a few more

1  
2 comments I want to make. again kind of to show you  
3 the foundation for some of the work that the  
4 Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs is doing. If  
5 you flip to page six you'll see that of all  
6 persons five years of age and over in New York  
7 City, close to half speak a language other than  
8 English at home. It's the left side of that pie.  
9 And if you look at how many of those people have  
10 difficulties in English, what you see is that half  
11 of those people who speak a language other than  
12 English at home or close to one quarter of the  
13 city's population, 1.8 million people have  
14 problems with English.

15 As I said earlier because of the  
16 ebb and flow of people, it's not an added  
17 phenomenon. In other words you just don't go out  
18 and offer language classes and then eventually  
19 "solve the problem". You're continuously having  
20 to reinvent strategies because groups are  
21 continuously coming in. Along with our diverse  
22 city and our energy, we have challenges of a  
23 constantly surging groups of foreign born.  
24 Underneath you will see that of that 1.8 million  
25 with English language problems, 910,000 or 51%

Spanish is the primary language. You'll see that's followed by Chinese, Russian, Korean and then Italian. These are the main languages of people who have English language proficiency issues.

Now among the Hispanic population, flip the page please. On page seven you see on top this is of the 910,000 persons whose primary language is Spanish. You will see Dominican, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Ecuadorian is all represented here. The Dominican population out of the 910,000 is 282,000. But look at Puerto Rican, it's still 156,000. We have a group of Puerto Ricans in New York that despite the fact that people have been here for many years still have English language issues. Again, this may be a function of the ebb and flow of people to and from the island.

I just want to end. I included some other material for you to look at but I just want to end with one statement. That is that perhaps we could argue that if we looked at New York City 100 years ago and we look at New York City today that we may be living in a city that is

perhaps at the apex of its diversity. That in effect, 100 years ago New York City was a very diverse place. There were a substantial number of mostly north and western European groups. The Caribbean population was here 100 years ago. The West Indian population was here 100 years ago. And the Great Migration from the south and all of this brought together what was a very diverse city. Perhaps we could argue today that New York City is at the peak and 100 years from now I expect when people look back they'll say to us what a place that must have been, to live in such a diverse place.

So I will be happy to entertain any questions. Again, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: We have been joined by Council Member Mathieu Eugene from Brooklyn. I have some concerns. You've given all these facts and all this information but when we deal with the budget it doesn't look as educating all these immigrants to speak English is a major priority with us in the city based on the allocation that we make for limited English

1  
2 proficient folks. Because if you look at our last  
3 budget, most of the programs for immigration that  
4 we were helping people learn to speak English we  
5 cut it to half. So Commissioner, do you have any  
6 influence on the other side in terms of letting  
7 them know what is happening, if we have to have  
8 this high concentration of people needing English  
9 language, to learn English language.

10 MR. LINARES: Mr. Chairman, allow  
11 me to say good morning to Council Member Barron,  
12 Mark-Viverito and Council Member Eugene and thank  
13 them for being here. Let me try to respond this  
14 way. Clearly, no one disputes the importance of  
15 knowing the English language, particularly for  
16 newcomers to help them integrate and navigate the  
17 new system and successfully overcome the  
18 challenges that they have. That as someone is an  
19 immigrant and became a teacher and has dedicated  
20 all of my professional life promoting and engaged  
21 in helping immigrants integrate, I know full well  
22 the important.

23 We as a city acknowledge that and I  
24 must say that the services that we provide are  
25 quite short of the demand that we have. Those

1  
2 seats that we have available in the city through a  
3 combination of funding that we have available from  
4 the different levels of government fall very, very  
5 short of the demand that we have. We have a  
6 demand of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers  
7 that would jump to learn English and yet we're  
8 limited in terms of the resources we have  
9 available.

10                   However, what we have we've made  
11 full use of through the funding that you provide  
12 in the City Council along with the administration  
13 to ensure that, through the non-profit  
14 organization, through the Department of Education  
15 as many people who want to learn English have an  
16 opportunity to do so. If you like I can provide  
17 specific numbers but the last I heard, about  
18 50,000 seats are available for those who are  
19 learning English. It used to be a little higher  
20 than that but we have been going through  
21 challenging times lately. We face even harder  
22 times in the months and in the next couple of  
23 years.

24                   I feel that it is important for us  
25 to keep very much in mind the importance of



1 continuing to teach English. But in the meantime  
2 I will say to you that the commitment of this  
3 administration while we want new New Yorkers to  
4 learn English, it takes a while for them to learn.  
5 The average is five years or so if you're an adult  
6 and you're engaged in English. But while you  
7 learn English in which ever way you're able to,  
8 the government needs to help facilitate the access  
9 to government services and information and  
10 protection to all New Yorkers because that is  
11 consistent with the mandate of safety and health,  
12 a healthy city that the city has. That's why we  
13 have taken upon ourselves to establish a language  
14 access policy that is citywide in nature. And it  
15 ensures that language does not become an  
16 impediment for new New Yorkers to access services.

17           The critical thing for us as a city  
18 is to acknowledge that we have close to 2 million  
19 New Yorkers. 1.8 million New Yorkers are limited  
20 in English as was eluded by the testimony of Mr.  
21 Salvo. While those New Yorkers learn English and  
22 integrate themselves, we owe them having a policy  
23 and approach, agency by agency, that provides  
24 direct services to make sure that not knowing  
25

English is not an impediment.

So it's not just about learning English, which is important. But it's also making sure that the front line workers and especially those key agencies that provide services are mindful of New Yorkers not being able to speak English and that does not become an impediment for them to access services. We feel that the most important thing for a newcomer is to know that they can approach government to access the services that they provide and also that they should not be fearful of government.

It is very important for people, especially without having comprehensive immigration reform and you have sometimes policy at the federal level that is emphasizing enforcement. That which happens at the federal level does not constitutes something that impedes and sometimes inhibits and creates fear on residents of this city in approaching government. That's why the Executive Order we have in place is so important.

Information and the collaboration with those who work closely with immigrants in

1 leadership across the different communities,  
2 particularly those newcomers, it's in place. So I  
3 wanted to answer very much in that way because  
4 English is very important and learning it is very  
5 important. Just as important if not more  
6 important is assuring every New Yorker that we are  
7 here to serve them and they should have no fear  
8 and know that we speak their language while they  
9 English.

11 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: I am glad  
12 that you recognize that the funding is inadequate.  
13 But we also have to remember if such a large  
14 percentage of folks in New York City have limited  
15 English proficiency, this in itself, you know  
16 immigrants play a very important role in the  
17 economics of this city. If they can speak English  
18 and they can do well in terms of English, it will  
19 also help the city. I hope that you take the  
20 message back to the other side.

21 At this time we need to not forget  
22 the immigrants who have played such a big role in  
23 the development and the economics of New York  
24 City. At this time it's much more important for  
25 these folks to learn to speak English so that we

1  
2 can develop and continue in terms of the economics  
3 of this city. So I just want you to take that  
4 message back when you get back.

5 My other question that I have  
6 before I call my colleague is the fact that in  
7 1970 based on your chart here, the Dominican  
8 Republic somewhere less than 100,000 immigrants.  
9 But today in 2006 or after 2006, it's over  
10 400,000, much more than any of the other countries  
11 that you have listed here. What's the main reason  
12 that we have such a shift in terms of the  
13 percentage of that country immigrating here as  
14 opposed to all the other countries? Is there any  
15 reason? Is there some mass migration program  
16 going on? They were seventh and now they are  
17 number one. Can you explain to me? Is it that  
18 you are from the Dominican Republic and you are  
19 now the Commissioner?

20 [Laughter]

21 MR. LINARES: Let me preface with  
22 an answer and ask Joe to elaborate much more as  
23 the expert. As a Dominican born and raised that  
24 was living under the dictatorship of the Dominican  
25 Republic and landed in the initial wave. I came

1  
2 in the mid 60s and my parents came two years  
3 before. They overstayed their visa and were  
4 undocumented here in the city.

5 I think it's a combination of the  
6 1965 immigration law that was, in part, responding  
7 to demands of labor force in the United States and  
8 particularly in New York City, primarily driven by  
9 the garment industry here in the City of New York.  
10 When you combine the put into effect that  
11 immigration reform along with the fact that there  
12 was an invasion, a U.S. invaded the Dominican  
13 Republic and had a military presence there in 1965  
14 while I was waiting to be petitioned by my parents  
15 to come to New York.

16 When you combine the military  
17 presence there, the immigration reform and the  
18 demand of labor force, that kicked what became a  
19 wave of immigrants that began arriving to New York  
20 City. There was a process of family reunification  
21 following the 60s, the second part of the 60s,  
22 after 1965 into the 70s, the 80s and the 90s.  
23 When you take three decades of the constant flow I  
24 think the end result is you have the numbers of  
25 today. I want Joe to elaborate much, much more on

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12 MR. SALVO: Let me just add that on  
13 the heels of those changes that Commissioner  
14 Linares spoke about in the 1960s, it was that  
15 major change in U.S. immigration law that  
16 eliminated quotas and created a system of  
17 preferences that first and foremost was based on  
18 the reunification of families. So once that beach  
19 head, sort of speak, was established by 1970 as he  
20 pointed out in the chart. Once that beach head  
21 was established and families began to reunify and  
22 a snowball effect occurred.

And by the year 2006 I should say that this is foreign born. If you add the second generation to this, the number of Dominicans in

1  
2 New York is getting close to 600,000. That's  
3 bigger than the entire population of Atlanta,  
4 Georgia, just the Dominican population of New  
5 York. Currently if you look at our patterns of  
6 immigration, somewhere between 60% and 70% of our  
7 immigrants come in by virtue of their family  
8 linkages. So the reunification has added  
9 tremendously to the Dominican population over the  
10 years and that would be how this population has  
11 increased so substantially.

12 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: I understand  
13 I'll ask my colleague, Council Member Barron to  
14 ask you a few questions.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
16 Thank you Council Member Barron and thank you  
17 Chair. I have another hearing so I have to go but  
18 I did want to kind of touch on a little bit of  
19 Council Member Stewart's first question to you.  
20 We have you, Mr. Salvo, here City Planning,  
21 looking at the demographics, keeping on top of the  
22 numbers. But one thing is social services, which  
23 Chairman Stewart talked about but the other thing  
24 is planning. How we use the information that  
25 we're gathering and compiling and keeping track of

1  
2 the shifts of the demographics in this city. And  
3 how do we do development? How do we do planning  
4 in the City of New York that really is in synch  
5 with those changes?

6 As everybody says we all know that  
7 budgets reflect the priorities of cities. My fear  
8 and my concern as it is the concern of many of us  
9 sometimes in the Council, in particular in the  
10 communities that we represent is that the  
11 development overall as a city is not really  
12 addressing the real, real crux of the population  
13 that exists here. That it's almost planning for--  
14 we understand the creating of an economic base.

15 We understand the interest in  
16 appealing to large scale developers and large  
17 scale development and attracting that to the city  
18 but we can not forget and we can not dismiss the  
19 people that exist here. If the development that  
20 we're doing is, in fact, aiding in that mass  
21 migration from the city in some sense that you  
22 reflect in the numbers because people can't  
23 continue to live here that's a problem.

24 And there's a disconnect between  
25 the reality of the numbers and the demographics



1  
2 and how we're planning for this city. So that's  
3 my concern, one thing is social services but I  
4 almost feel like a stop gap measure doesn't really  
5 get to the base of it. So I want to understand  
6 from the City Planning perspective, how do the  
7 numbers impact the planning aspect of the city and  
8 how does it play a role?

9 I just want to mention kind of a  
10 little bit reflecting on what I'm raising. There  
11 was an editorial in El Diario on Tuesday. Again,  
12 the hesitancy of this city to really deal with  
13 issues sometimes that are a little bit  
14 controversial. The Day Laborer Commission, which  
15 was convened in 2005 and we yet have not heard or  
16 seen the results of that works Commission. That  
17 is a reality of this city. We have a immigrant  
18 population, day laborers are a component of our  
19 workforce in this city and that Commission was  
20 specifically set up to deal with that. Yet three  
21 years later we don't have the results and we  
22 haven't heard the deliberations. That hasn't been  
23 shared with us.

24 It kind of really is a concern and  
25 it really should concern all of us that we're not

1  
2 really dealing with these issues. Not to say that  
3 at the federal level and the presidential  
4 election, the fact that immigration has been  
5 completely absent in discussion is really  
6 shameful. It's really, really shameful. But I  
7 want you to touch a little bit on that, on how do  
8 they demographics and the figures, how does that  
9 play in terms of the planning aspects of the City  
10 of New York.

11 MR. SALVO: There are really two  
12 things that I can point to that I think would help  
13 address your question. The first concerns the  
14 fact that within my work program, which  
15 Commissioner Burden looks at quite carefully.  
16 We're spending now upwards of a quarter of our  
17 time in the area of population estimates and  
18 projections. Looking at the neighborhoods of the  
19 city and trying to see which way the population is  
20 going, the stresses that are present as a result  
21 of population growth, we are asked on a regular  
22 basis about population change in neighborhoods.  
23 It's a very difficult topic. As a demographer  
24 doing very small area work can be very difficult.

25 But we do and what we've done for

1  
2 the Mayor's 20/30 Sustainability Plan is we tried  
3 to paint a picture of where the city is going,  
4 which direction. And out of that we're able to  
5 provide input to the whole environmental review  
6 process, part of the review that gets done when  
7 developments are proposed and when particular  
8 initiatives are proposed is an analysis of the  
9 population. I'm happy to say that we're actually  
10 able to provide input on which was we think the  
11 population is going in a particular area.

12 Now that is tied together with  
13 another issue which you brought up which is really  
14 important to our labor force. I sometimes get the  
15 question from people, maybe New York City's  
16 population is too big, maybe it should be going  
17 down. Would it be that bad? Well the answer is,  
18 all we have to do is look at some other cities in  
19 this country to answer that question because we  
20 have a number of cities where the population is  
21 going down.

22 What's happening is because our  
23 population is aging, we're getting more and more  
24 people in the upper end of that age distribution.  
25 I refer to it sometimes as holes develop in the

1  
2 age distribution in the population. In places in  
3 the Midwest where there's no dynamic like we have,  
4 where we don't have a development, where frankly  
5 it's easy to project the estimated population  
6 because the population doesn't do much. It just  
7 stays put and it ages. We're finding that there's  
8 an absence of people in the young working ages.  
9 What happens is as the populations age, there's no  
10 source of revenue, there's no source of labor  
11 force for the local areas.

12 So you get situations which by the  
13 way we have in some of our suburban areas where  
14 immigration has been discouraged, where in essence  
15 they are short on labor. We've all read about how  
16 out commuting from the city is increased, that we  
17 in effect are providing labor to some of our  
18 adjacent counties now. Because of New York City's  
19 policies are very friendly and very tolerant  
20 immigrant policies, we are in effect attractive  
21 for immigrants. They come here and they  
22 essentially maintain our workforce. So that's  
23 something that I get a lot of questions about.

24 Now to what degree do our  
25 immigrants contribute to the workforce? And they

1 do that. That factors in for example plans that  
2 Economic Development Corporation has. I get calls  
3 from EDC about what the influence is of  
4 immigration on our work force. I'm constantly  
5 asked what percentage of our work force consists  
6 of immigrants and is consistently in the 45% to  
7 50% range. We rely on immigration for that.  
8

9 What I ask is we always think about  
10 what happens if that wasn't here. We'd be in  
11 serious, serious trouble. We'd be a shell of a  
12 city. So these are two examples of things that do  
13 enter into the planning process. One on the  
14 economic side and one on the sheer development  
15 side in evaluating what happens to a community as  
16 a result, for example of development.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

18 Thank you for that. But I, again, think we're  
19 falling way short because when we have the largest  
20 municipal union representing city workers saying  
21 that they need to allow--they're asking us for  
22 support to have their workers be able to live  
23 within outside the city boundaries or to be hired  
24 outside the city boundaries because people can't  
25 afford to live here, we're not doing enough, I

1 think. We talk all about the importance of  
2 immigrants in the work force and that immigrants  
3 drive our economy. I believe very strongly in all  
4 of that.  
5

6 But then when we can't create an  
7 environment through planning and through  
8 development that really embraces people to allow  
9 them to continue to live here, it's really  
10 disrespecting and it's kind of speaking out of  
11 both sides of our mouths. Yes, we understand the  
12 contributions and the importance that immigrants  
13 play and the work force and the economic engine  
14 for this city. Yet, we're not really creating  
15 enough or doing enough to nurture and to really  
16 keep people here and have a quality of life that  
17 is balanced for everyone.

18 So I will leave it there. It  
19 continues to be an ongoing issue and one that  
20 we'll keep pressing on here as well. But thank  
21 you for your responses.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'd just  
23 like to ask a few questions, one, in the area of  
24 how you collected the data; where you got the  
25 information from in terms of these numbers. 1.8

1 million African or Black people and 2.2 million  
Latinos, some of the Census taking, I believe  
there's a lot of racism in the Census taking.  
There's an undercount, a serious undercount in our  
communities and a serious over count in white  
communities.

I heard if a white resident of New  
York is in a college town and out to college, they  
get counted there and also counted in the town  
that they live or the area that they live. So  
there's been, I think they say, hundreds of  
thousands in terms of an over count.

Then for our communities sometimes  
we don't get counted if we're out of town, that  
area gets the count and the prison population, the  
count there. Then there are a lot of immigrants  
and a lot of African Americans who were born here  
that just don't trust the government and doesn't  
allow them in their homes or fill out the forms  
because they just don't trust government. So  
accurate is this count, how much of an undercount?  
Is there an estimated undercount or over count to  
make up the differences?

MR. SALVO: First question about

1 the source of this data, the source of this data  
2 is a survey which is called the American Community  
3 Survey. The Census process as we've experienced  
4 it in the past has really been changed  
5 substantially. In 2010 the forms that we all get  
6 will have seven questions. The long form will  
7 have 58 or so questions that we would go to a  
8 sample of the population.  
9

10 Back in 2000, as the century has  
11 been done away with in the Census year. Over time  
12 the Census Bureau is doing a survey literally  
13 every month of those 50 some odd questions. That  
14 survey that they do every month is called the  
15 American Community Survey. It's meant to give us  
16 data throughout the decade on the characteristics  
17 of our population. So we have taken the data from  
18 one of the American Community Surveys from 2006  
19 and that's what I'm presenting to you here.

20 We think the data are generally  
21 pretty good. What that means is that there  
22 certainly is some level of under count, there is  
23 no question. People go back to 2000 and they call  
24 it the best Census ever. If you look at the data  
25 for New York City in 1990 we had an undercount of



1  
2 about a quarter of a million people. In 2000 our  
3 undercount is close to zero but that is a net  
4 figure--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

6 [interposing] A lot of people don't believe that.

7 MR. SALVO: By our calculations  
8 several hundred thousand people were over counted  
9 and several hundred thousand people were under  
10 counted, leading to a net of zero. So the zero is  
11 almost meaningless.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: There are  
13 differences on that, that you just mentioned.  
14 There are some agencies and I'll get those reports  
15 for you. But there are some agencies that differ  
16 greatly with that, that the under count remains  
17 pretty steadily and it doesn't balance itself out  
18 racially--

19 MR. SALVO: [interposing] You're  
20 right. I was going to say that. The people that  
21 are over counted are disproportionately non-  
22 Hispanic white Europeans because the older  
23 population generally participates many times over  
24 in the Census. Then the undercount is heavily  
25 Black and Latino, especially Black. In New York

1 City the lowest response is generally in the Black  
2 community and next up would be the Hispanic  
3 community, Latino community.  
4

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

6 [interposing] Do they have any kind of a sampling  
7 process that estimates that while in this 1.8. I  
8 think our numbers are close to 2.3 million and I  
9 think the Latino community is closer to 2.5  
10 million. I think if we really counted everybody  
11 then we probably, Blacks and Latinos, about 55% of  
12 the city and Asians I think are getting close to  
13 8% to 10%. It's close to 62% of the city being  
14 people of color. That is not reflected and I  
15 think that's what my colleague is talking about in  
16 the planning.

17 Yes, we fuel the economy and all of  
18 that but it certainly isn't reflected in the  
19 budget allocations. I think the most racism in  
20 the city is in budget allocations. It certainly  
21 isn't reflected in the--You like diversity, I like  
22 diversifying power; diversifying the power and  
23 authority over budgets and things of that nature.

24 So we have a real challenge as  
25 these demographics change. You mention a very

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With that being said, even with these numbers I think to follow up what my colleague said, planning and economic development is going to be critical because when you go to our communities, no matter how much we say about immigrants we're not doing well. The immigrants are not doing well. We don't have the living wage jobs, we don't have the affordable housing, healthcare and education that we need to have. And then there's a divide and conquer between particularly in the Black and Latino community and immigrants and Mexicans and Africans, African

Americans. And there are some divisions between Dominicans and Puerto Ricans.

There's a lot of divide and I don't know how much of it is fueled by those who manipulate us; give one population something and another population doesn't get it. Instead of us uniting and dealing with the person who is dividing us, we sometimes go at it with each other. Have you had any thinking on that and planning on some of those social issues and conflicts that occur in the city?

MR. SALVO: Right now we're thinking about something that will affect us dramatically and that is the response in the 2010 Census. As you said of course we're a very diverse city and with that we have the tremendous challenge of reaching across groups to get people to respond. I can't emphasize enough and I think you've eluded to this, how important this is, it's how many people that are counted that matter. That's what shows up in the files that we're using. That's what shows up as a basis for representation, as a basis for resource allocation.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is for the Council to get involved in outreach for the 2010 Census to get people to respond. We have so many barriers to overcome since 2000 along the lines of what you mentioned.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Then we want to make sure that we get you to respond to the administration no matter what the count is, that we get our fair share of the services in the city. But Commissioner I do have a question for you as well, a concern.

We say that the mission is to get immigrants to be involved in the civic, social, economic life of the city. On the civic end, in the 1920s and 1930s when immigration was predominantly white, they allowed legal residents to vote. As a matter of fact in over 24 states in the United States, including here, they allowed legal residents, green card holders to actually vote. When the complexion of immigration changed so did the policies and that right was taken away.

You even remember in the school boards, you can even be undocumented and still vote in school board elections. What is your

1 position if we really want to get immigrants  
2 civically participating in their lives in here and  
3 they have to deal with the social conditions, they  
4 pay taxes, immigrants can even die in the war in  
5 Iraq and they can pay taxes to the government.  
6 Why not in municipal elections allow immigrants to  
7 vote?  
8

9 MR. LINARES: First of all allow me  
10 to indicate that I think the critical thing to  
11 bear in mind is that for newcomers, new Americans,  
12 new New Yorkers it is critical for them to engage  
13 in and be involved. With the specific question of  
14 voting, I know first hand about it because I was  
15 very heavily involved organizing parents in the  
16 city and particularly in the northern Manhattan  
17 community, parents with children in the school  
18 helping elect their representative in school  
19 boards. In fact, that's how I was first elected.

20 That was allowed under the Dis-  
21 interization [phonetic] Law that we no longer  
22 have. So I have first hand experience of how  
23 important it is in engaging and representing those  
24 who advocate and represent you, in this particular  
25 case, education in the neighborhood where your

1  
2 children attend school. The current law now  
3 stipulates that in order for you to become a voter  
4 you need to become a citizen of the United States.  
5 That, we know takes quite some time; it's a long  
6 process.

7                   Once you're a legal resident, you  
8 have to wait to apply and then be sworn in. So  
9 that is the current law and that is what guides  
10 what we do in the City of New York and New York  
11 City government at this point. The position that  
12 the Mayor and the administration takes with the  
13 importance of engaging New Yorkers when they make  
14 New York City their home is to proactively look to  
15 help facilitate their civic participation the  
16 moment that they are here, that they have  
17 families, that they live in neighborhoods, that  
18 they engage in a proactive way. That is the most  
19 consistent way of New York City fulfilling its  
20 mandate to enhance the--

21                   COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

22 [interposing] I understand that but laws are made  
23 to be changed. I do have a piece of legislation  
24 before the City Council that has 20 some odd  
25 supporters in the City Council that I don't think

1  
2 the Mayor or the Speaker is for, that will change  
3 that law and allow legal residents to vote,  
4 limited way of participating. Why not support  
5 that? I don't understand why the Mayor would be  
6 against that. Why not support that? You are  
7 bound by that law but you know the Mayor knows how  
8 to change laws. You saw it happen recently with  
9 term limits. So certainly when it is in his  
10 interest to work hard to get a law changed he  
11 certainly knows how to do that.

12 I don't know why he wouldn't  
13 support and you wouldn't support this bill that I  
14 have before the Council. We'll probably go  
15 through some more hearings. We want to change  
16 that law to say if you're a legal resident--you're  
17 right, it takes time to get that citizenship and  
18 we have some other pieces we are pushing on a  
19 federal level to shorten that time. But why not  
20 allow them since they pay into the economy and the  
21 go on wars and dying? Why not change the law and  
22 have immigrants vote--

23 MR. LINARES: [interposing] I'm  
24 sure there will be opportunity to discuss the  
25 Mayor--



COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

[interposing] We're discussing it now.

MR. LINARES: However what I can share with you is the way we, the Mayor and the administration approach the matter is we recognize how critical for those who are not yet citizens of the United States. It gives them the opportunity to vote, for them to engage civically, in their neighborhood and engage in the political process--

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

[interposing] But the ultimate way of civic engagement is in voting.

MR. LINARES: Absolutely.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So then why not support it?

MR. LINARES: There are those who believe and I believe the Mayor believes so that in this country when you become a citizen--

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

[interposing] Is that what you believe? Even though you know what we have to go through to become citizens? That's not fair to put it nicely. We know what it takes to become citizens and we know it's more of political empowerment of

1  
2 people of color in this city is critical to have  
3 policy changes and budget prioritization change.  
4 So why not allow them?

5 Plus when they vote in municipal  
6 elections, they won't be allowed to vote in state  
7 or federal elections. So we're not talking about  
8 having the full benefits of citizens in this  
9 process but at least have the benefit of being  
10 able to determine those people who directly affect  
11 your lives or whether you're going to have English  
12 as a second language programs and things of that  
13 nature. They will have no political power and it  
14 makes it more difficult to--

15 MR. LINARES: [interposing] Listen,  
16 I'm a natural citizen of the United States. I  
17 will tell you I will take any day, a New Yorker  
18 that has made New York their home that becomes  
19 engaged, an advocate on behalf of himself or  
20 herself and the family and the neighborhood to  
21 make a difference than someone totally  
22 disillusioned who may be born here or may be a  
23 citizen or so forth.

24 At the end of the day, I know the  
25 importance of having the right to vote, being able

1  
2 to vote or to elect someone or be elected by the  
3 others. I don't deny that. The law right now  
4 stipulates that you must be a citizen to do that--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

6 [interposing] I know but laws can be changed.

7 [Crosstalk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm going  
9 to stop right here. You know you don't have to  
10 keep reciting to me what the law is because I know  
11 that, that's why I want to change it. I just  
12 wanted to see if you would join me in changing a  
13 law that is not good for immigrants. This is not  
14 difficult. This is very simply. You can say no  
15 because you and the Mayor don't want to do that or  
16 you can say yes, I think it's the right thing. Or  
17 I need to talk to you some more to see more about  
18 the law--

19 MR. LINARES: [interposing] The  
20 biggest problem we have--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

22 [interposing] Let me finish. But not reciting  
23 that the law that you're under right now because I  
24 know that, that's why I put a law to change that.  
25 When people want to change stuff they don't keep

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MR. LINARES: Want to help

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

MR. LINARES: [interposing] Let's

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: [interposing]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: All right.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: I'm not too

1  
2 sure that the Commissioner wants to answer that  
3 one for the other.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Let him  
5 talk for himself. He doesn't need you to bail him  
6 out.

7 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Well the fact  
8 is, as you have said, he has been repeating the  
9 same thing over and over. Before I call on my  
10 colleague, Council Member Eugene I want to ask the  
11 question of the importance of looking into the  
12 fact that there are more people that are moving  
13 out of New York City domestically than the  
14 immigrants that are coming in. Although we may  
15 have an increase in population in New York City,  
16 maybe based on births and all of those things, the  
17 fact is if we believe that we have to make an  
18 effort to accommodate and to continue to grow New  
19 York City in so many ways. What are we doing to  
20 prevent the mass exit from New York City? What  
21 are we doing?

22 If we didn't have that great  
23 migration from the Caribbean and other places  
24 coming to New York City, by now New York City  
25 would have been based on what I'm seeing here from

1  
2 your chart, New York City would be no more than  
3 about 2 or 3 million people. There are more  
4 leaving New York City than what is coming in. So  
5 could you explain what are we doing to prevent  
6 that mass exit?

7 MR. SALVO: Two points I want to  
8 make. First, this pattern has been in place for  
9 five decades. This is part of what it means to  
10 live and come and go, in and out of New York City.  
11 To prevent an outflow of people in a dynamic city  
12 is probably not the way to think about this.  
13 People ask me this question a lot. We're in a  
14 safe city, why do people leave?

15 People leave for many, many reasons  
16 and many of those are not necessarily negative.  
17 If you think of New York as a process as much as a  
18 place, people come here and they come here  
19 frequently with little in the way of assets. Some  
20 immigrants come here who are fairly well off. But  
21 many immigrants come here with little; that's the  
22 story of New York.

23 New York City gives them  
24 opportunities. They move up the ladder and out  
25 migration is part of moving up the ladder. Job

1  
2 relocation, we've all experienced that. People  
3 move through the life cycle, they want more space,  
4 they want a house with a yard. The suburbs  
5 specialize in that. Suburban culture is still  
6 alive and well in the city; people want more space  
7 so they move out.

8               Some people want to go back to the  
9 places where their families originated, as we have  
10 now with the African American population going  
11 back to many states in the south. Some people  
12 decide they want to retire outside of New York.  
13 There are a myriad of reasons why people leave.  
14 It's not necessarily a negative thing. It's part  
15 of a cycle of movement in and out that has been in  
16 place for many years now.

17               Certainly, if conditions in the  
18 city deteriorate in some way it would encourage  
19 more people to leave. But I want to make note, in  
20 the 1970s when the city was on the verge of fiscal  
21 collapse, we got close to 800,000 immigrants in  
22 that decade, a decade of which many of us remember  
23 being a terrible decade in the city's history. We  
24 still got 800,000 immigrants because it's always  
25 conditioned relative to the point of origin. I

1 don't have to tell you, many of those places from  
2 which immigrants are coming from have real serious  
3 problems that make our fiscal collapse look minor  
4 in some ways.

5  
6 So what I would suggest to you is  
7 the framework that you need to use here is the  
8 framework of history. I do agree, though, that  
9 conditions certainly affect migration out. In the  
10 1970s two million people left New York City. And  
11 now this 800,000 may seem like a lot but it's not  
12 a lot in the context of the number of people who  
13 come in, filling those slots.

14 May I also suggest if you look at  
15 some of these other places that I mentioned. I  
16 don't want to name cities by name. I don't want  
17 to pick on any one city but there's a whole  
18 cluster of cities in the Midwest where they don't  
19 have people leaving and no people coming in. The  
20 population is stagnant and I mean that in a  
21 negative way. It doesn't do anything. There's no  
22 dynamism to it. Over time cities dye that way.  
23 Cities are meant to be dynamic with people coming  
24 in and out so that is the framework that, at least  
25 in demography, that I can offer to you.



1  
2 But I do agree, though, conditions  
3 do impact on the number of people who leave.

4 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: We have been  
5 joined by Council Member David Weprin. At this  
6 time I have Council Member Eugene who may have a  
7 few questions.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MATHIEU: Thank you  
9 very much. I thank you, Commissioner Linares and  
10 members of the panel. First and foremost let me  
11 tank you for the testimony and especially  
12 Commissioner Linares. I know that being an  
13 immigrant yourself you know the experience of  
14 immigrants and you know the challenges and the  
15 struggles that we immigrants and our brothers and  
16 sisters are going through.

17 Let me just ask a few questions  
18 just to have a little bit more detail. Talk more  
19 further on the Census and the count from the  
20 Census. We all know that certain communities,  
21 especially minority communities, have been under  
22 counted. This is a fact. The number, we don't  
23 exactly--but is there anything that the city is  
24 planning to do or can do to decrease the error  
25 between the right number and the wrong number to

1  
2 fill the gap? Is there anything that the city can  
3 do or the city is planning to do to make sure we  
4 have a more accurate count?

5 MR. LINARES: Thank you very much.  
6 This is a very critical process for us because it  
7 determines the flow of resources, the population  
8 that we can account for. So for us it's critical  
9 to engage in collaborative efforts with the Census  
10 Bureau to begin with and their strategy to account  
11 for all New Yorkers that we have in the city. But  
12 particularly to help facilitate collaboration,  
13 inter agency collaboration and primary  
14 collaboration with key stakeholders in the  
15 community.

16 I think our reach is paramount,  
17 it's critical, it's important. And to let New  
18 Yorkers, particularly those that are newcomers,  
19 that they should not be fearful of being counted  
20 in the process that is part of the effort that we  
21 need to engage with. I think that is important  
22 and knowing that it needs to be a collaborative  
23 effort. We need to be proactive.

24 We anticipate collaboration among  
25 key agencies. You have two of them sitting right

1 here at this hearing, City Planning, which has the  
2 best host of the communities that we need to  
3 target and would need to place emphasis on. By  
4 and large those are the new communities that are  
5 growing in numbers, that are receiving new  
6 immigrants and so we're going to work in  
7 collaboration.  
8

9 The Department of Education, as you  
10 know, has strong connections with many of the  
11 agencies that we're speaking of, the Department of  
12 Youth and Community Development to the network of  
13 organizations that they will be critical. And  
14 other agencies that interact with New Yorkers will  
15 also be engaged. But this is something that will  
16 receive and has been receiving attention from the  
17 highest level in the administration.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MATHIEU: I agree  
19 with you. How to reach education and promotion  
20 are very important in any area. What I believe  
21 also is in terms of doing the outreach at the time  
22 of the Census, I believe that we should engage  
23 more aggressively and permanent outreach, even  
24 before the Census. Let's say through the schools,  
25 through the organizations, six months in advance,

1  
2 maybe yearly for the people to know exactly they  
3 don't have to be fearful to release their  
4 information.

5 We know that immigrant people, most  
6 of the people, they don't want to release their  
7 information to the government agency. I remember  
8 when I was in my country in Haiti, we don't want  
9 to give information to the government. We don't  
10 know what's going to happen. My advice or my  
11 recommendation is to see if the City of New York  
12 can be engaged in the terms of how to reach  
13 promotion or education throughout the year or  
14 several months before the Census.

15 My second question, I saw in the  
16 testimony what we call the Executive Order to  
17 protect the information of the people when people  
18 are seeking public services that should not reveal  
19 the information of immigration, what we call Don't  
20 Tell and...

21 MR. LINARES: Don't Ask.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MATHIEU: Don't Ask  
23 and Don't Tell. But I see that Don't Ask, Don't  
24 Tell eases the fear of the people but I don't  
25 think it eases the danger people may face because

1 of their immigration status. Does the city have  
2 any type of protection for those people in case if  
3 they are seeking government or city services and  
4 they get into a legal problem because of their  
5 immigration status for one reason or another.  
6 Does the city give any type of protection like  
7 legal assistance to help them get away from the  
8 legal problem of being undocumented.  
9

10 I imagine that is for somebody that  
11 doesn't have the legal status in the United States  
12 and that person is in need of city services for  
13 one or another reason, get arrested because he's  
14 not a permanent resident in the United States.  
15 Does the city have any type of assistance to  
16 protect that person? I believe if that person was  
17 not seeking the city services probably would not  
18 be in that situation.

19 MR. LINARES: The primary reason  
20 for having a citywide policy highlights for all  
21 New Yorkers privacy when they approach government.  
22 The Executive Order orders, there are two 34 and  
23 41.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MATHIEU: 41.

25 MR. LINARES: Are particular to the

1  
2 status of a New Yorker and the immigration status  
3 of that New Yorker to make sure that when that New  
4 Yorker--we're talking about half a million New  
5 Yorkers in the city that we estimate now are out  
6 of status, without documents. We don't want any  
7 New Yorker because of their lack of documentation  
8 to fear approaching government including local law  
9 enforcement, the police precincts and so forth  
10 when they have a need of service or any  
11 information or any protection because that  
12 undermines the safety of all New Yorkers and the  
13 health of all New Yorkers so that is paramount for  
14 us to convey.

15 This is why the Mayor signed the  
16 order and informs all city employees, in uniform  
17 and out of uniform, that is the policy. If you're  
18 not to ask when someone approaches you in a police  
19 precinct or a school to register a child or when  
20 you walk into a hospital, the status of that  
21 person. If in the process you were to suspect or  
22 learn of the status you are not to tell, that's  
23 how it is.

24 One exception to this policy is the  
25 discretion that is afforded to the police in the

1  
2 work they do in enforcing the laws. Which allows  
3 them and when they suspect illegal activity or  
4 someone has committed a crime, they do have  
5 discretion to share information. But that's the  
6 one exception that is in place within the  
7 Executive Order. That is entirely left for the  
8 Police Department to determine and interpret  
9 accordingly on a case by case basis.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATHIEU: Does that  
11 mean that if somebody has been involved in illegal  
12 activities and that person has been or is seeking  
13 city services, the police officer has the right  
14 now to communicate the information to Immigration  
15 and to the law enforcement? Is that--

16 MR. LINARES: [interposing] No.  
17 When someone approaches government, including the  
18 police for assisting and service, the mandate is  
19 to provide and respond to the services and the  
20 needs of those New Yorkers. That's the current  
21 policy right now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MATHIEU: Okay.  
23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. LINARES: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: We have been

1 joined by Council Member Annabel Palma. I just  
2 wanted to follow up on that Executive Order issue.  
3 I don't want to leave the wrong impression. I  
4 know the Executive Order is a good policy but I'm  
5 not too sure it's been working very well as far as  
6 what we intended when it was proposed at the time.  
7 We now have ambitious, I would call them ambitious  
8 officers who because they may pull you over for a  
9 broken tail light and you happen to have someone  
10 in there. They ask or even do things to violate  
11 that Executive Order. There is no recourse, there  
12 is nothing we can do.

14 I can tell you the last time we had  
15 the hearings here and we had the Deputy  
16 Commissioner of Police that was here. He said  
17 basically it's an order from the federal  
18 government that they do these things and we can't  
19 tell them not to do that. The fact is if someone  
20 is pulled over with a broken tail light and they  
21 suspect, they will run it through. If they find  
22 out that this person is undocumented they report  
23 it to ICS. I don't want to give the wrong  
24 impression that it's being upheld to the fact that  
25 we're saying Don't Ask, Don't Tell. I just want



1  
2 to clarify what you just said. We have a problem  
3 with our officers who are trying to be very  
4 ambitious.

5 MR. LINARES: The Police Department  
6 and the Police Commissioner are very clear as to  
7 the importance of building trust and building  
8 relationships with New Yorkers, particularly new  
9 New Yorkers in immigrant communities. I think  
10 that is paramount to the effective policing  
11 strategies that we have that are working. In  
12 fact, to be fair with the Police Commissioner, he  
13 has taken it upon himself to establish an outreach  
14 immigration unit that reflects the diversity that  
15 we have in the City of New York. Just to  
16 precisely be proactive in developing that trust  
17 with particularly immigrant communities that are  
18 diverse and growing.

19 But the fact of the matter is that  
20 within the Executive Order there is discretion  
21 allowed for the police and their intervention when  
22 they suspect someone is engaged in criminal  
23 activity and so forth. The best to respond to  
24 your question is the Police Department. But I  
25 will share with you that the way we look for front

1  
2 line workers and for city workers to approach when  
3 a New Yorker needs access to services and  
4 information from our city is to make those  
5 available to them without asking questions.  
6 That's a directive from the Mayor himself in the  
7 form of this Executive Order.

8 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Recently we  
9 have heard raids at places of employment. Would  
10 the city have information on these raids that have  
11 been done by federal agents? Or are these raids  
12 in conjunction or in collaboration with city  
13 offices?

14 MR. LINARES: The federal laws are  
15 enforced at the federal level. And they conduct,  
16 themselves, based on those laws that are federal.  
17 We as a city, are guided by the Executive Order  
18 that I shared with you, which is basically  
19 consistent with the mandate from the Mayor for the  
20 city to help enhance the safety and health of New  
21 Yorkers. So they do their job as the federal  
22 government. We do our job within the laws that we  
23 have.

24 We don't intervene; we do not stand  
25 in the way of their job. They have a job to do

1  
2 and we, as a city, have our own job to do to  
3 enhance the mandate Constitutionally by charter  
4 we're given.

5 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: This should  
6 be my last question if my colleague doesn't have a  
7 question. A couple of years ago the Governor, the  
8 previous governor, had proposed to do something  
9 with the drivers license in terms of allowing  
10 immigrants who are undocumented to continue to get  
11 drivers licensee.

12 In light of what you're saying here  
13 in terms of immigrants and folks who are building  
14 and working on developing the economic structure  
15 of this city in a significant way. Why didn't the  
16 Mayor at least say something about that policy  
17 that the Governor is trying to make sure that  
18 people who have drivers license maintain that  
19 drivers license or make it some sort of way that  
20 people can have identification and move around.

21 If you are so concerned about the  
22 immigrants that are here, you just stated that we  
23 are much more concerned about immigrants. Why  
24 wasn't something done in that light to at least  
25 maybe give some sort of identification or even to

1  
2 people who have their drivers license that they  
3 can continue to have their drivers license or have  
4 a way of getting transportation?

5 MR. LINARES: Let me just indicate  
6 that, you said it yourself, the issue is a state  
7 issue as was being addressed by the Governor at  
8 the time. What you indicate in terms of the value  
9 of having a drivers license as a New Yorker in the  
10 form of an ID, while we are mindful of how  
11 important IDs are now after 9-11. What I like to  
12 highlight in the context of your question is that  
13 what is paramount to us as a city with New  
14 Yorkers, particularly immigrant New Yorkers,  
15 including those that do not have documents. Is  
16 that they have access to the services that we  
17 provide as a city and the information and  
18 protections that we offer to them.

19 The way and the policy that we have  
20 in the City of New York does not require for a New  
21 Yorker to prove with identification in order for  
22 them to access such services. So we feel that  
23 we're on firm ground helping facilitate access to  
24 services to New Yorkers. Not to say that a  
25 decision on the state level may be made on the

1 federal level does not have an adverse impact,  
2 whether it is granting licenses of the state to  
3 New Yorkers or having immigration comprehensive  
4 reform at the federal level.  
5

6 While those levels of government  
7 address issues such as the one that you pose, we  
8 have to ensure that we have a policy and approach  
9 as government that allows for New Yorkers,  
10 regardless if they have documents or not, access  
11 to what we provide to enhance their safety and the  
12 safety of all New Yorkers. That is the best that  
13 I can answer particularly from the context of you  
14 not needing to have identification in order to  
15 walk into a hospital, school or any agency that we  
16 have that provides the service.

17 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Thank you. I  
18 want to thank you, again, for being so clear on  
19 your answers. We hope that we can do more to help  
20 immigrants and to help them assimilate within the  
21 City of New York. We will try to do another  
22 follow up as to the type of services that we  
23 provide to them and how they access that service.  
24 Once again I want to thank you. We can call on  
25 our next panel.

MR. LINARES: Thank you Mr.  
Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Peter Cheng,  
Hilary Tikum, Greg Richout. We have Greg, Peter  
and Hilary. Please take a seat. Who is from the  
African Services Committee? All right. This is  
Peter Cheng. What about Greg, is there a Greg?  
First of all what you do is identify yourself and  
then we begin.

PETER CHENG: Good morning Mr.  
Stewart. My name is Peter Cheng. I'm Director of  
the Indochina Sino-American Community Center.  
First of all, thank you for giving me the  
opportunity to come here to testify.

My center, the ISACC, was  
established in 1990 by former refugees from  
Vietnam Cambodia and Laos. Located in the Lower  
East Side, we offer a variety of services to Asian  
Americans in New York City including educational  
programs, healthcare services, entitlement  
assistance, job training, activities for seniors  
as well as research and advocacy for community  
health needs. Our clients are mostly low income,  
language disadvantaged, immigrants and refugees

from China and Southeast Asia.

The two ethnic groups constitute the majority of my clients are Vietnamese and Chinese immigrants in New York City. According to the U.S. Census, the Vietnamese population in New York City has increase 12% from 2000 to 2006, in six years. And the Chinese population has increased 16% in the same six years from about 374,000 to 434,000, or approximately 10,000 new Chinese immigrants coming to New York City every year for the past six years.

Contrary to popular assumptions that Asians in New York City are not well off. According to the study by the Center for Economic Opportunity, approximately 26% are living below the poverty line. Asian American is the second poorest racial group in New York City. A very recent report by the Asian American Federation titled, "Working but Poor: Asian American Poverty in New York City" shows 40% of New York City Asians are low income. More outstanding is the finding that 71% of below income Asians are actually working adults. This indicates that many Asians are working at low paying jobs and dead end

1 jobs.

2  
3 As grim as the numbers have shown,  
4 things are even worse for certain Asian groups.  
5 In a research we collaborate with the New York  
6 University Center for Study of Asian American  
7 Health, we have found in our study sample that 30%  
8 of Vietnamese families are living in poverty and  
9 58% of Cambodian families in the Bronx receive  
10 public assistance. Among adult Vietnamese 26%  
11 were unemployed and 56% of Cambodian adults were  
12 unemployed. 23% of Vietnamese and 49% of  
13 Cambodians only had an elementary school education  
14 or less. 27% of Cambodians adults in the Bronx  
15 actually have no formal education in their  
16 lifetime.

17 Limited English proficiency is a  
18 significant problem in the community. 70% of the  
19 Cambodian adults and 89% of the Vietnamese adults  
20 surveyed are limited English proficient. Another  
21 study by the Asian America Federation has found  
22 that 63% of Chinese adults in New York City are  
23 limited English proficient.

24 The last point bears significance,  
25 especially when we heard what Mr. Salvo testified,



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1 point out that currently much of the city and  
2 state literacy funding comes from the Workforce  
3 Development Act money, so called WIA money. There  
4 is a heavy emphasis on learning English quickly  
5 and finding a job. This means that participants  
6 have to attend classes three to five days a week.  
7 However many immigrants work six days a week and  
8 are unable to attend these programs.

10 It also means that agencies are  
11 inclined to select younger clients who tend to  
12 learn English quicker and find a job easier.  
13 This means older, less educated immigrants, those  
14 who probably need our help most, are being left  
15 out. Hence the Immigrant Opportunity Initiative,  
16 money is so important.

17 It's one of the few funding sources  
18 that allow flexibility in class scheduling. I  
19 understand that there is a funding cut to the IOI  
20 in the current fiscal year. However, I urge you  
21 and your colleagues to consider keeping as much of  
22 the remaining funds as possible for ESOL classes.  
23 The needs for the Vietnamese and Cambodian  
24 communities are particularly great. Due to their  
25 relatively small sizes and scattered residences,

1  
2 their needs are often overlooked, even by  
3 organizations serving Asian Americans.

4 Lastly, I just want to briefly  
5 highlight a pioneering project we are performing.  
6 Currently we are running the first ever and only  
7 elder abuse prevention program for Asian  
8 immigrants. I am taking the liberty to describe  
9 it here as I understand Chairman Stewart is also a  
10 member of the Committee on Aging. Paradoxically,  
11 we Asians place such an importance in respecting  
12 our elders. It makes elder abuse all the more  
13 painful and hidden in our community but it does  
14 happen and we are filling a much needed gap.

15 Currently we're collecting data on  
16 the issue and hopefully we can share with you the  
17 results in the future. New York State is one of  
18 the few states that does not document elder abuse  
19 statistics. I hope this is something we should  
20 work to change in the future.

21 Thank you Mr. Stewart for listening  
22 to my concerns. I'll be glad to answer any  
23 questions.

24 NJOYA HILARY TIKUM: Good morning  
25 Chairman Stewart. My name is Njoya Hilary Tikum.

1  
2 I am from the African Services Committee. It's an  
3 honor to be here this morning and to expose, in a  
4 very brief way, the work our agency actually does  
5 in helping immigrants, a very particular segment  
6 of them, those from Africa. In that way, give a  
7 testimony on the shift in demographic trends in  
8 the city's immigrant population.

9 For more than 25 years African  
10 Services Committee has focused its work on  
11 promoting the health and self sufficiency of the  
12 African Diaspora in New York City. African  
13 immigrants are the fastest growing segment of the  
14 Black population in the United States and they are  
15 fastest growing immigrant community in New York  
16 City.

17 When we first opened our doors, our  
18 efforts were targeted towards Ethiopian and other  
19 refugees who were newly entering the country and  
20 needed a helping hand. Over time, we have seen  
21 shifts in the demographics and the needs of our  
22 clientele. About five years ago the majority of  
23 our clients were Francophone West Africans. More  
24 recently, our client population reflects  
25 increasing numbers of immigrants from Southern

African, from countries such as Zimbabwe and Zambia and also a substantial number of West Indian immigrants.

Our Harlem based office provides a number of services to community members including English classes, medical interpretation, a food pantry, HIV and other STD testing, case management, housing assistance for HIV individuals and a range of civil legal services, both for HIV positive individuals and for community members as a whole.

The greatest demand for our services comes from the area of immigration. Almost every single client who walks in the door, whether they come for English classes or for case management or for our women's support group, also needs immigration assistance. This is in addition to the large number of individuals who contact us exclusively for immigration assistance. We provide clients with immigration legal consultation, educating individuals about immigration law and procedure and assist them in obtaining immigration benefits by filing applications for asylum, permanent residents. We

1  
2 also help them do naturalization and some other  
3 immigration petitions.

4 A considerable number of African  
5 immigrants are imprisoned in detention centers.  
6 Our clients have been transferred to detention  
7 centers in other states, making it impossible for  
8 their families to visit them and near impossible  
9 for our organization to represent them or to find  
10 representation for them. This recently happened  
11 to one of our clients, she is currently in  
12 detention even though she committed no crime and  
13 has a meritorious asylum claim. There is no  
14 telling how long she will have to wait in  
15 detention in a far away town in Pennsylvania  
16 before her case is resolved.

17 Recently one of our clients was  
18 released from a detention center in Rochester, New  
19 York. She was arrested on a Greyhound bus while  
20 she was travelling to Michigan and taken by border  
21 patrol to Rochester. After a long search, we  
22 found out that she was detained in Ontario Jail  
23 and that her bail was set for \$10,000. We  
24 intervened and requested an adjournment so we can  
25 secure pro bono counsel for her. Ultimately,

1  
2 we're very lucky and through considerable advocacy  
3 and with the support of a number of other  
4 agencies, her family posted \$1,500 bond and she  
5 was released. However, she still faces challenges  
6 of what will happen to her in the hearing.

7 We have also taken a number of  
8 compelling asylum cases. We recently won an  
9 asylum case on behalf of a young woman from  
10 Eritrea who was detained and charged for her  
11 student activism. We represented three  
12 individuals from Zimbabwe who endured serious  
13 persecution on the basis of political opinion and  
14 participation in the Movement for Democratic  
15 Change and in one instance on the basis of  
16 advocacy on behalf of Zimbabweans with AIDS.

17 We also represented a young woman  
18 who participated in an opposition movement in  
19 Cameroon. She was beaten, detained, sexually  
20 assaulted by military police as a result. In  
21 addition, we have two cases that we have filed on  
22 behalf of women who are victims of female genital  
23 mutilation and who fear deportation on account of  
24 fear that the same practice will be forced upon  
25 their American born daughters.

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What happens when we turn people down, either because we do not have space for them or they do not have any legitimate options for regularizing their status, is that they turn to deceptive immigration attorneys who promise to get them papers in exchange for a lot of money. We find that a number of our clients lose their money or are actually put at an increased risk for deportation due to the unregulated careless work of these immigration advocates who prey upon



immigrant communities.

Recognizing the difficulties faced by our clients, who do not have any current options to regularize their status, we are working on trying to support them in other ways. One is focusing on the poor housing conditions that many immigrants face.

A few months ago HPD contacted our office to alert us about a Harlem residential building populated by West African tenants who were terrified to lodge complaints about the lack of a locking front door and broken staircase because the landlord threatened to call immigration authorities on them. We were lucky to find one tenant willing to challenge the landlord and we are engaged in a drawn out litigation process. Given the approach of winter, we are working on a series of workshops to let community members know their rights as tenants to habitable housing.

In addition, recognizing both the economic downturn and the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit of the African immigrant community, we are working on micro finance opportunities for our

1 clients to generate income legally, whether as  
2 independent contractors or as members of an  
3 independent workers cooperative.  
4

5 More than any other factor,  
6 restrictive immigration laws and financial  
7 consideration constrain our ability to help our  
8 clients. The African immigrant community in New  
9 York continues to grow and diversify. And in  
10 response we at African Services Committee,  
11 continue to adapt to its changing needs.

12 I hear that we did not lay emphasis  
13 on the statistics and the data because we believe  
14 that Mr. Salvo, who testified before all of us,  
15 actually already did a good job at that. It's so  
16 difficult to track down the African immigrant  
17 population in this city because of fear of police  
18 reparations. So it's a very, very difficult for  
19 community organizations like us to do. Thank you  
20 very much for your time and I'm willing to take  
21 any questions.

22 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Where in New  
23 York City did you say the highest concentration of  
24 Indochinese immigrants?

25 MR. CHENG: There is no

1 concentration noted. The population is pretty  
2 scattered and it's about equal numbers in Queens,  
3 Brooklyn and the Bronx at this time. There is  
4 also a slice of the Indochinese population in  
5 China Town, mostly along Canal Street, close to  
6 Baxter, towards the Holland Tunnel, along that  
7 area.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: And where  
10 would you say you have most of the African  
11 immigrant concentration?

12 MR. TIKUM: Mostly in Harlem and  
13 the Bronx. Most of the African immigrants from  
14 Western Africa are settled to Highland. But the  
15 other immigrants from Central and Eastern African  
16 are mostly settled in the Bronx. The biggest  
17 majority is in the Bronx, actually.

18 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right.  
19 Now you both spoke about the difficulty in terms  
20 of providing services. There are three major  
21 areas that I would like to know, which one in  
22 terms of priority is more important, English as a  
23 second language, the immigration or legal?

24 MR. CHENG: In my opinion the ESOL  
25 is the most important. I think it's the

1 foundation and the key to everything else that  
2 comes after it. If they want to become citizens  
3 they need to speak English, if they want to find a  
4 good job they need to do that, if they just want  
5 to improve their quality of life they need to do  
6 that.  
7

8 To me, not being able to speak  
9 English is almost like a disability. That means  
10 you can not understand what people are saying. It  
11 means you are deaf, you are mute and it can also  
12 mean that you are blind because you can not even  
13 read the signs. I can't begin to tell you all the  
14 stories that my clients tell me, how much they  
15 wish that they can speak English so they can be  
16 involved in their children's studies.

17 One woman told me she is willing to  
18 give up an arm just to be able to read her child's  
19 report cards. To me, that is the most sentimental  
20 thing for any immigrant.

21 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: What is your  
22 finding?

23 MR. TIKUM: I think I agree with  
24 Mr. Cheng in that English language would be a  
25 priority. But for us, immigration would be the

1  
2 top priority because the difficulties we actually  
3 face is that most African immigrants are just so  
4 afraid to come out of their houses because of what  
5 they expect the police to do to them. Most of  
6 them feel like the police would arrest and deport  
7 them.

8 If you're even afraid to come out  
9 of your home then it's difficult to learn the  
10 language. I think if we make them comfortable on  
11 the immigration front, they would easily integrate  
12 themselves into learning the language and getting  
13 access to all the other facilities in the city.  
14 So immigration would be a top priority if I had a  
15 choice.

16 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: In our last  
17 budget we cut close to 50% of the IOI funding. I  
18 just wanted to know how that affected you, even  
19 though we had increased the funding in the schools  
20 itself, we increased the funding for immigration.  
21 Within the schools, English as a second language  
22 but as for the CBOs, it was cut by close to 50%.  
23 How did that affect you? I want to know  
24 basically--there are a number of different groups,  
25 I don't know all the different Indochina groups or

1  
2 even all the African groups that provide these  
3 services. But how did it affect you?

4 MR. CHENG: I have been contacting  
5 Mr. Alan Gerson's office. So far we're still not  
6 sure about the financial situation for IOI. When  
7 you mention about the schools, I think it's good  
8 that they're getting the fund and perhaps some  
9 immigrants. But also some immigrants, they tend  
10 to go to CBOs because we offer different hours and  
11 school has some limitations in doing that. In my  
12 opinion just funding the schools is not  
13 sufficient. The money would be better used, we  
14 have a more balanced approach.

15 MR. TIKUM: I completely agree that  
16 concentrating on the schools themselves is really  
17 not sufficient because most African immigrants  
18 they don't even have the capacity to go to  
19 schools. So if we focus our attention on funding  
20 programs like this in schools, it curtails on our  
21 ability as a community organization to help those  
22 who really need services.

23 For instance, the English language  
24 program we offer at African services no longer has  
25 the capacity to take in clients who might not be

1 HIV positive because we are short of our funding.  
2 We don't have the ability to pay teachers. We  
3 rely mostly on volunteers. But we have witnessed  
4 an influx of new African immigrants who really  
5 need services like that. They can not go to  
6 school, they can not even go to community colleges  
7 because they are unable to read, unable to speak  
8 the basic starting point of English. So we think  
9 community organizations will do a better job  
10 implementing some of these projects than going  
11 through schools.  
12

13 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right. I  
14 want to, again, thank you folks for coming in and  
15 testifying. We get a better, clearer idea of what  
16 is happening out there. We will keep in touch  
17 with you in case we need more information.

18 MR. CHENG: Thank you very much.

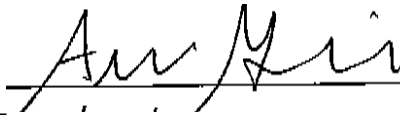
19 MR. TIKUM: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Seeing that  
21 there are no more people here to testify, we  
22 consider this meeting adjourned.  
23

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Amber Gibson, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_