

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

JOINT COMMITTEES ON FINANCE and YOUTH SERVICES and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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May 14, 2009
Start: 1:05pm
Recess: 2:25pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:

DAVID I. WEPRIN
Chairperson

LEWIS A. FIDLER
Chair, Youth Services

ALBERT VANN
Chair, Community Development

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale Brewer
Simcha Felder
Alan J. Gerson
Sara M. Gonzalez
Robert Jackson
Letitia James

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

G. Oliver Koppell
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Miguel Martinez
Darlene Mealy
Annabel Palma
James Sanders, Jr.
Eric Ulrich
Albert Vann
David I. Yassky

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

Jeanne Mullgrav
Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community Development

Bill Chong
Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services
Department of Youth and Community Development

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Good

afternoon everybody. This is a joint hearing of the Youth Services Committee with the Committee on Finance. It's our executive budget hearing. My name is Lou Fidler, I am the Chairperson of the Youth Services committee. We are joined here by Council Members James, Palma, Brewer and Felder. I just want to just give you a brief overview and then we'll go directly to DYCD.

Today we are going to hear testimony from DYCD about the executive budget and general agency operations. The fiscal 2010 executive budget as it pertains to DYCD is \$305.3 million. Of the total operating budget, \$182.1 million is city funding, which is a reduction of approximately 4% in the fiscal 2010 preliminary budget. City funding is down but the Department's overall budget shows an increase of \$12.1 million from the fiscal 2010 preliminary budget, which is an increase of 4% due in large part to an increase in federal funding.

Since the fiscal 2010 preliminary budget, a number of proposed changes have occurred which include an additional program to eliminate

the gap or PEG to the summer youth employment program of the amount of \$6.6 million and agency wide staff reductions totaling \$979,000 which will reduce the agency's headcount by 21 positions.

We look forward to hearing more about the impact of these budgetary cuts.

Although as many people know, the cut to SYEP has already been offset by a generous federal stimulus funding and we will have a record number of jobs this summer through the summer job program. Yes, that really does deserve a round of applause. I tell you it is refreshing not be going into an executive budget hearing and have to beat the drum for summer jobs in this city, especially this year. I know it's as much a relief to the Commissioner as it is to me and every member of the Council and this committee.

Another topic of today's hearing will be the impact of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act on programs such as SYEP and the Department's runaway and homeless youth initiative, which with additional federal funding could assist the ever growing need for jobs and in the case of homeless youth, an increase in shelter

1
2 beds and services. I am, of course, particularly
3 interested in that and I know that Commissioner we
4 will be asking you to advocate within the
5 administration for an application of the funds
6 that are available for homelessness in the
7 stimulus package. That we not forget the 3,800
8 children who are sleeping on our streets without
9 shelter in that process that you will advocate for
10 that. I know you always have.

11 We'll also be talking to you today
12 about OST option 2 which was one of the casualties
13 in the preliminary budget and a source of great
14 concern onto only to the committee but to a number
15 of advocates throughout the city. I always get
16 into trouble for saying this but I now turn this
17 over to my favorite Commissioner, Mullgrav from
18 DYCD. And we are joined by Al Vann, who chairs
19 the Community Development Committee of the
20 Council.

21 JEANNE MULLGRAV: Thank you. Good
22 afternoon Chairman Fidler and Weprin and members
23 of the Youth Services and Finance Committees. I
24 am Jeanne Mullgrav, Commissioner of the Department
25 of Youth and Community Development and thank you

for the opportunity to discuss the fiscal year 2010 executive budget.

Since I testified in March the city's fiscal conditions continue to deteriorate and needed assistance from Albany and labor unions has not materialized. We are pleased that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will help fund vital services, though many tough choices must still be made. Our executive budget for next year is \$305.3 million of which 59.6% is city tax levy, 28.7% federal dollars, 4% state and 7.7% are from other funds.

As you recall as part of the November and January plans DYCD was asked to find savings totaling \$5.3 million in fiscal year 2009 and \$21.2 million in fiscal year 2010 and the out years. In the executive budget, DYCD provided additional savings of \$7.5 million. Meeting this budget target was challenging, as DYCD incurred a series of cuts from major program areas supported by city tax levy funding. Further cuts to these programs could potentially impact their effectiveness and long term sustainability.

The executive budget proposes a

reduction of the city tax levy share of funding to the summer youth employment program by \$6.6 million. Given all the efficiencies we've been able to achieve over the years, like other agencies, we submitted head count reductions totaling \$1 million through attrition and lay offs. It's a decision we do not take lightly because of the negative consequences to DYCD's dedicated work force and their families. This also will place additional burdens on an efficient work force, which in the past several years has seen its responsibilities grow substantially along with the agency.

On Saturday, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the city's plan to use our funding allocated through the Workforce Investment Act. Thank you, Chairman Fidler for your ongoing support of this initiative and for joining us that morning along with many other city, state and federal elected officials. For the record I want to mention that Council Members Brewer and Vann were also there with us.

As you know, the summer youth employment program includes a mix of city, state

and federal funds to support a robust and comprehensive program for over 51,000 participants. Enhancements to the program this year include increased outreach to low income and vulnerable youth and this includes youth who are homeless, run away, in foster care, court involved, high school drop out, pregnant or parents, increasing the upper age limit to 21 to 24 years old so that teens and young adults who especially need assistance can participate. Placing more youth in jobs in the private sector such as law firms and neighborhood small businesses and launching give back Fridays to engage 1,000 young people in meaningful service projects throughout the city. This is part of the Mayor's NYC service initiative and projects include beautification of NYCHA and parks facilities.

DYCD did extensive cost free outreach so that all young people have an opportunity to participate. Some of these outreach efforts include working with agencies such as the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Administration for Children's Services, and the

2 state Office of Children and Family Services to
3 enroll youth. Radio spots in Hot 97, Kiss FM and
4 101.9, ads on agency vehicles and street outreach
5 vans, thousands of posters distributed throughout
6 the city at community based organizations,
7 government offices and store fronts, electronic
8 ticker tape advertisement at the Staten Island
9 Ferry Terminal. If you haven't see it, it's very,
10 very cool and impressive. Council Members also
11 helped us get out the word. Thank you for opening
12 your offices for young people to apply to SYEP.

13 These efforts evidently paid off
14 and so far we're at over 100,000. I just learned
15 from staff that we met last year's number which
16 was 103,000 applications. 80% were received
17 online and with your encouragement we are
18 extending that deadline to May 22, 2009. Mayor
19 Bloomberg also announced the investment of
20 additional WIA funds to support these innovative
21 programs.

22 \$3 million to enhance the out of
23 school youth program or OSY to provide 12 week
24 paid internships to 1,064 disconnected youth who
25 are not in school. OSY contractors provide a

broad array of job readiness services, case management and employee and training assistance and paid work experience is an enhancement to the current program. This additional funding will help facilitate the placement of participants in unsubsidized employment or advanced training or education.

\$5.5 million will create the Go to School, Get a Job initiative. It's modeled after a successful program that was launched in the 70s that reduced high school drop out rates and helped close the racial disparity in the employment area. This initiative will add 741 new slots to the in school youth program and provide a total of 2,800 paid school year internships to youth who remain in high school and meet academic and job performance standards.

\$2 million will expand the Parks opportunity program which is BTSAW or Back to School and Work, which is a partnership that we'll have with the Parks Department. It will provide 200 public assistance recipients ages 18 to 24 who are not in school or working with educational instruction, occupational training and supportive

services while earning a paycheck. After completion of the program, youth will be helped to find new jobs, enroll in college or advanced vocational training and receive 12 months of follow up services.

All four of these initiatives are in keeping with the spirit of ARRA that fund the invested and programs that can have an immediate and long term impact on the economy. They're also aligned with federal guidelines requiring the majority of funds be spent within the first year on programs that create employment opportunities for youth. Now I'd like to brief you on the status of our beacon satellite programs at the New York City Housing Authority community centers.

As you know, the first phase was launched in February and since then I visited most of the 25 programs which are providing high quality services to youth after school, in the evenings and on weekends. To date, over 286 staff have been hired, 16% of them are former NYCHA employees. 1,017 elementary participants have enrolled, 966 middle school and high school youth have enrolled and 923 adult participants.

We thank the Council for allocating funding for this initiative. The executive budget includes \$12.25 million to continue this program next year. The current contract with beacon providers expire December 31, 2009. to help design services starting in January 2010, DYCD underwent a comprehensive process to gain the input of young people, parents, resident leadership and other stakeholders. Examples include meetings with the resident leadership of all 25 NYCHA developments, 18 focus groups across the city with parents of children, four focus groups with high school age youth to identity their priorities and over 2,000 youth surveys which will be created by Market Street Research. The survey will ask for feedback on current after school activities, what barriers exist to participation and what are the programs that are most appealing or least appealing to them.

During this process we've seen strong support for an hour a day for homework, academic enrichment activities, college preparation activities, structured and fun recreational activities that help children stay

fit and combat obesity, computer and technology activities, employment work readiness services and adult programming.

Last week DYCD released the Cornerstone Initiative concept paper reflective of this feedback for public housing residents in all age categories. So we'll have services that focus on younger youth, ages 5 to 12, and older youth, 13 to 21 as well as adults. Programs will offer innovative and engaging approaches to help participants gain skills they need to stay on track in school and graduate, to be successful in work and life and contribute to the well being of their peers and their communities. We anticipate releasing the RFP in early summer with new contracts to begin January 1, 2010.

In sum, despite these tough times we are as optimistic as ever that better times are ahead. In the meantime, DYCD will continue to move forward and be innovative in providing quality services to New York City's children and families most profoundly affected by this economy. In addition to some of the new initiatives I highlighted earlier, this year DYCD has and will

be issuing at least nine RFPs as well as renewing contracts in a number of areas. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the DYCD fiscal year 2010 executive budget. I am joined by Bill Chong, Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services and John Caruso, Assistant Commissioner for Contract Agency Finance and we're pleased to answer your questions. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: You say that now, you haven't heard the questions. I'm going to actually start with something very mundane and it kind of goes to the last point that you raised which is the number of RFPs. We all here in the Council are keenly aware of the number of contracts that DYCD has to move so I want to go back to the 21 lay offs. And ask you where those lay offs will be felt and whether it's going to effect the ability of the agency in any way to get those contracts out the door? It's great that we've been able to keep a good amount of money in the agency for services but if we can't get the services done, then that's a problem. Can you respond to that?

MS. MULLGRAV: As I mentioned in my

testimony, it was not a decision that this agency took lightly. As you know, each agency was asked to review its headcount and submit recommendations for personnel reductions. We had taken a number of service cuts and know that our agencies that we contract with are experiencing lay offs and felt like we had to also make that same shared sacrifice.

In total, a total number of 24 staff positions have been impacted. That includes 7 vacancies, 15 active employees and 2 retirees. These positions were identified throughout the entire agency so as not to impact the contract processing that you referred to. So we are confident that we will be able to meet the challenges of processing contracts and getting our CBO agencies paid and also participating with them in program development.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: It's never good to hear that people are going to be laid off, even 15. But it's good to hear that you believe, at least, that the contracting process will not be slowed by this. I know that is a source of contention inside this building, outside this

building, in your agency. I probably have more phone calls about where's my money? Is it at Nox, is it DYCD, is it the Comptroller's Office, than just about anything. I know that all of my colleagues get those question from their providers as well.

We have been joined by Council Member Mealy who is a member of the Services Committee, Council Member Sanders, Council Member Koppell as well. I guess before I ask any other question I also want to thank you fro extending the deadline for applying for summer jobs. We had had a conversation about that earlier this week. I felt that having gotten a bump last weekend and announcing that there would be more jobs, I just was concerned about those people who then procrastinated a little bit, called up or went online and found out they missed the deadline because the deadline was going to be tomorrow. So you have more jobs and I missed it already. I think that was a very humane thing for you to do. I know it's a little extra work for the agency but I think it was a good thing and I want to thank you for that.

There are two areas in particular that concern me and have concerned us that from the preliminary budget that were cut. One of them is the OST option 2 and the other is the beacon program. I know from your prior testimony that you value both of those programs and share our concern. As to the beacons that it's more and more difficult to run the beacon program. With less and less money, it makes it that much harder. With OST option 2 we had some specific questions. The first being do you know now, I believe we asked you this at the preliminary budget, how many of the OST Option 2 programs were not meeting their match?

MS. MULLGRAV: I do not know the answer to that question because this is the way that we have oversight over these programs. We figure out what the entire budget is and how many participants that budget will support. We reduce that by 30% so that DYCD only gives the 70% of that budget and then we expect that the balance will be raised by the program. We are focused on the number of participants that are enrolled in that program. If they are enrolling the number of

participants then we are satisfied. Maybe Assistant Commissioner Caruso has something to add to that or is that pretty much...

BILL CHONG: I could just add that-

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER:

[interposing] Please identify yourself for the record.

MR. CHONG: I'm Bill Chong, Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services. Part of this was to streamline the paperwork because one of the things we often hear from providers is that there's too much paperwork involved. So by automatically deducting the match in their reimbursement it just stream lines the paperwork because we assume as the agreement and contract they have to have a match. So regardless of if they make it or not they only get 70% of the funding they requested. Its to streamline the paperwork to make sure that it's easier to just do the program.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: But you go then, I'm sure there are site audits to see that they're running the program at 100% not 70%.

2 MS. MULLGRAV: Yes.

3 MR. CHONG: Yes.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: So are you
5 finding anyone not meeting that burden?

6 MR. CHONG: No. For the most part
7 most of the option 2 programs were renewed last
8 year except for I think two or three who expressed
9 difficulty in operating the program.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Is there
11 any possibility that we will be able to--first of
12 all let me ask you generally, we are anticipating
13 receiving additional CSBG funding. Am I correct?

14 MS. MULLGRAV: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Do you have
16 any idea how much?

17 MS. MULLGRAV: \$50 million.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: And is
19 there any possibility that the CSBG money can be
20 used at least in whole or in part to restore OST
21 Option 2 and to restore the cuts to the beacon
22 program, not only from this year but from last
23 year as well.

24 MS. MULLGRAV: That would be our
25 hope although we are at a very preliminary stage

at this point and can't, in any way, assure that the programs will remain beyond June 30.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I'm glad to hear that we're on the same page, that your hope is I think our hope. But I have to ask you about the timeline because we have a deadline to pass the budget. I know that we have prioritize in our budget response, the restoration of OST Option 2. Whether or not that's going to take city tax levy dollars or we're going to use CSBG funds, is I guess about a \$6 million difference. Do you have any idea when we'll know?

MS. MULLGRAV: We do not know definitively. The Department of State has on its web site its draft plan for comment and that comment period extends to May 21. They have listed a number of activities in their plan as suggested activities but not necessarily--I didn't get the sense that it was an exclusive list. But after school is not on the list of activities. After the comment period they will submit their plan to the federal government. So the timing of all of this because there's really not a protocol in place that we're familiar with because we

1
2 didn't have stimulus monies previously so we're a
3 little unsure. But we expect that by early June
4 we should have some sense of where we stand. I
5 know it's everyone's goal to move as quickly as
6 possible with stimulus monies.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I hope we
8 will know in early June because if we know in
9 early July it doesn't really dovetail with our
10 budget process. Can you tell us what else is on
11 your hope list for the CSBF funding?

12 MS. MULLGRAV: I think we clearly
13 balanced restorations and trying to make sure that
14 we keep hull of the non profit infrastructure with
15 opportunities for workforce development for groups
16 that are particularly vulnerable in this time, for
17 example domestic violence victims, low wage
18 workers, fathers who have been unemployed. So we
19 made those choices and put forth something that I
20 think you'd be pleased with.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Well, I
22 always like to be pleased. Before I turn it over
23 to Council Member Vann, you know the topic that I
24 always come back to and that's RHY, Runaway and
25 Homeless Youth. We've had a number of

2 conversations about the stimulus money there. I
3 have been told by Council staff that we're now
4 viewing the \$74 million of stimulus money for
5 homeless housing as a three year total not a one
6 year total. I don't know if DYCD or the
7 administration has yet shared that view. Whether
8 it's a three year total or a one year total, we're
9 still interested in taking \$3 million a year from
10 it for runaway and homeless youth services.

11 Clearly, they are a major component
12 to the homeless problem in the city. So I would
13 ask you, Commissioner, what steps your agency has
14 taken and what steps you intend to take to seek a
15 piece of that funding for the FHY providers in our
16 city.

17 MS. MULLGRAV: As you know, we have
18 worked very collaboratively with the Department of
19 Homeless Services and continue to do so and have
20 those discussions. But really the lead
21 organization and the federally designated
22 organization is the Department of Homeless
23 Services. So it would not be proper for me to
24 make those suggestions. Of course, if they were
25 to approach us, we would gladly spend the money.

But I think it really is within their purview.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER:

Commissioner, that's the first answer you gave today that really disappointed me. I understand that you've worked collaboratively with DHS and I've expressed my option in the past as to which agency is doing a better job of dealing with homeless young people in the city.

I tend to find that when someone is the designated lead agency, they don't want to give up any piece of that money. I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for them to come to you say hey, do you want a piece? And yet we all know that this money will be put to extraordinary good use by DTCD and our RFP providers. Everyone here on the Council knows that if you'd ask, you don't get.

This is something that I'm asking for. This is something I know the RHY providers and the Coalition for Homeless Youth, Empire State Coalition has asked. It will be money well spent so again I want to urge you ask, we are asking. I have already sent in my comment to DHS asking. I've encouraged my colleagues to do the same and I

know that the providers have done that. Within the limits of the protocol of one commissioner to another, I'm asking that you take affirmative, proactive steps to get a piece of that funding for the RHY providers because I think it's necessary. No comment. No comment, okay.

All right. We've been joined by Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez and Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, both of whom are members of the Youth Services committee. I will turn the mic over to Council Member Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon Commissioner. I have a couple of questions only really. The first question had to do with the summer youth employment program. You mentioned that the Mayor did make some ARRA funding allocated to WIA. How much money did the Mayor make available from the recovery funds stimulus package money

MS. MULLGRAV: For summer youth employment program?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yes.

MS. MULLGRAV: \$18.5 million.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: You mentioned

in your testimony that the comprehensive program will cover around 51,000 participants. Is that correct?

MS. MULLGRAV: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: That's including this \$18.5 in that, right?

MS. MULLGRAV: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: What does the agency feel the need out there if we had our druthers. Not how much money would we need but how many young people are eligible that we are not able to provide placement for? You're doing 51,000 but how many more are out there approximately.

MS. MULLGRAV: Twice that number. Today we reached about 103,000 so more than twice that number. Alan, how many are we averaging a day? 5,000 to 6,000 applications a day so to the extent that we keep it open another week, we'll have substantially more.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: The stimulus part of the money, the \$18.5, you have until what period of time that this money must be expended?

MS. MULLGRAV: We have been

instructed, although not formally yet. The expectation is the majority of the money be spent by the end of the calendar year. Some 70% spent either by the end of November or the end of December and then the balance, June 30, 2011.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: 2011? So presumably this money could be rolled over to next summer, the summer youth program?

MS. MULLGRAV: A small amount will be but again with 70% of it having to be spent by the end of this calendar year and the clock began ticking in January, we knew the majority of it needed to be spent this summer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: The after school employment is part of this ongoing program. I know it's not summer youth employment you have programs that provide employment for after school?

MS. MULLGRAV: Absolutely. We have 2,800 young people who are part of the in school youth program who will have subsidized after school jobs as long as they continue to be on track in school and that's part of the incentive for them to have the after school jobs.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: And there's

out of school programs as well?

MS. MULLGRAV: Absolutely. We use the YAIP, Young Adult Internship Model, to create subsidized employment for 1,000 young people in out of school youth program. That will be a 12 week internship program. As well as the Parks opportunity program, which I also described which will allow 200 young people who are on public assistance the opportunity to get on the job training through the Parks Department.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Can the ARRA money be used for those programs as well, not just summer youth employment but for these in school and out of school programs?

MS. MULLGRAV: Yes. The full amount of ARRA is \$29.02 so \$18.5 of it is being used for the summer youth employment program and the balance being used in those other programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: That might answer my second question dealing with the initiative, the innovative programs that you indicate in your testimony. I think there are four and they come to around \$10.5 million. Is that the EAR money or is that some other funding?

2 MS. MULLGRAV: The four initiatives
3 are \$18.5 for summer youth employment program,
4 \$3.02 for disconnected youth, that's taking the
5 YAIP model and extending it to our out of school
6 youth program, \$5.5 million, which would provide
7 the after school jobs and \$2 million that would be
8 set aside for the Parks opportunity program, so
9 that all comes to \$29.02.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Okay. Good.

11 MS. MULLGRAV: And 30% of the
12 monies will be dedicated to disconnected youth.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you.
14 One last concern, on the DYCD program, the NYCHA
15 community centers, you have ongoing beacon
16 programs in the NYCHA community centers?

17 MS. MULLGRAV: What we did to make
18 sure that we had a continuity of programming was
19 amend the contracts for beacon providers who were
20 closest to the NYCHA facilities. We did that as a
21 phase one. Phase two will be the vendors will be
22 selected through a competitive RFP. The concept
23 paper is on the street right now, on our web site.
24 Comments I think are due by June 3rd. Then the
25 RFP, as you know, will follow some 45 days or more

after that to select programs for January 2010.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Okay, so phase one was really proximity, a sort of emergency situation. But phase two will be more competitive, is that what we're saying, right?

MS. MULLGRAV: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Why are they in only 25 centers? This is what was indicated from NYCHA where they wanted those programs? Why are there only 25?

MS. MULLGRAV: These were what the resources could support at this time. Obviously discussions between NYCHA and DYCD in terms of what we thought made sense with both the resources and in terms of them reviewing their portfolio.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you Commissioner.

MS. MULLGRAV: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you Council Member Vann. I just want to also just note that we will be holding a hearing I think on June 3rd on the concept paper regarding the NYCHA centers jointly with the sub committee on Public Housing so anyone who has further interest in that

should feel free to participate. We've been joined by Council Members Ulrich and Gerson, also members of the Youth Services Committee. Our next questioner is Council Member Mealy to be followed by Council Member Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Good afternoon.

MS. MULLGRAV: Good afternoon.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I want to thank you also for extending the application deadline. That will help thousands of youth. I want to piggy back on my colleague, Council Member Al Vann. Could you give me the breakdown since it's only 25 centers NYCHA developments, could you give me the breakdown of the five boroughs?

MS. MULLGRAV: Ten in Brooklyn, one, two, three, four, five in the Bronx, three, four in Manhattan, five in Queens and one in Staten Island.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: How are you advertising? We just got the extension, how are you getting it out to the community? I see that you said you do advertisement, 107.5, no 98.7 Kiss and 101 but how do you get it to the young

people that's maybe just hanging out in the park?
How are you getting the extension message to them
that they still will know now that they have time
to apply?

MS. MULLGRAV: For the summer youth
employment program?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes.

MS. MULLGRAV: Well we just made
that decision formally today so we will make sure
that we use all of the press avenues and our CBO
network. We have 69 CBOs who are working with us-
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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY:
[interposing] Could you give us some CBOs who have
hands on with the community, the urban community
to make sure not just the teenagers who are going
to after school programs? We have to try to reach
the lost at any cost, if that means going through
different avenues, even thinking outside the box.
How are you reaching those individuals who are not
part of a program but still should have the
opportunity to get a summer youth program job?

MS. MULLGRAV: You're absolutely
right and that's one of the reasons why we did

2 focus so much on the radios. Because we knew
3 particularly with the support of stimulus dollars,
4 which asks us to do more in terms of identifying
5 low income youth and youth who have obstacles,
6 whether they're court involved or in foster care
7 or disconnected. Also because the age group was
8 extended from 21 to 24, we knew that in the past
9 we had relied heavily on getting the word out
10 through the schools and the libraries. But in
11 order to attract disconnected youth, we've really
12 taken to the streets as you suggest.

13 The magnets that we have on all of
14 our vehicles and have asked others to take have
15 gotten a lot of exposure. And we know that it's
16 working because again we are in a shorter period
17 of time we have more applications than we've had
18 previously. People are doing it online, which
19 administratively saves time on everybody's end not
20 only on DYCD's end but also on the CBOs in terms
21 of submitting it electronically and also reduces
22 errors. We'll continue to get the word out
23 through these 25 NYCHA centers as well as the list
24 of CBOs, which we can give you in follow up to
25 this...

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Please

MS. MULLGRAV: ...to make sure.

And anything that you all can do to get the word out, we'd absolutely appreciate it.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Of course.

And back to the NYCHA, you said over 286 staff has been hired. That's staff from the community in the NYCHA developments or around the NYCHA developments or just staff that you received applications from and you hired? And you said 16% former NYCHA employees, so that's the ones who were laid off?

MS. MULLGRAV: Those are people who were on the NYCHA payroll. Many of our CBOs know that in order to have consistent presence in the community and to have buy in and to be recognizable in the community that they need to hire from the community. So they have--

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY:

[interposing] But what percentage came from the NYCHA developments themselves?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Just to clarify DYCD did not hire these 286 people.

MS. MULLGRAV: No, we don't hire.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: The CBOs hire them with the money that you provide them, right?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Do you track those statistics?

MS. MULLGRAV: Right. Well the only breakdown that I have are the ones that I've already given in terms of the percentage of former NYCHA employees. Any further breakdown is really in the possession of the CBOs who are responsible for hiring of staff.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you. I'm just ecstatic with the extension. And I see now, I wasn't aware of the WIA program that just recently came out. I would look into that further more to see exactly where that stimulus money will be going and I'm hearing a lot of it now. So I will speak to you later, Chair. And thank you so much Commissioner.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you. We've been joined by Council Member Jackson. Our next questioner is Councilwoman Gonzalez to be followed by Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Thank you

Chair and thank you Commissioner. I just want to say up front, thank you for all the times that you have responded and your staff to any issues in my district and any concerns that we had with your department. That's on top. And also in respect to the youth employment program, if there's anything that my office could do, I certainly would be glad to help. It's really important to our district.

But I just want to ask you in respect to the Community Development Block Grant funding. Will there be any of that funding for the Department's adult literacy initiative? That's the question.

MS. MULLGRAV: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: No? Oh. Why not?

MS. MULLGRAV: I think--

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ:
[interposing] I just want to say up front that the Adult Literacy Coalition has honored me and I have worked for the last tow years very diligently, though I believe I've always worked my entire life with that community. I have to sit here and ask

and push. It's important because it's so important to so many folks in the entire city. It's not something that's going to be dealt with just in my district; it's an entire city program. So please, thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Okay.

Thank you Council Member--

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ:

[interposing] Excuse me, Chair. Are we going to get an answer?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I'm sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Or can we...

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I was trying to figure out what we thought that might be.

MS. MULLGRAV: That money does not generally flow through my agency. That money, as far as I know, has in the past been--are you referring to...

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: About the grant.

MS. MULLGRAV: CSBG or CDBG--

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes.

It's the Community Development Block Grant. I want to know--

MS. MULLGRAV: [interposing] CDBG we're not getting any money.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Can we get anything from the stimulus then? My error.

MS. MULLGRAV: CDBG generally supports, to my knowledge, housing issues and has done so and does not generally flow through my agency. So we have not seen any allocations in terms of literacy programming. CSBG will continue to--

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [interposing] CSBG.

MS. MULLGRAV: Okay. CSBG will continue to support literacy as it has done in the past and we are also delighted to see that it is one ESOL in particular, is one of the areas as well as educational services are one of the areas that the Department of State has indicated as eligible for stimulus. So we will be looking carefully at that.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: I apologize for that. That was on my notes. Thank

you, thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I think there's been a little staff confusion here about CDBG and CSBG.

MS. MULLGRAV: The alphabet soup.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Just one little letter, iceberg, Goldberg, what's the difference? Thank you Councilwoman. Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito followed by Council Member Gerson and Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Mr. Chair. Two questions, one is regarding the stimulus money. You laid out all the different job opportunities that will be created during the summer with some of the stimulus money. Those are one shots, right? Those are only happening for this summer, it's not projected to happen next summer or any other years in the future?

MS. MULLGRAV: No, we did say that whatever money is not spent this year will carry over into next summer as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Right. But once that investment initially from

the stimulus money is put in, really once that is spent there is no projection to baseline it or to kind of increase the slots in all these areas that you laid out.

MS. MULLGRAV: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

SYEP, the Pops, okay. It's pretty much a one time situation.

MS. MULLGRAV: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: The

other issue is going back to the NYCHA community centers. We all know how involved we've been in those conversations and our concerns. I understand we have a hearing but the hearing is happening after the feedback is due. One of the things that we've raised individually and I think at other meetings or other hearings is looking at a multi service approach out of these beacon centers. I understand it is DYCD and Community Development and I think that would fall into the category that if we want to provide services, not just youth services, out of these centers, that's critical for the development of a community.

I think that a lot of the feedback

I've been getting from the center in my district and from the tenants' association and individuals is that they want to see services beyond just youth services. I know we've had these conversations. I have not seen the concept paper in terms of what's laid out and I understand you're asking for feedback that will help guide the RFP. But in the analysis, in the conversations, in the dialogues that have been happening at the community level with the firm that you hired to conduct some of this assessment. Is that a factor? Is that something that DYCD is open to of having these centers be more than just a youth center?

MS. MULLGRAV: It is definitely part of our visioning for these centers. We have heard a lot of feedback about their interest in intergenerational programming and adult programming and making sure that these are really anchors in the community that are lively places, that open early in the day and then extend into the evening as well as on weekends. I think the only thing that stands in the way of this, of course, becomes sort of the resource questions.

And so to the extent possible, we'll look to co-location arrangements and collaborations and to try to bring in, have a lead organization bring in as many partners as possible.

In some instances you can get resources that are really just looking for a physical space and already have funding to do, for example, literacy or other kinds of services that I know adults might be interested in. We also have begun conversations with the Commissioner of Aging, who was very, very amenable. We've looked to see where we are located together. For example, where there are senior centers and where there are community centers that will be operating to see what the synergy can be. Again, making sure that we're leveraging funding, which is more likely in this environment than thinking about new funding.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I understand the obviously I worked in an agency where we ran beacon programs. And understanding the importance of partnerships, co-location of services. But one of the things at right now in terms of the way that the beacon contracts are

structured, if someone does want to provide--my understanding, based on the conversations that I was having with a provider that was designated in my district. When I encouraged him to look at providing intergenerational programs or programs that reach beyond young people, his answer was well I can not pay for that through the existing beacon contract because the guidelines don't allow for that. Because you're basically kind of structured to work with young people.

Understanding the important of partnerships and co-location of services but I would hope that the guidelines would allow for some ability and flexibility that if people wanted to focus a little bit more on the intergenerational, that if they wanted to pay for some of that through the beacon contract that that would be allowed. I guess that's what we're kind of encouraging or urging. I understand that the amounts of money are limited and that's it's not going to be the end all be all in terms of the contract. It can't provide for as much as we need in the community. But I think that some flexibility in the ability to develop programs is

important. So that's just one thing I wanted to raise.

The other is that we just had a meeting earlier with the Chair of NYCHA and the Commissioner of DIFDA. Obviously the issue that comes up is also about space costs. We know all too well because through our initiatives we fund the space costs for beacon centers so I know that that's not typically something that's included in the budgets of our programs. The same way that in senior centers, contracts with the city, there's not much money really allocated for space costs.

Moving forward in this new RFP, I would imagine that you're not considering or there's no money allocated for space costs. Would that be an accurate statement?

MS. MULLGRAV: There won't be money taken from the program area to support space costs.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: So the expectation on your end is that NYCHA is providing the space for free?

MS. MULLGRAV: No, NYCHA is receiving an administrative fee but it is not

handled by program by program. It's handled in terms of the relationship between DYCD and NYCHA and [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: You have a line item in your budget that's an administrative fee that's paid to NYCHA that's falls outside of the \$12 million...

MS. MULLGRAV: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: ...for the programming? What is that amount?

MS. MULLGRAV: It's not outside of the \$12 but it is--

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing] It's within the \$12.

MS. MULLGRAV: It's within the \$12.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: And what's the amount? What percentage of the \$12 million?

MS. MULLGRAV: I think it's 10%.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: So \$2 million or so would be allocated to administration for NYCHA. I think those are my questions. I look forward to the hearing we're going to have on the concept paper and moving

forward on defining or the guidelines for the RFP.
We obviously want to continue this conversation.
Thank you very much and it was nice seeing you
last night at the Harlem RBI Gala. Thanks.

fid Thank you Councilwoman. We've
been joined by the Finance Chairman, David Weprin.
And we have Council Member Gerson followed by
Council Member Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you
very much Mr. Chair. Good afternoon, Commissioner
and to your whole team. Let me just start by
inviting you, if you're not booked, which I doubt.
But Friday we're having a very special baseball
game in the lower east side at the East River East
Houston Street Pier, where the latest team member
of the Downtown Little League will make its debut.
Play its first game. This is a league of young
people drawn from the NYCHA developments in that
area, LaGuardia, Rutgers, Smith. As part of a
collaborative response to some unfortunate violent
youth incidents we had. Your agency, as you know,
was a leading force and role in putting together
this collaborative response, wherein through your
agency and your leadership we were able to fund

and find additional youth opportunities. This is a manifestation of that so I want to really, very-
-

I can't tell you how thrilled the kids were when they learned that not only would they be part of the league but they were going to have the full paraphernalia with the full uniforms like all the other kids from the west side and elsewhere. That was really meaningful. I want to acknowledge your role in that for the record. Seriously, let me know if you want to come to the ball game.

MS. MULLGRAV: What time does it start?

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: 6:00

MS. MULLGRAV: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: They would probably be thrilled to have them throw out the--

MR. CHONG: [interposing] - - this time of year Mr. Chair.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: But let me know if you'd like to throw out. If you could come we'd be delighted to have you throw out the first ball even if you can't stay.

But following up on our focus of some of the most vulnerable youth in our city, I sent a letter to you, to Chancellor Kline and to Corrections Commission Martin Horn, addressing the need for additional services to young people incarcerated at Ryker's Island. Commissioner Horn told me just recently that either he had or was about to follow up with you and the Chancellor. As you know I also sit on the Fire and Criminal Justice Committee, which has jurisdiction over Corrections. We had a hearing following the terrible situation involving the fatality of a young person and the whole issue of youth violence among 16, 17, 18, 19 year olds.

Commissioner made a point that one reason is there is a tremendous amount of down time, boredom, unplanned time for these young people who by the way are incarcerated most of them not prior but without any conviction. These are young people who are held pending trial, innocent until proven guilty and many of them are not proven guilty. Or held because they've been convicted of minor crimes.

At any rate, the Commissioner

1 testified, I'm convinced, I'm sure you are. We
2 need to provide greater counseling. There is a
3 school operating at Ryker's during normal school
4 hours but very little after school programming,
5 very little weekend programming. I think no
6 weekend programming and virtually no after school
7 programming, certainly no evening programming.
8 The Commissioner testified that helped lead to the
9 violence.
10

11 Could we follow up and, as I
12 requested in my letter, have a sit down with the
13 three agencies and the members of the Council and
14 see what we can cobble together. Even in these
15 difficult financial times, to provide more for
16 these very vulnerable young people. It's not just
17 a question of alleviating the boredom to prevent
18 violence. It's a question that they need
19 meaningful intervention in their lives. For many
20 of these individuals it's society's last chance to
21 help them turn their lives around before they
22 plunge in to or downward spiral, which they very
23 well will if we don't intervene. So can we kind
24 of have over the next several weeks a summit to
25 brainstorm this issue?

MS. MULLGRAV: Yes. I am in receipt of that letter and I did speak with the Commissioner about it. We wanted to bring the Chancellor into that discussion as well. From the perspective of DYCD we have always looked to locating our programs in the venues that reach young people the best. So part of that effort is reflected in the New York City Housing Authority Initiative as well as we have 60% of our OST programs in schools. We have programs in DJJ facilities, homeless facilities, Parks facilities, libraries and so on and so forth. Certainly would welcome the opportunity to have programming in Ryker's Island.

We have some RFPs that may make sense for our CBOs to begin to look at. This fall for example, we'll be issuing an RFP that works with out of school youth. I don't know that it's inconsistent to have an out of school youth program located at Ryker's Island if they can meet, for example, the skills and educational requirements. So I think those are discussions that we can have with our colleagues. Then we will need providers to put forth successful

proposals and I think it can work.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you, Commissioner. That's very promising and I know your leadership has produced wonders for many young people so we look forward to continuing the record. My other question speaking of providing vital services to vulnerable youth, the emergency and transitional shelter beds, which the city opened to serve teenagers and very young adults homeless on our streets. With a greater diversity of providers so we have shelters and beds hospitable to the range of the homeless population, including young people who are lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender.

What is the status? What will be the status projected of those shelter beds for the upcoming fiscal year? I noticed you didn't cover that in your formal testimony this time. We discussed it at the preliminary hearing. So can you tell us will the beds remain open, at the same level, any possibility of expansion, any cutbacks, which we hope not?

MS. MULLGRAV: We just made allocations, as you probably know, through our

competitive solicitation for runaway and homeless beds. We now have funding for 106 beds and that includes both crisis and transitional independent living beds. You will notice that that is a reduction of 10 beds but that really is a reflection of our discussions with the CBO community. What we did was increase the per bed amount.

So we actually articulated ranges so that some people weren't getting paid a whole lot for the same service that other people were getting paid a lot less for. We kind of rationalized that with a pricing that was really reflected. Our best understanding of what a price of a bed costs. Unfortunately that meant that we had fewer beds but I think that it means we can maintain our commitment to quality services.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: So the 106 beds, does that presume continuation of the City Council initiative spearheaded--

MS. MULLGRAV: [interposing] That does not include monies from the City Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: If the City Council were to fund this area at the same level

as we have for this fiscal year, how will that affect the numbers? As I was about to say, I'm referring to the initiative spearheaded by our Chair, Chair Fidler, who has been a hero and nothing less in speaking out for these young people who themselves don't have a voice in government. I'm betting on working with him, our ability to continue funding. If we do how will that affect the number of beds.

MS. MULLGRAV: Based on last year's \$4.6 million we were able to support 64 crisis beds and 55 tills. We think that this number from this year would be to 200 and...

MR. CHONG: The maximum would be to 225. It's adding what you have and adding what you would bring, assuming things continued as they were.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: If we restore or maintain the \$4.5, we'll get up to a total combined emergency and transitional--

MR. CHONG: [interposing] Some of the costs per bed this year were different because, as the Commissioner said, we actually increased the crisis center bed costs. Again,

depending on what decision the Council wanted to make, how many crisis beds, how many till beds, the costs will vary.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: But in the range of...

MR. CHONG: About 225.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Is it your recommendation to the Council that we continue to provide this funding? Does it serve as a critical need?

MS. MULLGRAV: Any money that we have it goes to vulnerable young people serves a critical need.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: But is the demand there to use this number of beds?

MS. MULLGRAV: There is absolutely demand.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Okay. I think if there is a demand then clearly this is something that we need to continue. I think we all know there is that demand. I wanted the record to reflect that clearly. Going back to the 106 from the executive proposed allotment, how many providers will provide those beds and do you

have their names? My guess is it's just a few
so...

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Council
Member, I see our next hearing walked in about ten
minutes ago. I have all that information. We can
share that with you as well as a projection of
what will happen with the \$4.6 million should be
restored. I know you have a great interest in
this issue as well so I'll be happy to sit down
with you with that.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Okay. I
was winding up. I take it, is it correct Mr.
Chair and Commissioner, the 106 reflects a greater
diversity than one provider?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.

MS. MULLGRAV: Yes, yes. It
includes the--

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON:
[interposing] Because that's a change from a few
years ago when we really only had one provider.
We're not going back to those battle days.

MR. CHONG: We never had one
provider.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Well you

had one...

MS. MULLGRAV: We had one crisis provider.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: I was referring to the crisis beds.

MS. MULLGRAV: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: There will be, even with the 106, a greater diversity of crisis providers?

MS. MULLGRAV: With your support we have been able to work with many CBOs to get them licensed. That was really the goal because in order for us to diversify the portfolio we really needed to have licensed organizations. So now I think you're absolutely right with Green Chimneys, with Gems, with Covenant House. We have a full array of services that are available for young people.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you very much. Thank you Mr. Chair.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you and we have Council Member Sanders followed by Council Member Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you

Mr. Chair, Mr. Chair. Greetings to you
Commissioner and to your wonderful staff. First
let me attest to my colleagues that the advisory
board of DYCD, the community advisory board
certainly feels that they are taken into the loop
on the planning. They praise the Commissioner for
being open so I just want my colleagues to know
that she has a board that does praise its access.

Let me return to the question of
the beacon centers. The original, too bad my
colleague is not here, the original concept for
the beacon centers was a full well rounded
concept. I know I had a small role in writing it.
I used to work for DYCD in a different phase of
DYCD. When we wrote this concept we absolutely
envisioned a little bit of every community group
being in there, not paying rent, etc. And the
closer we can get back to that concept, I think, a
stronger community. We've had mission fading away
if you wish, not mission crit but mission fading
away where the original idea has faded away.

We also need to really push this
concept of beacons. I'm just sad that we're not
speaking this day and age of increasing beacons,

of looking at our city in terms of the youth population and saying what parts of the city are underserved in terms of beacons. We should have a beacon for every major community, if you wish, certainly where youth are located. I guess this was more of a soul responding, Mr. Chair, than a question so I will stop there. Thank you very much. Thank you ma'am.

MS. MULLGRAV: You're absolutely right about the history of the beacons. I think that as the landscape has become more competitive and as resources have become more competitive. You have many organizations saying we can do it all. Sometimes they can and do it well and sometimes they aren't able to do it all. Yes, the foundation was to really bring in other partners to do everything from life skills to academic skills to recreation to cultural enrichment. We are returning them to that mission.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you Council Member Sanders. I neglected to mention that we were joined earlier by Council Member Miguel Martinez. Council Member Ulrich and then I'll have one question and we'll conclude the

hearing.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll keep this brief. Commissioner, a few things, first of all I want to thank you for extending the deadline. It's a tremendous help not only obviously fulfilling all the positions but for my office. As we've been winding down and helping your agency facilitate the applications for the summary of employment program. I also thought it was pretty funny that the age limit was raised to 24 because that means that I'm now eligible for a job if they need one. It's too bad they don't offer--

MS. MULLGRAV: [interposing] No double dipping.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I may need one after November depending on what happens to me. I'm just kidding. That's true, that's true.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I point out to you Council Member, that we also ask the state to extend the shelter bed allowance to 24 so if you're really out of work...

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I may need a job and a place to stay. I think that's really

great. And concurrent with that is the idea that now there are tens of thousands of eligible applicants who we have to reach now, who are eligible for a job through DYCD now. I don't have as much of a question as I do a recommendation.

Maybe there are numerous inexpensive means of electronically reaching out to these people through social networking sites like Facebook and other things. Also, CUNY has tens of thousands of email addresses in their databases. If you were able to or probably CUNY would want to do it, send an email alert before the summer to all the students. You'd be reaching people who don't read the neighborhood newspapers, who don't go to the libraries.

Most 18 to 24 year olds haven't read the Queens Chronicle lately or been to the library in any of these neighborhoods. I'm sure that some of them are but we really do have to find alternative means of reaching out to people in my age group who could benefit from these services. So I thank you Mr. Chairman.

MS. MULLGRAV: Thank you and it's nice to meet you in person. Actually our Youth

Connect, which is our hotline that we operate in conjunction with 311 has a whole email alert system where we update people who give us their address, prior participants in SYEP with daily information about workforce development opportunities. So I'm glad to hear that we're incorporating the youth voice and perspective in our work and will continue to do that. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Maybe we can get that out on Twitter too. One last question, I know that we have a state budget reduction of about \$724,000 that's going to impact OST and YDDP in the out years. Can you tell us how that impact is going to be felt?

MS. MULLGRAV: For OST it could impact as high as 300 elementary slots or 550 middle school slots. We haven't decided internally how we'll be approaching that cut yet.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Sorry, one last question. It occurred to me that ACS's policies and practices are driving, if you will, more pre-K and kindergarten aged kids into the public schools, many of whom were before in community based settings. Does that mean that out

of school time that someone has to provide care for them beyond the normal school day, if you will. Is there additional allocation for that? Is there different type of training for that to accommodate this new population that presumably will be in the public schools after 3:00.

MS. MULLGRAV: As you know from the very inception in 2005, the out of school time initiative was begun in collaboration with ACS. We had been working closely with them in prioritizing ACS participants since 2005. So this is really no different. They will continue to receive priority and they will be an enrollment period that is targeted for them. We're confident that we have room to accommodate the numbers that we've heard from ACS and we're looking at the communities where the match isn't quite perfect to make sure that we can make arrangements for young people who wouldn't be eligible for a slot.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Let me be more specific, people can argue about space, may you have, maybe you won't. That's not my point, though that's an important point. I'm more concerned about the care. Out of school time

population is normally not that age group. I think it does require--

MS. MULLGRAV: [interposing] We've always had school age, 5 to 21.

MR. CHONG: Kindergarten's always been one of the age groups in so it's not anything new to providers. Every year there's always a turnover in slots, kids who age out of fifth grade and move on to middle school. So there's constant churning of slots so we think we can absorb incoming kindergarteners.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: So if you have an increase in pre-K, you feel that that will not be a problem.

MR. CHONG: Pre-K is not part of the design in OST.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: To care for them and so forth.

MR. CHONG: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: All right. We'll see. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you Council Member Vann. We are joined by Council Member Yassky, who's here to chair the next

hearing so I will just conclude with this. Thanks to the federal stimulus dollars and the excellent job that your agency does with every penny that is given to you, there's a lot of good news in the executive budget and a lot less hand wrenching over what we heard today and what we expect to happen going forward. Certainly, that's with the expectation that the Council is going to restore those items that the Council has funded in the past so that's all good.

Clearly the fact that you are hopeful that there will be money to restore the beacon PEGs. Again, I urge that you look not just at this year's PEG but last year's as well, which I think a number of us fell through the cracks on our side. There could be money for OST Option 2 is also very, very positive and something very hopeful about.

Obviously the SYEP news has been terrific. So I'm wont to end on a discordant note, which is the RHY issue. Again I just want to urge you one last time, I guarantee you that the Council is going to be seeking from DHS the funding for RHY providers from that stimulus

package because when we've met and we've looked at where the Council money can go we know how much farther we need to go. Given the budget constraints that we are all in this year, we have not said we need more city tax levy money for shelter beds and services for runaway and homeless youth. You have been a tremendous ally in the RHY fight from the beginning.

We need you to be with us here doing whatever you do behind the scenes with OMB, with DHS to say that you want some of that money spent through DYCD for this particular class of homeless people and they are the children. I think they are perhaps the most desperately needy population amongst our homeless. They obviously don't have a family support structure as well. I just have to beg you to be part of that ask. We will be asking, I have already asked, Council of Finance is going to ask and I need DYCD to ask so we're not waiting for DHS to come to you with an offer of money in a tight budget year.

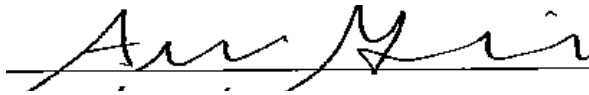
Thank you for your testimony, thank you for everything you do. With that, I conclude this joint hearing of Finance and Youth Services.

1	FINANCE, YOUTH SERVICES, COMMUNITY DEV 66
2	MS. MULLGRAV: Thank you.
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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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amber Gibson", written over a horizontal line.

Date June 11, 2009