

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH SUB COMMITTEE ON
CAPITAL BUDGET, COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY & COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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May 8, 2018
Start: 10:14 a.m.
Recess: 5:55 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: DANIEL DROMM
Chairperson

VANESSA L. GIBSON
Chairperson

BARRY S. GRODENCHIK
Chairperson

PETER A. KOO
Chairperson

DEBORAH L. ROSE
Chairperson

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Francisco P. Moya
Keith Powers
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James G. Van Bramer
Eric A. Ulrich
Kalman Yeger

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

Kenneth Godiner, First Deputy Director
Office of Management and Budget, OMB

Paul Thomas, Assistant Director
Office of Management and Budget, OMB

Jacques Jiha, Commissioner
NYC Department of Finance, DOF

Michael Hyman, First Deputy Commissioner
NYC Department of Finance, DOF

Jeffrey Shear, Deputy Commissioner
Treasury and Payment Operations
NYC Department of Finance, DOF

Seb Formoso, Chief Information Officers
NYC Department of Finance, DOF

Joe Fucito, Sheriff, City of New York

Mitchell Silver, Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

Liam Kavanagh, First Deputy Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

Therese Braddick, Deputy Commissioner of Capital
Projects, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

Matt Drury, Director of Government Relations
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

David Stark, Human Resource Personnel Division
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

Mike Dockett, Assistant Commissioner
Parks Enforcement Patrol, PEP
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

Samir Saini, Commissioner, Department of Information
Technology & Telecommunications, DOITT

Michael Pastor, General Counsel, Department of
Information Technology & Telecommunications, DOITT

Evan Hines, First Deputy Commissioner, Department of
Information Technology and Telecommunications, DOITT

Annette Heintz, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and
Administration, Department of Information Technology
and Telecommunications, DOITT

Bill Chong, Commissioner, Department of Youth and
Community Development, DYCD

Jagdeen Phanor, Chief Financial Officer & Associate
Commissioner, Bureau of Budget and Finance

Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner
Youth Services

Andre White, Associate Commissioner
Youth Workforce Development

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[background comments]

CLERK: Quiet, please thank you.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet

please. The meeting is starting. [pause]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, good morning

and welcome to the City Council's second day of

hearings on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal

2019. My name is Daniel Dromm, and I chair the

Finance Committee. We are joined by the Subcommittee

on Capital Budget chaired by my colleague Council

Member Vanessa Gibson. Today, we are joined by

Council Member Matteo, Council Member Powers, Council

Member Adams, Council Member Grodenchik and Council

Member Cornegy. Today's Executive Budget hearing

kicks off with the return of the Office of Management

and Budget. As we did during the Preliminary Budget

hearings, we are bringing OMB back for a separate

hearing to focus on the Fiscal 19 Capital Executive

Budget and Capital Commitment Plan. This represents

a new practice, which in conjunction with the

creation of the Subcommittee on Capital Budget, will

help the Council fulfill its responsibility as a

year-long partner in the city's capital process.

Before I talk about the Capital Budget and the

1
2 Commitment Plan, I'd like to take this opportunity to
3 thank the staff of the Finance Division for putting
4 together today's hearing. The Finance Division is led
5 by Latonia, and as you all know, she and her team do
6 a fantastic job. I'd like to particularly thank
7 Deputy Directors Regina Poreda Ryan, and Nathan Toth,
8 final-Finance Analyst Caitlyn O'Hagan and Economist
9 Davis Winslow for their work in preparation for
10 today. Now, let's dive into the budget. The Capital
11 Budget provides agencies and budget-provides by
12 agency and budget line the required appropriations
13 for Fiscal 2019 and the Three-Year Capital Program.
14 The Capital Budget proposes new appropriations of
15 \$9.4 billion for Fiscal 2019, and a total of \$49.4
16 billion for 2019 to 2022 to support Capital Programs
17 at 28 city agencies. The Executive Capital Budget has
18 increased by \$3.5 billion or 8% when compared to the
19 Preliminary Capital Budget due to increased planned
20 appropriations of \$3 billion and \$2.8 billion in
21 Fiscal 2021 and 22 respectively. The Commitment
22 Plan, which is a five year spending plan provides by
23 agency budget line appropriations for Fiscal 2018 and
24 Plan commitments. The Executive Commitment Plan
25 includes \$82 billion in plan commitments for Fiscal

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1
2 2018 to 2022, and shows by budget line the total
3 current contract liability, the total spending since
4 introduction of the budget line, and commitments made
5 during Fiscal 2018 through February. The Executive
6 Capital Budget is significantly less than the
7 Executive Commitment Plan because it does not include
8 the appropriations for Fiscal 2018 or the amount of
9 unspent funding that will be rolled in Fiscal 2019 in
10 the Adopted Budget. There is currently a balance of
11 \$39.8 billion in available appropriations in Fiscal
12 2018, and whatever is uncommitted at the end of the
13 Fiscal Year in June, will roll forward into Fiscal
14 2019 and will increase the Adopted Capital Budget
15 according. During the Preliminary Budget hearings
16 and in our Budget Response, we concentrated on a
17 number of structural issues with the Budget,
18 specifically excess appropriations, overbroad and
19 non-descriptive budget lines, and the front loading
20 of the Capital Commitment Plan. Addressing these
21 structural foundational problems with the way the
22 budget is presented is important because once we have
23 those issues sorted out, we can get to the heart of
24 the problem that frustrates New Yorkers across the
25 city, the delays in completing capital projects. We

1 all have stories from our districts about Parks that
2 never seem to get built, libraries that aren't
3 opening and streets that are ripped up and not put
4 back together. The time had come to reform the
5 process and to provide the residents of the City with
6 a level of service they deserve, but in order to do
7 that, we need to hold the Administration accountable,
8 and that starts with information and transparency.
9 We've already taken some important steps in the
10 Executive Budget, but there is still much more work
11 for us to do, and I look forward to partnering—to
12 partnering with the Speaker, Chair Gibson, and the
13 Administration to get it done, and now before we
14 hearing from OMB, I'd like to turn the mic over to my
15 co-chair Council Member Gibson.

17 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you so much to
18 our Finance Chair, Chair Danny Dromm. Thank you so
19 much. Good morning to everyone to all of my
20 colleagues in government to everyone here. Welcome
21 to our 2019 Budget hearing for the Office of
22 Management and Budget. I am grateful to be here,
23 grateful to serve as the Chair of the Subcommittee on
24 Capital. I'm also proud to represent the Sixteenth
25 Council District in the Borough of the Bronx, and I

1 thank you all for being here. Very excited to join
2 Chair Dromm for our second hearing. This budget
3 season exclusively dedicated for the Capital Budget.
4 I'd like to begin with some praise and admiration for
5 the Administration. In the City Council's Budget
6 Response we called for the Administration to reduce
7 excess appropriations in the Capital Budget, and the
8 Administration not only listened, but they made a
9 commitment, and they're getting it done. As we
10 discussed at the Preliminary Budget hearing, excess
11 appropriations are often a results of the City's
12 front loading the Capital Commitment Plan, which
13 generates unnecessary new appropriations. With large
14 available appropriation balances, the Administration
15 can raise, lower or create new Capital projects mid-
16 year without coming to this city Council for its
17 approval. Better alignment between appropriations
18 and more realistic planned spending in the Capital
19 Commitment Plan will ensure the Charter mandated
20 checks and balances on the city's Capital Budget are
21 truly maintained. In light of this, the
22 Administration has agreed to reduce its
23 appropriations by \$5.8 billion by Budget Adoption in
24 consultation with the City Council. While the
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1
2 Council had called on the Administration to reduce
3 excess appropriations to no more than 15% over the
4 Capital Commitment Plan, a \$5.8 billion in excess
5 appropriations is a significant achievement and the
6 Administration should be commended for undertaking
7 this work in a short time I might add. In addition,
8 the Administration has made great strides as it
9 relates to the Capital Commitment Plan as well. It
10 had become common practice for way too long for the
11 majority an entire plan's commitments to be made in
12 the first two fiscal years. Indeed, the Preliminary
13 Capital Commitment Plan included 53% of all plan
14 commitments in fiscal 2018 and 2019. This level of
15 plan commitment did not reflect the city's ability to
16 actually execute the plan. However, in the Executive
17 Capital Commitment Plan the Administration has
18 redistributed \$6.4 billion in plan commitments from
19 Fiscal 2018 and 2019 but across Fiscal 2020 through
20 2022. Despite this redistribution of funds serious
21 concerns remain about the city's ability to execute
22 the overall plan, which has increased by \$2.4
23 billion. Plan commitments for Fiscal 2018 totals
24 \$16.9 billion. This is almost twice as high as the
25 \$8.8 billion the city has been able to commit over

1
2 the past four years on average. As of March, the
3 city has committed only \$5.9 billion in Fiscal 2018.
4 It is all but certain the city will be nowhere near
5 its commitment targets by the end of this year. So,
6 as a result, uncommitted funding will roll into the
7 following year, continuing the trend of an
8 unrealistic Capital Commitment Plan. Today, I hope
9 to continue a further discussion about how the city
10 can better align its Commitment Plan with its
11 capacity to actually execute projects. In addition,
12 Executive Capital Budget does not include the budget
13 line transparency that the Council's Preliminary
14 Budget Response called for. The city's Charter
15 intended for Capital Budget lines to be specific and
16 tied to actual individual projects. Yet, there are
17 56 budget lines with other 50 projects in them. I
18 hope that between now and budget adoption we will
19 work with OMB to address these overly broad and vague
20 budget lines. They must be broken down into multiple
21 lines with more specific descriptions. Right sizing
22 the Capital Commitment Plan and creating more
23 descriptive budget lines would really bring much
24 needed transparency to the over Capital Budget. As
25 the city's population continues to grow, so will its

1 critical infrastructure needs: our roadways, our
2 schools, housing, our public institutions, our
3 libraries. The city must thoughtfully and
4 realistically plan to meet those needs many of which
5 were outlined in our Budget Response, but not
6 addressed in the Executive Budget. Just to name a
7 few: Funding a serious investment in NYCHA to
8 upgrade boilers and heaters and invest in critical
9 infrastructure improvements; money for the Orchard
10 Beach Reconstruction in Bronx County; accelerating
11 the city's solar energy goals; implementing the
12 planning to learn recommendations and improving the
13 Educational Capital Plan; providing additional
14 funding for school accessibility and security; the
15 construction of a full service animal shelter in
16 Queens County; establishing three new Health Action
17 Centers and there are more. The Capital Budget and
18 Commitment Plan should really be a reflection of this
19 careful planning so that our constituents and all New
20 Yorkers can really enjoy the quality life and the
21 infrastructure that they truly deserve and need. I
22 echo my colleagues' and Chair Dromm in thanking the
23 entire Finance Division led by Latonia, our Finance
24 Director and the entire staff for all of their work
25

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1 in preparing for today's hearing. I'd also like to
2 thank the Office of Management and Budget for being
3 with us today, and while our expectation at the
4 beginning of this process was to have our Director
5 Melanie Hartzog here, and I'm disappointed that she's
6 not here, and so my expectation is that in her place
7 our First Deputy Director Kenneth Godiner will be
8 able to answer our questions, and also make
9 commitments on behalf of OMB as it relates to how
10 many of our capital projects that we called for in
11 our Budget Response will be included in the Final
12 Budget. I want to recognize that yesterday our OMB
13 Director said with enthusiasm that fact that the
14 Administration committed to ending frontloading of
15 Capital projects as well as reducing excess
16 appropriations, and we were able to get that done in
17 30 days. So, my expectation is that all of the
18 Capital projects that were not funded and not
19 included in the Executive, can also be achieved in
20 the next 30 days as well. I think we've shown that
21 we can get things done as we believe they should be
22 and if we continue to align our priorities together,
23 we can really have a budget that's reflective of the
24 capital projects and needs that we believe are needed
25

1 in this city. So, I thank you for being here.

2 Looking forward to today's hearing, and I thank my
3 staff as well, and I turn this back over to our
4 Chair, Chair Dromm. Thank you.

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6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Chair
7 Gibson, and before we begin, I'd like to remind my
8 colleagues that the first round of questions for the
9 agency will be limited to three minutes per Council
10 Member, and if Council Members have additional
11 questions, we'll have a second round of question of
12 two minutes per Council member, and now we'll hear
13 from OMB after being sworn in by our Counsel.

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

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I do.

18 LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, please begin.
20 Thank you Chairman Dromm, Subcommittee Chair Gibson,
21 members of the Capital Budget Subcommittee, Finance
22 Committee, and the Council for the opportunity to
23 testify today. My name is Kenneth Godiner, First
24 Deputy Director of OMB. I'm joined at the table by
25 OMB Assistant Director, Paul Thomas. OMB staff is

1 here to assist me in answering questions. I'm here
2 to day to testify about the city's Fiscal Year 2018
3 to 2022 Executive Capital Plan. In my testimony, I
4 will focus on the changes made since the Preliminary
5 Plan. The Executive Capital Plan for Fiscal Years
6 2018 through 2022 authorizes agencies to commit \$82
7 billion, an increase of 3% over the Preliminary
8 Capital Plan. The authorized commitments from 2019
9 are \$19.1 billion. Almost three-quarters of plan
10 commitments support government operations and
11 infrastructure projects. The balance of funds are
12 committed to schools and housing. The Council has
13 expressed an interest we share in right sizing the
14 Capital Plan to reflect realist project timelines.
15 To address this since the Preliminary Plan we've
16 moved projects from Fiscal Year 18 and 2019 into the
17 out-years of the Five-Year Plan. By redistributing
18 these projects, we reduced the Fiscal Year 2018 and
19 2019 Capital Plan amounts by \$6.4 billion, a decrease
20 of 15% from the Preliminary Plan. This is a
21 reduction of \$4.8 billion or 22% in Fiscal Year 18
22 and \$1.6 billion or 8% in Fiscal 2019. Additionally,
23 we've taken significant steps to reduce
24 appropriations as the Council had recommended. Since
25

1 the Preliminary Plan, we proposed nearly \$5.8 billion
2 in rescindments from prior capital budgets. By
3 eliminating these appropriations from prior capital
4 budgets, we present a better reflection of the
5 Capital Budget in its current state. Going forward,
6 we will reassess the Capital Plan as necessary and to
7 distribute projects and appropriately throughout the
8 Five-Year Plan, and to propose rescindments. As we
9 discussed at the last hearing on the Capital Plan
10 Design-Build Authorization is one of the most
11 effective tools used by New York State to accelerate
12 its capital program. For years, we have worked
13 together to persuade the state that the city should
14 also have access to this project delivery method. In
15 connection with the State's Fiscal Year 2019 Enacted
16 Budget, we were finally granted the Authority to use
17 Design-Build on a select group of projects. This
18 means that BQE Construction and Rikers Island Closure
19 projects will be completed 12 to 24 months faster and
20 at lower cost. Thank you for your continued
21 partnership, support and advocacy around this issue
22 as we push for Design-Build authorization for all of
23 the city's capital projects. Another effective way
24 to expedite capital projects is through the city's
25

Capital Project Scope Development or CPSD program.

This project assessment technique is used to improve project scoping, identify potential issues, explore and prioritize design alternatives, identify true construction costs for planned commitments. This helps city agencies make informed decisions earlier in the capital process, and helps control costs as a project evolves. CPSD is typically used for Projects that have unique legal or technical challenges, impact multiple stakeholders or involve complex construction. CPSD is typically used for projects that have unique legal or technical challenges, impact multiple stakeholder or involve complex construction. Since the program's inception, 20 different agencies including the Parks Department, the Department of Transportation, and the NYPD have used CPSD to assist with capital project planning. In Fiscal Year 2019, we added \$5 million to the CS-CPSD program bringing its budget to nearly \$35 million. Now, I would like to highlight some of the capital investment we made since the release of the Preliminary Capital Plan. Pursuant to State Budget Requirements, we funded the MTA's Subway Action Plan with \$164 million in capital. This brings the city's

1 capital contribution to the MTA 2015 to 2019 Capital
2 Plan to \$2.6 billion. To help protect New York City
3 pedestrians and cyclists, we're investing and
4 additional \$103 million to install an estimated 3,000
5 permanent security barriers. We moved \$58 million
6 from the out-years to accelerate heating system
7 upgrades at 20 NYCHA developments. With these
8 investments, the total capital funding this
9 Administration has contributed to NYCHA is \$2.2
10 billion. We also invested \$553 million in a number
11 of projects that will help maintain our sewer system
12 and ensure a high quality water supply. We invested
13 \$300 million to make improvements to the New York
14 City Ferry System. These funds will be used to
15 nearly double the fleet size, and increase existing
16 ferry capacity. We will also need to build a second
17 home port to house the newly expanded fleet. We are
18 investing an additional \$38 million in neighborhood
19 infrastructure as part of the East Midtown Rezoning
20 Plan. These improvements will help prepare the area
21 for new development by increasing sidewalk space,
22 improving trans—the transportation corridor,
23 expanding plazas—plazas for office workers and
24 visitors. We acknowledge the importance for working
25

1 in partnership with the Council in the capital
2 planning process. We have heard and responded to
3 your concerns, but we know there is more work to do.
4 As we move forward toward adoption, we look forward
5 to continuing a dialogue about to have our shared
6 values reflected in the Capital Plan. In conclusion,
7 this Capital Plan reaffirms our commitment to making
8 strategic capital investments that will benefit the
9 city and its residents for generations to come, and
10 now I look forward to taking your questions. Thank
11 you.
12

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Deputy
14 Director Godiner, and I'm glad that in your testimony
15 on page 3 you acknowledge that you've heard and
16 responded to our concerns, but that you acknowledge
17 that more work needs to be done. Because after the
18 March 20th, Preliminary Budget hearing covering the
19 Capital Budget, Chair Gibson and I sent OMB a follow-
20 up letter asking for additional information that
21 either was brought up at the hearing, or required
22 follow-up or which we did not have time to address at
23 the hearing. We've received the response to some of
24 the questions posed in the letter, but we have not
25 yet received the complete response. I think there is

1 still five outstanding questions from the letter, and
2 we haven't gotten that. So, when do you intend to
3 respond to all of the questions in that letter?
4

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We will be
6 getting back to you in the next few weeks. Some of
7 that information will—will get to you sooner than
8 that, and the rest will come in the next few weeks.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Uh-hm. We're going to
10 need it before a few weeks because we have to do a
11 budget with a few weeks.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I know, sir.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, please move that
14 along as fast as humanly possible. I mean one of the
15 items that we asked for follow up was something that
16 Chair Gibson requested of the Director at the March
17 20th hearing in which the Director said would be
18 provided. Specifically, she requested a breakdown of
19 the average time for OMB to issue a certificate to
20 proceed by agency. The response we received
21 indicated that OMB strives to reduce the certificate
22 to perceived times for all agencies, but still no
23 data has been received. Can you please recommit to
24 sending the Council this data, and tell us when we
25 expect to receive it?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Well, we will
definitely provide the Council that information. We
should have that information with the next ten days.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Let me go
through the SCA Capital Budget. You know, I used to
be the Chair of the Education Committee in the
Council, and the city projects that 76,506 3 and 4-
year-olds—3 and 4-year-olds will be served in Pre-K
for all and 3-K programs in 2019, and that of these,
40% will attend DOE facilities. DOE anticipates
1,200 and 920 3-K students will be served in DOE
facilities in 2019. The total number of 3-K students
served in DOE facilities will only grow as the city
expands the program to additional districts.

However, finding space for these students will become
increasingly challenging as 3-K reaches districts
where schools are already overcrowded. Despite this,
the Capital Plan includes no new funding the Pre-K or
3-K seats in the out-years and there is no formal
long-term projection of Pre-K or 3-K seat need
included in the DOE's Five-Year Capital Plan.

Creating a formal 3-K seat need projection was a key
recommendation of the Council's recent report, which
we worked very, very hard on here for—for a long

1 period of time called Planning to Learn: The School
2 Building Challenge. Why doesn't the city make formal
3 predictions of Pre-K seat need as it does for K to 12
4 seat need? [background comments, pause] Okay, first
5 I just wanted to point out that in terms of our
6 initial siting of the 3-K districts, the districts we
7 chose were in part chose because they did have space
8 in the districts. In January we added about 400 Pre-
9 K seats. In terms of-of coming up with-with a
10 forecast, we're happy to sit down with Council and
11 talk more about how we could develop a more formal
12 method of doing so. Right now, it's based on family
13 applications between SCA and DOE. They estimate
14 demand based on-on those applications and enrollment
15 behavior, and as we move forward, you know, every
16 seat-ever [coughs] every family that-that applies in
17 those districts should get a seat.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Will the DOE's Five-
20 Year Capital Plan in the future include that?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We're happy to
22 enter in to a discussion about how we're going to
23 track that into the-the Five-Year Plan for DOE.

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, will the city
25 invest capital funding in constructing facilities to

1
2 serve 3-year-olds through 3-K? [background
3 comments]

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah, we
5 anticipate doing so in the next plan.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I'm sorry.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We anticipate
8 doing so in the next plan. Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Do you have an
10 estimate and what that's going to look like?

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We—we do not
12 have an estimate yet. We will obviously work with
13 the Council.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And when will those
15 3-K seats become available? [background comments,
16 pause]

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Right. We are
18 still working on when those seats will become
19 available. The important thing is the districts
20 we've announced there is not a short-term need for
21 those seats yet.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Those—but those 3-K
23 seats are opening up in—in September?

24

25

1
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We have—we
3 have 3-K districts that are opening in September,
4 yes. Yes, we do.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, are you going to
6 come up with a plan before then?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Well, we have—
8 we have seats in those—in those districts that are
9 open. We—we don't need to have the plan to execute
10 the September.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: But those—for that
12 complex.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [interposing]
14 Right, that's like I said, that—that's not a
15 coincidence, right. We chose districts where
16 capacity existed. That was one of the criteria we
17 looked for.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, we—we really
19 want to work with you on that because overcrowding
20 has been a big issued.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We agree with
22 you, and we look forward to working with you on that.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. The Council
24 expects the first version of the DOE Five-Year
25 Capital Plan covering Fiscal 20 to 24 to release this

1 fall. What is OMB's role in working with SCA and DOE
2 to prepare the Capital Plan? [background comments,
3 pause]

4
5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We work with
6 them, as you'd expect with SCA and DOE to make sure
7 that we think their—their plan is going to meet the—
8 the need and that all the mayoral commitments that
9 we've made are met, and that they have a good plan to
10 arrive where we—where we expect them to on time.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, yesterday I asked
12 DDC do they meet regularly with SCA and they said not
13 formally, but that they do meet on occasion. How
14 often do you meet with SCA? [background comments,
15 pause]

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I don't think
17 there's a routine like a monthly or something, but we
18 meet with them regularly and often.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, one of the things
20 I think that we'd like to see out of the report:
21 Planning to Learn: The School Building Challenge is
22 more frequent and scheduled meetings. Would you
23 commit to something that now?

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I don't know
25 if we commit to—to having it without our partners

1
2 there, but we definitely are open to that idea, and
3 as I said, currently there is a-a frequent level of
4 communication between the-the three parties. So,
5 we're-we're open certainly if, you know, to some sort
6 of schedule, but I think currently, you know, there's
7 enough communication so--

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, well, we-we
9 feel that that those communications need to improve
10 because we still are finding that, you know, in
11 districts like the one that I represent the School
12 District 30 and School District 24, we still are
13 desperate for school seats there.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [interposing]
15 We understand that.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, we think that
17 having more communications between the agencies would
18 be helpful in identifying those sites because in some
19 cases the money is there, but the sites are not.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I understand.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: The health issues.
22 Let me just go over it. The Council's Budget
23 Response calls for \$9.6 million in capital funding to
24 support three new health agency centers in Queens and
25 on Staten Island. Dr. Mary Bassett, Commissioner of

1 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has
2 expressed her support for the centers. However, the
3 Fiscal 19 Capital Budget does not add any funding for
4 such new centers. Why didn't you allocate funding
5 for these health action centers? [background
6 comments, pause]
7

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: So, we've
9 invested \$3 million to create three Health Action
10 Centers in Tremont, East Harlem and Brownsville where
11 these are being recently created and we're assessing
12 the impact and we're going to—based on the results
13 of—of those centers, we'll adjust to see where we go
14 next.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, given the large
16 amount of existing appropriations in the Capital
17 Budget it seems odd to me that there are still large
18 mayoral projects in the plan that are not fully
19 funded, Orchard Beach in the Bronx instantly comes to
20 mind as does the Sanitation Garage on the North Shore
21 of Staten Island that could be advanced into Fiscal
22 19. Health Action Centers in Queens, which are not
23 in the budget, as I said, as well as supportive
24 housing in all the boroughs. These projects and
25 projects like these left out of the budget were not

1 fully funded because of capacity issues in completing
2 them.
3

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: So, there were
5 a number of questions. I'll try to—I'll try to talk
6 through them a little bit. In terms of Orchard
7 Beach, there is currently \$65 million of which \$20
8 million is mayoral funding in for this project.
9 We've been working with the Parks Department who
10 feels that that funding is enough for the current
11 scope of the project. We recently put money in for
12 design. They're—they're going through that process,
13 and to the extent that there is a need for—for more
14 money, I think that will come out during the design
15 process, and it will be assessed at that time. Let's
16 see, what were the other—sorry. I was working on it.
17 What were the other questions? I—I don't--

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] The—the
19 Sanitation Garage for Staten Island.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah, I—I
21 think that garage we—we feel like the funding that's
22 in the plan is—is sufficient. I'm not aware of a
23 shortfall. I don't think our—we know of that being a
24 problem.
25

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [pause] So, we were
3 interested in moving it forward in 2019.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: The Sanitation
5 Garage?

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yeah.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah, I think
8 we're—we're moving ahead with that. You know, I'm not
9 sure when the—the expectation is for completion, but
10 we're going ahead with design during Fiscal 19 and
11 obviously, you know, we—we—we've generally tried to
12 push projects that we have in the plan towards
13 completion as—as quickly as possible. It's certainly
14 one of the Administration's goals. On supportive
15 housing, there is funding in for supportive housing
16 as part of the overall housing plan that we added in
17 January.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: How do you decide
19 which projects will or will not be funded?

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I think t
21 hat's a combination of projects that—that (a) are
22 obviously a high priority, and also projects that we
23 feel can be—can, in fact, be done in the timeframes
24 we're looking at. So, we don't want to fund a
25

1 project that we know is—is years away from being
2 ready to even reach the design part of the process.
3

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, I'm going to
5 turn it over to Chair Gibson, and then we'll follow
6 up with Council Member questions.

7 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you, so much
8 once again Director, and I do want to begin by just
9 following up to what Chair Dromm was asking about as
10 it relates to SCA and capital, and really
11 understanding what the city's long-term plan is.

12 When the Mayor announced the 3-K Initiative, and we
13 were very excited about giving 3-year-olds
14 opportunities at early education recognizing that
15 this September we're adding new districts and in the
16 following September of 2019, we're expanding even
17 further. In the City Council's Report: Planning to
18 Learn, we are asking this Administration to identify
19 what its long-term plan is in terms of siting these
20 locations. So, I guess I'm a little concerned
21 because your answer to Chair Dromm seems very shaky,
22 and I want to understand further what is the plan.

23 Do we need to look at something that we should
24 identify as learning to plan? What is our long-term
25 plan to identify as the population continues to grow

1 in the city. So, my particular district in the
2 Bronx, School District 9 we are getting 3-K in
3 September of 2019. So that would be a part of a
4 long-term plan. So, what is happening on the ground?
5 What is OMB doing to work with DOE and SCA to really
6 look at sites underutilized properties on Housing
7 Authority? What can we expect from this
8 Administration as we move forward for adoption
9 especially being that there's no capital that's been
10 added in the Executive that would even look at any
11 new construction for potential sites. Please help me
12 understand.
13

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: So, as I-I
15 think it's important to remember that for the
16 districts that we're rolling out in the near term, we
17 have identified the space. We have—we—as I said not
18 a coincidence. We, in fact, looked—one of the
19 criteria we looked for was districts where we could
20 get space in the—in a good timeframe. We selected
21 those districts using that as one of the criteria.
22 In terms of expansion, we're planning on working with
23 CBOs and leveraging that—that space, and we'll find
24 seats as needed using our own space plus CBO space as
25 we—as we roll out forward. And as we develop a

1
2 better plan for—for districts and space, we'll let
3 the Council know.

4 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So, as we're working
5 with local CBOs, if we identify potential sites that
6 need capital infrastructure and funding, can we
7 expect from now to adoption that there will be any
8 changes that would reflect additional capital needs
9 for some of these potential sites? Should that be
10 our expectation now?

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Well, we don't
12 have a short-term need, but we certainly would be
13 interested in any identified space that would be
14 appropriate for 3-K, and trying to—because we are
15 looking, you know, in the—as we expand, we are
16 looking for space to site those seats. So any
17 information about additional places, CBOs especially
18 that could provide that space would be very helpful.
19 But as I said, you know, the good news is in the
20 short-term to roll out the districts we've already
21 listed, we have sufficient space.

22 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, and the reason
23 I bring it up is because I've been contacted already
24 by some of my local CBOs that are interested in
25 working with the Administration as it relates to

1 identifying space, but, you know, the realistic
2 answer is everyone needs money, and they need
3 infrastructure upgrades to make sure that these sites
4 are ready and willing to serve 3-year-olds as well as
5 staff. So, that's why I was asking you should we
6 expect any future capital commitments as it relates
7 to expanding 3-K?

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: As part of the
10 next Capital Plan, which will be active in November
11 for SCA, I think that, you know, to the extent we
12 find suitable sites in the right places, and capital
13 funding is needed, we will be putting capital funding
14 in for those sites.

15 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay great. So, I
16 look forward to working with you as well as asking
17 the Administration to continue to review our report
18 Planning to Learn. There were some great ideas that
19 we've put forth that we believe OMB should consider
20 as it relates to the overcrowding challenges we face
21 today, the overcrowding challenges we will face
22 tomorrow as well as expanding capacity in many of our
23 schools districts.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We look
25 forward to working with on that.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. Earlier in my
3 statement I talked about the rescinding of excess
4 appropriations, which has been one of this Council's
5 priorities, the Speaker's priorities, the Chair and
6 I--and I were very happy to see the issue of excess
7 appropriations, which we requested in our response
8 really being addressed by the Administration.

9 Certainly, before I criticize, I always compliment
10 because I do think that was a very ambitious goal--

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [interposing]

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: --and I do recognize
14 in a short timeframe we were able to achieve that,
15 which is why I know in the same timeframe we're going
16 to achieve even more, but I do want to ask in terms
17 of making sure that City limits the appropriations to
18 15% over its Capital Commitment Plan was something
19 that the Speaker also talked about. So, it's a great
20 step in the right direction. Is there anyway you
21 could share with us your ideas and where the
22 administration intends to rescind these
23 appropriations, and certainly what the methodology
24 was in making these decisions, and how can the City

1
2 Council be of assistance as we move forward in this
3 process?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We've been
5 looking at the Capital Plan. We—we looked at—at
6 appropriations. There are—there are a number of
7 projects, which were either cancelled or were
8 completed for less than what was in the original
9 appropriation. We identified those dollars that's
10 the approximately \$6 billion we rescinded. We will
11 continue to look at these projects as time goes by,
12 and make additional rescindments as—as needed.

13 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Did you recognize
14 any trends within particular agencies where you were
15 able to rescind those excess appropriations? So, I
16 asked about this during Prelim in terms of
17 identifying those agencies that may have a pattern of
18 not drawing down on their capital funds. So, within
19 rescinding and reducing the excess appropriations
20 were you able to identify trends within particular
21 agencies where it could be a further conversation
22 that that particular agency is in need of additional
23 assistance? Does that make sense?

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I understand
25 what you're saying.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So, it wasn't across
3 every agency I imagine, but certain agencies took up
4 a bulk of these excess appropriations I imagine.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah, it-it-it
6 was not an agency specific process. We looked across
7 agencies, but obviously you're going to find the
8 biggest rescindments in the capital intensive
9 agencies. And again, we know which ones those are,
10 and-and the dollars probably line up in that way, but
11 we did not look to see if one agency or another was
12 more likely to have excess appropriations.

13 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, well, I think
14 it's important to look at trends because trends are
15 patterns of good behavior and sometimes bad behavior,
16 and no disrespect to any agency. I'm not calling
17 anyone out, but the reason we're asking is because we
18 want to identify deficiencies in the process, and
19 make sure that as an Administration agencies are
20 following to some extend the same standard. So, the
21 reason why we-we're asking this is because we want to
22 identify those agencies that are having the most
23 challenge with spending their capital dollars. And
24 if we do identify them, it's an indicator to us that
25 this agency needs a little bit more of a assistance,

1
2 and so, I'd appreciate a little bit more information,
3 and certainly whether we could continue to talk about
4 that, whether it's here or offline, but I'm pretty
5 sure that there are agencies that account for a bulk
6 of these excess appropriations. I know it.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah, there's
8 no question that--that there are agencies with--where
9 that--where the money is concentrated. However, a lot
10 of that has to do with the size of the Capital Plan--

11 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Right.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: --rather than--
13 We didn't detect any trends right away, but we're
14 happy to continue looking at that that way. I think
15 it's an interesting point. We'd be happy to talk to
16 you about it, and look to see if there is something
17 in the data that--that suggests an agency or two is
18 having a particular problem in that regard, and then
19 try to understand why that's happening.

20 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. I want to move
21 onto the New York City Housing Authority, and in our
22 response we called for \$2.4 billion in capital funds
23 to be allocated to NYCHA to really address the
24 ongoing critical capital needs, infrastructure needs,
25 et cetera, and while the Commitment Plan does add \$40

1 million in capital funding, which I commend, the
2 general improvements to NYCHA's infrastructure we
3 don't believe that this is enough. It's a great
4 step, but it's not enough, and frankly, I'm a little
5 surprised that Mayor was not willing to add more to
6 NYCHA's Capital Budget as he's increased the capital
7 funding quite bit from \$205 million in Fiscal 2015
8 when he took office to \$1.4 billion in the current
9 Executive Capital Commitment Plan. With all that's
10 going on with NYCHA with lawsuits and oversight and
11 monitoring the state, the feds, et cetera, we are
12 wondering where we're going to see further
13 commitments on capital, and certainly it's been
14 widely cited that NYCHA will need in the
15 neighborhood, and this is the neighborhood of \$25
16 billion to fix its entire infrastructure. And so,
17 given that tremendous need, why not allocated more
18 funding for capital improvements in this Fiscal
19 Budget?
20

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I think it's
22 important to note that this Administration had made
23 an unprecedented \$2 billion capital investment in
24 NYCHA. In addition to that, in this plan, we've
25 accelerated funding from the out-years into Fiscal 19

1
2 for needed heating (sic) and upgrades. In Fiscal 19
3 we're \$423 million in NYCHA Capital projects; \$111
4 million for roofs, about \$150 million for heating,
5 \$150 million for general repairs, and \$3 million for
6 security. The Administration is committed to NYCHA,
7 and improving the situation over there. I think
8 you're right that that capital needs there are vast,
9 and we've acknowledged that and we've also said that
10 we can't do this by ourselves.

11 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Right. So, I agree
12 we cannot do this by ourselves. We need our partners
13 in Albany and the Federal Government, but I also
14 think that as a city we have made unprecedented
15 investments in NYCHA, but with the budget that we
16 have, and the additions that the Administration has
17 made from Prelim to Exec, we don't believe that this
18 is enough, and with thousands and thousands of
19 residents that are living in less than quality
20 conditions that all represent, we truly believe that
21 we can do a little bit more, and so our ask is we—we
22 need more money for NYCHA, and we're willing to push
23 and push to make sure that we can get beyond what's
24 already been committed, and I also recognize and
25 we've and NYCHA com through the Council many times.

1
2 Yes, the allocation of dollars is important, but
3 equally as important is drawing down on those
4 dollars, and making sure that NYCHA has the capital
5 investments, but also the capital staffing, the
6 staffing, the infrastructure of architects and
7 designers, and everyone else that needs to procure
8 these projects in a timely fashion, and yes we've
9 made progress, but it's not enough because all of the
10 investments we're making, New Yorkers in public
11 housing are not feeling those impacts, and so I
12 cannot stress this enough that we don't believe that
13 what this Executive is calling for NYCHA is enough,
14 and so, we'd like to see further investments made as
15 it relates to NYCHA's capital.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Well, I
17 understand that, and, you know, we are committed, as
18 I said, to NYCHA. We have made this \$2 billion
19 toward investment. I'm looking at the graph, and--and
20 I--it is sort of an impressive upward trend--

21 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Uh-hm.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: --and I know
23 that--that the people at NYCHA--residents are--you know,
24 are--are feeling, you know, the--the discomfort over
25 there, and--but I--I think it's fair to say that many

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COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY & COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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of the—of the things that we've done are starting to
have impact. We did complete 563 roofs out of 900
that we—we plan on doing. So, we're—we're--

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Out of
900?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We plan on
doing the full 900 by 2027, but—and if you live in
the 63 buildings that—that we've done it in, the work
is complete, that was sort of in our timeframe what
we set out for that. We've done boiler work. You
know, we did the emergency heating work. So, to say
that—that it's not done, is not everybody. Like we
agree, there's more to do. NYCHA has a huge
challenge. We are working with them to—to improve
both the—the process as well as the—for committing
the dollars as well as adding money to the
appropriations.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, does OMB have
a strategy to help NYCHA navigate the Capital
Process? Is that still a work in progress? Can we
see some improvements that would happen this year?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We hope to see
improvements in terms of their ability to commit the
capital more rapidly. I know with regard to the—to

1
2 the boiler--the heating acceleration in this plan, we
3 made a significant steps that we thought would shave
4 about eight months off that process--

5 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] Yes.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: --in addition
7 to moving forward in the Capital Plan. So, we're--
8 we're looking for opportunities to have NYCHA be able
9 to, you know, commit those dollars and get the work
10 done as quickly as possible.

11 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. What was it
12 that was done to shave off eight months of their
13 timeframe? Could you elaborate on that?

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: That's a great
16 achievement.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: So, we
18 minimized pre-design services, and committed to
19 having fewer various designs rather than the single
20 standardized streamlined design--

21 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: --and that
23 saves a significant amount of money because a lot of
24 time is spent on this on-off designs. In terms of
25 procurement, we're--we're looking to save time there,

1
2 by-by delegating some authority so that the process
3 is not as cumbersome. We expect that to save some
4 money and some significant—a significant amount of
5 time, and in terms of situations where DEP approval
6 is necessary, DEP is committed to expediting those
7 approvals and reviews.

8 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, great. Okay,
9 we look forward to continuing the conversation. I did
10 want to ask a question as it relates to the
11 additional budget lines. It was something that we
12 called for in the response with the breaking up of
13 budget lines with the generic descriptions that
14 contain many, many distinct, but unrelated projects,
15 and as of the Executive, this has not occurred.
16 Certainly, we appreciate that there was short
17 turnaround time on the budget response and the
18 release of the Executive Capital Budget, but we the
19 Council have identified 56 budget lines with a
20 minimum of 50 discrete projects in each. I don't
21 want to cite any examples, but certainly I want to
22 ask if OMB is willing to commit to breaking those 56
23 lines into multiple more descriptive budget lines
24 before adoption, and certainly what needs to be done,
25 and what can this Council do to help you to ensure

1 that this can be included, and we can make a better
2 process that's much more accountable, less generic,
3 much more specific and deliberate, and how can we
4 help in this regard?

5
6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We are—we know
7 that the—the Council has been interested in this.
8 We—as we came out of the capital process from the
9 last hearing, we responded to the—what we thought
10 were the Council's two top priorities, one of which
11 was realigning the—the Capital Plan to be realistic
12 in terms of when the money could be spent. We moved
13 \$6 billion out of 18 to 19 to the out-years. The
14 second was excess appropriations, and as we've
15 discussed, we rescinded approximately \$6 billion of
16 excess appropriations. We know this is an issue for
17 the Council. We look forward to having a dialogue
18 about—about this subject as we move into adoption in
19 the next few weeks.

20 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. We definitely
21 look forward to having that conversation further. I
22 had a question about Minority and Women Owned
23 Businesses. Many agencies have their own MWBE
24 Assistance programs, some with greater success than
25 others. Wanted to understand the coordination with

1 agencies as it relates to their MWBE, and certainly
2 any agencies that we've identified that have a great
3 practice of working with Minority and Women Owned
4 firms, and how we can coordinate this across the
5 entire portfolio to make sure that we're allowing
6 some of our smaller MWBE firms to compete. I think
7 it opens up creativity. In terms of the bidding
8 process, we may have more options and more diversity
9 as we all support. So, is there anything OMB can
10 offer as it relates to where we are today with MWBE
11 and how we're encouraging more to be a part of our
12 city's process?
13

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Obviously it's
15 a shared goal of ours. I'm happy to say that in 2017
16 we will have entered \$1 billion in prime and
17 subcontract awards to-to MWBE firms. In terms of the
18 process of interagency coordination, SBS generally
19 certifies these enterprises, and then points them
20 towards city projects that-that would be an agency
21 that would be appropriate for them. I think that-
22 that that's a big step forward in terms of our-our
23 billion commitment, and, you know, SBS will continue
24 to-to, you know, make strides in terms of directing
25 those agencies to places where there's bidding going

1 on, and we—we really fear that having a—more bidders
2 always comes up with—with some more interesting
3 answers and some better—some—some better results for
4 the city.
5

6 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, well, \$1
7 billion sounds great. I like to be aggressive. So,
8 can we aim for \$2 billion? That would be great. We
9 aim high.

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: We're aiming for \$16.

11 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Yes, as we continue
12 to work high--

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [interposing]
14 Our goal is actually \$16 billion.

15 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: \$16?

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: \$16 billion by
17 2025. So, we have—we have big goals. We did add \$3
18 million in expense for marketing to try to get the
19 MWBEs to take advantage of some of our—our programs,
20 and so we're looking to push that—that ball forward.

21 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, that's very
22 ambitious. I look forward to working with you.
23 We're going to work and put out a report on how we
24 achieve that \$16 billion 2025. That would be, well,
25 exceptional. I have other questions, but I want to

1
2 turn it back over to Chair Dromm so we can allow our
3 other colleagues to ask questions. Thank you very
4 much.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Chair
7 Gibson. We have been joined by Council Member
8 Rosenthal, Council Member Cohen, Council Member Van
9 Bramer, and we have questions now from Council Member
10 Garod-Grodenchik followed by Adams and then
11 Rosenthal, and going back to the past.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,
13 Chairman Dromm. I'm going to change my card. I
14 think my business card. Deputy Director, good
15 morning. Happy to see you.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Good morning.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I'm going to
18 save my Parks questions for later. Commissioner
19 Silver will be here. I am concerned greatly so.
20 I've met since become the Parks Chair with at least a
21 couple of dozen people mostly representing different
22 groups in the city of New York, and it seems to me,
23 and I think it's evident on its face that the
24 procurement process in the city of New York needs a
25 severe overhaul, and I just wonder if you have any

1
2 thoughts about that. I know you mentioned earlier
3 you're up to \$35 million on this—I don't know what to
4 call it. It's another CPSD, but I think one of the
5 problems that we have at least my research has
6 indicated we'll be holding hearings later this year
7 on that, and I can guarantee you that. But, it
8 concerns me greatly that we hear all these stories
9 and they're all true that, you know, things take
10 forever to get built in the city of New York. We are
11 expending enormous sums of money. When we had a
12 hearing earlier this year with Chair Gibson on
13 capital and we had the Corrections Commissioner here,
14 I had asked when the last time somebody had built a
15 jail in the city of New York. It's 28 years ago.
16 So, I'm concerned about expertise. I'm concerned
17 that that we're getting a bang for our buck. I don't
18 mind spending money even though my wife calls me
19 cheap. I don't mind spending money, but as long as
20 we're getting value for it, and that's what concerns
21 me greatly that we're not getting enough people
22 involved in the process that more people when—when
23 Parks showed me that last chart that they had on
24 procurement, you know, it was—my head started to
25 hurt. So, are there any steps that you are taking

1
2 now with OMB to kind of unravel this Gordian knot so
3 that more people can get involved in-in bidding, and
4 which would produce better kind-better-better results
5 for everybody in the city of New York. Is there any
6 discussion at OMB about this?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Well, first,
8 I'd like to say the best thing we could do, and we've
9 been with you, and we appreciate your support on
10 this, and we want to redouble our efforts here, is to
11 get Design-Build for all our projects.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I appreciate
13 that and we took that message directly to the
14 Governor with our Speaker. We were--

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [interposing]
16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: --about 15 of
18 us, and we've has some success.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [interposing]
20 We appreciate that, and we just think that's the-the
21 number one best thing we could do. It's a time
22 saver, it's a money saver. You know, the rest of the
23 state has a utility that we don't. We are also, as
24 we talked about, CPSD, trying to get that process
25 moved forward. We've added and extra \$5 million

1 bringing us to \$35 million on that process. We also
2 have a Front-End Planning Unit at DDC. They also
3 accelerate the pre-scoping, pre-contract process.
4 We've been and we've been moving those things forward
5 [bell]. It means that projects get moved from, you
6 know, bid to commitment faster. We think that has
7 the effect also of making it more attractive to do
8 business with the city as well as providing better
9 service for the citizens.
10

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I appreciate
12 those efforts, but we're going to have to take a much
13 deeper dive in this in the fall because it just—it's
14 taking way too long to get even simple projects done,
15 and those are my comments today. I thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman. My time is up, but—and thank you for your
17 efforts and thank you, Director.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you very
20 much and now Council Member Adams.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Good morning,
22 Deputy Director. Good to see you again this morning.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Good morning.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I'm going to ask
25 just a question pertaining to seniors. We had a

1 hearing yesterday jointly with our Committee on
2 Aging, and we spent a lot of time speaking with
3 Commissioner Corrado regarding our seniors and our
4 senior care. I'm curious to know, you spoke about
5 priorities when Chair Gibson asked how OMB chooses
6 their projects. So, how your projects are chosen
7 specifically for this morning's exercise in capital-
8 capital expenses and speaking about senior center
9 upgrades, the Administration has a priority of
10 installing air conditioners in all public schools.
11 However, we seem to have short-changed our seniors
12 yet again. Senior advocates have raised concerns
13 about aging or dysfunction air conditioning systems
14 at senior centers throughout the city. So, when
15 Chair Gibson keeps on singing our song, it's not
16 enough, it's not enough, I echo that greatly because
17 over the next few months these summer months our
18 seniors are really going to have enough when they
19 start feeling the heat because of a lack of cooling
20 centers or ineffective air conditioning in those
21 cooling centers. So, does OMB believe upgrading
22 senior center cooling systems should be a priority,
23 and if so, what is the estimated cost of the required
24 AC upgrades? [background comments, pause]
25

1
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We would have
3 to talk to you—the agency a bit about this to
4 understand what the need is. Most senior centers are
5 not in city-owned buildings. So, we don't have the
6 same sort of level of inventory about what kind of
7 cooling systems they have, but we will be happy to
8 engage in—in a dialogue and bring that to their
9 attention that this is something that—that people are
10 asking about.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: So, does—okay,
12 let's speak specifically about NYCHA developments.
13 Would your answer also pertain to cooling centers or
14 senior centers with air conditioning that need
15 upgrades in NYCHA developments as well?

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [pause] I
17 don't think so. As I said, we will be happy to talk
18 to NYCHA about that issue. I think this—this issues
19 of cooling is not something that's been particularly
20 brought up in the past, but we are happy to talk to
21 NYCHA as well about what the current inventory is
22 like, and where there—there is cooling available.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Okay, I—I happen
24 to think that that should be a priority. Our
25 seniors, as I keep saying are our gems and we tout in

1
2 the city of New York the benefits of cooling centers
3 year after year and we are expecting a really, really
4 hot summer. So I would hope that OMB would—would
5 choose to prioritize that for our seniors. Thank you
6 very much for your testimony this morning.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, Council Member
10 Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
12 much, Chair Dromm. Thank you for coming again back
13 today. Appreciate that.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I want to talk
16 about two issues. One is the NYPD Special Victims
17 Division where we're talking about better facilities
18 for sexual assault victims who come in, and secondly
19 a quick question on Design-Build. I see in the—at
20 least from the Preliminary Capital Budget the total
21 dollar value, four-year plan for the PD is \$713
22 million to improve Police Department properties
23 citywide. I'm wondering if there is any—anything in
24 there to—for new SVD facilities, which is what is
25 being called for.

1
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [pause] Okay,
3 first of all, so we appreciate your interest in
4 advocacy. The administration is looking at the
5 facilities. The issues you and others have raised,
6 we're taking this very, very seriously.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Uh-hm.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We'll continue
9 to discuss this with you and the Council in coming
10 weeks, but, you know, in terms of the commitment
11 towards the Police Department facilities, there isn't
12 a specific like earmark for this purpose, but as part
13 of the facilities, as we look at its upgrading
14 facilities, clearly there is attention on this issue,
15 and we would be looking at that as part of the \$700
16 and some odd million dollar commitment, and we'll
17 also engage with you in the coming weeks.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I appreciate
19 that and I appreciate your response. I really do,
20 and I would just end up by saying is there a
21 directive to do DCAS to start to identify new spaces
22 now because the facilities we know can accomo-
23 accommodate the number of women who, um, people,
24 survivors can accommodate them today.

1
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I don't know if
3 there's a DCAS directive, but I know that we're
4 already looking for space especially in Manhattan
5 where I think the need is greatest right now.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, I
7 appreciate that. Thank you very much. Secondly, I
8 want to ask about Design-Build. You said in your
9 testimony that Design-Build will speed up Rikers
10 placement and the BQE projects by 12 to 24 months,
11 and save money. Does the Capital Plan show there's
12 time savings and funding savings yet? [pause] Women
13 of the hour.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: With regard to
15 the Correction facility, right now we're—we're still
16 in the front end process. So that the—the money
17 that—that's in the plan is—is-is [bell] [laughter] a
18 great appropriation for what we expect to—they expect
19 to stand, but—but not yet designed that yet. So, I
20 don't think we have a real flow there that we would
21 have adjusted. In terms of BQE, we—we will make that
22 adjustment, but it is not yet in the plan.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, so what
24 I'm hearing is I just want to make sure I heard you
25

1 right that they're—they're not yet reflected in the
2 plan, but you're working on making that happen--

3
4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yes

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --and can I
6 just ask you what's the timeline for the four new or
7 renovated jails? Do you have that sort of first, you
8 know, scope, design and construction transfer, and--
9 and at some point you'll have a new cost and estimate
10 for the new jails and--and we'd like to see that once--
11 once you come up with that?

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: So, we expect
13 the CPB, the study to be completed by the end of this
14 year. That's going to really inform that timeline,
15 and obviously, once we have that study back, that
16 will inform how we lay the money out in the Capital
17 Plan, and--and we're, of course going to keep the
18 Council informed as to how that plan looks. We know
19 how important that is.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, and
21 similarly for the schedule of the BQE Cantilever
22 Project, and whether or not you have the beginning
23 estimate of what cost savings there would for the
24 lower cost. What's your timing on when you'd start
25 to have that information? [bell]

1
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: So, as I-I-the
3 cost savings on the-on the Triple Cantilever we
4 expect to be about \$113 million. We expect that that
5 will knock approximately two years off the timeline,
6 and we'll know better, you know, after we get bids
7 back. This is always the-the problem we've got,
8 right. You know, it's great. We're excited about
9 it. We think we're going to save that time, but
10 until we actually get the bids open and then an award
11 number have a better idea, and, of course, we will
12 the Council informed as to that.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I appreciate
14 that. One last call for urgency on the Special
15 Victims Division facilities. You know, the NYPD a
16 little bit put the cart before the horse by putting
17 out the advertisement. You know, the-the calling out
18 to women, you know, come on in, which, of course we
19 have to do because we know that only 5% of assault
20 victims come in at all. So, given that you've-you've
21 put out the call, given that the caseload for the
22 detectives who are there now has basically doubled
23 since that advertisement went out, our PSA went out,
24 I just want to express again the urgency on the
25 facilities. This is something that, you know, I just

1 really hope can get done in an expedited fashion, and
2 I hope that OMB can do whatever—do its part in
3 expediting the process.
4

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We show that
6 this is the top mayoral priority. I know that the
7 mayor and will be discussing this, has been
8 discussing this with the PC personally.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, thank
10 you very much. Thank you, Chair.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. Council
13 Member Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
15 very much. First, I want to just make sure, as I'm
16 sure you are aware of the incredible tourism numbers
17 that we are continuously talking about in this city
18 as one of the great success stories, and make that
19 connection not just to expense funding for the
20 cultural organizations and institutions in our city,
21 which driver those numbers, and that incredible tax
22 revenue, but also to the cultural capital point and
23 we've done some very good work with the
24 Administration in terms of the cultural capital, but
25 I want to impress upon you all the need to continue

1
2 to invest in cultural capital because when we do
3 that, we make sure that 60 million, 65 million people
4 are coming to the city of New York, and-and-and that
5 money that we invest in culturals in particular we
6 get back so much more from that. So, I wanted to ask
7 you have the-an estimate of the-the tax revenue, and
8 the what I believe to be perhaps in the billions that
9 we derive from tourism in the city of New York and
10 obviously hard to exactly estimate how much of that
11 comes from cultural tourism, but we know that it's a
12 lot.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah, we don't
14 have an estimate specifically on that, but we share
15 your sentiment. We know how important the cultural
16 life of this city is, both for its residents and to
17 bring into our city.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: So, let's
19 shoot for hundreds of millions of dollars in cultural
20 capital this year. I think a lot of folks in the
21 city would be very happy with that. Libraries
22 obviously again we've done some good work when it
23 comes-when it comes to cultural capital for
24 libraries, but there is still a need that is unmet,
25 and there is a substantial request before us this

1
2 year. So, wanted to hear your thoughts on making
3 sure that we meet the need for our libraries
4 citywide, and the specific request that's before us
5 right now in this budget cycle.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Okay, the
7 Administration has provided for \$485 million in
8 capital funding for libraries. I think that's the
9 important thing to note. We're reviewing the request
10 as part of the discussion we'll have with you through
11 the adoption process, and obviously it's something we
12 look forward to having a good conversation about in
13 terms of the libraries' new request.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I look
15 forward to that conversation, and I look forward to
16 continuing to deliver for libraries, but I also have
17 a great deal of concern with how we're spending the
18 money, how quickly we're spending the money, and
19 commitment rates [bell] and--and making sure that the
20 people of New York see their tax dollars at work.
21 So, with respect to that, talk to me a little bit
22 about your oversight, and your communication with DDC
23 because we still see too many projects languishing
24 taking too long. It seems like we get into a lot of
25 jams when DDC is responsible, and sometimes it's

1 really unclear what—what your oversight is over DDC.
2
3 You guys are watching that money. You're often
4 releasing the money, and sometimes not releasing the
5 money, but—but I think there are some real serious
6 issues with DDC, and the management of these
7 projects, but you all have a serious role when it
8 comes to oversight and—and watching how this money is
9 spent and making sure that these projects are getting
10 built. It's great and we must continue to invest
11 more capital when it comes to culture and libraries,
12 but we also need to make sure these projects are
13 getting done on time, and people are seeing the
14 return on their investment.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Right, I think
16 one of the things that's really going to help in that
17 area is we have an agreement now with the
18 Comptroller's Office to treat library managed
19 projects as grants rather than procurements. Modeled
20 on what we do with the—with the culturals, and that
21 where they manage their own projects. We believe
22 that's going to save a lot of time and avoid some of
23 those time consuming procurement steps. So,
24 hopefully we'll be able to see as we move forward

1
2 with that model quicker expenditure of-of the funds
3 and-and the projects coming in faster.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: To be fair,
5 they're still managing a relatively small percentage
6 of their projects, right? So, that is-and it should
7 be helpful on those projects, but what-what are the
8 projects where they're not managing them?

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Right, so we
10 are again as we are trying to be fair with any of the
11 city projects, we are working in this case with the
12 libraries, and-and to push forward as fast as we can
13 to find out what the bottlenecks are. We have the
14 pre-scoping, the front end units at DDC, all of those
15 are being utilized to try to move the projects
16 faster. We agree with you that the projects take too
17 long, and we are moving to-in many different fronts
18 to try to accelerate how long those things take to
19 do.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: So, the last
21 question. I spoke to the-the Mayor personally on
22 this. I'm assuming that you all are concerned and
23 engaged on Hunter's Point Library project in
24 particular.

25 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: And we—we
3 desperately need emergency action on the part of the
4 Administration to get that right, and so I—I believe
5 that we have a commitment to put something together,
6 and—and look forward to making sure that everyone is
7 at the table because of what's happening there is an
8 absolute disgrace.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, Chair Gibson.

11 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you so much.

12 Once again, I just wanted to talk a little bit about
13 housing. The Council highlighted in our response the
14 need for supportive housing in our city as a real key
15 component in reducing the shelter population, and
16 helping many vulnerable New Yorkers. However, in the
17 Executive no additional funding was added to HPD's
18 Capital Budget in this particular area. So, I wanted
19 to understand from OMB's perspective is there any
20 plans to add more capacity to HPD in addition to what
21 they already have, which I know are city funds as
22 well as federal funds, but we've been very adamant
23 that supportive housing is a key part of the housing
24 infrastructure. So, can we see any funds that will

1
2 be in this plan that would address more supportive
3 housing in the city?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Through March
5 we've placed 86,831 individuals, 32,161 households
6 through Rental Assistance Program. Rental
7 Assistance's budget in FY19 is \$201 million. In
8 addition in 2015, we launched the NYC 15/15 and
9 committed to funding 15,000 supportive housing units
10 over 15 years. NYC 15/15 is on track given the--by
11 the end of fiscal 2018, the planned number of units,
12 1,500 have been awarded. In addition to that, we
13 recently raised the maximum level of studios for our
14 FMR. Studios rent from \$1,379 to \$1,514. We've also
15 increase the land--landlord bonuses from \$1,000 to
16 \$3,500.

17 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So, the 15,000 units
18 of supportive housing how much has been awarded
19 today? Did you say 1,500?

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yes, that--and
21 that--that meets our--our goal of reaching 15,000 over
22 15 years.

23 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. So, 15 years
24 and we're talking about supportive housing for
25 vulnerable New Yorkers including seniors, single

1
2 adults. We've only awarded 1,500 units of supportive
3 housing to date, correct?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: That is where
5 we are, yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. So, what
7 would we need to do to expand on that capacity so
8 that we don't have to wait for the next 15 years to
9 build more supportive housing in the city?

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Building
11 supportive housing is a—a long-term undertaking. HPD
12 is producing at least 500 units annually where we're
13 trying the unit of acceleration. That's currently
14 under review. We are trying to move that number up,
15 but it is a complex process of—of developing
16 affordable—I'm sorry—supportive housing that
17 involves, you know, coordination not only, you know,
18 with—with real estate, but also having services and
19 having the space that's appropriate for that. It is—
20 it is—it is a long-term process, but we are committed
21 to trying to move that ahead in a more rapid fashion.
22 [background comments] And clearly we're—we're—we're—
23 we're working—we're open to working with the Council
24 in terms of expanding the—the size of the program.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. So, here's
3 my-my recommendation and-and please understand my
4 frustration. It's easy for this Administration to
5 come to Council Members about siting new homeless
6 facilities for single adults and families, but yet
7 annually we are only able to put online 500 units of
8 supportive housing in one year. That is not
9 acceptable. We have got to do better, and this
10 effort in supportive housing is coupled with all of
11 the other housing that we're building, affordable
12 housing and housing for single adults for veterans,
13 youth aging out of foster care. The list goes on and
14 on, but supportive housing is a very big part of
15 that, and for the families that are living in
16 shelters every single night, 500 units of supportive
17 housing annually is not enough, and so I'm hoping
18 that through these conversations we can set higher
19 goals, and really look at if it's HPD, HDC, within
20 our internal mechanisms where some of the challenges
21 are, and the complexities that you described, we want
22 to be helpful. Those numbers have got to go up. We
23 love supportive housing. We love mixed-use housing,
24 but sometimes it seems like it's more easier for us
25 to be asked to support shelters than it is to support

1
2 more units of supporting housing. So, what can we
3 expect from this Administration from now until
4 adoption where we can set higher goals so we can
5 increase the number of supportive housing units in
6 our city.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: This
8 administration is committed to moving people from
9 shelter to-to permanent housing. I think we've shown
10 that in many ways. We look forward to working with
11 the Council and with you during the next few weeks,
12 as we move through to adoption about addressing the
13 concerns you have on this area.

14 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, expanding
15 HPD's capacity, would that be something that we
16 should consider or is it beyond an HPD conversation?

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I think it's-
18 it's a somewhat broader conversation. Certainly,
19 it's something we would look at and talk to you about
20 that.

21 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, yes
22 definitely. That's very, very important. I wanted
23 to just go back very quickly to the commitment rate.
24 Also, one of the priorities that we've talked
25 extensively about since Prelim, and the city's

1 average commitment rate over the last four years has
2 been an average of about \$8.9 billion, and the
3 commitment plan for Fiscal 2018 is \$16.9 billion with
4 actual commitments through March of \$5.9 billion, and
5 we've talked many times about right sizing the
6 capital budget to really bring in line our ability to
7 commit projects. So, what I'd like to understand is
8 in terms of your commitment to holding monthly
9 meetings on the progress and the issues that are
10 surrounding capital projects with the various
11 representatives from OMB, capital intensive agencies
12 as well as the City Council, and really our efforts
13 with this ask is to identify both issues to
14 proactively work to discuss solutions and hopefully
15 address many of the issues before they expand. So,
16 is that something that OMB is willing to do with us
17 to commit to meeting on an ongoing basis?

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We think this
20 is an issue, something we agree with you that's
21 problematic, something that—that we're trying to take
22 action to improve. I think we made a very
23 significant first step with regard to redistributing
24 the \$6 billion from '18 and '19 to the out-years.

25 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Right.

1
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We've added \$5
3 million for the Pre-scoping studies. We've created a
4 Front-End Plan Unit at DDC. All of these are
5 attempts to accelerate the actual time to having
6 agencies be able to, in fact, commit the money that's
7 been—that's been allocated [coughs] in the plan, and,
8 you know, we've also at the same time right sized the
9 plan because there were too many projects front
10 loaded in the plan. We—we've made that adjustment.
11 So, we're working on both ends to try to get them to
12 meet. We're going to—we're going to try to make—
13 amend the system to make it more expeditious for our
14 projects to get out the door, and at the same time
15 we've right sized in this plan, and we made a
16 commitment that we're going to continue to look at
17 this and right size as we go when we think projects
18 can't be committed and completed in time.
19 Commitments were almost \$11 billion in 2017, which is
20 an increase of over \$2 billion more than that
21 average, and I think that's partly seeing some fruit
22 from the efforts we've made with regard to that pre-
23 scoping front-end process. It really gets the
24 projects, you know, from concept to commitment much
25 more rapidly.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: So, are you willing
3 to meet with us? Is that a yes or a no?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: In terms of-of
5 having meetings, we're always happy to meet with the
6 Council. We—we will definitely be willing to discuss
7 it.

8 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, great. Thank
9 you. I was looking for a yes in what you said.
10 Great. Awesome. Actual commitments through March are
11 \$5.9 billion, and there are a few months left in the
12 Fiscal Year. Do you think that we are able to
13 achieve our average commitment level of \$8.9 billion?
14 Are we able to get there?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: So, we are on
16 pace to do approximately as well, maybe even a little
17 better than last year, which is almost \$11 billion.

18 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: So, we'll—we
20 expect to best that average.

21 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. It's also
22 common for a large portion of the Annual Commitment
23 Plan to be committed in the month of June, and on
24 average the city has committed about 23% of its total
25 plan in the month of June over the last four years.

1
2 So, I wanted to understand that if agencies can
3 commit contracts at this level in June, what are some
4 of the barriers and challenges to committing more
5 contracts during the rest of the fiscal year as
6 opposed to most of it being committed in June?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I think that
8 part of what you're seeing is that during the Fiscal
9 Year, right, a lot of the—the design or—or pre-scope
10 work is taking place earlier in the fiscal year. As
11 the—as we draw towards the—the end of the Fiscal
12 Year, much of that work is being completed so that
13 the—the work is not started on a—on a—on a smooth
14 basis either. So, you're seeing a lot of projects to
15 get started in the year. There—the work that has to
16 be done gets done. As we—as we reach towards the end
17 of the Fiscal Year, that work is getting completed.
18 Agencies, which I think is good have a desire to
19 actually hit their capital plan, and—and get their
20 commitment rates up because I think that's something
21 that, you know, we're putting a number in the plan.
22 We should be trying to achieve it, and then trying to
23 do that. So they're completing that work, and then
24 there's a—there's a bit of a—of a lag time as well
25 because it takes a little time for the contracts to

1
2 get registered by the Comptroller. So, you're seeing
3 a lot of projects in that last quarter, which if you
4 think about this with the workflow, it-it kind of
5 makes sense and-and also reflects I guess a-a real
6 attempt by our agencies to-to meet those capital
7 plans.

8 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. Have you
9 encouraged agencies to spread out the processing of
10 their contracts? Has that been a discussion that OMB
11 has had?

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We have had
13 discussions about trying to get the-the timeline s
14 spread out so that-that-that not so many projects
15 are-are at the end of the Fiscal Year. Part is that
16 workflow issue, but you're right, the-the way the-the
17 targets tend to be are also towards the end of the
18 year, and-and perhaps that has an effect on when they
19 actually get done.

20 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, so we can
21 expect to see some level of improvement as you
22 continue to talk to the agencies, correct?

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: We will work
24 with the agencies towards improving that, yes.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, great. When
3 Council Member Adams was talking specifically about
4 the Department for the Aging, DFTA, what we learned
5 is that there really isn't a standardized process
6 that DFTA has for capital renovations of its senior
7 centers that it has oversight of. So, just as an
8 example of the senior centers that are in NYCHA
9 facilities, she alluded that many of the inquiries on
10 capital work can come from elected officials, local
11 community boards, the senior center directors, and
12 it's all applicable under the idea that there is
13 funding available, and so what I asked the
14 Commissioner of DFTA to do is t work within the
15 agency to actually develop a real capital plan, and
16 that's something that the City Council also called
17 for in our budget response that we should have a plan
18 in place of all of the senior centers that we oversee
19 in terms of contracts whether they're in NYCHA
20 facilities or not, but there should be a plan when
21 there are major capital work that needs to be done,
22 anything from large brick roof work to repairs that
23 are done, you know, on the facility. So, I guess we
24 both were concerned by the response because it didn't
25 seem to be—seem to be a standardized process. So, I

1
2 did want to raise that to OMB because I definitely
3 would appreciate that there could be some
4 conversation had as we move forward, and I'm not even
5 talking about the cooling system, but I'm talking
6 about the infrastructure itself, and so, that's been
7 a concern. So I did want to raise that to you as
8 well.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Okay. You
10 know, we're open to working on that and trying to
11 improve it.

12 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, great and my
13 final question that I wanted to ask I believe I
14 mentioned this during Prelim is the unit within OMB
15 that is responsible for working with a lot of our
16 community-based organizations, our not-for-profits
17 that get funding from Council members as it relates
18 to equipment and mobile units and other things of
19 that nature. I don't know the process of whether
20 these projects are assigned to DDC or DDC, but there
21 have been inquiries made to the Council to my
22 subcommittee on delays in responses from OMB as it
23 relates to funding of these projects coming online.
24 So, I wanted to further understand what OMB's role is
25 in working with our local not-for-profits.

1
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I think that a
3 lot of this has to do with capital eligibility
4 facilities.

5 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] On
6 city capital yes.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: But with
8 eligibility determinations, and that-that, you know,
9 there are relatively complex legal requirements
10 making sure that the projects are capitally eligible,
11 and I think that that sometimes just takes time to-to
12 work through. I know that our group that does that
13 tries to get these determinations made rapidly, but,
14 you know, we're happy to have more discussions about
15 that, and have a briefing with you or your staff
16 about, you know, how-where we see the problems.

17 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, that will be
18 helpful. This is the second time you've described a
19 process as being complex. So, I am, you know,
20 working within the Council. I certainly want to be
21 of assistance. We're not talking about major capital
22 projects, but we're talking about smaller capital
23 items that certainly need funding. They need to be
24 expedited and coming online. [background comments,
25 pause]

1
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah, we-we
3 agree with you moving forward quickly is-is very
4 important. We have to balance that with maintaining
5 the integrity of our-of our capital eligibility
6 requirements and making sure that we've met the-the
7 strictures that we have to in order to bond out the
8 capital money.

9 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, the Capital
10 Project Scope Development the CPSD, the \$35 million
11 you describe in your testimony is that under an
12 agency or is that OMB?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: It's--

14 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: [interposing] What
15 is that under?

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: --it's-the-the
17 funding resides in the Miscellaneous Budget. OMB
18 manages that process.

19 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: It's in our
20 Miscellaneous Budget, but OMB manages it, correct?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: That's correct.

22 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. Okay, thank
23 you very much. As I turn it over to-back to Chair
24 Dromm, I just really want to emphasized I've talked
25 to OMB about this before, and not just supportive

1 housing, but in general we are spending a tremendous
2 amount of money for our legal obligation to house
3 homeless families and single adults, but I do believe
4 that can provide more support and more capacity to
5 HPD so these projects can come further online, both
6 supportive houses as well as affordable housing.
7

8 Some of the timelines that have been described while
9 I recognize we have to be very careful about
10 realistic timeframes, I'm also very cognizant that
11 there are New York City in need today and tomorrow,
12 and so 5, 10 and 15 years of building housing is just
13 simply not acceptable to them, and I definitely look
14 forward to further conversations because we have to
15 do better. The best thing we can do next to
16 providing education, healthcare and jobs is giving
17 someone a stable roof of their head. And as someone
18 who represents a tremendous amount of shelters in my
19 district that I have welcomed, I need more affordable
20 housing in the long term, and when I work with
21 developers, and I have conversations with many of
22 them, their challenges are with HPD because some of
23 the projects in terms of procurement and timeline and
24 closing are not happening as rapidly as many of us
25 want. And we know, of course, everyone wants to

1 close at the same time. So, I realize that we have
2 to be very careful, but I also think we have to
3 demonstrate to New Yorkers that we're building as
4 much housing as we are building as many brand new
5 shelters that we're putting neighborhoods across the
6 city. We can't a system where there's inequity. We
7 can't say to a borough like mine in the Bronx that
8 we're easily able to give you a borough based jail
9 facility to close Rikers Island and more shelters,
10 but we have to fight for housing, and thousands of
11 applications for 100 apartments. That's what's
12 happened over the past several years in my borough,
13 and I want that conversation to change, and the only
14 way that can change is if we really look agency by
15 agency at how we build and expand capacity, and we
16 really provide more resources so that many of these
17 projects can be expedited and come online sot that we
18 can really serve the betterment of New Yorkers. So,
19 that's my church speech today. It's important for
20 this Council. It's important for all of us, and I
21 really appreciate you coming today. So, thank you so
22 much.
23

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Thank you.
25

1
2 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR THOMAS: Thank you,
3 Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Chair
5 Gibson, and this will be my last question also, and
6 it's in regards to Health and Hospitals. So, Health
7 and Hospitals' Fiscal 2019 Executive Capital
8 Commitment Plan for Fiscal 2018 to 22 decreased by
9 \$233 million between Fiscal 19 Preliminary Plan and
10 the Executive Plan from approximately \$3 billion to
11 \$2.8 billion. The change is largely attributable to
12 a \$265 million funding shift for Hurricane Sandy
13 related to design and construction at Coney Island
14 Hospital into the out-years. Why did you move this
15 funding out of the Capital Commitment Plan? [pause]

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I think this
17 just reflects not anything about prioritization, but
18 a realistic timeframe when those projects would
19 actually get started and money spent. But again,
20 this is part of the right sizing. We don't want to
21 put money a year in the Capital Plan when we know, in
22 fact, it won't get spent.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Have you considered
24 the potential for the federal government to cut the

1 funding because of the proposed related-the Sandy
2 related construction?
3

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I'm not going
5 to get too much into the specifics of-of how those-
6 those grants work, but we-we don't anticipate any
7 possibility of-of a cut in that-in that funding.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, let me ask
9 another question, and then I have a Chair privilege
10 here about Elmhurst Hospital. I think that the
11 funding was in the last budget, if I'm not mistaken.
12 I'm doing this off the top of my head, but for the
13 expansion of the emergency room. Do you know about
14 that and can you give me an update on that?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: I don't have
16 the specifics on that, and we'll have a little more
17 to say after the H&H Plan is out.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: But-but we'll-
20 we'll-we'll-we'll get back to you with, you know,
21 within 24 hours just on that particular issue.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I know we're-we're
23 going to have H&H in later this month, but--

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: [interposing]
25 No, no, no, we want to get back to you.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: It's one of the
3 issues that it's of major interest.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GODINER: Yeah, we—we—we
5 have enough daily contact with H&H, we can easily
6 provide that answer to you.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you very
8 much. Alright, so I think that's going to be it for
9 this panel, and we're going to take about a five-
10 minute break and when we're going to come back, or a
11 10-minute break. We're going to come back with the
12 Department of Finance. [background comments, pause]
13 [gavel] [Council takes a 10-minute break]

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. We'll now
15 resume the City Council's Hearing on the Mayor's
16 Executive Budget for Fiscal 19. We just heard from
17 OMB, and now we will hear from the Department of
18 Finance. In the interest of time, I will keep my
19 remarks brief. DOF's Fiscal Executive Budget totals
20 \$303.5 million, and \$900—a \$982,000 increase over the
21 Fiscal 19 Adopted Budget. I look forward to hearing
22 more about the department's efforts to bolster
23 information technology security as well as reviewing
24 agency procedures and protocols for public outreach
25 and information distribution. Lastly, I look forward

1
2 to reviewing the Council's Budget response items
3 related-related revenue realignments, which were not
4 included in the Executive Plan, and with that, we
5 will now hear testimony from Commissioner Jacques
6 Jiha after he is sworn in by the counsel.

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

10 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Yes, I do. Well, good
11 afternoon. Thank you, Chair Dromm and members of the
12 Finance Committee for the opportunity to testify
13 today. [coughs] My name is Jacques Jiha, and the
14 Commissioner of the New York City Department of
15 Finance. I'm joined today by First Deputy
16 Commissioner Michael Hyman, as well as Senior members
17 of my staff. I'm glad to report [coughs] that the
18 City's finances are in very good shape. Through
19 April, city revenue for Fiscal Year 18 totaled \$54.1
20 billion. That represents a 9.1% increase over the
21 same period last year large attributable to a 22.3%
22 increase in personal income tax revenue. A large
23 portion of the person income tax revenue increase
24 stands from a 2008 tax law change. For years the IRS
25 allowed cash based hedge funds to defer the receipt

1 and recognition of certain management and incentive
2 fees from all funds thereby allowing hedge funds to
3 grow a different income from those funds tax free.
4 Congress put an end to that practice with the
5 enactment of IRC Section 457A in 2008, but gave the
6 hedge fund industry until December 2017 to recognize
7 for tax purposes the fees earned or deferred before
8 January 1, 2009. Some hedge fund managers waited
9 until the deadline to recognize and pay taxes on the
10 fees. [coughs] Other factors that contributed to
11 the increase in personal income tax revenue are a big
12 bump in Wall Street bonuses, and an increase in
13 capital gains, which boosted the senior tenants by as
14 much as 44.5%. Put another way, we are not likely to
15 see a repeat of this year's personal income tax
16 performance. It's a one-time windfall brought about
17 by a confluence of factors. As such, we have to
18 remain cautious in our approach to the budget. While
19 there is no evidence of a softening city economy on
20 the horizon, there are enough warning signs to
21 warrant questions including increasing oil prices,
22 volatile financial markets, and rising interest
23 rates. We will remain vigilant and work with you on
24 any important new developments. When I appeared
25

1 before this committee in March, I described an agency
2 with an ambitious agenda focused on serving the
3 residents, visitors and businesses that support New
4 York City's robust and diversified tax revenue base.
5 In the nine weeks since the Preliminary Budget
6 hearing, we have made progress on a number of key
7 initiatives several of which we will share with you
8 today. The first is an effort to help New Yorkers
9 who are at risk of losing their homes because they
10 are struggling to pay their property taxes. As you
11 know, under existing law, the Department of Finance
12 is required to offer property owners who are
13 delinquent on their property taxes a payment
14 agreement that allows them to put as little as zero
15 down, and make payments for a term of up to 10 years.
16 Liens cannot be sold on properties are covered by an
17 active payment agreement. The agreements are
18 available to all property owners regardless of
19 income, circumstance or property class. However, the
20 current agreements do not take into account
21 taxpayers' ability to pay, and as a result are not
22 sufficient to help homeowners who are experiencing
23 economic hardship or living on fixed income.
24 Furthermore, the agreements require that owners pay
25

1 all of their newly incurred charges as they become
2 due each quarter. Consequently, the deferred rate on
3 this agreement is as high as 50%. Once an owner
4 defaults, he or she is ineligible for a new agreement
5 for five years unless there are extenuating
6 circumstances such as a job loss, or a death in the
7 family, or unless the owner somehow manages to pay
8 205 of the defaulted agreement. Given the high
9 default rate, there are a growing number of owners
10 claiming extenuating circumstances, so that they may
11 receive another agreement and keep their property out
12 of the tax lien sale. Working with the City Council
13 we will soon enter introduce legislation to allow
14 eligible homeowners to defer their delinquent and/or
15 future tax-property tax payments. Should this
16 program become law, there will be several types of
17 payment agreements available. One, for seniors would
18 allow the Department of Finance to collect-defer
19 property taxes when the home is sold or transferred
20 to a new owner. Other agreements will be tied to
21 income. For example, homeowners who are facing
22 hardships, will have to pay no more than 8% of their
23 income for either fixed period of time determined by
24 the homeowner, or until the situation improves. The
25

1
2 property tax defer (sic) any payment program will be
3 open to condominiums and Class 1 homeowners earning
4 \$50,000 or less. This program will help homeowners
5 avoid the tax lien sale process, which is our last
6 resort to collect delinquent property taxes and
7 charges. As you know, over the last three years we
8 have succeeded in reducing the number of properties
9 in the lien sale by communicating more frequently and
10 more urgently with the homeowners. For instance, the
11 90-day at-risk pool has averaged about 23,000
12 properties compared to an average of 26,700 in the
13 three years prior an increase of 14%. This trend is
14 also reflected in the number of tax liens that are
15 actually sold. We will not have the result for this
16 year until the summer [coughs] but over the past
17 three years, we have averaged a total of—a total of
18 about 3,900 liens sold compared to an average of
19 about 5,000 liens sold in the preceding three years,
20 a decrease of 22%. We have also made significant
21 progress on another priority, making it easier for
22 people who pay there to receive their refunds at the
23 conclusion of the trial. As soon as someone becomes
24 a surety, that is a person who pays there, we send
25 them a brochure describing the process in detail with

1
2 information on how and when they can get their
3 refund. We have also increased our efforts to locate
4 and contact sureties who did not request their
5 refunds. As a result of our more active outreach
6 strategy, the total dollar amount of bail refunds
7 issued has increased by 81%. We have also reduced
8 the convenience fee charged for cash bail payments
9 from 7% to 2.49%, which is in line with fees charged
10 for other city services. In summary, we are taking
11 steps to improve the process that often places a
12 heavy financial burden on the very New Yorkers who
13 can least afford it, and we will continue to improve
14 our services for the millions of New Yorkers who come
15 into contact with the Department of Finance each year
16 including the many drivers who will at some point
17 receive a parking ticket. It is not fun to see that
18 orange envelope on your windshield. However, if you
19 do get the ticket, and think that it was not
20 justified, you now have someone in your corner. As
21 of last month, our parking summons advocate Mr. John
22 Welsh--please stand up so they can see you--is on the
23 job identifying and resolving systemic issues
24 regarding parking infractions. New York is one of
25 only two major cities in the country with an office

1 devoted to advocating on behalf of parking ticket
2 proceedings, and I look forward to sharing with you
3 the refund proposals that will be put forward by the
4 office of the Parking Summons Advocate. While we are
5 on the subject of parking, I would like to update you
6 on upcoming changes to our stipulated fine in
7 commercial abatement programs, which will achieve a
8 number of goals for the city while making it easier
9 for businesses to deal with their parking violations.
10 Fifteen years ago, large commercial vehicle owners
11 and drivers would encompass nearly every parking
12 ticket they received successfully challenging many
13 summonses. To reduce the administrative and
14 financial burden placed on the commercial vehicle
15 industry, and on the city by this practice the
16 Department of Finance instituted the Stipulated Fine
17 and Commercial Abatement programs beginning in 2003.
18 The program requires participants to voluntarily
19 notify the city of all of their vehicles so that a
20 single point of contact respond to parking tickets
21 report with the right to contest summonses and pay
22 outstanding parking summonses balances regularly in
23 exchange for reduced fines for certain violations.
24 Department of Finance developed the program fine
25

1
2 schedules to be cost-control to participating
3 business. Discounted rate where established based on
4 the frequency with which certain tickets were
5 dismissed by the administrative law judges. There
6 are now [coughs] 1,647 participants in the Stipulated
7 Fine Program composed primarily of trucks making
8 deliveries and 967 participants in the commercial
9 abatement program composed primarily of service
10 vehicles. To give you a sense put in perspective in
11 Fiscal Year 17 1.1 million violations were issued to
12 vehicles enrolled in the programs accounting for 43%
13 of the 2.6 million parking violations issued to
14 commercial vehicles citywide. Since the programs
15 were implemented, the city needs, priorities and
16 enforcement technologies have changed. Changes to
17 this program are needed now to ease congestion while
18 addressing growing consumer delivery demands. Hence,
19 the Department of Finance is updating the fine
20 schedule that program participants pay in order to
21 strongly discourage certain traffic violations. We
22 will (1) increase [coughs] now deeply discounted
23 fines. The existing fine schedule discount to zero
24 several violations that contribute to traffic
25 congestion encouraging disregard for these traffic

1 rules. Our latest firm proposal adjusts many fines
2 and ensures that all violations are increased \$25.00.
3 We further propose fines for double parking in no-
4 standing commercial meter zones be increased to
5 \$60.00. We'll also equalize fine schedules across
6 programs. Currently, the stipulated fine in
7 commercial abatement programs have two different
8 fines with reduction schedules. Making all fine
9 reduction—reductions the same for each program, will
10 equalize treatment across various industries. These
11 changes will generate more than \$11 million for the
12 city in Fiscal Year 19, but more importantly they
13 will encourage business to comply with the law, which
14 should begin to address some of the city's congestion
15 issues. We'll continue to review every area of our
16 work in order to improve efficiency and better serve
17 our customers. For example, after reviewing our
18 costs associated with debit and credit card
19 transaction, I'm delighted to report that we will
20 lower the convenience fee that we charge our
21 customers. This means that customer who pay their
22 property and business taxes, parking tickets, and ECB
23 debt, will soon pay a convenience fee of \$2.00—of 2%
24 reduced from the current 2.49%. Finally, as I said
25

1 in March, we are laying the groundwork for several
2 major initiatives including the one account model,
3 which would allow New Yorkers to interact with the
4 Department of Finance using a single account, and our
5 new call center, which would give customers a direct
6 line for questions about all business tax services
7 and personal benefits including the Rent Freeze
8 Program and the Veteran Tax Exemptions programs. And
9 so in conclusion, we have made significant progress
10 on our agenda, and we'll continue to provide updates
11 for the Council in the coming months. We are proud
12 of where we stand, and how far we have come as an
13 agency, but we know we much more work ahead of us,
14 and so we welcome and remain grateful for the
15 continued partnership. If you have concerns or ideas
16 about how we do our work, please let us know. We are
17 your eager partners, and we look forward to
18 continuing a very productive relationship with the
19 Finance Committee. Thank you and I'm happy to take
20 any questions.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much
23 Commissioner, I'm going to start of by asking some
24 questions about the Taxpayer Advocate, and it's three
25 years in existence as taxpayers become more aware of

1 the office and its purpose, the Office of the
2 Taxpayer Advocate has seen substantial growth in this
3 total work. For Tax Years 2017 to 18, OTA closed
4 1,249 inquiries and 200–323 cases, which is almost
5 double the number of inquiries from the prior year.
6 Additionally, the number of cases opened has nearly
7 tripled over the past three years. For Fiscal 2019,
8 DOF's Budget proposes eight staff for OTA. No change
9 from the Fiscal 2019 Preliminary Plan. Do you
10 believe this level of headcount is adequate in
11 addressing the growing number of inquiries year over
12 year?
13

14 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Currently, we are
15 working with OMB to secure more resources for that
16 office, and as you alluded to in your question, the
17 workload had increased significantly and because they
18 are doing—they have been doing a fantastic job in
19 sharing or responding to inquiries and some of the
20 requests come in from the public. So, again, as I
21 said, we are working with OMB and in due time we'll
22 provide them the resource necessary to respond to the
23 increasing workload.

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, furthermore
25 according to OTA's 2018 Annual Report, it appears the

1
2 number of matters involving exemption, correction,
3 denial, revocation or removal has increased from 13
4 inquiries in Tax Year 2015 to 133 in Tax Year 2017 to
5 18. Can you speak to what you believe led to this
6 significant increase?

7 COMMISSIONER JIHA: It's one of the
8 issues, as you know, is the SHE and DEHE (sp?) that
9 as a result of the—the changes in the law when we
10 increased the ceiling for \$50,000. That has
11 contributed to it. We also, as you know, instituted
12 a renewal program after we had that for ten years and
13 we didn't do any renewal program, and as a result we
14 had a lot of questions coming from the public because
15 many people have lost some of their records. (sic)

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I'm going to go to
17 some public communication issues. I March of '18,
18 DOF sent notification letters to residents of Co-Op
19 City in the Bronx stating that they were at risk of
20 losing their co-op condo abatement due to a lack of
21 removal filing. However, Co-Op City is a Mitchell-
22 Lama development and, therefore, not eligible for the
23 abatement. This created confusion and concern
24 amongst residents who have over—who have overwhelmed
25 the local Council Member's Office. In relation to

1
2 agency communications, is there a dedicated unit
3 within DOF that handles these matters, and if so,
4 what is the headcount associated with that unit?

5 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Yeah, we have an
6 External Affairs Unit that basically is dedicated to
7 communication in the public. The challenge that we
8 had, however, was a mistake on our part because they
9 should have—shouldn't have been included. Okay, the
10 Mitchell-Lamas, and shouldn't be included as part of
11 the cost forms (sic) that we sent out, and we intend
12 to send a letter to these people to apologize for our
13 mistakes.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, is there a
15 dedicated unit within DOF that handles that, or do
16 you always send those out?

17 COMMISSIONER JIHA: We send them—those
18 out. We have a—we have an External Affairs Unit
19 basically, but we also work with a vendor, which is
20 Vanguard in terms of how we do our outreach for the
21 public.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: How do you make that
23 decision to go with the vendor or do it internal?

24 COMMISSIONER JIHA: It's—it's part—it's
25 a—it's vendor that we've used for many years, okay.

1
2 So, it's been part of the--what you call the fabric of
3 the way we operate.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: But on occasion you
5 do do some of these things internally?

6 COMMISSIONER JIHA: We--basically, the
7 work is done internally, and then we send them to the
8 vendor so they will--

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] And
10 then they try to process it out?

11 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Yeah, then they
12 process them there.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. So, how many
14 levels of review does something go through before you
15 send that work out to the contractor?

16 COMMISSIONER JIHA: We have entirely the
17 process internally, but as I said, sometimes things
18 were to crack, and a result, one of them was--that was
19 a mistake we made as part of that process, but we
20 have a review process, and where the business units
21 basically review all the communications, and then
22 review it with our legal staff, and our own external
23 communication to make sure are accessible in terms of
24 the communication that we send to the public. But as

1
2 I said, again, sometimes mistakes happen, and that
3 was one of them.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, in that case was
5 it that there was about a month over-overlap between
6 when it was sent out and when-when-when the letter
7 was given to the contractor and when it was actually
8 sent out?

9 COMMISSIONER JIHA: That's a-that's a
10 different-that's again, that was overlap. That's a
11 different mistake that we had that we had an overlap
12 between because we had initially told the vendors to
13 send the letters, you know, the kinds that you did
14 before earlier, but they waited, and as a result,
15 there was no reliable when we sent the letters out to
16 the public and when the managing agents send back to
17 us the applications.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. In the 2018
19 Lien Sale that's scheduled to take place next week,
20 do you want to make a pitch to members of the public
21 who may be watching for what they should do to avoid
22 the lien sale?

23 COMMISSIONER JIHA: One, make payments
24 [laughter] and two, if you're having some issues,
25 some hardship please reach out to us. One thing I

1
2 tell people all the time is when we don't hear from
3 the public, that's when things really get--will get
4 into trouble, because if you have some issues, come
5 to our business centers, work with our folks and get
6 into a payment plan. Okay, so at least that would
7 give you enough time. As I said, we're working on a
8 payment plan now, and we will send it to this
9 legislation, but then in time for this--for this, that
10 then I think will not be a verbal, but who currently
11 has an additional payment plan now that if folks take
12 advantage of the payment plan, they could get
13 themselves out of the tax lien sale if they are
14 facing some economic question.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, last year the
16 Council passed legislation reauthorizing the lien
17 sale and instituting some consumer protection
18 measures such as including a requirement for property
19 owners who have successfully had their properties
20 removed from the lien sale be provided with a letter
21 saying as much. Have you been sending out those
22 letters?

23 COMMISSIONER JIHA: We've been sending
24 out all kinds of communications to folks 90 days, 60

1 days, 30 days, 10 days notices to people and we will
2 continue to reach to people. So, to make it--

3
4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] When do
5 those get sent out, Commissioner?

6 COMMISSIONER JIHA: I'm sorry?

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: When do those letters
8 get sent out?

9 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Ninety days prior to
10 the--to the--to the Tax Lien sale, 60 days prior to the
11 sale--to the lien sale, 30 days, 10 days prior. We'll
12 continue to communicate with folks, the public.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, so, what I was
14 asking is really more about when somebody is pulled
15 off the list do they get a confirmation letter saying
16 that they're no longer on the list?

17 COMMISSIONER JIHA: I believe so.

18 [background comments] Yes, yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, and when does
20 that letter go out?

21 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Want--want to come,
22 Jeff. Jeff Shear is Deputy Commissioner for
23 Operations.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHEAR: Hi. So, we
25 have sent removal letters for the past two years.

1 The Council passed that legislation last January.

2 So, letters were sent out for the 2017 Tax Lien Sale

3 process, and this year for the 2018 Tax Lien Sale

4 process. The letters are sent out when we reach the

5 next mile-letter milestone. So, if people come into

6 us after they've received the 90-day warning notice,

7 and they get removed, then when we send out the 60-

8 day notices, at that point we also send out removal

9 letters to the people who have gotten renewed-removed

10 between the 90-day and the 60-days.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good. Now the DOF

12 has been very helpful to the Council in terms of the-

13 sending us the list for those that at say 90, 60, 30,

14 10 and 5 days before the lien sale containing

15 information on the properties that still have liens

16 eligible for the sale. The list contains the name

17 and addresses of property, which the Council members

18 use--I do it myself--to reach out to individuals to

19 inform them of outreach events, and try to encourage

20 them to address their debt and avoid the lien sale.

21 This is great but it would much more useful to us

22 Council members conducting the outreach is phone

23 numbers or emails could be included where DOF has

24 this information. Is that something that you could

1
2 commit to working with us on to get that information
3 to us?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHEAR: Currently we
5 don't have email addresses and phone numbers for a
6 lot of folks, but we are in the process as part of
7 certain initiatives that we have, he's trying to
8 collect as much information as possible from the
9 public.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, in the future as
11 you collect that, can we get that information
12 requests? Because what we do in my office is then we
13 send out another letter for those at the address, and
14 it would be much more convenient, and then probably
15 thorough if we were able to view of these.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHEAR: [interposing]
17 It would make life a lot easier. Yeah.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, in the
19 Council's Fiscal 19 Budget Response we called for DOF
20 to more aggressively collect administrative funds,
21 which would increase projections by \$50 million for
22 Fiscal 19. Although the Council called for this,
23 this is not included in the Executive Plan. We
24 believe this ask is feasible, and would like to see
25 this included at adoption. While I understand it's

1 more difficult to collected older debt, there seems
2 to be room to improve collection of new debt. For
3 example, in Fiscal 2017 just over \$200 million in
4 judgments was referred to DOF, but only \$20--\$25
5 million was collected. What's the causes of the
6 difficulty for DOF to collect the newest debt that is
7 referred to it?
8

9 COMMISSIONER JIHA: The one of the
10 reasons why we were successful in last year in terms
11 of raising collections was because of the amnesty.
12 The amnesty by itself generates about \$45 million in
13 terms of collections. That's one of the reasons
14 where why we have such a big increase. We are
15 working on a number of initiatives to improve our
16 collections, and as I said, in due time I would come
17 back to the Council to give you an update in terms of
18 some of the measures, some of the new things that
19 we're doing to improve our collections, but bear in
20 mind that we have made significant progress in the
21 last four years. I remember when I started,
22 collections were about at \$30 million. [background
23 comments] \$40 million. What is now? Yeah, last year
24 we--
25

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHEAR: [interposing]

Last-last year with the Amnesty Program we were over
90. The year before that we were 61.

COMMISSIONER JIHA: So, we have made
significant progress, but we still believe that we
have a lot more room to grow in term of collections.
As I said, we are working on a number of initiatives,
and in good time I will come back, we will come back
to the Council and meet with the Council some of the
initiatives that we're doing to trying to collect as
much as we can.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good and we commend
you on that, and acknowledge that as well. As the
number of cyber security threats continue to grow
worldwide the city must ensure it is ready to
mitigate and defend against any attacks on agency
data. I'm glad to see that the \$1.28 million included
in the Executive Plan for cyber security efforts.
With respect to onboarding as well as the urgency to
implement such security measures, when does DOF
anticipate filling these positions?

COMMISSIONER JIHA: We currently have a
unit and headed by a CISO, a Chief Information
Security Officer at the DOF. We are-as, you know, we

1
2 are about to embark—to hire folks about, you know,
3 that we're opposing the Budget and we hope to onboard
4 these people as much as much as possible, but we rest
5 assured that we have a unit in place right now headed
6 by a CISO, and we are basically doing all we can to
7 make sure that we provide as much security as
8 possible for our system for our data.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, would they be
10 subject to the hiring freeze?

11 COMMISSIONER JIHA: No.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: No?

13 COMMISSIONER JIHA: No.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER JIHA: They're CISO (sic)
16 positions.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And how large will it
18 be, the overall IT Security Unit be at DOF?

19 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Currently how many
20 folks we have now? [background comments, pause]
21 Come in. He is—he is a CIO, Seb Formoso. How many
22 folks we have now.

23 SEB FORMOSO: [off mic] So, currently we
24 have--

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, just turn on your
3 mic and identify yourself, yeah.

4 SEB FORMOSO: Currently, our Security
5 team is comprised of five dedicated folks that are
6 dedicated to the security for the Department of
7 Finance. We're in the process of hiring three more
8 over the next couple of months, and we expect the
9 total size of the team once completed to be between
10 12 to 14 people.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Do you in turn—

12 COMMISSIONER JIHA: [interposing] And we
13 also—I should point out that we also leverage the
14 city cyber security. Okay, so we will—the vendor may
15 be a little small, but we're also working with the
16 city's cyber security group.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Do you coordinate
18 with DOITT?

19 SEB FORMOSO: Very closely. So, we meet
20 with Cyber Security and do it monthly to talk about a
21 Security road map that we put in place for the
22 Department of Finance, and progress against that plan
23 and the appropriate steps we need to take working
24 closely with them, and that we want to be able to

1 leverage designation of said the plans that they're
2 putting in place for the city.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. The
5 Fiscal 19 Proposed Budget has an authorized headcount
6 of 2,198 positions. While the number of active
7 positions is approximately 1,893. With approximately
8 300 positions to fill in Fiscal 19, of which a
9 majority are for property, audit and exemption
10 operations, what is DOF's plan to ramp up its
11 onboarding process to fill these vacancies?

12 COMMISSIONER JIHA: We are doing our
13 best, but again we are, as you know, there is a
14 partial hiring freeze in the city, and so we're
15 working through the process as much as-as quickly as
16 we can to onboard this big one. But again, as I
17 said, you know, there are some challenges citywide,
18 but we're doing our best working with OMB to onboard
19 as many as we can.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, those positions
21 are subject to the hiring freeze?

22 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Some of them. Some of
23 them are, and so it makes it a little harder because
24 you have to provide all kind of justification to
25 onboard these folks, but again, we are working very

1
2 closely OMB, and particularly when we are dealing
3 with critical hires, that we are trying to access
4 that process.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Are there specific
6 vacancies, which you are prioritizing to fill over
7 others?

8 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Yeah, there are
9 because at the end of the day we are a revenue
10 generating agency. So, therefore, any positions that
11 deals with revenue we try to make them priorities.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yesterday the Council
13 was informed of DOF's new system for administering
14 the city's property tax, which is being developed,
15 Tyler Technologies that it will not be up and running
16 in time for Fiscal 19 as was planned. What is DOF's
17 new timeline for implementing the property tax
18 system?

19 COMMISSIONER JIHA: The challenge that we
20 have we're working with the vendor Tyler Technology,
21 and we have not yet received the final codes from the
22 vendor, and as you imagine, we are not comfortable
23 until we have enough time to test all the codes to
24 make sure everything is okay doing end-to-end
25 testing, product testing, and to make sure if the are

1
2 any deviation between the old system and the new
3 system, we have an explanation why there is such a
4 deviation. We are not ready to cut all. So, until
5 and unless when we find—until we receive the final
6 Codes defect free from the vendor, that's when we
7 will decide when we will cut over. As you know, we
8 only have two windows of opportunity, which is when
9 we—after we issued a primary role and generally and
10 in June when we issued a final role. So, the window—
11 because we have not received the final codes from the
12 vendor at this point in time. So, the—the window for
13 the June is closed. For the June that is closed now.
14 So, we have to wait until the following month, but
15 until we receive the code, the final code that's when
16 we'll make the decision when we will cut over, but at
17 this point in time we have not received he final
18 code. So, therefore, I don't want to make a
19 commitment one way or another when we're going to cut
20 over.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: What was the original
22 date to get it up and running?

23 COMMISSIONER JIHA: I—I believe from what
24 I understand it was 2016—2016, the summer of 2016.

25

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, is there a cost
3 for this delay?

4 COMMISSIONER JIHA: There is because we
5 pay the vendor there's a milestone. So, therefore,
6 in terms of the vendor we are not incurring any
7 additional costs but, however, because we are—we
8 again, as I said, we hire consultants. We have
9 staff, you know, dedicated to the project. It's
10 costing us, basically on the final costs that we are
11 incurring. But, again, we're pushing the vendor
12 very, very, very hard, but as you know, there is only
13 one vendor in the marketplace for this product. So,
14 it's not like we could walk away from them, and go
15 into somebody else. So, we're working, we're pushing
16 them very, very, very hard, and they're responding,
17 but they have not responded as quickly as we wanted.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Once it's ready, how
19 will the system allow DOF to improve its work?

20 COMMISSIONER JIHA: The work that we have
21 a considerable improvement, well, because we're
22 moving from a paper based system to a web based
23 system. So, it's going to make a huge difference,
24 and the system would be more or less integrated
25 unlike what we have now where we have modules and,

1
2 you know, and we have a lot of moving pieces. So,
3 we'll have a more integrated system when it's really
4 completed. .

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: When will the new
6 fine schedule for this—stipulated fines and
7 commercial abatement program that you referenced in
8 your testimony take effect?

9 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Jeff, you want to
10 come in? Because we—we have a timeline. We're
11 rolling out, you know, on this thing. So, we are
12 talking to the different stakeholders in the
13 industry. We want to make sure everybody is fully
14 aware of it, and so we have a real timeline. Jeff
15 has a better position to give you a sense of the
16 timeline when we will finally roll out the—the final
17 schedules.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHEAR: Yes. So, our
19 timeline calls for a November 1st implementation
20 date. Between now and then as the Commissioner says,
21 we plan to meet with stakeholders and do the
22 programming necessary to make the changes and to
23 inform the participants in the programs in advance as
24 to what will be changing.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. So, let me
3 talk a little bit about lease savings. The agency
4 will realize a savings of \$2 million from Fiscal 18
5 related to the delay in the buildout and occupancy of
6 new office new office space within 375 Pearl Street
7 in Manhattan. When does the DOF anticipate the
8 agency will occupy this space?

9 COMMISSIONER JIHA: From what I-I
10 understand it's going to be sometime in the fall of
11 2018 this year.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: The fall of--

13 COMMISSIONER JIHA: 2018.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Of this fall?

15 COMMISSIONER JIHA: This fall.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, can you please
17 provide the total number of closed and ongoing deed
18 fraud investigations year-to-date?

19 COMMISSIONER JIHA: The sheriff can you
20 please--do you have that information? Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I always like to have
22 the sheriff come up, you know. [pause]

23 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: Good afternoon. My
24 name is Joe Fucito. I'm the Sheriff for the City of
25 New York. The question was how many deed fraud

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1 investigations we've had running. [pause] Right now
2 we have 127 active investigations running with the
3 various district attorneys in the city. [pause] In
4 total we have made 40 arrests since 2014 for 58
5 properties totaling \$41 million in value. The
6 investigations that we're conducting this year are
7 very long-term and they consist of networks. I think
8 I've discussed the previously that we have large
9 networks that are operating throughout the city using
10 the same players. We have investigations in King
11 County, which seems to be the primary focus for most
12 of the deed fraud activity in the city, but we have
13 other investigations that branch out into Queens and
14 New York County.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good and Sheriff,
17 while you're there let me ask you a little bit about
18 tobacco enforcement. In regards to tobacco
19 enforcement, how many smuggled cartons have you
20 recovered year to date?

21 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: For the past year,
22 I'm going to give you a total. We have recovered
23 3,893 cartons from regulatory inspections. So, that's
24 from us going into a location, inspecting and
25 uncovering it. From our criminal investigations,

1
2 which involve search warrants and intercepting
3 shipments from Virginia, we have seized 6,637 cartons
4 of untaxed cigarettes as well as 50,325 counterfeit
5 tax stamps. That's just as important as the
6 cigarettes. We also seized 19,492 packages of
7 illegal flavored tobacco, which was outlawed by the
8 Council in 2014. We have also seized 8,451 packages
9 of other types of tobacco that were banned beyond
10 flavor by the 2014 legislation.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Sheriff.
12 You're always very exact with those numbers, and I
13 appreciate that very much. I don't think this is
14 your purview, marshal booting. No.

15 COMMISSIONER JIHA: It's Seb.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Oh, it is?

17 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Yes..

18 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: I'm their cousin. I
19 have data on me.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. [laughter] Do
21 you have info on that? It's the same?

22 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: It's simple data. I
23 would call it soft data, the final data goes to OMB,
24 but I have pretty good figures. [background comments,
25 pause] What would you like to know?

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. So, how many
3 vehicles were booted and what was the average amount
4 of the judgment debt collected per vehicle?

5 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: I actually don't
6 have the vehicle booted. I have the revenue figures,
7 but we can get you those figures very easily.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Sure.

9 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: So, for marshal
10 seizures, the judgment amount was year-to-date was
11 \$35,269. Then we have execution fees. Those are
12 fees that go to marshal and the sheriff about \$5.5
13 million, and other poundage is \$2.8 million. We can
14 get you the figures of the number of vehicles that
15 were seized and what was the other thing that you
16 wanted?

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: The number of
18 vehicles booted. That was it. That was it.

19 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: Those are easy. We
20 can them for you in a response.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay and have you
22 noted any trends in terms of who is getting booted or
23 in terms of the number of vehicles that are getting
24 booted?

1
2 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: The only trend that
3 we're observing right now is something that we're
4 working on in the Sheriff's Office concerning camera
5 violators.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: What?

7 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Cameras.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Camera violations.

9 SHERIFF JOE FUCITO: Uh-hm, and red light
10 speed.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Uh-hm, Uh-hm. Okay,
12 I think that's it, Sheriff. Thank you. Alright, let
13 me just go to, and I think this will be my last
14 question, payment of parking ticket via DOF Mobile
15 Application. The new Mobile Application was launched
16 this past year, which allows drivers to pay or
17 dispute parking tickets from their cell phone. To
18 day, approximately how many tickets were paid or
19 disputed through this application.

20 COMMISSIONER JIHA: I don't have the
21 figure from the top of my head, but I could provide
22 you that information.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. [pause]
24 Alright, thank you. I think we're—we're done with
25

1 this portion of the hearing, and we thank you for
2 coming in, and appreciate you giving testimony.

3
4 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Thank you, Council
5 Member.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much,
7 Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER JIHA: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. We're going to
10 take a break for about 10 minutes—to 1:30. Excuse
11 me. [Council takes a 10-minute break] [gavel] Okay,
12 we will now resume the City Council's hearing on the
13 Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal 2019. The
14 Finance Committee is joined by the Committee on Parks
15 and Recreation Chaired by my colleague Council Member
16 Barry Grodenchik, and we are also joined by Council
17 Member Peter Koo, Council Member Powers, Council
18 Member—Majority Leader Cumbo, Council Member Gjonaj
19 and Council Member Borelli. We just heard from the
20 Department of Finance, and now we'll hear from the
21 Mitchell Silver, the Commissioner of Department of
22 Parks and Recreation. In the interest of time I will
23 forego making an opening statement, but before we
24 hear from testimony, I want to open the mic to my Co-
25 Chair Council Member Grodenchik.

CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Thank you, Mr.

Chair. I have just a brief opening statement. Good afternoon. I've already been identified. I have the honor being the Chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation for this Council term. I am excited to be here today to learn more about the department's budget both capital and expense, and how they address the needs of all New Yorkers. This committee—these committees will review the Parks Department's Proposed Expense Budget to Fiscal 2019 and its 2018 to 22 Capital Commitment Plan and the relevant sections to the Council's responses to the Preliminary Plan. The department's Fiscal 2019 Executive Budget totals just under \$510 million with 4,292 positions. This is an increase of 17 positions when compared to the Fiscal 2018 Adoption Plan. This Budget includes a New Needs Package of \$6.8 million for Fiscal Year 19, and it's a wide range. A new needs range from 20 catch basin crew members to fleet contract, and also an attempt save our ash trees from the emerald ash borer beetle, which is unfortunately an invasive species. The agency's budget is supported mostly by city funds, but also relies on intercity funding from its POP Maintenance program—

1 for its POP maintenance program as well as capital
2 IFA funding for the Capital Division. Even though
3 the agency receives a small amount of federal
4 funding, the Committee is in the agency's contingency
5 plans for potential federal cuts. As the city
6 experiences substantial increases in parks usage,
7 unfortunately, the department has not been able to
8 keep pace with its budget. There are now over 8.6
9 million New Yorkers and tens of millions of annual
10 visitors to our great city all of whom rely on city
11 parks. The committee would like to know what the
12 plan, the department plans to do to address these
13 issues as well as an update on the department's new
14 needs that were added in the Fiscal 2019 Executive
15 Budget. Currently, the Parks Budget as proposed by
16 the Administration is down to just .58 of 1% of the
17 city's total budget. For a fourth year in a row, the
18 Mayor's Budget critically fails to baseline \$9.7
19 million for vital maintenance workers, which would
20 lead to a loss of 50 gardeners and 100 city Parks
21 workers who would be laid off as of June 30th,
22 depriving our parks of sorely needed staffing and
23 depriving 150 New Yorkers—hard working New Yorkers of
24 their livelihood. The Mayor's Executive Plan also
25

1 failed to include additional funding for Parks
2 rangers and PEP Officers. Over to the Capital side,
3 under Commissioner Silver the department has launched
4 three vital new capital initiatives that have done
5 much to advance equity and access in our park system.
6 I am interested in learning more about the work that
7 was done in regards to Anchor Parks, the Community
8 Parks Initiative, which you already had a hearing on,
9 and Parks Without Borders. In addition to that, in
10 the Executive Plan there were commitments to Hudson
11 River Park for \$50 million, Astoria Park Pool for \$18
12 million, and an additional \$50 million for an indoor
13 pool on Staten Island. Unfortunately, Orchard Beach
14 in the Bronx was pushed to the out-years, and we'd
15 like to hear an update on these priorities among
16 others. I thank the Commissioner for being here
17 today. I thank him for his work on behalf of the
18 parks in our city, and for his great staff as well,
19 many of whom I have worked with for years. I'm
20 looking forward to hearing from you Commissioner, and
21 I'm going to turn it back now to Chair Dromm to have
22 the panel sworn. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. May
25 I ask the counsel to swear in the panel.

1
2 LEGAL COUNSEL: Do you affirm that your
3 testimony will be truthful to the best of your
4 knowledge, information and belief?

5 COMMISSIONER SILVER: I do. Good
6 afternoon City Council, Finance Committee Chair Dromm
7 and City Council Parks Committee Chair Grodenchik,
8 and members of the Council Finance and Parks
9 Committee. I'm Mitchell Silver, Commissioner of the
10 New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and
11 I'm joined here today by a number of our senior
12 staff. Thank you for inviting me to discuss the
13 Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget for New York City
14 Parks. I'd like to begin by outlining some key facts
15 and figures that help illustrate the scale and
16 diversity of what we do a New York City Parks. We
17 are the steward of over 30,000 acres, 14% of New York
18 City's land mass including 10,000 acres of natural
19 areas. We oversee nearly 4,500 individual properties
20 ranging from parks and playgrounds to community
21 gardens and green streets. Spring marks the
22 beginning of prime time for our parks when our city's
23 green and open spaces truly come alive giving New
24 Yorkers opportunities to live happier, healthier
25 lives and we have been busy delivering results and

1 improvements in a smarter and faster way. In just
2 the last five weeks since I testified at the
3 Council's Preliminary Budget hearing, we've held 13
4 ribbon cuttings, and groundbreakings for projects,
5 which total \$55.7 million in capital investment in
6 neighborhoods throughout the city. These have
7 included locations such as Ranaqua Park in the Bronx,
8 Marcy Playground in Brooklyn where we unveiled some
9 fantastic upgrades made possible with the generous
10 donation from actor Tracy Morgan, a Brooklyn native
11 towards our Creative Courts Initiative. We also
12 broke ground on transformative capital projects at
13 Longfellow Gardens in Brooklyn, in the Bronx and
14 Travers Park in Queens, and reopened the beautiful
15 Alice Aycock Pavilion on the East River. On the first
16 day of spring, we held a CPI ribbon cutting relay. I
17 know Chair Grodenchik was there. Five ribbon cutting
18 ceremonies in five playgrounds across the city one in
19 each borough during an exciting all-day sprint across
20 the city. As a result, with this Administration's
21 signature park equity effort, the Community Parks
22 Initiative Hilltop Park in Brownsville, formerly
23 known as Saratoga Ball Fields is benefitting from new
24 basketball courts, outdoor fitness equipment. We
25

1 fixed drainage issues at Harlem's Anoka's Park, and
2 installed new ADA accessible play equipment at Lyons
3 Square in the Bronx. In Queens—I'm sorry. In Staten
4 Island, Grassmere Play—in Queens Grassmere Playground
5 received a new spray shower for kids to enjoy while
6 adults can use the brand new fitness equipment, and
7 our project in Our Car (sic) Playground in Staten
8 Island has been transformed into an inviting—from an
9 uninviting slab of asphalt into a vibrant and
10 exciting space that the neighborhood residents can
11 all enjoy. As Commissioner, for New York City
12 Parks., I'd like to call ourselves the agency of fun,
13 health and happiness, but we take our work very
14 seriously since parks and open space are so vital to
15 the quality of life of New Yorkers. To that end, we
16 announced with Mayor de Blasio that Central Park will
17 become completely car-free beginning this June. We
18 opened the world's first public outdoor squash court
19 at Hamilton Fish Park, and we brought the old school
20 classics back to our annual street games event an
21 all-day festival enjoyed by kids and adults alike.
22 Our Parks for people and as New Yorkers shake off
23 their winter doldrums and get outside to enjoy their
24 local parks, they will get to enjoy the benefits
25

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1 provided by many accomplishments New York City Parks
2 has delivered over the recent weeks, months and
3 years. During the Preliminary Budget hearing, I was
4 pleased to present the Council with a thorough
5 overview of the improvements and reforms taken on by
6 the agency. So, today we'll over a short update
7 regarding the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal
8 Year 2019, which demonstrates New York City's
9 continued commitment to building a more equitable
10 park system under the leadership of Mayor de Blasio,
11 and thanks to the strong partnership with City
12 Council. The Mayor's latest Executive Budget
13 provides New York City Parks with an operating budget
14 of \$509 million a \$16 million increase from the
15 corresponding budget released a year ago. The FY19
16 Executive Five-Year Capital Plan along with current
17 FY18 funds provides a total Parks Capital Budget of
18 \$4.6 million including \$534 in mayoral funding for
19 approved new capital needs. It is our agency's
20 mission not simply to maintain our parks and green
21 spaces but to truly care for them and keep them in a
22 consistent state of good repair. The FY19 Executive
23 Budget is a strong budget for New York City Parks,
24 and for this Administration has prioritized
25

1 investment in state of good repair for our park
2 properties and assets to keep them in the best
3 condition possible. In coordination with a series of
4 mayoral town hall meetings held in Council Districts
5 throughout the city for which many of you served as
6 MCs and hosts, the city has allocated a total of \$98
7 million in new mayoral funding capital funding. These
8 capital projects identified in consultation with
9 Council Members to address community priorities that
10 will provide vital repairs to parks across the city.
11 Whether is new lighting into a Playground in the
12 Bronx, and new basketball courts at Washington Hall
13 Playground in Brooklyn, renovating the beloved path
14 along Vanderbilt Motor Parkway in Queens, new
15 amenities for Bellevue Park South in Manhattan, or
16 constructing a new comfort station at Seaside Nature
17 Park better known as Pirate Park to Staten Island
18 residents, each of these projects will offer tangible
19 improvements to beloved parks citywide. We are
20 grateful for the Administration's dedication to local
21 priorities that have been identified by Council
22 members, and we look forward to seeing these projects
23 begin design during the coming Fiscal Year. Beyond
24 these community drive investments to FY19 Executive
25

1
2 Budget provides further state of good repair funding
3 for locations throughout the city all facing unique
4 challenges. The western and eastern areas of
5 Manhattan feature two very unique beloved park
6 properties each with different needs. The Mayor has
7 provided \$50 million for major capital work at Hudson
8 River Park leveraging an additional \$50 million in
9 matching state investment. On the other side of the
10 island, we're investing \$75 million in new funding
11 for continued waterfront reconstruction and
12 restoration of the East River Esplanade from East
13 Midtown to East Harlem. The citywide commitment to
14 this is necessary for the infrastructure improvements
15 means that we'll be able to upgrade Astoria Filter
16 System, restore the most severe damage at our
17 synthetic turf fields, repair pedestrian bridges over
18 the Bell Parkway, fix broken sidewalks around
19 community gardens, and restore Prospect Park's iconic
20 Soldiers and Sailors Arch at Grand Army Plaza as well
21 as the majestic Dailey Fountain. These are just
22 examples of projects that—that deliver badly needed
23 infrastructural repairs and upgrades to much loved
24 and utilized parks and open spaces. Regarding our
25 agency's operations, we continue to focus on

1
2 innovative approaches to park maintenance and capital
3 work finding more efficient ways for the agency to
4 deploy our resources. As a result, we have
5 consistently been meeting and exceeding our Mayor's
6 Management Report targets for Park cleanliness, and
7 overall condition ratings. The Mayor's FY19
8 Executive Budget builds upon this work as it invests
9 in staff an equipment, which will allow us to work
10 smarter, and faster. We're investing \$6 million to
11 address environmental remediation work during the
12 design phase or during construction allowing us to
13 avoid delays and keep capital projects moving
14 forward. Our Brooklyn Coney Island Operations
15 headquarters will receive \$47 million in capital
16 upgrades allowing our employees and Parks Enforcement
17 Patrol Officers to better maintain district parks,
18 and deploy necessary equipment and vehicles. We will
19 bring zone management approach piloted successfully
20 at Crotons Park to McCarren and Fort Greene Park this
21 year. \$1.4 million in baseline expense funding will
22 be used to implement citywide catch basin crews so we
23 can address standing water and clogged drain issues
24 that surface in our parks, placing a renewed emphasis
25 on sustainable storm water management practices for

1 our properties, and with \$8 million in capital
2 forestry funding and \$817,000 expense funding we'll
3 able to address the threat of the emerald ash borer,
4 and invasive insect threatening the 121,000 ash trees
5 in our urban forests. These investments may not be
6 glamorous, but they will directly improve the
7 experience that New Yorkers have in their local parks
8 and improve the services we're able to provide for
9 our park visitors. Our parks are for people and they
10 always have been. I'll close by mentioning a photo
11 exhibit currently on display at the Arsenal Gallery
12 in our agency's headquarters featuring park photos
13 taken 40 years ago by photographers from the New York
14 Times. As the image on the screens show, a lot has
15 changed for the better. This historic photo of Red
16 Hook Pool reminds us of a time when community amenity
17 was left unusable full of litter and debris. In Red
18 Hook, the neighborhoods around New York community
19 residents left a feeling that the city simply did not
20 care about them. Today, Red Hook Pool is a thriving
21 public amenity serving thousands every year from the
22 dilapidated playgrounds and graffiti sprayed park
23 monuments to the state of our art of playgrounds and
24 redesigned accessible open spaces, we're proud of the
25

1 growth that our agency has seen over the past four
2 decades. But these photos also remind us that even
3 though New York has changed since 1978 New Yorkers
4 haven't whether it's walking the dog, exercising or
5 simply sitting on a bench, people watching New
6 Yorkers have been able to leave happier, healthier
7 lives by enjoying our city's green spaces. We all
8 rely on our city parks to feel warmth of the sun,
9 enjoy time with families, to dance and to play and to
10 enjoy the occasional barbecue. Other than the
11 abundance of bell bottoms and lack of Smart Phones,
12 these photos could have been taken yesterday. We're
13 proud of the progress we've made as an agency and our
14 commitment to deliver the incredible park experiences
15 that all New Yorkers deserve. Thank you for allowing
16 me to testify before you today, and for your
17 dedication providing great parks and open spaces for
18 all New Yorkers. We look forward to continue working
19 with the Mayor and the City Council to create a
20 bright green future and a more equitable innovative
21 park system, and now I'd be happy to answer to answer
22 any questions you may have. Joining me is First
23 Deputy Commissioner Liam Kavanaugh; Deputy
24 Commissioner for Capital Projects, Therese Braddock
25

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and Matt Drury, our Director of Government Relations.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much,
Commissioner. First question, who's your
photographer? [laughter] A beautiful photograph.

COMMISSIONER SILVER: We have—internally
we have two outstanding Parks photographers, Malcolm
Pinkney and Danny Avella. They do outstanding work,
and it shows how we capture the joy that truly—and
natural beauty of our park system. So, I will
communicate them that you appreciate their work.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: It's very, very nice.
Commissioner let me talk a little bit about Parks
equity funding. In fiscal 2018 the City Council
allocated \$4.5 million for the Parks Department for
the Parks Equity Initiative. This Initiative was
designed to support community programming and small-
our neighborhood parks and the work of existing park
and garden volunteer groups citywide. In addition to
Parks equity, the City Council has been adding more
discretionary funding to your agency for programmatic
activities. Do you believe that you have adequate
staffing to handle the increasing contracts that need

1
2 to be registered or to fulfill these contracts in a
3 timely manner?

4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, first, these
5 rewards do require a significant amount of agency
6 staff time and resources to administer especially the
7 awards to third parties. We are currently addressing
8 our staffing levels to determine what changes, if
9 any, are needed to continue facilitating these awards
10 presuming the current funding levels and protocols
11 remain in place. So, we're aware of the concern and
12 we're currently evaluating the staffing levels, but
13 we do face challenges in some of those third-party
14 reward-awards. So, we'll continue to work with-with
15 your staff to see how we could improve on how we
16 deliver these services and make sure these funds get
17 to those recipients as quickly as possible.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Commissioner, how
19 many-who many work on that now?

20 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [background
21 comments] Yeah, we currently have about a team of
22 four.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Four?

24 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yes.
25

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And so then those
3 four people out of our—out our central office and
4 then their funding contracts go out to the referrals.

5 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [interposing] we
6 have—

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: How does that work?

8 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Right now, about
9 1.4 roughly is allocate directly to parks. About 1.1
10 was allocated to the City Parks Foundation, and then
11 1.9 is allocated to other organizations with New York
12 City Parks serving as a supervisor and fiscal agent.
13 So, that's the proportion of how the—the dollars are
14 distributed.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: But what I was—what
16 I'm concerned about is let me—let me give an example
17 in my own district. We with the Parks Equity Funding
18 wanted to have an extra security person. I guess
19 that's how it was described. That did not happen.
20 Can you describe for us why doesn't that happen?
21 We're just becoming aware that it has not happened,
22 and we're going to reallocate that funding, but it
23 would have been good to have had this security person
24 at that park previously.

1

2

COMMISSIONER SILVER: A lot of it

3

determines the timing when we have to reach out to

4

hire seasonal, and I would say in that particular

5

case to bring a seasonal on board and the alignment

6

with the Fiscal Year Budget, the timing just did not

7

work. As we are aware that that need is more in

8

advance, we can figure out how to bring that seasonal

9

on board so that you can get the additional security

10

that you were seeking. So, that one was more of a

11

timing issue, but we'll certainly sit down to see how

12

we could preempt that in the future, and figure out

13

how can we expedite getting the additional security

14

that's needed.

15

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Are some program

16

easier to award out? Like another piece that we did

17

were the--were the movie nights, and is that easier

18

for you to-to work on than it is to get the security

19

person? [background comments]

20

COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yeah, right, yeah,

21

we're going to see exactly--I think going forward

22

we'll see which ones are easy to expedite, and we can

23

work with the City Council to see--to avoid some of

24

those delays and see which programs moves quicker.

25

I'll make sure that my staff communicates back to

1 Council. So, we'll at least have a tranche of
2 projects that can move quicker. But we'll certainly
3 get back to you. It seems like the movements on the
4 starts is one. That could be moved a lot quicker
5 than some of the other requests.
6

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Well, we look
8 forward to working with you on that to ensure that
9 those things get out. We were very, very grateful to
10 get the funding to be honest with you. So, we'd
11 really like to make sure that it's used properly. In
12 a little bit of Chairman prerogative here, I'll talk
13 about capital in regard to my project in my district
14 Travers Park. Four years ago, but it's an example I
15 think that applies to citywide. Four years ago over
16 \$6 million was added to complete Travers Park, and
17 the project was fully funded. Construction on the
18 park, which is one of the few parks in my district
19 just began. Can you walk me through the process of
20 what happens when a project is fully funded? Because
21 it seems to me that since it was fully funded four
22 years ago it's a long time to wait for the shovels to
23 get into the ground.

24 COMMISSIONER SILVER: I can tell you
25 normally what happens, and I can share with you what

1
2 occurred at the Travers Park. Typically when a
3 project is fully funded, it goes into a queue and we
4 wait for staff in that borough to be freed up to work
5 on the project. Our commitment is that that project
6 gets assigned within the fiscal year, and once that
7 happens, and there's a public meeting, the clock
8 officially starts. The design process, which
9 includes public meetings going through PDC and other
10 approvals takes anywhere from 10 to 15 months. Once
11 that occurs, and it goes into procurement that could
12 take anywhere from 7 to 10 months, and then it goes
13 into construction, 12 to 18 months depending on the
14 complexity. For Travers Park these were the three
15 discrete parcels owned by different entities, and so
16 it did add some complexity to make sure we had
17 agreements to move forward. There were parcels from
18 a school, from DOT and from Parks that had to be
19 consolidated and that consolidation to make sure it
20 can move forward did add some delays, but in general
21 so you know, since I came on board, we've shaved four
22 to six months off the process. So, all projects that
23 were assigned 3/14, we're now moving forward. We're
24 doing much better on post-14 projects with a new
25 streamlined capital process. So, hopefully, what you

1 experienced on Travers will be a pass, and I'm very
2 pleased that we did break ground on that recently.
3 So, now it is officially under construction.
4

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, that's good
6 and—and I think other Council Members are going to
7 ask you about that process as well because I don't
8 think it was just—just to Travers. I mean I know
9 there were particular issues there, but I think that
10 other Council Members are concerned about the amount
11 of time that it takes. Let me talk a little bit
12 about the Citywide Savings Program, and vacancy
13 reductions. In the Preliminary and Executive Budget,
14 the department was asked by the Administration to
15 identify areas in their budget that they can save the
16 city resources. In the department's \$500 million
17 Annual Expense Budget they were only able to identify
18 \$7 million in Fiscal 18, just a little over 1%. These
19 savings appeared to be either revenue or hiring
20 freezes. In addition to those, there was also a
21 takedown of 49 headcount positions called vacancy
22 reductions. Of these vacancies, what part—what
23 positions are you getting rid of and will the failure
24 to hire in these positions lead to a serious issue.
25

1
2 COMMISSIONER SILVER: I'm going as that
3 Assistant Commissioner David Stark responds to the
4 question. He heads up our Human Resource Personnel
5 Division.

6 DAVID STARK: Good afternoon. So, the 49
7 positions were--when you have over 4,000 people in
8 your headcount, there's always at least 50 or more
9 vacancies. So, it won't impact the agency in any way
10 at this time, but it's the savings that are just
11 through the normal system of replacing people.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Is there any way to
13 more accurately reflect and--and reflect your
14 headcount in the budget moving forward?

15 DAVID STARK: Well, the headcount comes
16 down by those 49 positions. So, it--

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] So,
18 you're saying that's always the case?

19 DAVID STARK: Well, the agency always has
20 a certain number of vacancies. People leave, you
21 replace them.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, what we're trying
23 to get at is that that's not a true savings. It's a
24 regular situation, as you described.

1
2 DAVID STARK: It's a dollar savings that
3 might be a surplus at other times and now it's being
4 taken out of our budget for one year to see how it
5 works out. It's not recurring savings.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, it's only going
7 to be this year?

8 DAVID STARK: Only this—only the upcoming
9 fiscal year.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, and how—how do
11 you know how much funding to remove when you do that?

12 DAVID STARK: They—they used a salary of
13 around \$55,000 per head.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: As an average?

15 DAVID STARK: As an average.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And will you be able
17 to identify more true efficiencies rather than
18 revenue increases and accruals?

19 DAVID STARK: Well, we always prefer to
20 do accruals and revenue increases so that there's no
21 impact to services, and if we can't find savings in
22 those areas, then we may be pushed in other
23 directions. [background comments, pause]

24

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Alright, I'm-I'm-I'm
3 going-I'm going to let Chair Grodenchik ask questions
4 from here.

5 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman. Thank you Commissioner. Thank you to your
7 staff for your presentation. I have a series of
8 questions, and then I guess we'll turn it over. I
9 may come back toward the end with some more questions
10 depending on what's been asked, but first and
11 foremost I-I have to have to-- I mentioned in my
12 opening statement that we are facing the layoff of
13 150 Parks workers, which just cannot happen. I-I
14 don't want to beat around the bush at all. I want to
15 make it critically clear to everybody who's
16 listening, to your boss the Mayor to the head of OMB
17 that we have got to retain these positions. I'm very
18 impressed by the amount of capital funding that we've
19 abled to--been able to secure for the agency. I need
20 you to be, you know, our mercury, our messenger to
21 the Administration that--that this Council will not
22 take these cuts. Our Park system cannot absorb these
23 cuts, and everything that we've worked for, for these
24 many years to bring our parks back from what we saw
25 in those. I remember those pictures because I grew

1
2 up with Parks like that even though we continued to
3 play in, but the broken glass, the missing slats on
4 the benches. All those kind of things, it's-it's a
5 terrible way to look at our parks. So what kind of
6 commitment can you give me today, and I guess I'll as
7 the question that can we-our contingency plan for the
8 agency to pay for this if the Council cannot out our
9 funding?

10 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, the-the good
11 news at this point is that it is an Executive Budget
12 and not the Adopted Budget, and I am confident that
13 the conversations will continue between both the
14 Council, the Mayor and OMB as we move toward that
15 Adopted Budget. I hear concerns. I--

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] I
17 can't-I can't be the Chairman that lost 150 workers,
18 you know what I'm saying?

19 COMMISSIONER SILVER: I hear what you're
20 saying. We'll communicate that both to OMB and the
21 Mayor's Office as well, but we know this will be an
22 ongoing conversation until this budget is adopted.
23 So, I-I hear you loud and clear, and I know the
24 Administration does as well.

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CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Is there any

reason why we can't get these workers baselined? You

know, this is critical. I've seen that big tranche

you have in the arsenal. I haven't been in the

arsenal I a little while, but of all those people you

used working, and, you know, we—we talk about the

fact that the budget, which was about .6% has now

slipped a point, 5.8% so the percent of the city

budget, and I know you'd like more money, and I'm

going to continue to advocate for that, and I'm sure

our advocates will join us, but is there any

stumbling block here that--

COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, as I stated,

this is still going to be an ongoing conversation.

You are correct in terms of contingency. We're

always looking at ways to be more efficient and

smarter as Management is part of that process. We

had something called Ops21 that looks to make our

crew's size and routing more efficient. And so,

we'll continue to explore those innovations, but in

terms of the 150 and baselined funding, we certainly

know that that will continue to be a conversation

until this budget moves toward adoption.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Okay, thank you,
3 Commissioner. Parks Enforcement Patrol, the PEP
4 officers are responsible for enforcing quality of
5 life laws, New York City Administrative Code, Parks
6 rules and regulations as well as acting as Parks
7 ambassadors. Park safety in parks and playgrounds is
8 one of their most important responsibilities. It's
9 worth noting I don't think they were PEP employees,
10 but I believe that the former Commissioner Benepe and
11 the current Queens Commissioner both started as
12 rangers, if my memory is correct. So, they're not
13 only important jobs for the people that they're
14 serving, but there were also important jobs and
15 career advancement that had people come up that way.
16 However, currently, there are only 201 city tax levy
17 funded PEP Officers including an additional 67 PEP
18 officers included in the Fiscal 2017 Preliminary
19 Budget available for deployment. So many parks are
20 left without PEP workers. It's unusual to see one in
21 the vast stretches of Eastern Queens. I do see them
22 occasionally. In fact, there was one that passed my
23 district office yesterday I guess on the way from
24 Alley Pond to Cunningham. I like to think he—that's
25 that they were doing, but we just don't see them as

1 much as we'd like to, and so I'd like to have your
2 thoughts on that.
3

4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, I want to
5 make clear this Administration, as you just noted
6 added 67 PEP Officers to Parks payroll. They were
7 very grateful for Mayor for doing that. So, you
8 know, we have a combination of both fixed locations
9 for some PEP Officers, but we have a lot of mobile
10 that go to what we call hot spots. That is how we
11 try to make our PEP Enforcement much more efficient.
12 We pretty much know some of the hot spot locations
13 that warrant more quality of life patrol and
14 analysis, and then we have others that are actually
15 stationed at certain parks at certain times. So,
16 we're using efficiently the 67 that the Mayor added
17 to our budget, and we're trying through different
18 routing and hotspot management to make sure we get as
19 many of our quality of life officers out there to
20 improve our parks, but again we hear you loud and
21 clear, and I'm certain that there is a desire for
22 more PEP Officers that will continue as well. And
23 that, of course, does not include our grant funded
24 PEP Officers, which number over 80 covering other
25 parks throughout the city.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: In the Fiscal
3 FY—Fiscal 2019 Executive Plan there is baselined
4 funding of \$409,000 for four headcount positions for
5 the—the department Green Thumb NYCHA Community
6 Gardens Program. This action allows the department
7 to further expand the Green Thumb program. I'd like
8 to know from you or another member of your staff the
9 status of that program and why they added—why these
10 positions were added, and what will be the nature of
11 these—four new people's work?

12 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We had realized
13 when NYCHA was doing their analysis that they had a
14 number of community gardens throughout their system,
15 and we agree that they should be very focused on a
16 mission of improving the NYCHA campuses as part of
17 their Next Gen Anal—analysis, and so, it was
18 difficult to focus n the Community Gardens. We
19 worked with NYC to evaluate gardens that now can come
20 under Parks—not jurisdiction, but that we have the
21 expertise through our Green Thumb staff, and it was
22 determined with the number of gardens, which could be
23 up to 50 that Parks will now work with local tenants
24 association to care for these beautiful gardens.
25 Idyllwild, if you seen that in Brooklyn, these are

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1 outstanding community gardens to provide benefit, but
2 we'll lend our expertise on these NYCHA campuses. It
3 will not become Parks property, but we will use—we
4 believe four would be the right number work with the
5 local tenants association to keep these community
6 gardens going since it makes you want to say focused
7 on improving the housing for the residents versus
8 some of those community gardens, and we agreed.

10 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Okay, in the
11 interest of keeping the members of my committee
12 happy, I'm going to waive my time for now so that
13 they can ask questions, Mr. Chair, and I will come
14 back toward the end. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you and we've
16 been joined by Council Member Cohen, Council Member
17 Brannan, Council Member Ulrich, Council Member
18 Constantinides, Council Member Adams, Council Member
19 Deutsch, Council Member Barron, and Council Member
20 Van Bramer. The first questions will be by Council
21 Members Koo, Borelli, and Gjonaj, and then others
22 following them. Council Member Koo.

23 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you, Chair Dromm
24 and Chair Garodnick. [background comments] Oh,
25 Grodenchik. Yeah, so—and thank you Commissioners,

1
2 yeah, for coming, and I also want to thank
3 Commissioner Dotti (sic) from Queens, yeah, for doing
4 a wonderful job in our borough. Yeah. My question
5 is we are very exciting--we are very excited to see
6 that the Budget includes funding for the Mayoral Town
7 hall promise of lighting in Kissena Corridor Park,
8 but between our preliminary hearing and today, there
9 was a dead body found in the adjacent Kissena Park.
10 So, you can see how important this lighting is to our
11 community. So, is the city planning to fund
12 additional lights at surrounding playgrounds in
13 parks?

14 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, one, we're
15 aware that the project you requested is going to be
16 funded. We're always evaluating from our needs
17 assessment to working with both our PEP and staff to
18 see where additional lighting is needed, but for now
19 we have the funding in place to continue the project
20 that was agreed to at the Town Hall, but we're always
21 opening--open to evaluating other opportunities
22 working with the Council members, you, Council Member
23 Koo or the Borough President to see how we can find
24 additional funds, but the Mayor heard loud and clear

1 that more lighting was needed, and as part of that
2 commitment that part is going forward.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Yeah, I think it's
5 important that we have lighting and I asked maybe at
6 Browne (sic) on the Browne Playground. Yeah, it
7 would be nice and nice and maybe start. It's very
8 dangerous for people to walk or to play in the park.
9 Yeah. The summer time it's okay, yeah, yeah, really
10 okay. So, my last question is well I have at least
11 two instances—two instances where parks transferred
12 the project to another agency, only for parks to
13 start adding, changing the design and plans, which
14 often drives up the cost, and often goes from a fully
15 funded project to an under-funded project. So, what
16 happens when a project is transferred from Parks to
17 another agency like DDC or SCA? Does Parks still
18 have the oversight? Does Parks—does the funding stay
19 at the parks or is the project fully moved to the
20 respective agency?

21 COMMISSIONER SILVER: The funding stays
22 with Parks. I would ask you to direct your questions
23 to the agency for specific approach on change orders.
24 I can tell you that from our perspective we will not
25 allow change orders unless it's for life safety. We

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1 were able to cut our work order down—change orders
2 down from 400 to 100. So, I can't answer on behalf
3 of another agency, but to answer your question: (1)
4 the funds do stay in parks, and number (2) whether
5 it's us or another agency, we try to limit change
6 orders as much as possible because [bell] that as you
7 know, can have effects on the project budget and the
8 project time line.
9

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Alright.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Council—

12 CHAIRPERSON KOO: [interposing] Thank
13 you.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you,
15 Council Member Koo. Council Member Borelli followed
16 by Gjonaj and then the Majority Leader Cumbo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you very
18 much. I was hoping you'd have a picture of us
19 cutting the ribbon at the beautiful Conference House
20 Pavilion. It's a wonderful time. Just a quick
21 question—well, two questions about Brookfield Park.
22 The Executive Plan has \$2.1 million in one staff
23 position, and in the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget DPR
24 included about half a million in Fiscal Year 2018 and
25 half million in 2019 for nine positions. What type

1
2 of work are these folks going to be doing and, you
3 know, what is the vision for Brookfield Park?

4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, right now, the
5 staff will have really a multi-faceted role, and
6 before I get into that, I want to thank you for the
7 history lesson. It was outstanding at Conference
8 House--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [interposing]
10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER SILVER: --to know what
12 occurred there. I wish people were there to hear
13 what you had to say. It was amazing. In terms of
14 Brookfield, there will be a park supervisor, what we
15 call an APSW. CPW is a gardener who will provide
16 day-to-day site management and care to ensure the
17 site is at acceptable level for park--public park use.
18 In terms of future use, right now it will be
19 primarily a passive park. There is some long-term
20 thought down the--down the line that possibly it could
21 hand some recreation fields, but for right now as you
22 know, this is a 300-acre plus park, a very large
23 property and primarily their role would be just to
24 maintain the park, and the pass since we expect it to
25

1
2 get some good use. So, those are the employee mix
3 that will help maintain the park.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Well, I guess-I
5 think it's a great park. It's just long enough where
6 I can actually jog one circle. So--

7 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Another question
9 about the--the Staten Island Pool. \$50 million was
10 previous allocated. Now, I understand there was
11 another \$50 million allocated. Have--have we
12 identified a site yet for it?

13 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We have not. If you
14 recall, there were three sites identified, and so we
15 narrowed it down to two. So, the 100 at least gives
16 us a great start, but we don't have a site. We don't
17 know the scope, and the two are somewhat related.
18 So, as we have conversations and narrow down the
19 site, our hope is to scale it down so that we could
20 actually accomplish building that in-door pool. The
21 only borough that does not have an in-door pool in
22 New York City, and go ahead and move forward. So,
23 we're optimistic we can keep it at that number, but
24 it all depends on the site and the scope.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Well, what are
3 the criteria for the site? Which is an optimal site?

4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We already
5 identified a couple of sites. There were three. I
6 think we're now down to two, and those are ones that
7 are still in ongoing conversation. Each site would
8 require a little bit of complexity. We've done the
9 analysis. We can certainly share it with you. So,
10 we have the sites, we have the cost, and now since
11 the--there's 100 now capital funds, we can start to
12 really focus more on the scope.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: So, that's my
14 next question I guess. The--the additional \$50
15 million would be the required amount regardless of
16 which site it would be roughly.

17 COMMISSIONER SILVER: It depends on the
18 scope, and that's why I'm saying that now that we
19 have the funds, we can sit down and look more
20 thoroughly on how to get it to that number so we can
21 achieve it, but the scope is going to relate to how
22 many funds we have to actually construct it. [bell]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: And best guess,
24 how soon to I'm swimming? [laughter]

1
2 COMMISSIONER SILVER: That is a difficult
3 questions. I think if we can identify a site and-and
4 the funds are in place, typically once we start, it's
5 four years from design to construction.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Well, I'll start
7 getting my beach bag ready.

8 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Alright. [laughter]

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Council Member Gjonaj
10 followed by Majority Leader Cumbo and then Council
11 Member Cohen.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,
13 Chairs. I just want to remind the Commissioner that
14 the last time he took too long to my-to respond and
15 ate all my time, I'd like shorter answers, please,
16 Commissioner. [laughter]

17 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Good luck.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: No, and I-and I'm
19 basically remind you again that the Borough of the
20 Bronx has the largest city park, Pelham Bay Park with
21 2,700 acres, three times the size of Central Park,
22 and I'm just a little concerned about the headcounts
23 historically looking 2016-17. Just on recreation,
24 headcounts are going to be down 30% in the Executive
25 Budget. While you look at those numbers, I'll hit

1
2 you with the others. Tree pruning still a major
3 issue for my constituents, too long of a wait posing
4 a danger to residents and property, pedestrians and
5 motor vehicles. In addition, the shortfall of the
6 zoo is a concern and the borough of the Bronx is very
7 fortunate to have such a large park, but two major
8 gems and that's the Bronx Zoo and Botanical Gardens,
9 shortfalls on both of them, and the Anchor Parking
10 Initiative. Ancho Park Initiative where you're going
11 to allocate big dollars to large parks of six acres
12 or more. I would encourage one of the initiatives
13 that can be looked at that has been overlooked is
14 bird watching, a multi-billion industry. Pelham Bay
15 Park would be ripe for that. Comfort stations.
16 Pelham—we have one at Pelham Bay closed for decades.
17 I know and I understand that the Parks Department has
18 been looking at ways to open up these comfort
19 stations restoring them instead of keeping them
20 closed, and pursuing concessions with private
21 enterprise in doing so. The only thing that I ask is
22 that we expedite these opportunities, take the
23 burdens that are often put onto these concessions.
24 The sooner those comfort stations opens and are
25 maintained by private industry, the better off we all

1
2 are, and I'll let you start answering some of those
3 questions, and don't forget my Little Leagues that
4 are completely underfunded that we don't have the
5 maintenance crews out there to be able to keep up,
6 but just basic maintenance let alone capital
7 improvements, and I'll let my counterpart Councilman
8 Cohen ask you questions on Orchard Beach, and I hope
9 my colleague Chaim was wrong when he said keep this
10 paper because I'll be asking the same questions next
11 year.

12 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, I have about
13 30 seconds. So, I'll first really request that we
14 meet with the--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: No, you've got
16 plenty of time for this one.

17 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Oh, I have plenty
18 of time. Oh, then I will--because I want to make sure
19 I did not use up all your time. Alright, so, in
20 terms of the rec center, we'll have to get back to
21 you because I'm not clear on the reduction in staff
22 for rec. So, we'll certainly follow up with you
23 unless it's related to the 150 [bell] of our CPWs,
24 gardeners. We'll certainly follow up on that number.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: This is actually
3 the headcount numbers that you provided to us.

4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Okay. Well, we
5 will follow up on that one specifically so I have a
6 clear answer.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [interposing] And
8 that includes--

9 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [interposing] On
10 these--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: By the way, it's
12 recreation and maintenance. They're both going to be
13 in special recreation, 30% lows.

14 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Okay, we'll
15 certainly follow up with you on--on that one. On the
16 tree pruning, we're currently doing a seven-year
17 pruning cycle citywide, which is the industry
18 standard, and it's something we've been very proud
19 of. We got additional funding to keep that seven-
20 year pruning cycle, and so that is--we understand the
21 public would like to see trees pruned sooner, but we
22 are committed to a seven-year pruning cycle. In
23 terms of what--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [interposing]
25 It's found on the Budget for tree pruning.

1 [background comments] While you look that up, it's
2 definitely not enough, and I believe the Council
3 required or requested \$7 million more be added to
4 that pool of money and this Administration did not
5 see that was fit. So, on the \$89 Billion Budget, \$7
6 million for city tree pruning, which is pennies, I
7 just can't believe that we couldn't find that
8 addition money that's needed.
9

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: The
11 funding for tree pruning alone contracted tree
12 pruning is \$8.7 million, both this year and in Fiscal
13 19. [background comments, pause]

14 COMMISSIONER SILVER: In terms of you
15 other comments about bird watching, I'll take that
16 under advisement. I agree that people do like
17 birding, and certainly we recognize the important of
18 people coming to our parks, and we'll follow up on
19 the comfort stations specifically, but yes, we are
20 always looking to ways we can get our comfort
21 stations open to the public sooner. In terms of the
22 zoo, we are seeing just in terms of a number of
23 factors caused by higher labor costs due to the
24 minimum wage and collective bargaining increases,
25 lower than expected attendance, and emergency repairs

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1 to aging facilities and increased fringe costs. So,
2 that is where the issue of specifically the Zoo
3 increases are coming from for those factors, and as I
4 stated, we're certainly welcome to sit down
5 Commissioner Rodriguez to follow up on the issues
6 regarding what is believed to be a reduction-in
7 staff.
8

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, Majority Leader
10 Cumbo.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Chair
12 Dromm. Thank you so much Commissioner Silver for
13 being here. I first want to start off by saying that
14 I'm absolutely thrilled with the work that we're
15 doing at Prospect Park, and I'm excited to see that
16 unveiled. Also, excited about the work that we've
17 completed already at Fort Greene Park, and want to
18 talk about the future of Parks Without Borders. Over
19 the next four years, how do you see Parks Without
20 Borders continuing, growing, reaching additional
21 parks such as say Commodore Barry Park in my
22 district?

23 COMMISSIONER SILVER: The Parks Without
24 Borders program was a \$50 million program. It's now
25 underway. It's a change in the line-in the design

1 philosophy. So, while those eight showcase projects
2 are underway, that was \$40 million of the \$50. \$10
3 million were pipeline projects about 50. Parks
4 Without Borders is now part of our design philosophy
5 on all of our projects. You will now notice for all
6 the Community Parks Initiatives for example, we'll
7 redo the park. We're also doing the sidewalk
8 adjacent to the park. We're lowering the fence
9 lines. We're creating more openings, and so now
10 Parks Without Borders is incorporated into our design
11 philosophy for all parks. It was somewhat of a pilot
12 to launch it through those eight initiatives
13 including Fort Greene and Prospect Park and others,
14 but now it's just going to move forward as a design
15 philosophy from this point going forward.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Does the money
18 follow the design philosophy?

19 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We do. There is in
20 some cases some additional funding for sidewalk and
21 for some of the lower fences. So, it does add some
22 marginal costs to the projects, but we're finding the
23 public is just falling in love with the new design of
24 a more open transparent and improved sidewalk
25 experience.

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: But there is not
3 going to be now or in the foreseeable future an
4 allocation sizeable of the amount of \$58 million
5 moving forward like annually?

6 COMMISSIONER SILVER: No, that's not
7 being proposed.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I think it's
9 important for us to begin precedents, and continue
10 that precedent so that way we can see those types of
11 projects move on in the future because they're so
12 popular, and--

13 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Right.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: --many parks that
15 didn't have that opportunity will certainly need that
16 opportunity and parks such as Commodore Barry Park in
17 my tenure over the next three years, there's no way
18 that I would able to allocate \$16 million if I only
19 have \$5 million each year to spend, and so programs
20 like Parks Without Borders are very important. And
21 I'll just--because I have other questions, and I know
22 we're on a time limit, but I do want to state that
23 I'm disappointed that Parks Without Borders is not
24 going to continue with the same level of investment
25 once we've started this phenomenal program that also

1 really gets the community involved in a major way in
2 how they want to see their parks designed. So, I'm
3 pleased about what happened at Central Park with the
4 removal of Dr. Sims statue, a statue that really
5 should never have been erected, and I'm pleased that
6 it's being removed. What is now Parks Department's
7 role with public art? Is there now a budget set
8 aside within the Parks Department? I know we've
9 spoken a lot about how art is allocated throughout
10 parks. Is there a budget that we can look to see
11 more public art that's more reflective of the
12 diversity of the city of New York?

14 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, first, let me
15 put them into two categories related specifically to
16 the task force and commission the Mayor put together.
17 That was where the recommendation was to remove and
18 relocate the Sims Statue. So, there is going to be a
19 separate process led by the Department of Cultural
20 Affairs to determine what happens to the other
21 statues that were identified as well as commissioning
22 new permanent monuments in the park. That is a
23 separate process. The Parks has a very robust and
24 actually celebrated its 50th year of temporary public
25 art in our parks, and we're very diverse at how to

1 reach out to make sure that we have incredible parks
2 throughout our system. Uniflow is one that's now--

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Uh-hm.

4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: --up at Fort Greene
5 and other places. People are always coming up to the
6 table, but that's our temporary art program. We're
7 very involved, but our permanent monuments that is
8 something that we have to have private donors
9 basically step, but for this Commission that now
10 wants to address some inequities in our system, and
11 that's going to be a whole process that's going to be
12 overseen by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: So, in
14 partnership the resources are going to come through
15 the Department of Cultural Affairs. Does the Parks
16 Department have any specific--

17 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [interposing] Yes.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: --budget for
19 permanent art within the Parks Department?

20 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Primarily when a
21 monument comes into place, the Parks Department does
22 not commission those monuments. It's privately
23 raised both to build the sculpture and to maintain
24 it, and it's our responsibility to maintain those
25

1 monuments that are in our portfolio. We have about
2
3 1,2000 monuments in our system. It is our job to
4 maintain those monuments, but the city does not
5 commission or build them. But for the several as a
6 result of the Mayor's Commission that's dealing with
7 some of the issues with Sims and other statues, that
8 is a special case, but in general we only focus on
9 temporary art and we only maintain the existing art
10 but commission new ones.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I appreciate
12 that, and I just want to say on the record I
13 certainly want to see more diversity throughout our
14 parks that are reflective of the diversity of the
15 city of New York. So, I'm going to continue to work
16 with you and DCLA to make sure that during this
17 Administration we really solidify that, and just one
18 more, Chair if I could just have is on MWBEs. I just
19 wanted to understand. We have a \$16 billion
20 commitment from the de Blasio Administration for 20
21 to 25-2025 in order to have more city contracts with
22 MWBEs. What has Parks Department done or changed
23 their policies or instituted new policies in order to
24 make sure that Parks Department reaches those goals
25 because MWBEs have been a place where the Parks

1 Department has been a champion, and we've seen that
2 you are doing better than most agencies, but even in
3 that we want to see more contracts issued. What has
4 Parks Department done in order to reach those very
5 ambitious goals at this time?

7 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, first, I'm
8 just going to give a general comment that we are very
9 aggressive at trying to reach those goals, and we've
10 already set a goal of \$120 million for FY18, and
11 we've achieved 40% of that goal by the end of the
12 second quarter, and we're basically ranked number two
13 in the city in terms of our awards and we're very
14 serious about increasing that number. I'm going to
15 defer to Deputy Commission Braddock to tell you some
16 of the efforts because we do a lot of outreach to
17 ensure that we get as many MWBEs as possible.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Majority
20 Leader. Council Member Cohen, followed by Brannan
21 and Constantinides.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you, Chair.
23 Good afternoon, Commissioner. I've given some
24 thought how to ask this so it doesn't sound like I'm
25 too angry or frustrate, but as you know, you know,

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1 Orchard Beach is vitally important to the Bronx. The
2 condition there is really horrendous, and I know you
3 know because we've been together, and we've take a
4 look. Could you explain what the thought process is
5 behind no additional capital money to try to get this
6 projected funded and on the road?
7

8 COMMISSIONER SILVER: You mean the Orchard
9 Beach Project?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Right now there is
12 approximately 60—you're referring to the
13 reconstruction.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Right now is
16 there's months—there's dollars committed.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Yes, but there's
18 no new money in this year's—in the Executive Budget.
19 The Council put in—in their response to the
20 Preliminary Budget the Council put in \$30 million,
21 asked the Administration for \$30 million for
22 additional capital money for that project, and the
23 Executive came back with zero.

24 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, we have 65 or
25 60. There's another five to get started. EDC is now

1 starting that work to do an evaluation of what is
2 needed. We believe \$60 million is a substantial
3 amount of money to start the restoration of this
4 beloved treasure in the Bronx. I think once we make
5 an evaluation will be to determine what the scope of
6 the \$60 million could be built, and then at the time
7 there could be a determination about what additional
8 funds. But \$60 million from our perspective and
9 analysis will substantially move this incredible--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [interposing] I
12 know, but if we skip a year in the budget process as--
13 as you these projects take so long and there's--
14 obviously I think, you know, what the actual number
15 is. Maybe we can't commit, but we know it's more
16 than 60. It-it-it's substantial there the
17 commitment. I've seen figures as high as \$140
18 million. I think that you've seen that, too, and we
19 need to keep paying this down if we're going to get
20 this project fully funded, and again, you know, as
21 the Delegation Chair, I know my colleague--my
22 colleague Council Member Gjonaj is--is disappointed.
23 We're--we're--we need to get this, keep this money
24 flowing to try to get it fully funded.

1
2 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We'll communicate
3 that, but we felt very strongly about the \$60 million
4 now plus another \$5 what actually is substantial
5 funds to really start to address the Orchard Beach
6 restoration. We'll certainly take that—that back.
7 I'm sure the Administration is—is fully aware of the
8 request.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I appreciate
10 that, Commissioner. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. Council
12 Member Brannan followed by Constantinides and then
13 Deutsch.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Thank you,
15 Chair. Commissioner, I wanted—I wanted to take you
16 on a time machine back to 2007 when Bloomberg
17 promised to allocate, not just promised. He
18 allocated \$40 million to Calvert Vaux Park for a full
19 renovation, and to refurbish the entire 77 acres,
20 soccer fields, playground, the works. Certain Calvert
21 Vaux today 2018 definitely I think meets CPI
22 criteria, but we've been told that that money has
23 just evaporated somewhere, and I really want to get
24 that park finished, but there is \$40 million that was

1 allocated that seems to have disappeared. [background
2 comments]

3
4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yep. Well, as you
5 know, that was a decision made by a prior
6 administration. I know you as well as our
7 predecessor and I have had a conversation about it.
8 As you know, what we're committed to do right now is
9 now we're making sur you have utility lines, they
10 have a new comfort station there, and this will be an
11 ongoing conversation. I went tout to the site. I
12 took a visit. I clearly understand what you and your
13 predecessor were talking about, and all I can say is
14 this is something that will remain on our radar
15 screen, but the decision of those budget cuts to that
16 park was made under a prior administration, but
17 certainly we want to keep it on our capital needs
18 list going forward because we could see what a gem it
19 is in that community.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Yeah, I mean
21 it's tough, and we only have a finite amount of money
22 to allocate. You know, the fact that that money was
23 at one point allocated for us, it's—you know, I want
24 to get it done, but it was money that was promised
25 that someone else would pay for it, which is

1
2 fantastic for me. But now that's not the case. So,
3 I don't know if the money was allocated. I mean the
4 money went somewhere, right?

5 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We can try to see--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER SILVER: --deconstruct what
8 happened.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: [interposing]
10 Yeah.

11 COMMISSIONER SILVER: This is something I
12 will make sure staff gets back to find out exactly
13 what transpired from 2007 until today. It may not be
14 what you want to hear, but at least you'll know what
15 happened.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Yeah, just to
17 have an idea of what--what exactly happened.

18 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Right.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I got to shout
20 out the Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Marty Maher. I
21 speak to him more than I speak to my wife, and he is--
22 he is fantastic.

23 COMMISSIONER SILVER: You know, for the
24 record--these borough--these hearings seem to be a
25

1 borough commissioner lovefest so [laughter] thank
2 you. We love them all as well.

3
4 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: No, but if you
5 could find out what—just so I know, I know, it's—it's
6 not your, you know, way before your time, but I'd
7 just be interested to know what—what happened to the
8 money.

9 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [off mic] For sure,
10 right. (sic)

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Thank you,
12 Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Sure, and if you're
14 going to shout out borough commissioners, let shout
15 out mine, Dorothy Lewandowky is here. Thank you,
16 Dorothy for being here.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Well, thank you
18 for a shout out as well because, you know, I see her
19 as much as I see Justin Brannan's wife so -
20 [laughter]—so. [background comments] I'm only
21 kidding, and I have to say nice things about Iris
22 because Iris was in Queens for—as Director of
23 Recreation a long time. [interposing] Like I said,
24 this is a Borough Commissioner lovefest. You can go
25 right ahead. [laughter]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Council Member

Constandinides followed by Deutsch and then Council
Member Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank
you, Chair Dromm and Chair Grodenchik. I don't know
how I'm supposed to follow that, but I'll do my best.
[laughs] I'm going to step away from those
footsteps, but Commissioner good to see you again. I
see that there is \$18 million in the Capital Budget
this year for Astoria Pool, which is very exciting.
It's not exciting at the Filtration Unit that's at
the end of the slide. Could you kind of go through
an update on this project, what we see? Are there
any additional work that you think would be added to
this project and really the big thing is--is we're
excited about getting this done, but what do you
believe it would cost to renovate the entire pool
down the line?

COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, clearly, I
don't have the--the number of what it would cost for
the entire pool, but that's something we can get you
so we understand what you mean by the pool that's in
the entire building. What the \$18 million--what the
\$18 million would actually purchase, this would

1
2 include repairs to the pool deck, the pool basin,
3 installing a new pool liner, and then the most
4 expensive one is the entire reconstruction of the
5 filter plant to bring it into compliance, which as
6 you probably know has been a big problem the last
7 couple of seasons.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Right.

9 COMMISSIONER SILVER: So, that in and of
10 itself with the filter plan, once you do that, you
11 have to fix all the other elements that are connected
12 to it. So, that's just for the filter plant. In
13 terms of the building and the interiors that's
14 something we'll have to get back to you, older
15 structure. We don't know but it's something that we
16 can at least give you an estimate, but I can imagine
17 it would be somewhat substantial with a building of
18 that age.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Now, the
20 other question I have is-is since we're doing some of
21 the things like the basin that you talked about, will
22 that open the door for the possibility of utilization
23 of the pool beyond just the summer season, or this
24 would be for just upgrades that would be just to keep
25 it going the way it is currently. I know there has

1
2 been some talk my predecessor and others who talked
3 about the possibility office skating and hockey and
4 things of that nature. Would the upgrade on this
5 filtration system sort of make that easier to
6 accomplish.

7 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Let me get back to
8 you because just using it for ice skating and a
9 concession is a very different conversation.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Uh-hm.

11 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We're certainly
12 willing to sit down to talk to you what could be
13 accomplished. So there's two parts to your question.
14 We'll address both the cost for the other facility
15 and then the possibility of the concession and ice
16 skating and kind of handle it. So, we'll get back to
17 you with that one Council Member.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Right,
19 and as far as Anchor Park, things are still on
20 schedule? We're still looking good for phase 1 and
21 phase 2 and all of that?

22 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Phase 1 Anchor
23 Parks 2019, Phase 2, 2020. We're on track .

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: So, we're
25 going to start construction in 2019 or start--?

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COMMISSIONER SILVER: No, we'll start--

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: --

construction this year? [background comments]

COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yes, 2018 for Phase

1.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: 2018

we're going to start construction later on this fall?

COMMISSIONER SILVER: Correct, correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES:

Wonderful. Looking forward to getting that one, and
I know that we have CPI and now we're going to have
Astoria Heights Playground opening very soon. We're
looking forward to having you out there to cut that
ribbon. It's going to be a great day for the
community.

COMMISSIONER SILVER: I'll be delighted.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank

you, Commissioner. Thank you for everything.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.

[bell] Council Member Deutsch followed by Council
Member Barron, Ulrich and then King.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you. Good

afternoon. First of all, I want to give my

1 Commissioner, my Brooklyn Commissioner a shout out
2 because I know if I don't I will be getting the phone
3 call from him later. No, I'm just kidding.

4 [laughter] But thank you Commissioner Maher from
5 everything you do. So, I have a few questions.

6 Number one is that when the city, the city is
7 planting trees all across, all across the boroughs.

8 So, in my district there are trees being planted in
9 areas that are not near the—the waterfront. In other

10 words, in Hurricane Sandy affected areas, we have
11 been waiting since Hurricane Sandy to replace

12 hundreds of trees that are still waiting. In the
13 interim, what's happening is that in areas that are

14 not in flood zones are getting trees. So, I

15 mentioned this at one of the hearings. I think it
16 was maybe two or three hearings ago, that it should

17 be a priority to first plant the trees in Hurricane
18 Sandy affected areas and the waterfront areas, and

19 it's still not being done, not because I have been
20 requesting it because it's common sense, and—and it's

21 really I'm asking again if we could make sure that
22 all the areas in the flood zones especially in my

23 district in Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan Beach and

24 Brighton Beach that anywhere there's a request for a
25

1 tree or there—there was trees that were affected by
2 Hurricane Sandy that were removed or even weren't
3 removed, which need to be removed, that those trees
4 should be replaced. And if you replace them, if you
5 could try to replace them with larger trees, not
6 smaller trees that will take some times 30 years for
7 them to, you know, to get to a time to provide shade
8 for people. Secondly, there—the city is planning
9 trees, and in areas that at homes in front of homes
10 that had the tree roots lift up the sidewalk. So, if
11 a tree root lifted a sidewalk, and the city does not
12 repair it because it's rated less than 80. So, first
13 you're doing over 80, all those areas that are rated
14 80. So, if you have a house that's rated 40 or 50,
15 they have to wait, and maybe this will never get
16 done. But you are planting trees adjacent to those
17 homes while they're still waiting to get repaired.
18 So, what I think is the right thing to do is that
19 city should not plant a tree before they cure their
20 violation of the tree roots lifting up the sidewalk
21 because many people are just frustrated by those
22 areas not being repaired, but then a new tree is
23 coming up. So, [bell] what can be done about that,
24 Commissioner and also my first question. Thank you.
25

1
2 COMMISSIONER SILVER: I'm going to refer
3 the questions to Commissioner Kavanagh.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: Council
5 Member we—we did prioritize replanting within the
6 inundation zones following Hurricane Sandy. We can
7 share all of the plantings that we've done, and if
8 there are areas that were missed or we didn't fully
9 plant, we'll be happy to look at those and target for
10 more trees. We completely agree that replacing the
11 trees that were lost and damaged during Sandy is an
12 important investment by the city in helping those
13 neighborhoods recover. So, we'll be happy to--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So—so I want
15 that, Commissioner. I just—I don't where you're
16 talking about that you've been planting trees in
17 Hurricane Sandy areas. I could take you around my
18 district and show you probably a few hundred spots
19 that need—that these trees need to be planted
20 [coughs] as well as I could take you to a few hundred
21 areas where trees have been planted that it's not in
22 a flood zone area. So, I don't know where these
23 trees are being planted.

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: Council

Member, I can assure you we have planted extensively
within the--

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [interposing]

I'm sure you has, but I don't know where.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: And I'm--

we'll be happy to show you the--the data, and--and
again we--we--

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [interposing]

Yeah, but I--I really don't want to see where they
were planted. I want to see these trees planted in
my district at the PhoneZone (sic) areas.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: Exactly.

That's exactly what we will show you--

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [interposing]

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: --and if

there are additional needs, we'll be happy to
prioritize them because again we agree that we should
replace the trees in those areas? So, we're--were all
on the same page.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: We just

need to--

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COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [interposing]

Thank you. I appreciate it.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: --prepare our data on that, and then for the second point, you know it--it is a--a difficult problem when trees raise sidewalk. I don't think it would be productive to prevent someone from receiving a new tree because there is a violation on the same block. We do have additional funding--thanks to the Mayor--to do more repairs of sidewalks that are damaged by trees. It's not going to address all of the demand that we have for that service, but we will be able to make more repairs in the next couple of years, and we have been able more--more recently.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, I just want to mention if--if someone--if a homeowner needs to take out a Buildings Department permit for their home when they have a violation, they are refused that permit. So, I don't see a difference by planting the tree if the city needs to cure a violation that is in front of someone's home that should be done before a new tree is planted. I do have a bill in the City Council, but I--you shouldn't have to have a bill. It should be common sense. So before the city plants a

1 tree that violation should be cured no matter what
2 it's rated. So, if you could please look into that,
3 and it just makes sense.

4
5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: We will
6 look into it.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you and I have
9 another issue on trees before I go to Council Member
10 Barron, which I have in my district. I don't know
11 how widespread it is, but you know, Forestry has told
12 us on a number of occasions that we can't plant trees
13 along certain streets in the History District in
14 Jackson Heights, and they say that allegedly the Con-
15 Ed wires are too close to the surface. Now, this is—
16 these are in plots, you know, that where there were
17 trees. So, why is it now all of a sudden that we
18 can't plant trees because Con-Ed says we can't?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: I—I'm not
20 familiar with the specifics, and I'll be happy to
21 look into it, but there are situations where Con-Ed's
22 service lines run parallel to the curb, and do
23 prevent us from planting trees. Years ago, I don't
24 know how careful both the city and utilities were
25 about situations like that, but we are now required

1 to call I think I's 811 in advance of any tree
2 planting, and identify all of the potential utility
3 conflicts and if there is clear conflict between the
4 utility lines and the proposed tree, we-we simply
5 can't plant. We do look for every opportunity to
6 plan trees wherever we can, but there are some places
7 where conditions prevent us from doing so.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, Commissioner,
10 effectively what's happening in Jackson Heights is
11 that you're going to have complete streets without
12 new trees, replacement trees. Is there any
13 alternative plan to deal with this? Is there a type
14 of tree that the roots don't grow as deep, or re the
15 wires need to be moved or, you know, I just don't see
16 a historic district having—and it's happened on 87th
17 Street, 86th Street, 76, 82nd Street. We have to have
18 trees.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: We agree.
20 Again, I'm not personally familiar with it, but I'll
21 be happy to bring our experts out and look for every
22 opportunity to plant those trees.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, they were there
24 the day we had Forestry in. We had Con-Ed in. We've
25 written a letter to Forestry. We were turned down

1
2 again and again and again. So, I would really urge
3 you to come up with some time of a plan about how
4 we're going to deal with. Maybe even a bush at this
5 point. I'll take a bush.

6 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Okay, Council
7 Member I—I will work with Forestry Commissioner
8 Kavangh. I want to understand a little bit more
9 about it as well so that we can give you a definitive
10 answer about what is possible, what is not possible
11 because I do agree we love having our Urban Canopy
12 and particularly in neighborhood the cooling effect,
13 all the benefits of trees will see exactly what can
14 and cannot be done, and then we'll you to finish
15 reporting.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.
17 Council Member Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you to
19 Chairs Dromm and Grodenchik, and to the Commissioner
20 and other members of the panel. Thank you for
21 coming, and I, too, have to join the crowd that gives
22 Commissioner Marty Maher a big shout out for the work
23 that he does. Not only does he do it professionally
24 and thoroughly, but he brings a certain attitude of
25 being pleased to be able to work with the community

1 and that's really appreciated. So, I wanted to ask
2 you what's the procedure for renaming of a park, and
3 the reason that I'm asking is because we are
4 presently looking to continue work that's being done
5 at the park that is presently name Schenck Park. At
6 this site, we have found it is a historical site
7 inasmuch as it was a graveyard, and the bones of the
8 whites who were interred there were removed and
9 reinterred across the street that church cemetery,
10 but those of the blacks were not. They were
11 disrespectfully left bleaching on the side of the
12 road, and the local's paper—local papers at the time
13 identified. So, we wanted to know how we can go
14 about renaming this park as we complete the
15 renovations in the months to come, and have an
16 opening. We certainly don't want to acknowledge
17 Schenck who was a major slaveholder in Brooklyn
18 edifying him by having his name at the park. So, one
19 question is what's the process? I the Parks
20 Department involved in that? Secondly, we're very
21 pleased with the work that we have coming forward.
22 We're going to have a major renovation at the
23 Brownsville Recreation Center. It's going to be
24 totally new, and we thank the Mayor for his part in
25

1 that, and we're going to do the synthetic turf and
2 field once again at Sonny Carson Park as we call it,
3 but you called it Linden Park, and also we'll be
4 having synthetic turf at Cypress Park. So, we're
5 looking forward to that work going forward, and
6 finally, in 2013 the courts declared that parkland
7 was illegally given to the Sanitation Department for
8 composting I believe, and the decision of the court
9 was that the park at Fountain and Flatlands I think
10 you registered as Spring Creek Park, but court
11 determined that that park should be returned to
12 public access. So, I wanted to know what is the
13 status of that. I understand that there's been some
14 resistance or hesitancy in that, and I wanted to know
15 how we're moving forward in that regard.

17 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, to answer
18 your first question to name a park, you as a Council
19 Member can just submit a request to the Community
20 Board of the public can just sign on. We have to do
21 our internal research to find out how the park was
22 named by ordinance, how it came about. If it needs
23 to be renamed after another individual, they have to
24 be deceased at least three years, [bell] have a
25 connection to the park, but once you make the

1 request, we certainly will entertain it, and then
2 from there on, after we see the community support I
3 would just sign it, and then we would go ahead and
4 just rename the park. So, I'd work with Commissioner
5 Maher to submit your application. He can guide you
6 through the process, and we'd certainly be willing to
7 entertain it particularly if there's disturbing
8 history about the name.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER SILVER: The other one
12 about--[background comments, pause] So, this is under
13 Parks jurisdiction. Right now, our goal is to have
14 passive access to the park. There's going to be—I
15 believe a community meeting in June to start
16 discussing some ideas, and so the intent is to open
17 it up for the public so long as—we just want to make
18 sure that all issues related to DEP remediation are
19 all handled, and then we can move forward and see
20 whether we can have that park at least passively
21 opened up to the public. And you said the meeting
22 is June? [background comments] June 12th is when
23 they'll have that public meeting.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. Great.

25 Thank you. I appreciate working with you and the

1 great work that we're doing. We've got some of the
2 best looking parks in the district, and I'm
3 continuing the work of my predecessor. We know this
4 takes years as my counsel—as my colleagues have said
5 to get these parks done, and we're looking to find
6 some money so that we can Brooklyn Ballfield, which I
7 think is about \$18 million to do, or some
8 astronomical figure like that. Thank you so much.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. Council
11 Member Ulrich followed by King.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair, our chairs. We have two chairs. They took my
14 chair away. I was on the other side. I got up to go
15 to the bathroom. I came back, and Andy King was
16 sitting in it. So, now I'm over here, but I'm
17 thrilled to be here. I'm still here nine years in
18 the City Council, and I'm delighted to serve on the
19 Parks Committee because I love parks. I work very
20 closely with my Borough Commissioner Dottie
21 Lewandowski. Whatever you're paying her, you need to
22 double, and I told that to the Mayor when we had the
23 Town Hall in Rockaway because she takes more stuff
24 from the people in the community, and different
25 groups and sometimes even the elected officials, and—

1 and she always does it with such professionalism.

2 She loves her job, and she loves the parks and the

3 people that—that we're so privileged to serve. I

4 also want to give a nice shout-out to Portia Danford.

5 (sp?) She's doing a great job. I don't know if she's

6 here today, but if she's not, she's probably working

7 very hard in Rockaway. Not an easy place to work

8 especially after Hurricane Sandy, and she's doing a

9 terrific job. So, give her a raise, too. Put that

10 in the budget. I know we're talking about budgets,

11 so I figured we'd—if we can reward people that are

12 doing a good job we should. We need to keep them. A

13 few things. I need sand in Rockaway. I know that

14 this comes up all the time, sand on the beach. The

15 Parks Department did a survey a study. They said

16 they didn't need it. The Mayor comes out to Rockaway

17 and people said we want it, and he says we'll take

18 another look at it. Any update.

19
20 COMMISSIONER SILVER: I'll defer to

21 Commissioner Kavanagh, but as you know, the—the Mayor

22 himself reached out the Army Corps to see how we can

23 expedite the project as quickly as possible, In terms

24 of the immediate sand, I'll defer to Commissioner

25 Kavanagh to just give an update on the status.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: We agree that there is sand needed in specific parts of the beach in Rockaway. The Army's Corp's project will bring new sand to the beach in addition to new groins and reconfigured groins and a-a structured dune which will provide an enormous amount of protection to Rockaway, and to the adjoining communities, but, you know, we are dependent on the Corps to do that. As the Commissioner said-

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: That's 2019 I think right?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: The Mayor did meet with the-the general-General Semonite in charge of the Corps. They did agree to-to speed up the process. They are working diligently to that end. We think that in late 2019 we'll start seeing construction on the beach, but it would not be a prudent thing to put a lot of money into sand that will continue to wash away as we've seen over the last couple of years.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I have 24 seconds left. So, I'll-I'll speed it up. I have two last questions. The Boardwalk is great. People love it,

1 bicycle riders, joggers, dog walkers it's a problem.

2 We need these dog waste-

3
4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [interposing] Mutt
5 Mitts.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: What do they
7 called them?

8 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Mutt Mitts.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Okay, can I fund
10 them? Can we buy them? Do we have them in the
11 warehouse?

12 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We can take care of
13 it.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: So, me and Dottie
15 are going to have to talk about dog-dog poop later,
16 but my last question is about Charles Park. I know I
17 spoke to the Commissioner briefly, and also Dottie
18 and I had a meeting recently. Frank Charles Park is
19 under federal jurisdiction. It's part of Gateway,
20 but there's a tremendous need there. It's the only
21 park on that side of Howard Beach. There is no city
22 park, you know, for thousands of people that live in
23 that part of my district, and we did have a
24 conversation with Chris Leard(sic) and I think that
25 we're trying to work out some sort of funding

1 mechanism where does Parks get funded and you
2 transfer the—the funding? I don't—do we have an
3 update on that? Do we know anything about that?

4
5 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We don't, but I'll
6 speak to Commissioner Lewandowski to see how we can--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [interposing]
8 Thank you. We'll follow up. Again, and Commissioner
9 thank you for your service. You're doing a great
10 job. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. Council
12 Member King.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon.
14 Thank you, Chair Grodenchik and Dromm, and
15 Commissioner Silver, it's always a delight to see
16 you. Thank you and everybody shouting out their
17 borough, you know, managers and I'm saying the Bronx
18 got it going on with Ydanis Rodriguez so [laughter]
19 alright. Does she really need a raise? We all need
20 a raise, but I got to say in the Bronx, she's very—
21 her team is great, and she always answer the phone.
22 So, I say thank you, Iris, for all that you do
23 helping us getting together in the Bronx. You have a
24 great team, and I know at times it could be tough
25 because of how the system works whether it's your own

1
2 system of just not having a Design-Build or just how
3 the process is of how to get projects. So, I'd like
4 to ask you a question in regards to Orchard Beach,
5 which is something that's close to the hearts of all
6 of us in the Bronx, all of our elected who use the
7 beach, our constituents go there. You know, summer
8 festivals, concerts, but yeah, it's an old--it's an
9 old beach. So, I want to know, you know, in this
10 Fiscal Year 2019 \$40 million has been allocated for
11 the renovation of Orchard Beach. So, I just want to
12 get an idea. Is this project--\$40 million is on the
13 table? Is it fully funded?

14 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We have not just
15 the 40, now 45 from the city, and other \$20 million
16 from the State. Now, it does take some time for
17 those funds, but that's right now a \$65 million
18 budget. We believe that a substantial amount to get
19 started on the design within the scope. Can more
20 dollars be added later as the design unfolds? Yes,
21 but for now 65. It's critically important we get
22 started. EDC is looking to have a designer on board
23 this year to get this project going. So, we believe
24 that \$65 is an amazing amount of money to start
25 forward in this project.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Now. 65 is a great
3 number to start. Do you anticipate your whole
4 project is going to be more than the 65 or are you're
5 going to just build, reconstruct, take the Orchard
6 Beach with the 65? I asked in such that way because
7 we go back to the Bronx and everybody is excited
8 about we got this money, and we got--so people
9 actually want to see something happen. So, does that
10 men in 2019, \$65 million is on the table and work
11 starts in 2019 or 2020 or are we looking at, you
12 know, the next generation of people looking to enjoy
13 the beach because it didn't happen in this
14 generation.

15 COMMISSIONER SILVER: I certainly don't
16 want to speak on the behalf of EDC, but if a design
17 is starting in 2018, it's--it's very likely that the
18 design will be completed by 2019. Their procurement
19 is a bit more expedited than Parks. So, you can
20 expect a project to start probably sometime in 2019,
21 and probably 2020. So, that is the timeline and it
22 will take about I would say that one maybe the
23 longer, around 18 months to construct. So, people
24 will see some progress very soon once a design
25 projects are complete. So, 65 is a substantial

1 amount to do—we can go over what we believe the scope
2 will accomplish, and then we could look at a phase 2,
3 what else could have done out there at Orchard Beach?
4 Sixty-five is certainly--

5
6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [interposing] The
7 timeline—the timeline for you think your first [bell]
8 completions? [

9 COMMISSIONER SILVER: From April on
10 average I would say four years or less. So, I would
11 say by 2022 most likely the project could be
12 completed.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: That's—that's
14 reasonable. Thank—thank you for that, and I—and I do
15 have another question. I heard you say progressively
16 you guys are engaging in MWBEs? Great to hear, but
17 I'd like to get an idea as far as the capital
18 projects, how many MWBEs actually have contracts?
19 What does that number and funding look like compared
20 to non-MWBEs?

21 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Alright, I'll just
22 go through the numbers that I have very specifically.
23 I'm just trying to get the actual number.

24 [background comments] We can get back to you with
25 numbers, but just in terms of our summary that Parks,

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1 percentage of all contracts for 2017 was 28.3%. We
2 awarded \$143 million in prime contracts in MWBE firms
3 in 207, ranking them second in the city. We
4 accounted for 13% of all total dollars awarded to
5 MWBE primes for all NYC agencies in FY17. I'll see
6 if my—Commissioner Braddick has additional numbers,
7 but again we're ranked at one of the top agencies in
8 terms of MWBE awards, and we're always looking to
9 increase that through our fairs and outreach and a
10 number of different efforts that the city—the city's
11 overall—overall MWBE approaches take, and we hear
12 loud and clear the goal is 30% and we're trying to
13 drive toward the highest number as possible.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BRADDICK: I'd just
16 like to add one other thing, which we have
17 established a PQL, a prequalified lists specifically
18 to help increase the MWBE participation, and in order
19 to qualify for the PQL, a firm must either be an
20 MWBE—MWBE prime contractor or agree to subcontract no
21 less than 50% to an MWBE, and currently we have 34
22 firms that are on that PQL list, and we use it with
23 some regularity.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay, thank you and
25 I'm going to wrap it up. I heard you—like you said

1 \$143 million. Did I--did I hear that number? It
2 comes out 3%? You first said--

3
4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yes. We awarded
5 \$143 million in prime contracts to MWBE in 2017 about
6 2017.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: So, out of that
8 \$143, what was your total dollar of funding that was
9 given for contractors? If they got \$143 I believe
10 this--is that out of \$1 billion or--or what does that
11 number look like? The total number?

12 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yeah, we-we will
13 get back to you. [background comments, pause] So,
14 it' looks like it's roughly around 28%.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: 28% of what?

16 COMMISSIONER SILVER: \$28.3. We'll get
17 you the actual number, but that \$143 represented 28%
18 of all contracts. So, we'll get back to you what was
19 the volume. It's probably roughly about two-thirds
20 higher than that.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BRADDICK: [off mic]

22 Yep.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay, I thank you
24 for that. I look to see that number continued to
25 grow. At a day maybe it will be 50/50 as opposed to

1 just a goal that's 30% where all New Yorkers doing
2 the same work with the same talents. So, fair share
3 in the city diversity. You know. We definitely need
4 to continue representing it and I thank you, sir.

5
6 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Great, okay.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Chairs.

8 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Thank you.

9 Commissioner, before we wrap up, just some—some
10 quickies. Rain catch basin cleaning crews do we know
11 where they're going to be ordered?

12 COMMISSIONER SILVER: One crew per
13 borough. We are so excited. This seems maybe to a
14 lot of people not exciting.

15 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: [interposing]
16 We've got you out when you're excited about the--

17 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [interposing] But
18 it's one—it's exciting because we see the flooding,
19 and clogged drains. I'm a runner. So, to run in
20 some of my parks around puddles, and then the bikes
21 are coming toward you, but a lot of our paths, a lot
22 of our roads. This is going to be so critical to the
23 quality of life experience of cleaning out these
24 catch basins one per borough.

2 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Maybe you and I
3 will go out and clean one somewhere.

4 COMMISSIONER SILVER: You can certainly
5 join me.

6 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER SILVER: You know, how--are
8 able to get funds. So, to make equipment on--we'll
9 call on you, Council member.

10 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Okay, the Staten
11 Island indoor pool facilities is a lot of money. Do
12 we have a location?

13 COMMISSIONER SILVER: As was stated, we
14 did a feasibility study. We narrowed it down to
15 three locations. There are two preferred sites. One
16 is at Petrides (sp?). The other one was at Cromwell.
17 We are still working with the borough president to
18 find out the preferred location. I believe his was
19 for Petrides. With the \$100 million we have to make
20 sure what the scope is because that was on existing
21 school campus, access how it will work, but right now
22 there are--from the Feasibility Study there were three
23 preferred sites, and now we just have to figure out
24 where that is in terms of the scope.

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: In-In Flushing
3 Meadows Park you have two very large projects. The
4 Passerelle Bridge, which is critical to a critical
5 entry point into the park and the Porpoise Bridge,
6 which would—if that failed it would be a disaster
7 environmentally, and also would cut off people from
8 the park as well. Can you give us a brief update on
9 where we are with those two projects?

10 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yes. On the
11 Passerelle, that is now being managed by DDC. I'll
12 just give you the latest and—no that's—that's—I'm
13 going to do Passerelle first. I'm sorry. I was
14 answering Porpoise. In terms of the Passerelle, as
15 you know, this one is being coordinated with both
16 MTA, Long Island Railroad, and so for now, we want to
17 make sure with our teams are closely coordinating
18 the—the major—major entrance into the park,

19 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: [interposing]
20 Isn't it the-

21 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: --the Tennis
22 Center, but right now, as you know, that there are
23 both Long Island Railroad, potential for air train as
24 well as entrance of the 7-Train and the entrance to
25 our park. So, for that one our team is working

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1 closely with the both MTA, Port Authority, as well as
2 our staff to make sure that we get that location
3 correct.
4

5 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Do you
6 anticipate closing the Passerelle while construction--
7 is--is it going to be partial or keep it partially
8 open or--?

9 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Most likely, it
10 will have to--[background comments, pause] Yes, so
11 it's very likely because of the movement. In any
12 construction, you want to make sure that there's
13 access to that limited point, but that is our goal is
14 to make sure you can have access to that very
15 critical entry into the park.

16 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Let me just--

17 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [interposing] On
18 Passerelle--just you wanted me to answer on
19 Passerelle.

20 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER SILVER: So, that is the one
22 that I was mentioning that is now being handled by
23 the DDC. They do have a design consultant selected
24 and the initial work, design work will start. So,
25 right now the preliminary design work is in progress,

1 and so we'll keep you up to date should you want to
2 know more about how that project is evolving.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: I would like to
5 know because it is such a critical piece of
6 infrastructure. I hate to spend all that money on a
7 bridge, but I know we need it. So, and the Porpoise?

8 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [interposing] That
9 was the Porpoise.

10 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: [interposing]
11 Okay, I'm sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Yeah, so design
13 work started in 2017. So, we'll make sure we'll
14 either us in conjunction with DDC, we'll give you an
15 update on the status of the Porpoise Bridge.

16 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: And if I could
17 switch to the Borough of Brooklyn with our great
18 commissioner there, Bushwick Inlet Park City Storage
19 Acquisition, and you provide an update on this
20 project, and what the overall costs will be and when
21 do we think the project will begin?

22 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, as you know,
23 Bushwick Inlet Park is a series of parcels. I can
24 give you the update on what's happening with various
25 parcels. First and foremost, the most critical piece

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was the acquisition of the City Storage site, but in
terms of some of the individual parcels to date the
city has invested \$380 million into this park. 50

Kent--

CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: [interposing]

You said \$380 million?

COMMISSIONER SILVER: \$384--

CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: [interposing]

3-8-0?

COMMISSIONER SILVER: million .2 yes.

CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Wow.

COMMISSIONER SILVER: And there's an
additional \$39.6 allocated to advance the work at 50
Kent, and Bayside and Motiva. In terms of 50 Kent,
there's a public meeting and the design to commence
this summer. That is one critical piece. The
remediation was completed by National Grid under the
Department of Environmental Conservation Oversight.
\$7.7 million is allocated to that design and
construction. Bayside, which was acquired in 2016,
there's a \$22.1 million allocated for demolition and
decommissioning. The site is currently a major oil
storage facility and decommission of the site and
assessment is underway, and demolition should begin

1 soon. In terms of Motiva that was acquired in 2014,
2 there is \$9.8 million allocated to design and
3 construction, and we'll be seeking public input on
4 the design this fall. So, for now, that's the
5 updated that we have that the \$384 also includes the
6 acquisition of the city storage. So the city is
7 committed to making sure this part of Brooklyn has a
8 dynamic park that meets the demands of a very growing
9 population.
10

11 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: It's a big site.
12 [background comments] The other end of Brooklyn,
13 Coney Island Beach Maintenance and Operation with HQ,
14 I know that it's an old site. It dates back to the
15 Depression times, and I guess it was probably a WPA
16 project. Can you tells us—give us an update and when
17 do we believe that we will see this \$47 million in
18 additional capital funding? So, when that project
19 might begin?

20 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Well, as I stated
21 on average once the project starts, typically it's
22 about four years, our hope or less. You stated
23 correct this was construction in 1933, and this will
24 function—a critical function this is a beach that
25

1
2 hast our highest beach attendance throughout New York
3 City.

4 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: It's Coney
5 Island, right?

6 COMMISSIONER SILVER: It's Coney Island
7 that has the highest attendance, and it functions as
8 a storehouse for lifeguard safety and rescue
9 equipment, and houses over 50 pieces of maintenance
10 equipment. If you've ever seen the beach operation,
11 they come out there and comb it. They have front-
12 loaders. It's a huge operation. So, the trucks, the
13 tractors, the emergency response vehicles all that
14 will be housed, but we also want to make it flood
15 proof, and so all that really is a-is warranted in
16 the building that really, really needs some
17 attention, and right now it is not suitable in its
18 current condition. So, this is a very critical
19 project to serve all the visitors and New Yorkers
20 that use Coney-Coney Island as their summer vacation.

21 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: My colleague
22 Mark Treyger has invited me to the boardwalk, and-and
23 when I get down there next time I'll take a look at
24 the building as well. Last question, and I know this
25 is, you know, we're providing funding, and you

1 mentioned it in your opening remarks, the Hudson
2 River Park, which is just a masterpiece of-of parks
3 and one of my favorite parks. I'm sorry, Dottie,
4 it's not my favorite, but it's one of my favorites.
5 Do we know when this-when this park will be complete?
6 I know we're always working on parks.
7

8 COMMISSIONER SILVER: [interposing] I'm-
9 I'm on the-it is a long-term plan. There are many
10 parcels, and as you know, Waterfront Parks are the
11 most expensive parks to construct. They may want to
12 make sure we leveraged the money from the State and
13 the Governor, and so giving them an additional \$50
14 million will help move this park forward, but it is a
15 park that has a lot of capital needs. It's along
16 Lanier (sp?) Park. It touches many neighborhoods,
17 and so there-I serve on the board, but this is a
18 long-term effort to go project by project, area by
19 area to see this park develop. It covers, as you
20 know, a long territory.

21 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: Yes, it does.
22 Councilman Koo.

23 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you, Chair.
24 Commissioner, I have questions. You know like-we all
25 know that LinkNYC has been very successful. It's a

1 kiosk and that you can call 911, 311. You can charge
2 your phone. So, this is a very good investment in
3 the city. So, my question to you have you explored
4 opportunities with DOITT to install LinkNYC in some
5 of our city parks?
6

7 COMMISSIONER SILVER: What we have done
8 is, because I know at the last hearing there were a
9 lot of questions about WiFi in parks. We'll
10 certainly reach out because I believe what LinkNYC
11 did was use the previously telephone booth
12 infrastructure to put LinkNYC. I'm not sure that's
13 absolutely accurate, but I thought that was the case.
14 In terms of New York City, we're also always trying
15 to expand WiFi in our parks. Right now we have
16 completed about WiFi coverage in 119 parks at 196
17 sites with access points deployed. That number is
18 close to 700. We have relationships with AT&T, Time
19 Warner, and others, and so we're always going to try
20 to expand the WiFi we offer in our parks. We'll
21 reach out to DOITT to see if there's somehow previous
22 infrastructure in parks that would work, but we'll
23 continue to roll out and expand our WiFi in our parks
24 where it is feasible and possible with some of our
25 providers.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON KOO: [off mic] [on mic]-the
3 piece-we know the newest class of PEP Officers was
4 given their assignments this week, right? Out of the
5 42 graduates, none was slated for Queens where
6 there's a clearly-we do need some PEP Officers in our
7 area. So, is there--is the reason why you didn't
8 assign any PEP officers to Queens?

9 COMMISSIONER SILVER: I'm going to defer
10 that. I know that they just graduated, and so I will
11 refer to Commissioner Docket to discuss their
12 deployment because he-I'm sure he'll be able to
13 clarify the rationale.

14 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DOCKETT: Hello,
15 Council Member. My name is Mike Dockett, Assistant
16 Commissioner of Parks to oversee the Park Enforcement
17 citywide. So, in prior academies, Queens got extra
18 allocations. So, they're currently the highest
19 headcount citywide. So, when every academy that
20 graduates we look at the current staffing citywide,
21 and we try to balance. So, currently Queens is at 48
22 officers, which is the highest out of the five
23 boroughs. Therefore, no additional staff at this
24 time. The future academies we will be getting staff.

25 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Aright, thank you.

1
2 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DOCKETT: You're
3 welcome.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Council Member
5 Ulrich.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I have one other
7 question. I'm sorry. I ran out of time before about
8 garbage pails on the boardwalks. So, in Rockaway
9 really got a great handle over the garbage issue
10 because there are so many more tourists and people
11 going out there in the summer to enjoy the beach and
12 the boardwalk and all the wonderful stuff, but, you
13 know, they fill up pretty quickly. So, one of my
14 constituents said how come we can't put those green
15 Sanitation garbage receptacles that we fund, that the
16 Council funds with the little hole on the top. You
17 know, it says keep our community clean, how come we
18 can't put them on the boardwalk? And I thought that
19 was a great idea. You know, that the regular trash
20 cans that the Council funds, the green ones with the
21 little latch on the side, can we put those on the
22 boardwalk?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH: Well, we
24 don't have model, but we do have the newest model
25 that Sanitation is using to replace those green

1
2 models and some of them are on the boardwalk. I've
3 seen them myself recently.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Okay, so I'll be
5 quiet about it. (sic)

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAVANAGH:
7 [interposing] They're not suitable for the sand
8 because of obvious reasons. They get too heavy, and
9 you can't—you can't, you know empty them easily, but
10 they—they are on the boardwalk. I've seen them there
11 myself.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Okay. I'll follow
13 up with Dottie on this issue because I think we're
14 restricted with the—how we're able to use the Cleanup
15 Initiative money. We—we only can give it to
16 Sanitation. I don't think they allow us to give it
17 to Department of Parks for certain things, but
18 certainly when—when we have funding at our disposal,
19 we—for an agency we should be a little bit more
20 flexible I think. We should look into that
21 internally I'm saying.

22 COMMISSIONER SILVER: Good idea.
23 Absolutely.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you. Thank
25 you.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yep. Council Member
3 Deutsch.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you,
5 Chair. I also I was out of time. We only get five
6 minutes to talk about a \$509 Million Expense Budget
7 and a \$4.6 million Capital Budget. So, I have
8 another question since we're going to a second round.
9 So, my question is—

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing]
11 Actually—actually three minutes so—[laughter]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Three minutes.
13 It just went down.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I have another
15 hearing—two more hearings after this.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Okay. So, my
17 question is that I understand that the Parks
18 Department has free WiFi throughout the city in
19 certain locations. I know in Southern Brooklyn we
20 have a hearing coming up with DOITT, and in Southern
21 Brooklyn we really have no LinkNYC that caters to
22 Southern Brooklyn. So, my question is to Parks, I
23 appreciate the WiFi that you give us like in the
24 Boardwalk and—and some of the local parks. Are you
25 planning on expanding that, number one, and number

1
2 two is if you could let me know if yes, if you could
3 give me specifically for my district of where you
4 anticipate and currently where you have WiFi? And if
5 you don't have that answer to the Second question, we
6 could do it offline.

7 COMMISSIONER SILVER: We could give that
8 to you. We are looking at opportunities to expand.
9 When I look at my totals it's not substantial. We
10 completed 119. Our goal is to get to 123 parks. So,
11 that's only an addition of about four in our sites
12 from 196 to 205. That's the addition of 9, and then
13 access points deployed adding about 47. So, we
14 certainly will sit down with you, and see where
15 there's opportunities where it could be expanded, and
16 we'll communicate back to staff. So, it's certainly
17 a reasonable request, and we're—we'll see what DOITT
18 where their links are also located in your district,
19 but we'll meet with you, our staff will meet with you
20 to discuss this further.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I greatly
22 appreciate it, and I just want to say that I
23 allocated—my district allocated more than \$25 million
24 to our local parks. So, it's just nice to—to have
25

1
2 WiFi in those parks. So, thank you so much,
3 Commissioner.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. I think that
5 we are—are done. Council Member Grodenchik.

6 CHAIRPERSON GRODENCHIK: I just want to—
7 Councilman Dromm, I just want to—Chair Dromm, I just
8 want to thank Commission Silver, his staff and all
9 the people that are here today, and we greatly
10 appreciate all the work that you do making our parks
11 as good as they are, and we all know they could be
12 better, and I will be working with—with Councilman
13 Dromm and my colleagues, and you and this
14 Administration to do that because we—as good as they
15 are, we want them to be—we are going to aim just a
16 little bit higher, and it's really a pleasure to work
17 with, you, and please get those 150 people back on
18 the selling (sic) So, I wanted to thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much
20 and we are going to have a 5-minute break, and then
21 we'll have the Information Technology and
22 Telecommunications hearing, and then after that the
23 Youth and Community hearings. [Council takes a 10-
24 minute break]

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1
2 CLERK: Folks, once again, please find
3 your seats. We are ready to reconvene with the
4 Technology Committee. [pause]

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, we will now
6 resume the City Council's hearing on the Mayor's
7 Executive Budget for Fiscal 2019. The Finance
8 Committee is joined by the Committee on Technology
9 chaired by my colleague Council Member Peter Koo.
10 We've been joined by my colleagues Council Member
11 Brad Lander, Council Member Adrienne Adams, Council
12 Member Kalman Yeger, Council Member Eric Ulrich and
13 Council Member Bob Holden. I think we got them all.
14 Yep. Okay, and we just heard from the Department of
15 Parks and Recreation, and now we will hear from the
16 Samir Saini, Commissioner of the Department of
17 Information Technology and Telecommunications--

18 CHAIRPERSON KOO: [off mic] [interposing]
19 I have to open.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay,
21 yes, Peter Koo has to open first. So, we'll hear
22 from him first. [background comments]

23 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you, Chair Dromm.
24 Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to today's Joint
25 Executive Budget hearing with the Committee on

1 Finance and the Committee Information Technology and
2 Telecommunications. My name is Peter Koo, and I'm
3 the chair of the Committee of Technology. I want to
4 recognize that we are joined today by our members
5 Council Member Holden, Eric, Lander, and Yeger.

6 First, I want to express my disappointment that the
7 Executive Budget does not include the majority of the
8 Council's recommendations set forth in the
9 Preliminary Budget response. There is no funding to
10 upgrade computers at our Community Boards of senior
11 centers and no funding towards increasing the
12 headcount of call operators at 311. Nonetheless, I
13 along with my colleagues will push the Administration
14 to ensure that the Fiscal 2019 Adopted Budget
15 reflects the needs and interests of the city, and the
16 people it serves. Today, we will be hearing
17 testimony from the Department of Information
18 Technology and Telecommunications, also known as
19 DOITT, regarding their Fiscal 2019 Executive Budget,
20 which totals \$652.5 million. This represents an
21 increase of approximately \$24 million when compared
22 to its Fiscal 2018 Adopted Budget. The increase is
23 primarily driven by funds-by funding allocated for
24 the newly created New York City Cyber Command also
25

1 known as C3, which were in charge of directing
2 citywide cyber defense practices. In the aftermath of
3 Ransomware attack in Atlanta, the Committee would
4 like to know more about what Cyber Defense practices
5 will be deployed with the new funding. In the new-in
6 the city-no, in the Council's Budget Response to the
7 Preliminary Budget, the Council recommended that
8 DOITT expedite the decommissioning-the
9 decommissioning of the New York City Wireless
10 Network, also known as NYCWiN. Give that DOITT has
11 allocated \$4.8 million in Fiscal 2018 to cover the
12 scope of the work requested for the decommissioning,
13 the Committee would also like to learn more about
14 when the city will begin to see budgetary-budgetary
15 savings from the decommission of the system and any
16 other possible challenges that may arise from the
17 decommission. I would like to thank DOITT
18 Commissioner Saini for coming here today and
19 testifying. I would like to thank DOITT's staff for
20 the responses to our many requests including sending
21 over a detailed response to our Preliminary-
22 Preliminary Budget hearing follow-up letter. Lastly,
23 I want to thank my staff, my committee staff along
24
25

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with the staff of the Finance Division for their help
in preparing for today's budget hearing. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Chair Koo,
and I'm going to ask Counsel now to swear in the
panel.

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

COMMISSIONER SAINI: [off mic] Yes.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, would you like
to start?

COMMISSIONER SAINI: Good afternoon,
Chair Dromm, Chair Koo, and members of the New York
City-City Council on Finance and Technology. My name
is Samir Saini. I am the Commissioner of the
Department of Information Technology and
Telecommunications, otherwise known as DOITT and the
Citywide Chief Information Officer. Thank you for
the opportunity to testify today about DOITT's Fiscal
2019 Executive Budget. With me I have several folks
from my team. To my left Michael Pastor our General
Counsel. To my right Evan Hines, my First Deputy
Commissioner and to his right Annette Heintz, our
Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration.

1 Today, it is my pleasure to update the Committee on
2 the work that DOITT has been doing and the many
3 exciting things to come in the next year. I'll begin
4 with a summary of DOITT's Fiscal 2019 Executive
5 Budget. Following that, I'd like to emphasize how
6 this year's budget will support DOITT's work in
7 Fiscal Year 2019, and beyond as we begin to execute a
8 new strategic plan for the agency, which will be
9 unveiled some time around July, around the beginning
10 of the new Fiscal Year. DOITT's Fiscal 2019
11 Executive Budget provides for operating expenses of
12 approximately \$652 million allocating \$153 million in
13 personnel services to support 1,817 fully-full-time
14 positions and \$499.5 million for other than personnel
15 services, OTPS. This includes \$138 million in
16 intercity funds transferred from other agencies for
17 service provided by DOITT. So, for example, agencies
18 such as DOHMH, Health and Mental Hygiene and HRA,
19 Human Resource Administration would provide funding
20 to DOITT for use of Office 365 through DOITT's
21 Enterprise License Agreement RELA with Microsoft.
22 This arrangement of inter-inter-company payment is a
23 best practice for a mature IT shared service
24 organization as a means to really deliver the highest
25

1 level of quality of service at the lowest price for
2 the city. In total, intercity funds—funding
3 represents approximately 21% of the total budget
4 allocation. Telecommunications costs represent the
5 largest portion of this intercity expense, which is
6 projected at \$111 million for Fiscal 2018. DOITT
7 also generates upwards of \$180 million in revenues.
8 This is contributed largely through our LinkNYC
9 program I'll talk about in a little bit, as well as
10 our Cable Vision and Mobile Telecommunication
11 Franchises, which we administer. I'm proud to share
12 that we have identified savings of \$8 million for
13 Fiscal 2018 and approximately \$10 million in savings
14 for Fiscal 2019. This is largely due to insourcing
15 efforts related to public safety answering center
16 PSAC II whereby Cushman and Wakefield support
17 functions were actually converted to be performed by
18 city staff instead of contractors. We also saw lower
19 than anticipated costs for various one-time building
20 improvements, and other improvements that were no
21 longer needed. This figure also captures savings
22 from software support and one-time accruals that
23 DOITT is anticipated to generate. For Fiscal Year
24 2019, DOITT's Budget appropriation increased by
25

1 approximately \$50 million since the 2019 Preliminary
2 Budget. A significant portion of this is related to
3 the enhancement of the city's Cyber Security Program
4 managed under the NYC Cyber Command otherwise known
5 as NYC3 and led by our Citywide Chief Information and
6 Security Officer Jeff Brown who reports directly to
7 City Hall leadership. The de Blasio Administration's
8 unprecedented investments in cyber security makes New
9 York City a national leader on this front, and
10 further underscores the importance of this work,
11 which DOITT strongly supports. With this
12 appropriation, NYC3 will have more of the resources
13 and technical solutions and tools they need to
14 fulfill their duties under Executive Order 28 passed
15 in July of 2017 to implement proactive and
16 progressive risk management strategies to prevent,
17 detect, respond and recover from cyber threats.
18 Another significant investment we're making in FY19
19 is related to the decommissioning of the NYC Wireless
20 Network, otherwise known as NYCWiN. Access to a
21 wireless network with the most current technology is
22 critical to dozens of agencies within the city who
23 utilize it to provide essential services to New
24 Yorkers. That's why we must replace the current
25

1 network, which is end of life, and costs upwards of
2 \$40 million a year to maintain. We have begun
3 working with agencies on smooth transition to
4 commercial partners and this investment will support
5 the physical decommissioning of NYCWiN beginning in
6 the coming year putting us on a path to save tens of
7 millions on an annual basis. What I have described so
8 far are simply the changes to our budget, but the
9 investments of the FY19 Budget across the board will
10 support all the important work in our purview
11 including providing support—service desk support to
12 managing technology projects within DOITT and on
13 behalf of agencies to architecting complex IT
14 solutions, which is a core function and service we
15 offer to administering citywide contracts like the
16 ones I mentioned ELAs and MSAs that hundreds—that
17 over 100 government entities leverage to purchase
18 goods and services. Ultimately, all of this is what
19 we do everyday to keep New York City running. I'd
20 like to frame the work of the coming year around
21 three strategic objectives. The first objective is
22 around transforming DOITT into a premier shared
23 service organization into a service management group
24 that enables us to boost core operational services
25

1 and run in a best in class manner. What that really
2 means is providing core services to the best we can
3 to strengthen and heighten the liability, quality and
4 security of the most basic services, but the most
5 critical services for the agencies that subscribe to
6 those services. I believe we can use existing
7 resources to offer broader services at a higher
8 degree of quality than ever before, and I'm looking
9 forward to unveiling our plans on this front, and I
10 expect by this time next year that we will have
11 significant progress to share with Council as this
12 agency evolves from a simple order taking—perhaps not
13 simple, but complex order taking organization to a
14 holistic service management organization. That is
15 the first strategic objective. The second objective
16 is about deepening our partnership with the—with our
17 agency customers to act as a trusted partner where
18 we're delivering services, high value services that
19 empower them to achieve more. Just to give you some
20 examples, one service we offer that we want to offer
21 more of, which is low touch but high value is what I
22 describe earlier around the establishment of ELAs and
23 NSAs that our teams negotiate and put—put in—in place
24 that enable agencies to procure and gain services at
25

1 the highest quality at the lowest possible price
2
3 verse these agencies procuring the same services by
4 themselves. By negotiating MSAs over the past year
5 with increased competition, we've lowed prices for
6 agencies, and we've expanded our repertoire of
7 services offered. In FY19 Budget \$1.5 million in
8 savings will be achieved through just the T
9 telecommunications MSA alone. On the other end of
10 the spectrum, DOITT also strives to empower agencies
11 with high touch services, and an example of that is
12 instances where agencies need DOITT technical
13 expertise to lead end-to-end project management for
14 essential projects and one perfect example of that is
15 our work project managing and leading the critical
16 311 transformation in assisting NYCWiN in building
17 and deploying. Another example is assisting NYCWiN
18 in building and deploying, and Notify NYC Mobile
19 application, which is available now. We are proud to
20 lead the Design-Build implementation of new
21 technology to support critical resources that New
22 Yorkers depend on and intend on improving these and
23 this portfolio of services over the next year. The
24 last, but certainly not least, and arguably one of
25 the most critical objectives we have is our laser

1 focus around achieving digital equity and
2 strengthening democracy for all New Yorkers. Our
3 most notable and widely recognized effort towards
4 this goal is LinkNYC. The program made possible via
5 franchise agreement to replace the city's outdate pay
6 phone infrastructure with at least 7,500 high speed
7 WiFi kiosks all at absolutely no cost to taxpayers.
8 There are currently over 1,500 live kiosks bringing
9 free high speed public WiFi to over—the last number
10 is 3.8 million subscribers citywide, and that's a
11 double digit increase from last year, and we see that
12 growth continuing moving forward. LinkNYC is also a
13 revenue positive venture guaranteeing upwards of \$500
14 million in revenue over the life of the franchise.
15 Just yesterday an amendment to the LinkNYC franchise
16 agreement was heard at the Franchise and Concession
17 Review Committee. This amendment does affect the
18 most important components of this program, which is
19 the number of kiosks committed to be deployed by
20 borough or the minimal annual guaranteed revenue that
21 the city will generate from it. It does propose some
22 adjustments to the over all deployment schedule and
23 planning process citing requirements and payments
24 above the minimum annual guarantee reflecting the
25

1 lessons learned over the last two years of executing
2 on this pioneering citywide program. One dimension
3 of the Link program that I intend to deepen in the
4 kiosk is the kiosk's ability to function not just was
5 a WiFi hot spot, but basic public service capability,
6 but to act as almost your friendly neighborhood
7 digital personal assistant. Our team does this by
8 working with the franchisee to offer civic engagement
9 and public service tools that could be personalized
10 down to the neighborhood level with hyper local
11 content. Recent examples of this offering includes
12 signing up for healthcare coverage, finding a polling
13 place or having real time access to transit
14 information for—for New Yorkers to ease their commute
15 around the city. Most recently, we were thrilled to
16 offer Links as a platform to assist the Council in
17 participatory budgeting, allow constituents to vote
18 for projects in their districts directly on the
19 Tablet on the kiosk. Voters too advantage of this
20 function over 5,000 times in seven days. This
21 successful partnership underscores our commitment to
22 truly making LinkNYC kiosk more than just a kiosk,
23 but a true digital personal assistant that supports
24 the community with content that—that's relevant to
25

1 the neighborhood that you're in. We look forward to
2 continuing this kind of collaboration in the future.
3 Before concluding, I'd like to share an announcement
4 on one exciting dimension of our efforts to achieve
5 digital equity. You may know that your mobile device
6 is able to get service thanks to mobile wireless
7 installations in various parts of the city including
8 on thousands of city light poles. DOITT manages the
9 installation of this wireless technology through our
10 Mobile Telecommunications Franchise. With the
11 expiration of the current franchise coming in 2019,
12 I'm proud to say that in the coming weeks, we will
13 release the next RFP, Request for Proposals for our
14 Mobile Telecommunications Franchise. We have written
15 the RFP in a way that aligns directly with the
16 Mayor's focus on fairness ensuring equitable
17 distribution and strong performance of cellular
18 service across all carriers. Looking ahead, it will
19 also ensure the expansion of 5G, which we've all
20 heard a lot about, which will be instrumental in
21 making New York City the most connected city in the
22 world and having connectivity on every street, in
23 every public space, in every home, and in every
24 borough. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss
25

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DOITT's 2019 Executive Budget. This concludes my
prepared testimony, and I will now gladly address any
questions you have. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much,
Commissioner. I appreciate you coming in and giving
your testimony. I want to talk with you a little bit
about budget transparency.

COMMISSIONER SAINI: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: DOITT's Fiscal 2019
Executive Budget totals \$652.5 million. Yet, it only
has two units of appropriation, one for personnel
services and the other for other than personnel
services. In the Council's Budget response we called
for the creation of at least five new U of As to
better reflect the program areas within your agency
and to make it easier for the Council and the public
to track spending. Did you review the Council's U of
A Proposals related to DOITT from the Budget Response
and are they feasible?

COMMISSIONER SAINI: Yes, I have—I'm
going to ask Annette Heintz our Deputy Commissioner
on Finance to—to respond to that question.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANNETTE HEINTZ: [off
mic] Yes, hi. [pause] [on mic] We are--

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] Could
3 you just identify yourself, too?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Annette
5 Heintz, Deputy Commissioner for Financial Management
6 and Administration. So, we are currently in
7 discussions with OMB right now to look at adding
8 additional U of As to the budget, but at this point
9 we do have budget codes that clearly do outline some
10 of the items in our budget such as 311 so we do
11 separate by budget code, but we are in discussions
12 based on the City Council request to look at the U of
13 A Structure.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Well, that's
15 good news that we're moving forward on that.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: After the Preliminary
18 Budget hearings, the Council sent you a follow-up
19 letter. One of the questions asked of you was to
20 provide a breakdown of one of DOITT's capital lump
21 sum lines and DOITT's ECTP Capital Budget section.
22 We thank you for your response and providing that
23 information. In the data you provided of the \$94
24 million on the lump sum line you mentioned that \$80
25 million is other work streams. Can you define what's

1
2 in that other category? [background comments,
3 pause]

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: It's mostly
5 for the System Integration Services.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Can you give us a
7 further answer?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Those are
9 professional services--

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] When
11 you say mostly, how much are the mostly?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: I'll have
13 to--

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: How much of the--what
15 is it \$80?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: I have the
17 breakdown for you right in here. I'm trying to get
18 that. (sic) Here it is. I could give you the
19 breakdown. [pause] It's System Integration and
20 covers most of it, but I have here from PSAC I and
21 PSAC II.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, when you say most
23 of it, how much of the \$80 million do you mean?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Do you know
25 how much of the \$80 million it is? [background

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1
2 comments, pause] I don't have a breakdown for PSAC II
3 of what the \$84 million.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, so why don't
5 you get back to us on that.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: It's a
7 variety of items that either haven't been done yet,
8 might result in a savings in the future in management
9 reserves and some funds associated with professional
10 services that are distributed project wide and not by
11 each particular project.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. So, maybe as
13 we move—as we move down towards the Adopted Budget
14 let's get a—a better grasp on what that means.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Yeah, I
16 think we expect a chunk of it to actually wind up in
17 management reserves, which would be unspent funds.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Alright, thank
19 you. You know, I used to be the Chair of the
20 Education Committee in—in the City Council for four
21 years, and CECIS has always been an issue. We met I
22 believe back—about a year or so ago to talk about the
23 progress that's made, that's being made, and DOITT's
24 current budget includes approximately \$6 million for
25 tech related work for CESIS. Can you describe the

1
2 scope of the work that DOITT has done in regards to
3 reviving or renewing or refreshing the—the CESIS
4 system?

5 COMMISSIONER SAINI: Okay. [background
6 comments]

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: So, Evan
8 Hines the First Deputy Commissioner at DOITT. That
9 money I believe was used for to go back to the actual
10 Systems Integrator who actually had to make updates
11 to the application and to improve performance of the
12 application.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: So the money
14 is split into two areas. One is actually for our
15 contract that is by the Powers School, which is a
16 company that is going to work with the DOE over five
17 years to actually make changes to the application,
18 and then the rest of the money is actually for
19 resources that have been—technical resources that
20 have been dedicated to the CESIS project.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, because I
22 though originally it was going to be done with just
23 in DOITT in-house.

24
25

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Well, it was
3 the—the initial—the Assessment was done in-house with
4 its resources.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: The Assessment was
6 done in-house and now?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: And then the
8 original fixes to the application were done by the
9 vendor but managed by DOITT.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I see. Okay and do
11 you anticipate any further funding for CESIS related
12 to work?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Not in—not in
14 DOITT's Budget.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, so one of my
16 pieces of legislation that I—I feel most proud about
17 was Special Ed Reporting, and one of the issues, of
18 course, with CESIS was compatibility with trying to
19 get the information that DOE was doing it mostly by
20 hand. Will this new system now be able to provide us
21 with the information that's needed to comply that
22 legislation?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: I am—I can't
24 answer that. I'm not familiar with that legislation
25 because those are for the Department of Education.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yeah.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: So, we could
4 either bring that question back to DOE for you--

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: --or it should
7 be directed to you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, I hope so
9 because that was the purpose of redoing the CESIS
10 system. In other words, we knew it was bad years
11 ago. We did the reporting. We got, you know,
12 information from the DOE. Sixty percent of kids were
13 getting their required services, 35% were only
14 getting partial, 5% were getting nothing, and then
15 they were saying, DOE was saying that those figures
16 might not be as accurate as they could be because
17 the--the system wasn't providing the information that
18 they need in as accurate a way, and so the purpose
19 of--of reviving or redoing that CESIS system was so
20 that we could extract that information.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: And that--that
22 reporting that you're speaking of not that--that I
23 know of is to--that's--part of the--

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] It--it's
25 doing, the system is doing that?

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Yes, that's
3 part of it.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, that's basically
5 what we were trying to get at. Yeah, alright another
6 question with the Link New York City Maintenance
7 Clean up. The City currently has a franchise
8 agreement with City Bridge regarding installation of
9 Links throughout the city. We're grateful and we
10 like them. However, like in a neighborhood like mine
11 many of them have been placed underneath an elevated
12 subway line, and they're beginning to get covered
13 with pigeon poop, and it's a funny issue, but it's a
14 serious issue. I do remember when DOT put benches
15 there, and I do remember when telephone booths were
16 there. So, who is responsible for the maintenance of
17 these Link kiosks?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: So, let me--
19 let me start--start the answer and like I'll have our
20 General Counsel Michael expand. The--the
21 responsibility for maintenance of the physical
22 LinkNYC kiosk itself both its exterior, right, and--
23 and sort of the aesthetics of ensuring, right, that--
24 that there isn't poop on them, for lack of a better
25 word, and--and the--the internal components, technical

1 components of it. Of course, there's a great deal of
2 sophistication right in the tech inside. It's all
3 under CityBridge through contracts they have,
4 outsource contracts with different providers. In
5 fact, there's a separate provider they have for the
6 exterior verse the interior. I'm going to ask Mike
7 to expand a little more.

9 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: Right, so that's
10 the—the Commissioner has that right. I think the one
11 thing I would add to that point is that as part of
12 the amendment of the 40 FCRC we've requested—what
13 we're requiring of the franchisee a build-out plan,
14 which will include annual installation schedules for
15 every single Link that will be installed in the year
16 to come. That planning I think will give us much
17 greater ability at the—upfront to know are you under
18 a subway that has a bunch of pigeons in it or not,
19 and—and maybe revisit the decision to put that in.
20 We—we—it is a pay phone replacement. So, I—I don't
21 know if the example you're referring to where there
22 was a pay phone underneath the subway, which
23 frequently there are, but I do think that they are
24 obligated to keep them in good condition pursuant to
25 the contract, but I think that from a planning

1 perspective it's going to give us a chance looking
2 out to say how can we not have a link in a place
3 where this might happen.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, have you had
5 instances where they've either been broken or
6 graffitied or spray painted?

7 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: I think there
8 have been some instances over the time of the
9 franchise. It has fortunately not been a frequent
10 instance that I'm aware of, and--

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] How do
12 you track it?

13 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: CityBridge
14 reports into us things like that, and so we would
15 know. As I said, I-I can't off the top of my head
16 think of any example of a-of a vandalism, but it
17 does-it does occur occasionally. Also, this is a
18 good-a good thing to know. We-we just confirmed that
19 City Bridge actually cleans these kiosks twice a week
20 plus an inspection. So, if-if you do see it on the
21 streets, it probably won't be there very long.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So if we have an issue
23 with the cleanliness or who do we get in touch with?

24 [background comments]
25

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: With-with
3 through-with us. We're always available. You just
4 get in touch with us, and we'll get it to the right
5 people.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, 311 staffing.
7 At the Preliminary Hearing, some 311 operators
8 testified that the fact that the number of calls that
9 they're receiving has risen significantly, but the
10 number of call center representatives has not
11 increased. And one example that they gave was
12 something that's dear to me also, and it's my
13 legislation on IDNYC. I think that we've had a 1.2
14 million or more people getting IDNYC maybe not all
15 through 311, but they did say that the workload has
16 increased for programs like that. So, what have you
17 done to ensure that 311—that the 311 center is
18 adequately staffed with call center representatives?

19 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: Sure. So, so
20 let me first mention that our—our role with respect
21 to 311 is—administering their budget. In terms of
22 additional headcount, right, requested by—the
23 Director for 311 and justifying the need that's—
24 that's a question that I can facilitate with—with the
25

1 Director 311. Is there anyone? Evan, do you want to
2 share anything?
3

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: So, regarding
5 the operations of 311, that should actually be
6 directed to the Mayor's Office of Operations, but I'm
7 not aware of issues with the response of call takers.
8 There's also an overflow contract with a vendor to
9 handle spikes in unexpected usage of calling 311.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Is that why we would
11 see overtime pay of about \$54,000 or something there?
12 Do you monitor that, or is that done with the Mayor's
13 Office of Operations?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: We—we get
15 reports on that but the Mayor's Office of Operations
16 would oversee how they are allocating or giving out
17 overtime.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, another issue
19 again of—of importance to me is the Anti-Bullying
20 Complaint Portals. Has that started yet? I think \$3
21 million was allocated for that, and in the
22 announcement the Mayor made last September or early
23 October? That's for the Department of Education.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Right, so—so
25 one of the services that DOITT provides for many,

1 many agencies is portal-is portal development. It's
2 in our portfolio. We've done several-many on behalf
3 of agencies. I am not aware if they-DOE has
4 approached us at this point to build this part. It
5 looks like they-they have not, but if they approach
6 us and request our services, we'd be happy to-to work
7 with them like we have with other agencies to help
8 them build this.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, to me that's a
11 little bit shocking that DOE, but then again, it's
12 not because I know DOE, that they have not started or
13 to-with this portal.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Right.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I mean I'm-I'm almost
16 speechless.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: They-where
18 we-I mean we are not involve in that as a project,
19 and it's not in our budget what work they've already
20 done on it--

21 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: That's exactly
22 right.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: I mean they
24 would know, and we wouldn't--

1
2 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: [interposing]
3 That's right.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: --know unless
5 they engage us to ask about it.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Would they have the
7 capability of doing that internally without dealing
8 with

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: They
10 absolutely would, absolutely would.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. so--

12 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: [interposing] So
13 they may have already started this.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, so, alright,
15 I'm going to hold that for DOE, then.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I rest my
18 disappointment there.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: But again, if
20 they need our help, we're here.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes. Okay, alright.

22 [laughter] The New York City Win, I know you
23 mentioned that in your testimony. DOITT said that it
24 will begin the decommission in 2019. How many
25 agencies still use NYCWiN? Is that what you called

1 it for other purposes including GPS, laptop
2 connectivity among other uses? What is the overall
3 plan to allow for a smooth transition between the
4 decommission and the transfer of these agencies to
5 commercial carriers?
6

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Sure, so the-
8 so the work is already started. We've-we've already
9 begun work with specific-with specific agencies. The
10 first priority agency is-is DOT to transition them
11 quickly off of NYCWiN, which, of course, they use for
12 connectivity for traffic signals to a commercial
13 carrier and aggressive work has already gone on with
14 our team to get that to a point where a decision was
15 going to be made very soon. We're also working with
16 other agencies that are using the network, and
17 building out their transition plans. So, things are-
18 things are moving smoothly so far.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Alright, I'm
20 going to turn it over to Council Member-to Chair Koo.

21 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you, Chair Dromm.
22 Yeah. Commissioner, thank you for coming-

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON KOO: My question is the-the
25 first question is that I'm very-very excited about

1
2 you sent your Request for Proposals for the Mobile
3 Telecommunication Franchise coming up soon.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Uh-hm.

5 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, can you give us a
6 little more detail of this like when you're going to
7 start it and when's the deadline for these proposals?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: A great,
9 great question. I want to pass it off to—to Michael
10 to answer.

11 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: Sure, Chair Koo.
12 So the—the Request for Proposals itself will be
13 released in the coming weeks. I t's—in it, it will
14 have the whole specifications for the response times,
15 the work of the Evaluation Committee that follows
16 that. So, the RFP document, which you will be
17 seeing, as I said, with a couple a couple of weeks
18 will lay out the whole process for the eventual
19 renewal of—of those franchise agreements, which are
20 up in the end of 2019.

21 CHAIRPERSON KOO: There is City Cyber
22 Command. This is a very big question on that. So,
23 for Fiscal 19 Executive Budget we have \$370.9 million
24 in new needs between FY18 and 2000—I mean in 2022,
25 which includes \$55.7 million in Fiscal 2019 alone for

1 newly created NYC Cyber Command. As those Cyber
2 Command has its own head of operations, at what level
3 of operations and budgetary jurisdiction does DOITT
4 have over Cyber Command?
5

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: So, so,
7 DOITT's responsibility with respect to C3's budget is
8 administrative in nature. The budget that there is--
9 there is a separate budget for Jeff Brown and the C3
10 and, of course, you've seen in this budget request
11 and in--in additional--in addition of roughly \$41
12 million of the total 50 from the Preliminary.
13 That's for him. Our job is to--is to just manage it--
14 manage the budget for him, but the way in which those
15 dollars are spent for and--and, of course, and I
16 mentioned earlier it's really in two camps. It's for
17 resources, additional staff that's needed, and for
18 solutions and tools to threat, to strengthen threat
19 and vulnerability management capability for the city.
20 Those decisions are being made by--by Jeff through--
21 through his organization, and--and approved through
22 the Mayor's Office of Operations. The Deputy Mayor
23 of Operations. We just--we just administer his
24 budget, but he's in control of it in short.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, will the Cyber
3 Command be purely city funded in the years to come?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Annette, do
5 you want to answer that?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Yes, well,
7 currently right now some of the funding is seeing the
8 new needs for FY19 is going to come from asset
9 forfeiture funds, which are grant funds, but the
10 majority of it right now is city tax levy.

11 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, Fiscal 2019 the
12 Mayor's message states that Cyber Command will lead
13 cyber defense efforts by directing citywide Cyber
14 Defense. Does it mean—does this mean that the NYC
15 Cyber Command has through addition over how other
16 agencies employ cyber defense—cyber defense
17 practices.

18 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: Per the
19 Executive Order 28, they do have jurisdiction to do
20 that.

21 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, so what level of
22 jurisdiction to does Cyber Command have over other
23 police or over the Parks Department's Cyber Defense
24 level?

25

1
2 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: So, Cyber-Cyber-
3 so there is a difference between cyber security-cyber
4 crime right, versus cyber security, right for the
5 city. Cyber crime falls squarely under NYPD, and-and
6 that's in the way-that's managed and the strategies
7 around that I would request you-you-you discuss with
8 them. Cyber security for the city, and this is
9 around ensuring the cut-the-the confidentiality,
10 availability, and integrity of-of city assets and
11 data is the purview of the Executive Order 28 that
12 was passed in July, and that's under C3, it is
13 control.

14 CHAIRPERSON KOO: At the Governmental
15 operations Preliminary Budget hearing, the Board of
16 Elections ask the Administration for an additional
17 \$1.3 million to fund its own Cyber Security links.
18 Has this been included in the overall new funding for
19 cyber security in the Executive Budget?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Let me pass
21 that over to Annette or the Counsel.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: What-what do
23 you-I'm sorry, Council Member, what did you say that
24 was for?
25

1
2 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: The Board of
3 Elections.

4 CHAIRPERSON KOO: I said--

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Right.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Oh the Board
7 of the Board of Elections as well.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOO: That Board--

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ:
10 [interposing] That's--that to do with a security
11 assessment with the Board of Elections.

12 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Yeah. [background
13 comments] So the last question that I asked was the
14 digital literacy gap. The Council's Budget Response
15 included \$10.2 million to help close the Digital
16 Literacy Gap, but this was not included in the
17 Mayor's Executive Budget. What is the city or DOITT
18 doing to lower the gap? What are you guys going to
19 do?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: So, let me--
21 let me first say, I--I'd be the first to acknowledge
22 the criticality of digital literacy beyond what I
23 described in my testimony. The gap we have to close
24 are on access and as well the gap around of having
25 New Yorkers have a Device 2 access to leverage the

1 connectivity that we're trying to driver. Digital
2 literacy is—is the third leg in the stool, right,
3 that—that must be addressed to achieve true digital
4 equity. There isn't a dedicated pot of money for
5 digital—for digital literacy as a-as a critical leg,
6 but investments in digital literacy are actually
7 baked into the respective digital—digital programs
8 that we have. So, in—in other words, it's covered.
9 It's just not one big bucket. There's a digital
10 literacy component of different digital programs that
11 we have around the city.
12

13 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you, yeah. So,
14 DOITT—so the current year's budget relies on
15 approximately \$85 million in federal and state
16 funding. Can you talk about some of the major
17 federal and state grants that DOITT received?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Sure. I'm
19 going to pass that over to Annette to answer.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: The largest
21 federal grant in our budget is for the Mayor's Office
22 of Criminal Justice, which is doing a citywide
23 Criminal Justice—Justice Databased project to install
24 a database that will allow all the criminal agencies
25 to share information, and that is about—that's over

1 \$30 million of the grant funding. We also have grant
2 funding for the HR Build It Back Program. We manage
3 all their technology budget. That's about \$5 million
4 and then we have the Asset Forfeiture money for cyber
5 security. So, that makes up the bulk of the—of the
6 grant money.
7

8 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, has the Department
9 conducted an analysis of federal and state funds that
10 may be at risk under the new presidential
11 administration? If so, can you share your analysis
12 with the committee? [background comments]

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: I do not—I
14 do not believe that we've done an analysis of that at
15 this time, but we can go back and check. So far, all
16 the money has been moved forward.

17 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Okay, now I have a
18 question on franchise agreements on our CityBridge.
19 Under the new amendment for the city's with
20 CityBridge, the franchisee was able to defer payment
21 to the city between contract year 3 and 9 also known
22 as until 2023, but no more than \$125 million. So,
23 how is this revenue being budgeted for the city's
24 Budget?
25

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Okay, I'm
3 going to pass that over to Annette to answer.

4 [background comments, pause]

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: Yeah, the
6 revenue just goes into the General-City General Fund,
7 the Revenue Fund.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Yes. Yeah, but they
9 can defer up to \$125 million right?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Right, I-I
11 believe, Chair, that the-the forecast, the budget
12 forecasts were based upon the-the annual guarantee,
13 the minimal annual guarantee, which remains
14 unchanged, and that's why there wasn't a need to
15 change that in forecasting purposed although we will
16 be getting paid back at 10% at the end of the
17 contract.

18 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, is there a deadline
19 that CityBridge must inform the city the received a
20 deferred payment for the specific contract year?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: There-there
22 won't be a deadline necessary because the way the
23 amendment is structured certain amounts that would
24 otherwise have been owed above the minimum guarantee
25 will be deferred pursuant to the changes for those

1 number of years, and then we'll be paid back pursuant
2 to those changes plus the 10%.

3
4 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: Yeah, I think
5 it's also important to mention that even though there
6 is—we've accepted a deferral on the payment, the city
7 actually will in the end as a result of this
8 amendment generate more revenue, right, than expected
9 because of the 10% interest right that CityBridge
10 will be charged because of this. So, we're still
11 going to get paid, right. What we—what was
12 originally committed plus, right, this—this
13 additional 10% for the deferral.

14 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Okay, now, DOITT's
15 Executive Budget has a one-time vacancy reduction of
16 28 positions for Fiscal 2019. Can you provide the
17 breakdown of these positions by category or by type?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: those
19 positions weren't taken out of the budget, but they
20 were—we agreed to put them on a freeze so that we can
21 earn one-time savings, and they come from across the
22 agency, but they're mainly in the Infrastructure
23 Management and Application Development Group, which
24 are our largest groups.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Okay, since our last
3 meeting the CDO has stepped down, and the Mayor's
4 Office on Data Analytics, MODA, still does not have a
5 head for almost a year now. Who is currently
6 overseeing these two offices?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: So, there
8 are—there are interim leaders overseeing these
9 departments while the—while the Mayor's Office makes
10 final decisions on the future for the CTO's Office,
11 and as well where we're headed with MODA. What I can
12 tell you is from a DOITT perspective, it's business
13 as usual. We work with these agencies everyday, all
14 the time. Their—their missions have not changed.
15 Their projects have not waivered, and we're still
16 moving forward. So, despite—despite the change that
17 you're seeing, the—the—the balls are still in motion
18 and we're still working with them.

19 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, does—does DOITT or
20 the Mayor's Office plan on bring the functions of
21 CDOs Office and MODA under your purview?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: I do not have
23 any knowledge around what plans the Mayor's Office
24 has for these agencies. Again, what I do know is
25

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1 we're working with them now like we worked with them
2 before when--when those leaders were in place.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, made the
5 commitment, though, about when those positions,
6 those--those two positions are going to be filled?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: I--I do not
8 know when those positions will be filled, but again,
9 I--I look forward to knowing, but nothing has changed
10 in terms of the teams, and--and the projects and the
11 work within those organizations with respect to what
12 DOITT has partnered with them on.

13 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: And both offices
14 have acting directors at this time.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: They have
16 acting directors in place, that's right.

17 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Now, I have a question
18 on HIPAA. DOITT has rolled \$2.3 million from 2018 to
19 2019 because of continued tech work related to HIPAA
20 projects for the Department of Health and Mental
21 Hygiene. So, can you comment on what this project
22 hopes to accomplish, and can you also provide and
23 estimated time of completion of this project?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES:
25

1
2 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: I believed where
3 we're actually doing an assessment of our Data Center
4 to ensure that it's HIPAA compliant. I could get
5 back to you. I don't have dates of when it started
6 or when it will be completed, but I can certainly get
7 that back to you, you know, this week. [background
8 comments]

9 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Can we ask some other
10 members to ask questions, please.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you,
12 Chair Koo, and we're going to go to Council Member
13 Holden followed by Council Member Lander.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you,
15 Commissioner or your testimony. I—I want to speak to
16 NYCWiN for a second, though I know that was before
17 you—you—way before your time. Why wasn't that---

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: [interposing]
19 I don't know. I have—I have some gray.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: --why was that
21 underutilized so much. We—it's a huge investment,
22 \$500 million, half a billion, and it never caught on.
23 Can you speak to that just your opinion?

24
25

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Well, my-my
3 opinion would be back when it was initially built,
4 which I believe was 2003-2008--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: It was-it was-it
6 was

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: [interposing]
8 2008.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: It's '09.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Too late.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I think it was
12 '09, yeah. [background comments]

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: About 10.
14 That's right, that's right.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: That's not that
16 long ago.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: It's about 10
18 years old, it's about 10 years old--

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDER: I guess that's--

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: --is when
21 that-that--So 2000, about 2008.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Right.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: The-many
24 cities, right, not just-not just New York, but many
25 cities invested, right in their own wireless networks

1 for particularly critical infrastructure. In large
2 part that was because if anyone recalls 10 years ago,
3 the—the—the evolution in the reliability of cellular
4 services of our providers has skyrocketed, and so—but
5 back then you couldn't necessarily rely, right on
6 having those networks and communications be 99.999%
7 up, which obviously is an issue for a traffic signal
8 or a water meter, right or whatever the critical
9 infrastructure is. Today, the world has changed and
10 commercial carriers and these providers have very
11 high reliable—have high reliability network, and the
12 cost of subscribing to those networks has now hit a
13 point where it's far cheaper right to leverage a
14 commercial carrier's network verse maintain, right, a
15 city—a city's network. The one thing to—to remember
16 about investing in a—in a—a city wireless network is
17 infrastructure gets old, right, which means
18 maintenance is going to be required to refresh it
19 periodically based on the depreciation schedule.
20 Also, new technology. Technology evolves and to keep
21 pace with that is very difficult. So—so all-in-all
22 say my opinion is we made the right choice, right to
23 deploy NYCWiN because there was no alternative at the
24 time. We're now at a point where it makes lots of
25

1 sense, right, to move to a commercial carrier, not
2 just because of the assurance of reliability, but
3 also the recurring cost savings we're going to see,
4 which is tens of millions of dollars every year not
5 to mention also the ability for that network to-to
6 grow with us. As our data consumption needs go up,
7 the network will be able to support that.
8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: So, why does it
10 cost \$5 million to decommission that share-NYCWIn?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: So, so
12 there's two--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [interposing] Is
14 that every year it's going to cost, though, because
15 you're doing--you're going to decommission it this
16 year or next year?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Yeah, yeah,
18 this is--the \$5 million that you're seeing in this
19 budget is just the beginning of it. Just to give you
20 a sense for what that's for--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Uh-hm.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: --it's really
23 dollars needed to-to tear down the--the equipment,
24 right at these various sites we have and there's
25 about 390 sites, but also it's investment to restore

1 those sites to the-to the-to their original
2 condition, which is a requirement of ours. As you can
3 imagine, we've had this infrastructure there for ten
4 years, and we've-we've done some damage right to some
5 of the-the original structure, right, that was there.
6 So, it's our job to-to fix it, and that's what this
7 initial investment is for.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: So, the initial,
10 though, is to switch DOT over? Is that what you said
11 earlier? [bell]

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: DOT is a
13 priority agency. We're looking at all the other ones
14 as well, but DOT is certainly I think the more-
15 furthest along at this point.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: So, but we have
17 DEP using it now.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: We do.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: We have DOT,
20 Parks, NYPD, FDNY?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: We do. We
22 have a master schedule that outlines the transition
23 phases for each of those-each of those agencies over
24 the next few years. We'd be happy to share that with
25 you.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: If we could see
3 that schedule because I'm just--

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: [interposing]
5 Sure.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: --you--you can
7 decommission the entire--obviously network.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Right, the--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: But you have to
10 break it down.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: That's
12 exactly right. So, for example with DOITT with DOT,
13 we're already at a point where we are going to be
14 moving forward with first getting an arrangement with
15 the Commercial Carriers' Network, and then once
16 they're transitioned then we could--then we could
17 decommission. So, there's a--it's a very sensitive
18 sort of schedule.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: And there's an--
20 an improvement in speed with the new system?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Vastly,
22 vastly.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: How much faster?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Well, when we
25 think about [bell] initially these are running on 4Gs

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1 or 4GLT networks, right. So, the speed would be to
2 make it real equivalent to what you're getting on
3 your mobile phone right now, right.

4
5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Okay.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: But the good
7 news is the terms of the contract enable us to ramp
8 up-ramp up speed with locked in pricing. So, if
9 there's for some reason a need for us to get higher
10 speeds because we're-we're transferring more data
11 over that network for whatever reason, we could ramp
12 up the-the bandwidth with a pre-negotiated price,
13 which is a very, very good thing.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Okay. You have
15 over 18-1,800 full-time employees right? You said in
16 your testimony.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: There are
18 1,800 full-time employees within the DOITT budget. Of
19 course, some of those employees we-we manage it-we
20 administer the budget for some of the agencies that
21 have employees within that budget, but not all of
22 them are DOITT employees.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Not all-not all
24 yours?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Exactly.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: How many are
3 yours?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: 1,200.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: 1,200?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Yes

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: And-and what-can
8 you tell me some of the-I mean job titles. What's
9 the technicians. I mean just-

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Everything.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Not, everything,
12 but--

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: --for us.
14 Service Desk Technician to Application Developer to
15 Network Engineer to Server Engineer to Enterprise
16 Architect to Counsel to legal services to financial.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [interposing]

18 Okay, as we outsource--

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: --to
20 Communications Manger. [laughs]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Okay, we're
22 starting to outsource, though. We're-we're starting
23 to get private, you know, companies coming in. Will
24 that reduce the-the employees or what--?

25

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: We're
3 actually doing the opposite.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Right we're
5 learning to--

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: We're
7 insourcing.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: So, insourcing.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Part-part of
10 our big strategy is to be less reliant, reliant on
11 contractors and to leverage internal staff and
12 employees and to-to-to perform the same work because
13 we believe we can do it just as good, and, of course,
14 at a lower cost to taxpayers.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Okay, alright.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. Just to
17 follow up on that, so like with CESIS the vendor that
18 it's sent out to that's the original vendor who had
19 the CESIS contract? This is the new one?

20 [background comments, pause]

21 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: I believe that
22 is the original vendor. The owner--the owner of the
23 product not the system that it's played in.

24

25

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] So that
3 we're forcing them to-to-to make these updates to
4 their system?

5 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: The-the product
6 owner not the systems integrator because they own the
7 code--

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Right.

9 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: --so we have to
10 go to them.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: This is what was
12 confusing me before as well is that I thought the
13 city was in-sourcing a lot of this stuff, and getting
14 away from having to have these outside contractors
15 who then disappear or refuse to do the work.

16 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: In-in the case
17 of CESIS and that software, they own the codes so,
18 you know, we couldn't make any kind of updates to
19 that code, but DOE is actually very involved with us.
20 We meet, you know, pretty much on-close to a monthly
21 basis with DC37 about looking at what jobs that we
22 could in-source. We do it alone. OMB has given us 70
23 positions since 2016 in order to in-source consulting
24 positions. I think as of today 59, 60 of those
25 positions are filled, but across the city through

1 these efforts I think in the last couple of years
2 it's probably around 500 positions that were funded
3 for in-sourcing, and then if—we—if we go back to
4 DOITT and look in the last ten years, there's been
5 about 200—over 250 consultant insourcing that we're
6 done.
7

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And then ultimately
9 we maintain control of that so that we don't have a
10 situation like we have with CESIS?

11 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: Correct. Yes. I
12 mean there's also—there's also terms and conditions
13 we put in our contracts now that are stronger than we
14 were at that point.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Uh-hm. Okay, good.
16 Alright, Council Member Lander.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
18 much to both chairs. Commissioner, good to see you
19 again.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Good to see
21 you, too.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Our—our last time
23 together was voting on participatory budgeting on one
24 of the Links which I—which I did as well although
25 not--

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: [interposing]
3 It was a very cold morning.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --you might not
5 have seen me, but I saw you, though. Thank you again
6 for that. I'm going to start by asking about the--the
7 last paragraph in your testimony, the RFP around the
8 mobile telecommunications franchise.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: You speak there
11 to the issue of getting a kind of faster more robust
12 network, but you allude to the idea of using that RFP
13 to achieve fairer and, therefore, I assume broader
14 access as well, and I know that's obviously a goal of
15 the Mayor and the Administration to think about how
16 we make sure that that all New Yorkers have--have real
17 access regardless of ability to pay and this sounds
18 like a good case of using a city asset to try to push
19 for it. I wonder if you could tell me a little bit
20 more of what you have in mind or--

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Sure.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --other places
23 where you've used the city's bargaining power across
24 the network specifically to make sure that we're
25 providing access to a wider range of New Yorkers.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Great

question. So, I'll give you sort of the top level strategies and I'll—I'll ask Michael Pastor our General Council to expand as—as much as he can because I think the RFP will be coming out pretty soon. So—so there's really two strategies to—to achieve equitable distribution of—of—of—of cellular service around the city. One is leveraging our—our controls, right, around the—these franchisees, right, and—and strategies around poles that will—will allow for them to mount equipment on, and—and driving them to—driver the carriers to mount equipment on poles in areas that we feel are in areas that traditionally have not gotten the level of connectivity and cell service in the past. So, it's sort of leveraging our—our—our—our franchisee rights, right and control. The second strategy is a technology strategy, which is beginning to look at new solutions in the market that would allow for multiple carriers to leverage the same infrastructure to provide cell service. These two things combined can make a big difference, right to achieving this—this admission. I'll ask Michael to expand more.

GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: So Council

Member I just--to your--to your one question about sort
of leveraging the franchise agreements to achieve
some policy goals, one example of that is the
amendment that's before the FCRC right now. We've
negotiated a requirement in the CityBridge that
they're going to have to distribute the links in a--in
a ways that will mean that every community district
will have as many links as they had pay phones. So,
if there's that sort of equitable distribution on top
of that, we've required them, as I mentioned earlier
to give us a plan that DOITT gets to approve [bell]
and I think that will be a key moment, an opportunity
for the agency to look at that plan, and say is it
achieving broadband goals beyond just, you know, one--
one location here or there? So, that's an example,
but to the mobile telethon point, I think we--we view
the Request for Proposal as an opportunity, right.
These don't happen all the time. There's a little
bit of wait and see. I have to say right now because
we haven't issued it yet. So, I--I have to say wait
and see, which will be--which will be very soon. But I
think I--I don't have too much to add to the
Commissioner's point. You're looking at where

1 there'll be located and what technology they might be
2 using, and in both vectors you're thinking how are we
3 going to be improving capacity and access?
4

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Just this one
6 little follow-up and then I'll wait and go back on
7 staff for some questions on related issues. I mean,
8 do--would you ever ask in such an RFP for them to
9 describe or provide their sort of like the equivalent
10 of lifeline banking. Right, we ask all banks to have
11 the low threshold accounts so low-income people can
12 open a bank account that doesn't have a high--and I
13 just-- I don't know enough about what these carriers
14 are doing, but I know that in many cases the--the, you
15 know, the costs are significant. So, have we asked
16 them, could we ask them in exchange for their use of
17 our poles to tell us what they're doing? You know, I
18 don't know about require, but at least to provide
19 some--

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: [interposing]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --you know,
22 priorities and benefits, some extra points. If they
23 are offering New Yorkers, you know, affordable--this
24 wireless service?
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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Right. So,

I—I think the answer to your question is yes and no.

I think that you—as part of the RFP, as you’ll see,

we ask for a lot of information across a lot of

different points, and it’s a long document, and we’re

asking for responses from the world, from these

carriers, to describe how they would accomplish the

goals that we—we set out. There are limits at the

end of the day as to what the agreements can say due

to—due to legal constraints, but I think that we view

this RFP as a—a as real opportunity to ask them

questions like that. If not that precise question,

ask the questions like that in terms of what can you

do to achieve to the city’s goals in addition to just

your own.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I’ll

go back on the stack for some more.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, then Council—

Chair Koo.

CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you, yeah. So, I

have a couple of questions before we conclude the

meeting. On the NYC Link the Commission--

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Uh-hm.

1 CHAIRPERSON KOO: --when will the city
2 start to realize the savings that will be generated
3 by the--the Commission of the system? Will it be in
4 Fiscal 2019?
5

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: '20 to '22.

7 CHAIRPERSON KOO: 26?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HEINTZ: '22.

9 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Oh, okay, and also the
10 Department of Transportation has added--it's adding
11 \$35 million in expense and \$75--\$75 million in
12 capital funding in Fiscal 2019 to transfer all of the
13 NYCWin system. Can you provide an estimate of any
14 additional costs that can be expected by transferring
15 city agencies out of NYCWin to commercial carriers?

16 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: We actually
17 don't have a full cost yet. I mean that's the
18 process that we're going through the \$4.8 million.
19 Part of that is assessing how much it will be to
20 actually decommission all the sites. Each of the
21 agencies have done their own assessments as far as
22 what it would take for them to get onto a commercial
23 provider, and have gone to OMB if there's any new
24 needs requests for that. But the overall is taken
25 into account by OMB when these decisions were made.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON KOO: So, my last question to
3 the Commissioner: When will the city be ready for
4 5G?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: [laughs]
6 Tomorrow. No.

7 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Tomorrow?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: No, that's
9 not. It was a joke to be clear.

10 CHAIRPERSON KOO: The full scale by then.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: The-the-well,
12 the-the answer is as-as soon as we can, right and-and
13 I say that because there's things that-that we-that
14 we are doing. In particular the RFP, right that's
15 going to hit the street a few weeks that begin the
16 process of accelerating our journey to 5G for all New
17 Yorkers and once you see that RFP, you'll-you'll see-
18 you'll see how-that is going-going to be achieved.

19 The-I'll also mention that in terms of experimenting
20 with-with fast-super fast cellular service, there is
21 quite a bit of work that's been happening in the
22 CTO's Office around-around experimenting with new
23 technologies in dedicated labs to-to see what-what
24 else is out there, right, to achieve 5G or near 5G
25 capability around the city for municipal and-and-and

1 residential use. So, we're—we're all about it.
2
3 Your—the first step is this RFP and—and there's a lot
4 more that's—that's going to come and I'm—I'm very
5 excited for it to come to New York before everyone
6 else.

7 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you and I hope
8 that we will be the first major city to utilize 5G.
9 Yeah.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Okay, thank
11 you.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, with that,
13 we're going to end this portion, and I think you for
14 coming in and giving testimony. We will have some
15 follow-up questions, but thank you for coming in
16 today.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HINES: Thank you
18 very much.

19 GENERAL COUNSEL PASTOR: Thank you,
20 Councilman.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, we're going to
22 take a—not even five-minute break. For the next
23 hearing, which will be the Department of Youth and
24 Community Development. [background comments, pause]
25 [gavel]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. We will now resume the City Council's hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal 2019. The Finance Committee is joined by the Committee on Youth Services Chaired by my colleague Council Member Debi Rose. We just heard from the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and now we'll hear from Bill Chong, Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development. In the interest of time, I will forego making an opening statement, but before we hear testimony, I will open the mic to my Co-Chair Council Member Debi Rose.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Chair Dromm and thank you and good afternoon to everyone. I am Council Member Debi Rose, and I'm the Chair of the Committee Youth Services, and I am pleased to be joined today by fellow council members Mathieu Eugene, Adrienne Adams and Council Member Andy King, and we will hear today from DYCD Commissioner Bill Chong, Deputy Commissioners Allen Chin and Susan Haskell and Associate Commissioner Jagdeen Phanor, along with the agency's team of program specific Deputy and Associate Commissioners, and I want to

1 thank you all again for joining us. When we were
2 here last, we discussed the shortfalls in DYCD's
3 \$689.4 million Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year
4 2019. Two months later, I am dismayed to report that
5 not much has changed. The Executive Budget is \$719.4
6 million, and only a third—and only a \$30 million
7 increase. The Executive Budget only includes two
8 significant pots of additional monies: Programmatic
9 Support to the Office of Economic Opportunity, and
10 One-year of minimum wage increases for SYEP. This
11 barely scrapes the surface of the issues the Council
12 raised either at our last hearing or in the Fiscal
13 2019 Preliminary Budget Response in April including
14 \$14.2 million for expanded elementary COMPASS
15 programming and \$15 million for summer SONYC. For
16 the thousands of children and working families, my
17 colleagues and I each represent the services we
18 consistently fight for at these hearings SYEP,
19 COMPASS, SONYC, and Runaway and Homeless Youth are
20 crucial to their daily lives. This Administration
21 may try to dismiss summer programming as secondary,
22 but its benefits stretch beyond the short-term Aid
23 they provide to working parents and caregivers who
24 need to know that their children are safe and healthy
25

1 during the day. Even a few hours a day of structured
2 activities can reduce the effects of summer learning
3 loss for students, which is why we as a city have a
4 responsibility to reach as many children as possible
5 through our public summer programs. These proposed
6 cuts to summer SONYC for example, affect the lives of
7 more than 22,800 middle-school students across our
8 city, and in my own district, families are signing up
9 for summer programs now, and they're being told by
10 local providers that the program likely will not
11 exist this summer. It is unconscionable that we are
12 playing this budget game once again with these
13 students, and their families and their wellbeing. As
14 well as the Summer Program providers all of whom are
15 trying to plan their summer programs now. [pause] I
16 again urge the Administration to baseline these items
17 so that families and service providers are not put in
18 this situation year after year after year. But
19 before we begin, I would like to thank my Legislative
20 and Budget Director Edwina Martin, my Legislative Aid
21 Lisa Thompson, and my Coordinator—my Legislative Aid
22 Isa Rogers, and I would like to thank our Committee
23 staff, Paul Senegal, Counsel the Committee, Jessica
24 Ackerman, our Senior Finance—who is the Senior
25

1 Finance Analyst to this community and Kevin Katowski,
2 our Policy Analyst, and I want to thank again,
3 Council Member Dromm, and I want to thank the young
4 people who are arriving for being here also. The
5 young people that are here today are here to put a
6 face on the—the very issue that we're talking about,
7 the need for programming for the summer, and I'd like
8 to thank Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation,
9 Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers, Sheltering
10 Arms, Queens Community House, CAMBA and the Center
11 for Family Life for putting a face on—on this issue
12 that is so important to our communities. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much
15 Chair Rose, and now I'm going to ask the Commissioner
16 to get sworn in and then give testimony.

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

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I do.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you,
22 Commissioner. Would you like to start?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes. Good
24 afternoon, Chair Rose, Chair Dromm and members of the
25 Committee on Finance and the Committee on Youth

1 Services. I am Bill Chong, Commissioner of the
2 Department of Youth and Community Development. I'm
3 joined by Jagdeen Phanor Chief Financial Officer and
4 Associate Commissioner of the Bureau of Budget and
5 Finance; Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner for Youth
6 Services and Andre White, Associate Commissioner for
7 Youth Workforce Development. Thank you for the
8 opportunity to testify today on DYCD's Fiscal 2019
9 Executive Budget. As Commissioner, it continues to
10 be an honor to lead DYCD through its historic and
11 unprecedented growth. Whenever I visit the programs
12 we support, I'm also gratified to see the positive
13 impact on the lives of young people and community
14 members across the city. That impact has certainly
15 grown under this Administration when DYCD's has
16 doubled in size, and virtually every program area has
17 expanded. DYCD's Fiscal 2019 Executive Budget
18 continues the key investments that reflect Mayor de
19 Blasio's unwavering commitment to youth, families and
20 communities. The Executive Budget adds \$20 million to
21 cover the minimum wage increases for the Summer Youth
22 Employment Program. DYCD's commitment to serving
23 70,000 SYEP participants this summer. Something has
24 also been added for the portion of DYCD's Young Adult
25

1
2 Internship Program and Young Adult Literacy Programs
3 that are supported annually through the Office of
4 Economic Opportunity. As we head into May and June
5 of each year, there's always an added sense of
6 excitement at DYCD. It comes with the planning and
7 preparation underway for DYCD funded programs in the
8 summer time, which will serve over 150,000 youth
9 through the Summer Youth Employment Program and
10 summer camps. This summer we will also feature
11 DYCD's initiatives such as the Summer Place Soccer
12 League, a five-week soccer tournament that begins
13 right after the World Cup ends, Bronx Zoo Day where
14 over 5,000 DYCD funded summer camp participants will
15 enjoy a day at the zoo, and cultivating curiosity
16 with offers enhanced programming in dance,
17 environmental science and literacy for providers that
18 apply and are selected. That excitement—the
19 excitement that this time of year is also due to
20 several unique culminating citywide events that DYCD
21 holds to expose young people to further enrichment
22 and skills building opportunities. Over the next few
23 weeks, examples of these events include: The Young
24 Citizens Conference this Saturday. As DYCD's Annual
25 Youth Leadership Conference that highlights and

1 celebrates community service and service learning
2 projects taking place throughout DYCD funded
3 programs. The project areas include the arts, civic
4 engagement, sports and leadership and Youth Councils.
5 The DYCD Heroes Project Comics Festival allows
6 participating youth to showcase the comic books that
7 they have created to DYCD's Heroes Projects.
8 Attendees also get the chance to learn from
9 professionals in the comic book industry through
10 panel discussions and interactive sessions. The
11 Heroes Project was launched in partnership with Hip
12 Hop legend and Darryl Makes Comics publisher and
13 former Darryl DMC McDaniels—and—and Founder Darryl
14 DMC McDaniels. The literacy focused comic book
15 pride—Comic Book Initiative challenges middle-
16 schoolers to develop stories about heroes, real or
17 imagined in their own communities. DYCD on Broadway
18 will feature a performance on the lion—of the Lion
19 King. Programs competed for spots in this musical
20 and have rehearsed for months to perform on May 19th.
21 In partnership with the New York City Urban League,
22 NYC has established a debate leagues for participants
23 of DYCD funded SONYC programs. Participants compete
24 in debate tournaments, but they debate each other on
25

1 an issue. They prepare by researching constructive
2 arguments to support and refute a specific topic. The
3 next debate tournament is on May 19th. For the first
4 time ever, DYCD's Annual Step It Up Dance Final will
5 be held at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on June 2nd.
6 The final is the culmination of months of a months
7 long competition that begins each January. Ten
8 finalist teams compete for the citywide grand prize.
9 The competition requires success in dance as well as
10 a public awareness raising campaign focused on social
11 issues relevant to young people. This year's
12 campaign is anti-bullying and bullying prevention.
13 The SONYC Film Festival is a favorite of budding film
14 makers, editors and critics across middle school
15 SONYC programs. SONYC participants submit short
16 films around six minutes in length to be judged.
17 Awards are given in several categories at the film
18 festival on June 16, which will be held again at the
19 School of Visual Arts Theater. The culminating
20 citywide events are very positive and engaging. We
21 invite the City Council to attend many of these
22 events. Please let us know if you'd like to join us.
23 Over the past year, DYCD has also worked to build
24 more partnerships with their sister agencies to
25

1 better connect DYCD program participants with the
2 resources, programs and opportunities offered by
3 them. For example, for the second year in a row,
4 DYCD coordinates spring into health fairs that focus
5 on connecting community residents to health and
6 wellness activities and healthcare access. The fairs
7 were hosted by 34 Beacon and Cornerstone Community
8 Centers during the week of April 10th to April 14th.
9 Partnering agencies included Health and Hospitals,
10 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New
11 York City Housing Authority, the Human Resources
12 Agency, and the Department for the Aging, the
13 Department of Education and the Parks Department.
14 Through our partnership with the Department of
15 Consumer Affairs, 16 Cornerstone Centers were sites
16 for community members to access free tax preparation
17 services. We are partnering with the Mayor's Office
18 of Media Entertainment to co-sponsor our Pride Month
19 Screening of Saturday Church at the Newsfest LB-LGBTQ
20 Film Festival. The movie is a coming of age story of
21 a transgender teen who finds support at community-
22 based program for LGBTQ youth. The film's director
23 Damian Kadias (sp?) will produce a date and the talk-
24 talk back after the evening after the screening.
25

1
2 Through SYEP and Ladders for Leaders, we have had
3 strong partnerships with City agencies to be work
4 sites such as the Department of Environmental
5 Protection, Department of Transportation, Health and
6 Hospitals, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, and the
7 Department of Design and Construction. Placing SYEP
8 or Ladders entering the city agency exposes them to
9 public service and civic engagement. We're always
10 looking to partner with additional agencies to serve
11 as work sites, and are in current conversations to
12 find new ones. We also want to thank the City
13 Council for their strong partnership we have
14 established together. Last year 26 Council Members
15 and Aggressive Caucus hosted a total of 195 SYEP and
16 Ladders for Leaders participants working with Council
17 Members to establish placements for this summer. As
18 part of DYCD's goal to support youth leadership and
19 civic engagement, we are very pleased to be working
20 more closely with the City Council to promote the
21 Participatory Budgeting, PB, during the PB vote last
22 week. We sent out email blasts to DYCD providers to
23 encourage the program participants to vote. The
24 offices of Council Members Levine, Gibson, Torres,
25 and Williams held both sites at their local DYCD

1 Spring Into Health Fair. We thank the Council
2 Members for this collaboration. To encourage DYCD
3 funder-funder-funded providers to get involved in
4 next years PB cycle, we recently hosted an
5 information session with DYCD staff led by the
6 Council's Community Engagement Division. These
7 workshops will be held at the Young Citizens
8 Conference for DYCD provider staff. We work—we look
9 forward to working—we look forward to sharing more
10 good news about our partnership in the coming year.
11 Under this Administration, DYCD is very proud of the
12 increased investments to our agency's budget that has
13 allowed us to expand services of the past four years.
14 We remained focused on ensuring that DYCD resources
15 support high quality programs, and opportunities for
16 the city's young people. We look forward to the
17 continued partnership with the City Council to get
18 the needs of the city's young people and create
19 opportunities for them to grow and thrive. Thank you
20 again for the chance to testify today. We are ready
21 to answer any questions.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you,
24 Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you,
Commissioner and I think you have some competition in
the balcony there.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I know.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, anyway, Summer
Youth Employment Program, the Fiscal 2019 Executive
Budget includes \$20 million to cover one year of
minimum wage increases for the city funded programs,
and the city funded positions in the Summer Youth
Employment Program. This will support not only the
\$2.00 per hour increase that went into effect in
December 2017 bringing the current minimum wage to
\$13.00 an hour, but also the previous year's \$2.00
per hour increase. How many jobs do you anticipate
this will support?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We expect and we're
committed to supporting 70,000 young people in the
Summer Youth Employment Program and making sure that
every young person is paid for every hour they work.
[background comments, pause]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I want to go back to
that, to some Summer Youth Employment questions in a
minute. Let me go to Runaway and Homeless Youth.
The Council's budget response included among other

1 things a request for \$10.5 million to increase the
2 Runaway and Homeless Youth baseline to add 100 beds
3 for young adults ages 21 to 24; two new 24-hour drop-
4 in centers; 15 more housing specialists; and contract
5 increase for providers. Not only does the Executive
6 Budget not address these items, it adds no new
7 funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth. To what
8 extend has DYCD advocated to the administration for
9 additional resources for Runaway and Homeless Youth?
10 To what extent has DYCD advocated to the
11 Administration for additional resources for Runaway
12 and Homeless Youth?
13

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, we're in regular
15 communication with OMB and City Hall about all the
16 different programs and the needs to meet our mission.
17 The Runaway and Homeless Youth program has actually
18 seen a significant increase over the last four years.
19 At one point it was \$7 million. I think it would be
20 over \$40 million, and so we're committed to—to the
21 plan that the Mayor announced two years ago to triple
22 the number of beds for homeless youth, and
23 additionally, we're having conversations with OMB
24 about adding additional resources for the 21 to 24.
25 There's already been a lot of back and forth with

1 them on it, but there's no final decision on how many
2 more beds will be added for 21 to 24.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, with no
5 additional funding, how are you going to provide
6 those beds?

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we expect that
8 in the Adopted Budget there will be additional
9 funding for the 21 to 24. We don't have an exact
10 number at this point. We know for certain that the
11 additional 100 beds that the Mayor announced two
12 years ago we were going to add 100 beds a year for
13 three years. So, this is the third and last year of
14 the 300 beds if you add it. So, we expect those beds
15 to be there, and that to be a determined number for
16 the residential services for 21 to 24.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, Commissioner,
18 just for my own knowledge because I-I have not
19 followed this exactly, how many kids are on the
20 street, runaways every night? Is it about 7,500?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'll have—I'll have
22 Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, just state your
24 name for the record.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Susan

Haskell, Deputy Commissioner. It's—it's well known that it's difficult to put a number on Runaway and Homeless Youth. One exciting measure that we do have is that with the Administration's commitment to triple the number of Runaway and Homeless Youth beds, we've been able to provide a bed for virtually, with some rare exceptions every young person under age 21 with the expansion, and we have, you know, we still have a year to go with that. We're going to continue to grow them. We know there are approx—based on data of older young people 21 to 24 in—in adult shelter, we know there are approximately another 2,000 young people who are homeless in the older in the homeless young adult category.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, what's the total?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We have 557 beds plus 2,000 and something maybe 2,600 or something close to that.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, I've heard estimates that the number is almost double that. So, certainly we really need to ensure that the beds that are going to be provided moving forward are provided if we're at all to make—to make a dent in the issue.

1 So, we desperately need those—those beds. Okay.

2
3 Summer SONYC. The Fiscal 19 Budget process marks the
4 first year in which we have heard at length from both
5 the Mayor and DYCD about the shortfalls of Summer
6 SONYC program particular with regard to the scope of
7 services offered—offered. Why is it that—that we
8 always have to deal with this issue over and over and
9 over again?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We—you know, through
11 the Preliminary Budget process and the Executive
12 Budget process we've, you know, spoken extensively
13 with OMB and the Mayor's Office. They're fully aware
14 that, you know, that we agree that it's an important
15 service. That's why DYCD is already planning to
16 serve 150,000 young people this summer in our
17 COMPASS, SONYC, community centers and our Summer
18 Youth Employment Program. We think engagement during
19 the summer is the positive thing. In the past, we've
20 been please when additional money has been made
21 available and we've been able to provide this
22 service. As you have heard from the Mayor and from
23 the Budget Director this is a particularly
24 challenging year. Given the unfunded mandates by the
25 state, and the continued uncertainty in the federal

1 government. So, we're hopeful that as this process
2 plays out that additional resources will become
3 available. At this point, the money isn't there.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And so, I was looking
5 at you and then turned to see this quite impressive
6 display of support for Summer SONYC, and

7 [applause/cheers] No clapping, just—we don't--

8 [cheers/applause] No, like this. In the Council we
9 go like this. That's it and we hold up our signs,

10 and we're getting the message very, very clearly as

11 to what you want us to support, and that's why we're

12 here to question the commissioner on that. So,

13 Commissioner, the Mayor has said that the program

14 didn't meet the population that it was intended to

15 reach. I'm not quite sure if that's the exact words

16 that he used, but that the program itself wasn't

17 designed for what it he wanted it to be used for.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: My understanding is

19 that the SONYC Program unlike previous efforts by the

20 city was more school focused, and if you look at the

21 Concept Paper we issued in March of 2014, and then

22 the actual RFP in March of 2014, summer services was

23 not included. Through out the—each year it was added

24 as something, but it was not in the original design.
25

1
2 There was more of a focus to make sure during the
3 school that the program operated every single day.
4 In the previous administration, the SONYC or the
5 middle-school program didn't operate every single
6 day. So, the commitment was making sure we had a
7 robust school year program. Obviously additional
8 service in the summer is something that we would
9 welcome and, you know, we're committed to providing
10 services in other programs whether it be in the
11 community centers, whether it be in the COMPASS
12 Elementary Programs. So, it's not something we
13 disagree on. It's a question of what the city can
14 afford.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And Commissioner, how
16 can you tell all of these young people that they have
17 nowhere to go this summer?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, there are
19 other opportunities, and Deputy Commissioner Haskell
20 will talk about what other services are available.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We—we will,
22 as the Commissioner said in his testimony, we will be
23 providing services for 150,000 young people this
24 summer including more than 80,000 young people DYCD
25 Summer Programs or elementary, middle and older, and

1 we know it's our job to make sure that young people
2 like the young people in this room it's-it's-it's-as
3 lifelong youth worker, I have to say it's quite
4 overwhelming. I'm very proud of them to be here
5 showing—showing their support for our Youth Services.
6 So, we will do our best to connect young people and
7 their families with resources. We have a hotline,
8 DYCD Youth Connect 1-800-246-4646. We have social
9 media if you follow NYC Youth on Instagram and
10 Facebook. We encourage you to learn about the
11 opportunities both public and private resources that
12 are available. The city has launched a new online
13 portal Growing Up NYC where you can search for summer
14 services by age, and we will do our part to make sure
15 that young people who are really excited about an
16 opportunity can be connected with available
17 resources.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, the Mayor put
20 \$965 million in New Needs Programs into the budget.
21 Yet, this program only costs \$15 million, and it's
22 not part of those new needs. What type of a priority
23 is that for our youth to set?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, I
25 wanted to add also quickly that we have other city

1 funded resources through the Department of Education,
2 Cultural Affairs, Parks. So, libraries will help--

3
4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] So, are
5 you putting those priorities over children?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: No, I'm--
7 what I'm--yeah, that young people can access those as
8 well.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The--the fact that
10 we--we will be serving 150,000 young people I think
11 speaks for itself that there is a commitment to
12 provide summer services. It's just as I said, the
13 original design of the SONYC Program it was not part
14 of the original design. If resources became
15 available, as they have in the past, we've been
16 expeditious in making sure the money was well spent,
17 and that programs and services were up and running.
18 So, as I said, we don't disagree on the--on the value
19 of the program. We agree with you. We have made the
20 case with both the Mayor's Office and OMB, and it's--
21 it's the unique financial situation that the city is
22 facing.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, my question really
24 is like why scrape--scrap it when you can fix it?

1
2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I don't think—as you
3 know, the budget process is not over, and so, until
4 the budget is adopted, you know, the situation could
5 change.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And look, I know—I
7 know others are going to be asking about this—this
8 problem as well, but, you know, for us in the Council
9 it's a major issue to tell these—these young people
10 that—that at this time—at this time that, you know,
11 what is it? Two months before summer begins that
12 they may or may not have a summer—summer program slot
13 to go to, and this is a reoccurring issue for us with
14 this Administration year after year after year. So,
15 hopefully we can get to the—to a point in these
16 negotiations where we don't have to go through this
17 year after year after year. So, I'm looking forward
18 to resolving this this year finally once and for all.
19 We're going to do that together?

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We—we support summer
21 services. It's a question of what the city can
22 afford and, you know, whatever support the Council
23 will bring, we—we welcome it.

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I just can't believe
25 that a progressive administration cannot—that calls

1 themselves progressive cannot support this program, a
2 program that only costs \$15 million. I won't belabor
3 the point because other members going to do it as
4 well, but anyway, it-it's fascinating to me that we
5 don't—we can't get the administration to—to support
6 this program. Congress expansion. Over the past
7 four years—[applause]—Oh, hold up, everybody. Quiet.
8 Go like this except for the baby. [laughs] Over the
9 past four years we have seen SONYC COMPASS Middle-
10 School counterpart grow at an extraordinary rate as
11 the administration has prioritized making the program
12 universally available to students in grades 6 to 8.
13 In Fiscal 2017, SONYC served nearly 68,000 students
14 compared to COMPASS' 52,000. How many slots do you
15 think COMPASS would have to offer to make the program
16 universally available to elementary students?
17

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm going to have
19 Jagdeen talk about the cost of it because I don't
20 have that number.

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Hi,
22 Jagdeen Phanor, Associate Commissioner. At this
23 time, the number to serve elementary is a tremendous
24 number. Give me a second. I'm trying to—
25

1
2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, let me just
3 say we understand the need for it. After all the
4 different town hall meetings that I've attended and I
5 attended most of them, it's-it's-it was probably the
6 number one request that was made of the Mayor, and
7 the Mayor has been very straightforward. He
8 understand the value of having a Universal COMPASS
9 Program, but I think the cost was prohibitive, and do
10 you have--?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR:
12 [interposing] To give some context to that, we have-
13 where our elementary-we operate right now in about
14 200-

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] Can you
16 pull the mic a little closer-

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Yeah,
18 apologies, apologies.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: --because it's a
20 little hard for me to head

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: We are-we
22 operate right now in about 275 elementary schools
23 with our COMPASS Elementary Program, and there are
24 roughly-I don't have the data on this. So, we would
25 have to get back to you, but there are probably more

1 than 500 additional schools that don't currently have
2 a COMPASS Elementary Program. So, it's-it's a, you
3 know, it would be a significant investment.
4

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, the-when-when
6 the-when the program was procured [background
7 comments] we knew that we weren't going to have
8 enough money to serve every school. So, we targeted
9 the highest need school as a priority. So, while our
10 Universal Program would be great I think the cost is
11 really what's prohibitive.

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Uh-hm.

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So you have a
14 number?

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Uh-hm.

16 So, thank you. The universal number is large. Like
17 the Commissioner has indicated, it's almost \$150
18 million to do a universal elementary.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: On top of the
20 initial investment, right?

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Correct.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. You
23 know, I used to be a teacher for 25 years before I
24 got elected to the City Council, and I know first
25 hand how important these programs are and not just to

1
2 parents so they have a place for their kids after
3 school, but to their educational needs and to their,
4 you know, needs for cultural and arts programs and
5 sports programs and all--all those types of things
6 that are so vitally important to their education.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, we agree.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: You know what I'm
9 going to do, I'm going to turn it over to Council--to
10 Chair Rose and let her ask some questions, and then
11 I'll come back if I have follow-ups.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Chair
13 Dromm. Commissioner, I'd like to follow up with
14 Chair Dromm's questions on Runaway and Homeless
15 Youth. Could you give me an estimated cost per
16 participant who are in the age range between 21 and
17 24 years old?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, the number that
19 I--I think we shared at the--the hearing last year on
20 Runaway and Homeless Legislation, it's about the same
21 as he ones for 16 to 21. It's about \$50,000 per bed.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm. How much?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: \$50,000.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: \$50,000 per--

1
2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Per bed. It's an
3 annual cost.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm, and that's the
5 same for the 21 to 24--

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --population? But
8 we haven't added any beds for them have we?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, we're in
10 conversation with OMB. They're aware of the
11 legislation that takes effect in January of next
12 year. So, we're in the process of coming together on
13 a final number. I hope to see it in the Adopted.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And are we on track to
15 be able to meet our goals for next year?

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'll have Susan talk
17 about where we're at with the 300-bed expansion.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes, we are
19 definitely on track to triple the number of beds in
20 Fiscal Year 19. We currently have 557 beds. We
21 started with 253. We anticipate more than 60 to come
22 online before the end of this Fiscal Year, and the
23 balance to be available in Fiscal Year 19. Yes, we're
24 on track.

25

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: It was our
3 understanding the beds for the RHY were extended
4 beds, and were supposed to be discussed during this
5 process. Why are waiting so--

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] For
7 the--for the 21 to 24 the under 21.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Excuse me?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Which-which one,
10 under 21 or over 21?

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: 21 to 24.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: As I said, there's
13 ongoing conversations with OMB. I expect it to be
14 resolved by the Adopted Budget.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: By the time we resolve
16 this budget. Okay, alright, and what do you think is
17 feasible to offer our older RHY population?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's too soon to
19 say. I mean it's a back and forth conversation with
20 OMB. As you know, the number of young people in the
21 Department of Homeless Services system in that age
22 group 21 to 24 is about 2,200 young people. 14 or
23 1,500 were young women with children. So, I think,
24 you know, we have to be mindful of what the city can
25 afford, and how do we maximize all the tools in the

1 toolbox because we don't want to duplicate what DHS
2 is doing, but we want to enhance what they're doing.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And we will be—that
4 will be determined by the end of the budget?

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I expect to get a
6 resolution of—in the Adopted Budget.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] What
8 you're going to get off of them? But you are not
9 offering that population?
10

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Of that 21 to 24 to
12 have some additional services we can add.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay at the—the
14 hearing yesterday with OMB, we discussed the—the past
15 three years of the preliminary—the past three years.
16 The Council used its Fiscal 2019 Preliminary Budget
17 Response to call on the administration to baseline
18 money for core programs that we otherwise end of
19 funding on a one-year basis through the annual budget
20 dance. For this year we asked for \$27.5 million for
21 SYEP minimum wage increases; \$14.2 million for
22 expanded Elementary COMPASS programming, and \$15
23 million for summer SONYC in our Preliminary Budget
24 Response. As always, this Executive Budget failed to
25 honor our report—our requests. So, we recognize the

1 importance of these programs, and we know from
2 experience that, you know, we're not going to let
3 this go away, right, Commissioner? We've been down
4 this road before. We're not going to let this go
5 away. How do you think that, you know, this process
6 benefits anyone especially the children, youth and
7 our families and even our service providers?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, you know, we
10 appreciate the support of the Council. I mean when I
11 served in the previous Administration, the Council
12 really played a major role in restoring something
13 like 35 to 40% of the budget. Fortunately, most of
14 our core programs have stable funding. We've made
15 the case. We're in constant communication with OMB,
16 and with the Mayor's Office about our needs. You
17 know, it's my understanding that given the tough
18 choices we have to make, some of these things
19 unfortunately couldn't make it to the Executive
20 Budget. I'm hopeful that in the ongoing process
21 towards adopted there will be some resolution of
22 this. Obviously, we prefer it sooner than later, but
23 you know, I, you know, it's something that DYCD in
24 some ways has been accustomed to over the years that
25 there's been money added at the last minute, and the

1 staff have stepped up to the plate. The non-profit
2 community has step up to the plate and we're always
3 committed to making sure money is well spent.
4

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] Excuse
6 me, Commissioner. Just excuse me. I'd like to take
7 a minute. To the young people who are leaving, I
8 want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank
9 you. Even though your voices could not be heard, you
10 made the point, and we got it. We got the message.
11 I want to thank you for participating in this
12 exercise in civic government, and I want you to know
13 that this committee and all of the Council Members
14 are going to continue fight for your summer
15 programming. Thank you for coming. [background
16 comments] I'm sorry, Commissioner.

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That's okay, and so--

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you can continue.
19 I'm sorry.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, you know, as I
21 said, that, you know, we appreciate the Council's
22 support throughout the years and especially during
23 the dark days in the Bloomberg Administration where
24 34, 40% of our budget was contingent on Council
25 restoration. We're in a better place today. You

1 know, every year I make the case, as every
2 Commissioner makes for their agency about core
3 programs. What you say is nothing new that I have
4 not already communicated, but in the end of the day,
5 in the Executive Budget process given the tough
6 choices the city had to make, these were things that
7 didn't get-get to that level yet. But I'm hopeful
8 that in the Adopted Budget process we'll get there.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Commissioner, why are
11 we not baselining these expenses?

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If it were up to me,
13 in a perfect world any commissioner if you had
14 unlimited resources I would baseline them, but it's
15 not decision alone. It's a collaborative process, as
16 you know, between the agencies, the Mayor's Office,
17 the OMB and the Council. So, if it was up to me, I
18 would baseline it, but it's not a solely-a decision I
19 can make unilaterally. That's not the world I live
20 in and it's not the world we live in.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: This Executive Budget
22 includes \$20 million to cover 1 year of minimum wage
23 increases for city-funded positions in the Summer
24 Youth Employment Program. This will support-support
25 only the \$2.00 per hour increase that went into

1 effect in December 2017 bringing the support—bringing
2 the current minimum wage to \$13.00 per hour, but it
3 also includes the \$20.00—the \$2.00 per hour increase.
4 Let me do that again, okay. This support not—not
5 only supports the two hour increase that went into
6 effect in December 2017, but it also to bring the
7 wages up to \$13.00 per hour, but it also includes the
8 previous years \$2.00 per hour increase. How many
9 jobs do you anticipate that this will support?
10

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We expect to support
12 70,000 young people in the Summer Youth Employment
13 Program, and to be able to pay every young—every
14 young person for every hour they work.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, last year the
16 budget added \$15.6 million to cover to one-round of
17 \$2.00 per hour minimum wage increases for the same
18 number of people—of young people. Why does this
19 year's Executive Budget only include \$20 million for
20 double the wage increase?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, Jagdeen and
22 Andre can add.

23 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Hi. Hi, we greatly. I
24 want to reiterate we greatly appreciate the
25 partnership with the Council over the past few years,

and helping DYCD increase funding for SYEP slots.

The Administration remains committed to serving 70,000 as the Commissioner alluded to. This year the approach in adding the \$20 million budget add was based on historical SYEP trends, and we are still committed to serving 70,000 young people.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you tell me because that sounds like new math to me. Can you tell me how you're going to serve the same number of young people 70,000 and when it cost \$15.6 million for 70,000 last year, and you're going to serve more this year, the same amount this year, but you're going to pay them more. Could you tell me how?

JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, before my colleague Andre, jumps in, I just want to clarify that we are going to serve 70,000 slots, and with the help of OMB we looked at a different way of coming up with funding and again, we are committed to serving 70,000 young people. Andre is going to get more into detail on how we plan to do that.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Andre White, Assistant Commissioner of Youth Workforce Development Programs. To Jagdeen's point, as we know, every young person is allocated 150 hours for six

1 weeks for the Summer Youth Employment Program. We
2 have done some internal analysis to look at the past
3 three years, and what we have recognized that average
4 number have always worked for each young person
5 actually 134 hours. So, not every young person is
6 utilizing every single hour allocated to them. As a
7 result of that, there's additional hours not being
8 utilized. So, there's some savings there.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, but that's not a
11 definite. That's not something that's definite.
12 That's something that could vary, could it not?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I agree, but given
14 the trends over the past couple of years, we haven't
15 really seen the number increase or decrease
16 significantly. It's been between 133 and 135. So,
17 we don't expect that number to increase.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well, what—what are
19 your plans in case these participants this year work
20 more hours than last year's participants?

21 JAGDEEN PHANOR: And thank you for your
22 question. We definitely raised that concerned with
23 OMB, and I think we are in a collaborative—we will
24 work collaboratively. We are monitoring spending
25 every payroll, and so if we believe that we are not

1
2 going to, you know, hit certain expectations, we're
3 working collaboratively with OMB to make sure that
4 every--every young person 70,000 of them will get paid
5 for the hours that they get worked.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Could you send us the
7 back-up data that supports that?

8 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Sure. I have no problem
9 in doing that.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and so this
11 Fiscal Year marks--the Fiscal Year 2019 marks the
12 second Executive Budget where the minimum wage
13 increases have been added in one-year increments.
14 Rather than as a permanent addition to DYCD's
15 baselined budget, given that these minimum wage
16 increases represent lasting permanent increases in
17 the city's hourly--hourly rates for these jobs would
18 it just not be more responsible to baseline these
19 increases? The minimum wage isn't going to change.
20 It's not going down. So, it's something that you
21 know, you have to prepare for if you're going to
22 serve a minimum of 70,000 students. So, why would
23 this not be baselined?

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean I think we
25 expect as in the previous years that the--the addition

1 money will be added. So, we will deal with it next
2 summer in the FY20 Budget, but, you know, I had no
3 reason to doubt that the money will be there.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, that sounds like a
6 promise that you're going to work really hard to get
7 this baselined next-next to the school budget?

8 JAGDEEN PHANOR: We will continue to
9 advocate for baselined funding where we can, but
10 the assurances I've gotten is that we committed to
11 serving 70,000 young people.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and so to follow
13 up with Chair Dromm's question surrounding the
14 defunding of Summer SONYC programming, you know, we
15 spent a lot of time on the Preliminary Budget hearing
16 discussing Summer SONYC and its elimination. After
17 the Fiscal 2019 Preliminary Budget hearing, DYCD
18 reported that separately from the Summer SONYC
19 programs that have been cut, it would still offer
20 summer after school programming to an estimated
21 18,475 middle-school students through the existing
22 SONYC, Beacon and Cornerstone programs. These slots
23 are presumably separate from the 22,800 that we
24 discussed in March.

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's
3 right, yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right. Susan is
5 going to answer that.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you explain?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We—we fund
8 in—from baselined funding of approximately 9,000
9 middle-school SONYC Summer seats every year, and
10 separately we anticipate another 5,000 in our Corner—
11 in our Community Centers both Beacon and Cornerstone.
12 So, we—we will fund 18,000 middle-school seats this
13 summer.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Separate from—
15 separate from the--

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] Separate
17 from the 22,000.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] The
19 22,000.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you—you said the
21 existing SONYC program. Can you tell me what that
22 is? What—what is that?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Sure actually,
24 Councilwoman Chin asked these questions a few years
25 ago. It's a simple answer. There are programs that

1 were procured in 2011 under a previous administration
2 that the model was different, the model was try to do
3 more year-round, but less during the school year.
4 So, there was funding in those contracts for summer
5 services. So, that funding has been in our budget
6 since 2011. It will continue to be in our budget
7 going forward. So, that's why we're able in some
8 SONYC programs because if there's a different RFP
9 under a different administration able to continue
10 services in the summer. The model was different
11 because in that program, the school year program only
12 had nine hours a week of services. So, there were
13 some days in the school year that there were no
14 programs. This new model has services every single
15 day. It's 15 hours a week. So, it's three hours a
16 day for five days. So, there is money to do some
17 SONYC Programs, about 9,000 seats in SONYC Summer
18 Programs.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, can you tell me
21 how many slots that includes?

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That's 9,000 seats,
23 right.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That's 9,000. Okay,
25 and so that's 9,000 that's included in your 18,000--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes,

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --that 18,000 okay.

In the existing programs that will continue to receive funding this summer, what does the programming look like? Do participants receive full-day programming throughout the summer or are these models similarly--similarly to Summer SONYC

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yeah, the middle school--the elementary seats are full day 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. five days a week. The middle-school programs are 108 hours over a minimum of four weeks, and each program can offer a slightly different schedule.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, let's just assume for the sake of argument that, you know, we go through this budget dance and we agree to restore the 22,800 SONYC slots for the summer that are currently not funded. Could you walk me through the steps that DYCD and its program providers would need to undertake to get this programming up and running for this summer with potentially less than a month's notice?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: The first step is reaching out to providers and finding out

1
2 what the demand is, how many seats they feel they
3 could fill if they did additional outreach? Then we
4 take that information from each of the SONYC programs
5 and in the past years it's been a pretty good match
6 with the funding that has been available and the
7 requested seats through COMPASS Programs, Beacon
8 Programs, and Cornerstone Programs. Then we would
9 let them know what—to get back to them with what
10 allocation they would have. We take into
11 consideration geographic diversity, provider
12 diversity and we spread those resources—make the best
13 of those—of those resources.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, how many slots do
15 you think that they could fill in less than month's
16 time need time?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We really
18 don't know until we ask what their capacity is in
19 terms of staff, et cetera.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: How many slots did
21 they fill last year?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Last year
23 they filled the 22,800 seats.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: They were able to fill
25 all 22,000?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And so, if we're talking about them being able to have full-day programming or is it a partial Summer SONYC program?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: No, the-the Summer SONYC programs in each year have been the 108-hour total minimum four weeks.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And is this a-is this a partial Summer SONYC program, which cost \$15 million for 22,800 slots. How much more would it cost to match these programs to along the programs offered in the Beacons and the Cornerstones?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I'm not sure, yeah, I'm not sure I understand.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, I think I-I don't want to get too weedy here, but I know the history all too well when--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] How much it--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --when we did--when we did the first afterschool expansion under the Bloomberg Administration in 2005, one mistake we made was we tried to design a summer program for middle-school students from 8:00 in the morning to 6:00 at

1 night to almost replicate for elementary students.

2 It's very difficult to find a young person who is in

3 middle-school willing to get up and go to somewhere

4 at 8:00 in the morning in the summer. So, base on

5 feedback we got from the agencies that ran the

6 services, they said they wanted flexibility. They

7 didn't think a full day program that ran from 8:00 in

8 the morning to 6:00 at night, which is what—for

9 elementary students who need—working parents need

10 somewhere that their children can be that they can

11 learn during the summer and to be safe. That they

12 wanted a more flexible model that allowed them to do

13 programming over a four-week period. So, based on

14 that feedback, we came to the conclusion, there was a

15 consensus that a more flexible model, not a full-day

16 model made the most sense for middle school students

17 in the summer.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Give—just give

20 me a minute. [pause] So, taking what you just said

21 into account, what's wrong with the more flexible

22 model that you—you instituted?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The—the flexible

24 model is actually what many agencies said they

25 needed. The 8:00 to 6:00 model made no sense because

1 young people in middle-school were not going to be
2 showing up for an all-day program, and even in the
3 Cornerstone and Beacon programs, that--that tend to
4 be flexible, there's not every single day. The more--
5 the longer--the full-day model really applies to
6 elementary students because their working parents
7 need somewhere while they're at work that they
8 children could be safe and engaged in learning.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, we recognize
12 that young people in middle-schools start making
13 their own choices. They're not going to spend an
14 entire day in a program in the summer. They want to
15 do different things. So, we wanted to give the
16 providers the flexibility to design that kind of
17 program.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, but you just cut
19 that program.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: As I said, in the
21 perfect world without limited resources, if it was up
22 to me, I would fund it, and we made the case with
23 both the Mayor's Officer and OMB and unfortunately
24 given the challenges the city is facing financially,
25 it wasn't able to make into the Executive Budget.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But Commissioner, you
3 keep saying that the cost is prohibitive and in a
4 perfect world, the Mayor just added—the Mayor's
5 Budget is \$960 million. It includes \$960 million of
6 new needs, new—new funding, new programming.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I can't speak to
8 other agencies. I can only speak to the case I've
9 made for my programs with OMB and the Mayor's Office.
10 So, I—I understand your point, but I probably--

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] But you
12 did refer to—but you did refer to other agencies when
13 you talked about the broad spectrum of—of services
14 that New York City youth get. You did—you did, you
15 talked about that.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I know—

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] You
18 talked about the parks (sic) and you talked about the
19 other one.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: -- but I can't speak
21 to the budget needs for other city agencies are. I
22 can tell you what—what resources exist here, what
23 programs and we help connect people to those services
24 through Youth Connect but, you know, I can't speak to
25 what a new need request is from other agencies. I

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1 can only speak to and I make the case every year with
2 Budget Office, with the Mayor's Office about the
3 needs of these program, and—and as I said, the budget
4 process continues and if there's additional money,
5 we're prepared to spend it.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Do you have
8 questions? [background comments]

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you,
10 Chair Rose and now we're going to go questions from
11 Council Member Eugene followed by Council Member
12 Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
14 much Mr. Chair. Commissioner it's a pleasure to have
15 you again this year, but it seems that we go back—
16 back again to the same scenarios that we use to go
17 through in the previous year. Now, let me ask you
18 one thing: How much was the budget, DYCD Budget for
19 2018?

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Jagdeen will answer
21 that.

22 JAGDEEN PHANOR: \$834 million.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: \$834 million and
24 how much is the budget for 2019?

25 JAGDEEN PHANOR: \$719 million.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: \$719 million.

Okay, thank you very much. Commissioner, in your testimony I want to—that was long, you know, going back to the testimonies. You said that under the Administration, this Administration, DYCD is very proud of the increased investment to our agency's budget because our lows (sic) are set to expend services over the past four years, but remained focused on ensuring that DYCD's resources support high quality programs and opportunities for the city's young people. And, also we look forward to the continued partnership with the City Council to meet the needs of the city's youth and create opportunities for them to grow and thrive. So, how many slot for the Summer Programs, Summer Program are facing budget cuts this year?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, as I said in my testimony that we expect to serve 150,000 young people this summer in all our programs. So, we're very committed to services in the summers. As I've said, in a perfect world, if it was left up to me to fund these programs I would fund them. I recognize the benefit that they are, but as—as I've said, despite my best efforts, it wasn't able to make it

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2 into the Executive Budget because of the unique
3 challenges the city is facing given the State
4 unfunded mandates of half a billion dollars and the
5 continued uncertainty of the federal government. So,
6 you know, I'm hopeful that as this budget process
7 continues that, you know, there'll be some progress
8 made on this in the Adopted Budget.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: No, I don't think
10 that's—I'm going to set this right with the Council
11 (sic) but that there are 34,000 slots that are facing
12 budget cuts. Is that correct or no?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, last year we had
14 22,000 that were added in the Adopted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: But this year how
16 many slots?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Last year—for the
18 current budget year FY18, which covered last summer,
19 in the Adopted Budget 22,000 seats were added.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: 20?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Were added in the
22 Adopted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [interposing]
24 Were added.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: In the Adopted,
which are not in the Exec [bell]

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: But how many are
facing budget cuts this year?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: That's the 22,000
seats that I mean.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: 22,000 seats, but
you mentioned that DYCD is focused to do everything
possible to ensure that Quarter (sic) Youth Services
are provided to the children, and we believe that,
you know, those programs that's the 22,000 slots, you
know, our opportunities for those young people is for
the children to receive quality services also, and we
do believe that all of us City Council Members,
teachers, parents we do believe that it is very
important and necessary for DYCD and the
Administration to put funding in order for all the
children can have a place to go of the summer. I
don't believe that it is fair, it is okay for us to
think-to discuss about 22,000 children who may not
have a place to go.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: As I said, I-I agree
about the importance of having summer services, and
in the past years when money was available, we were

1 pleased to be able to provide additional services.

2 So, if those resources become available this summer,
3 we will work hard to make sure that the resources are
4 well spent.
5

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Another issue
7 that we were facing before also was the availability
8 of the funding, the time when the funding is going to
9 be available. That was a big issue for the
10 providers, you know that, and also through our public
11 hearing there were a lot of questions. But if the
12 funding is not available on time for the service
13 providers for the organization, this is going to
14 create another issue, big issue why your—you and your
15 staff at DYCD and the Administration didn't find a
16 way to figure out, you know, how they can come up
17 with the funding for the summer program in order to
18 prevent the service providers in the organization and
19 their parents to go again through the same issues.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, Susan can talk
21 about how this is not a new challenge for us. In the
22 last three years we've had money added at the last
23 minute. So, Susan can talk about what we've done,
24 and I think we're confident we can do it again if
25 necessary.

1
2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Our
3 providers have a good track record of being about to
4 turn programs on when available—we make the best of
5 available resources and they do the same. We know
6 the steps that we can take to help facilitate this to
7 happen as quickly as possible if that were the case,
8 but right now we're focused on planning for the more
9 than 80,000 seats that we do have baselined and
10 operating this summer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yeah, but I got
12 to go back again a little bit. There has been the
13 issues—the issue for the providers. I want to say
14 that again for the service providers the teachers,
15 the issue of the availability of the funding on time.
16 You said that you have made effort to make sure that—
17 that—that it could be possible for them to provide
18 those services. But what I'm saying is that the
19 22,000 slots that you are talking about you cannot
20 guarantee any funding for those 22,000 slots, right?
21 There is no guarantee—

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL:
23 [interposing] No.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: --that the 22,000
25 slots are going to be available for the children?

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's
right.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: So, I mean look
at-looking at this right here it seems that almost
all the City Council Members district are going to be
affected. Almost all and we City Council Members all
of us we are asking for the same thing. The
restoration of those slots for the children, and the
providers, service providers are asking for the same
thing that the parents they are asking for the same
thing because you all know that the funding have to
go-they have to go to work, and I said that before,
and I'm going to say it again. During the summer,
the children they are on vacation, but their parents
are not on vacation. They have to go to work.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Council Member
Eugene, can I just ask you to wrap up?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes. So, my
question is you said that you wanted to partner with
the City Council. We do believe that. What can we
do to get there, DYCD the Administration and the City
Council to ensure that we have the funding for the
22,000 slots now and also in the future?

1
2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I think, you
3 know, the Council has been a partner of DYCD, not
4 only in this Administration, but in previous
5 administrations. So, we're—we appreciate the support
6 the Council has always given. We're ready to move to
7 on a dime if additional money is added. For many
8 years, as you know, the Summer Youth Employment
9 Program relied on half its budget by the Council,
10 and, you know, thankfully because of your efforts and
11 the advocacy of the Council, it was baselined. So,
12 now we can plan an RFP this fall and redesign it. So,
13 hope is—it springs eternal. You know, we appreciate
14 your advocacy. We've tried to make the case, but I
15 understand given the challenges that city is facing
16 unfortunately the money wasn't in the Executive
17 Budget.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, Council Member-

19 -

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you, very
21 much, Commissioner and thank you to yourself Mr.
22 Chair. Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Council
24 Member Eugene.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I just want to say
3 that we've been joined by Council Member Brannan,
4 Chin, and Gibson, and we have questions by Council
5 Member Chin and Gibson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair.
7 Thank you, Commissioner. I am just going to follow
8 up with my colleague because I know that the previous
9 Administration I was here, too, and at that time I
10 remember telling your former Commissioner that DYCD
11 should be a Council agency because most of the
12 funding or half the funding came from the City
13 Council, and I'm glad things are getting better. But
14 with the SONYC program, I want to hear directly from
15 you. Did you and DYCD make the case that-that the
16 Summer SONYC should be part of the Middle-School
17 Afterschool Program?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes. We're in
19 constant communication with OMB, and the Mayor's
20 Office in the Preliminary Budget process and the
21 Executive Budget process, but as I said, in the
22 perfect world if these were omitted and if
23 Commissioners had the chance to fund every program, I
24 would fund every program because I believe
25 passionately in the impact of the programs we have,

1 but that's not the world I live in that it's a
2 collaborative process for OMB with the Mayor's Office
3 and ultimately with the City Council.
4

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, the Mayor in
6 his Budget presentation to the Council keep throwing
7 the ball back to us, and saying, Well, is this a
8 Council priority? But we think that it should be his
9 priority because he has championed the Middle-School
10 After School program, and it's been such a success.
11 The first year it was funded, and then the past three
12 years, at the end of the budget process, he put the
13 money in. So, it's kind of like why is he still
14 doing this dance with us? Just put the money in and
15 let's focus on other important items that we should
16 be working on fighting for to together. So, I am
17 pretty confident that at the end of this process the
18 Mayor is going to put the money in because if he
19 doesn't, he's going to be—all of us are going be
20 super, super mad at him. I don't think he wants that
21 to happen, right, but I—the other thing that I wanted
22 to raise is also Council Member Adams she had to
23 leave earlier, but she was telling me the question
24 she wanted she wanted to ask was that when the Mayor
25 goes to all these town hall meetings especially in

1 her district, the number one request to the Mayor was
2 after school—the COMPASS Program, the after school
3 and summer program for a elementary school kids.
4 We're not there yet funding every elementary school
5 kid to have a summer and an after school program,
6 right? So, are you—are you going to work with us to
7 make that happen so that we could have Universal
8 After School Program and Summer Program for all
9 elementary kids?
10

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think you might
12 have missed my comments earlier. I've been to—I was—
13 I think most of the town hall meetings, and I heard
14 the same message, and that the Mayor heard, and he
15 said he recognizes the need for Universal Program for
16 elementary. I think the cost is what has made it
17 prohibitive. I think Jagdeen talked about it's \$150
18 million [bell] more.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] Well,
20 he did the Pre-K program. We overcome that. We made
21 it happen, and the Mayor is not talking about K-3.
22 It's very important to educate our students, and
23 having that after school program and summer program
24 is going to make a big difference in terms of our
25

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2 students being successful. So, the Mayor has got to
3 work with us to find a way to make that investment.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If-if the money is
5 available, we can do it.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: We have to advocate,
7 and we have to do it together.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We appreciate-you
9 know, we made the case of possibly asking for money.
10 The fact that our budget has doubled, you know, our
11 number of beds for homeless youth have tripled. You
12 know, we went-I visited a-a new SONYC program we
13 added this year. We added 28 new SONYC programs in
14 the Bronx at Mott Haven Academy with Councilman or
15 with Commissioner Hansell, and so I was amazed that
16 in 2013 we had 143 middle-school programs. We have
17 524. So, I'm, you know, we see the impact of these
18 programs, and if the money is becoming available-
19 becomes available we certainly will-will make sure it
20 gets spent well.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: We have to make it
22 a priority not if, but we have to fight to make sure
23 that it available so that we can support our youth
24 and young people. Thank you, Chair.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Commissioner, just
3 for, you know, for my elucidation could you say--tell
4 me what this process looks like going forward.
5 You've listened to all of our concerns, and our
6 remarks. Are--is there now a time you're going to
7 actually go back to the Mayor and have a conversation
8 and--

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We're--well--

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Tell me--

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] We
12 work with OMB and the Mayor's Office.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --what that
14 conversation is going to be?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, it's--it's an
16 ongoing conversation. There is not like a set
17 structure, but when the Preliminary Budget is put
18 together, every agency is asked for its needs
19 requests. In the Executive Budget, every agency is
20 asked for its needs requests, and there's a lot of
21 back and forth, and at the end of the day, you know,
22 OMB makes the final determination, and then that's
23 how the budget is produced. I'm sure they'll be
24 asking for my feedback. I will share the feedback as
25 I've said today.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And what is your
3 conversation going to be going in the face of that
4 discussion?

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Well,
6 the more--the more we can baseline programs--the more
7 we can baseline programs, the better it is. I think
8 no one disagrees with that, but at the end of the
9 day, it's not my decision to make.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: It's not your decision
11 to make, but are you--

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] But as
13 I said--

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --going to go back--

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Of
16 course.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --after going through
18 this process--

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] As
20 I've--as I've--

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --and say to the
22 Mayor that you are saying that we need Summer SONYC
23 and--

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] As--as
25 I've said repeatedly, and I'm a little, you know, the

1 fact that our agency's budget has doubled, I think I
2 need to get a certain bit of credit and to be accused
3 of not fighting for this agency, I find it a little
4 disingenuous because the proof is in the pudding, and
5 so I make the case. Unfortunately, I don't make the
6 decision. So, I appreciate the support of the
7 Council, but the fact that our budget has doubled
8 that core programs are mostly baselined, I think
9 speaks to my advocacy for DYCD. So, for you to
10 question that, I'm quite-quite frankly-I'm a little
11 disappointed.
12

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm not questioning
14 it, I'm asking you--

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Well,
16 so, I'm-I'm saying yes--

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --what is your
18 conversation going to be--

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] As
20 I've said--

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --going into the
22 discussions with the Mayor.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --repeatedly, I
24 would advocate for baselining all the core programs,
25 but ultimately, it's not my decision.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Fine. You are going
3 to do that? You're going to--

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] As
5 I've done repeatedly for many years.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, Council Member
7 Gibson.

8 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much,
9 Chair Dromm and Chair Rose, and good afternoon
10 Commissioner, and I just have one question, but
11 certainly I want to thank DYCD for all of the work
12 that you've done through the years. The fact that
13 you're emphasizing that the budget has been doubled,
14 really speaks to progress that has been made. But
15 what I will say that with population growth in the
16 city of New York and more school-age children that
17 are in our communities and more needs for schools and
18 after schools and many programs, what we're doing is
19 good, but it's not sufficient. It's not acceptable
20 and it's not enough. And so I don't want you to walk
21 away thinking that this Council is not committed to
22 fighting on behalf of the hundreds and thousands of
23 children that we represent, many of which came here
24 to City Hall, but we're not doing enough. Where this
25 Administration is so easily able to push shelters and

1
2 other facilities in our districts and instead we have
3 to fight over Summer Youth and COMPASS and SONYC
4 slots, speaks volumes to where our priorities really
5 are. And while everyone continues to acknowledge
6 that we do have financial challenges, let's
7 acknowledge that from the Preliminary to the
8 Executive, this Administration has added \$1.56
9 billion in new spending, and only 25% of that
10 accounts for unfunded mandates. So, the remainder of
11 that are new add-ons for a number of agencies to deal
12 with general government operations. I would argue
13 that general government operations should include
14 Summer Youth, SONYC, COMPASS, Adult Literacy, and all
15 of the programs that DYCD continues to operate
16 today, but taking it a step further. So, while we
17 acknowledge the work that's being done, we need to do
18 more. The fact that adult literacy is facing a \$12
19 million cut is unacceptable. The fact that community
20 providers today do not know how many slots they're
21 getting for the summer, which means their parents
22 don't know, is not acceptable, and so what we're
23 asking as we move forward is we need you to continue
24 to advocate because you have because we need to get
25 more. We are not going to go home to our districts

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2 at the end of this budget and not have more slots for
3 Summer Youth and more opportunities for our young
4 people. For me representing the Bronx, this is a non-
5 starter, because we know the investments that jobs
6 and summer opportunities are for our kids. If they
7 are idle and have nothing to do, then they're idle on
8 the streets. But these programs bring a lot of value
9 and this Council has worked consistently with the
10 entire. So, it's like every year we're saying the
11 same thing year after year after year and we're
12 frustrated. You must be just as frustrated as we
13 are, but we have to go home to our districts and tell
14 our hundreds of schools and providers that we don't
15 yet know how many slots we're getting. So, in all
16 that I'm saying, I do have a question because one of
17 the things we've recognized for DYCD is capacity and
18 staffing to make sure that the agency is prepared to
19 deal with Summer Youth slots. So, the only thing the
20 Executive called for was the money to deal with
21 minimum wage for the 70,000 slots we had last year.
22 On average, 135 applicants to Summer Youth. So,
23 we're not at 135. I get it, but this Council in its
24 response is looking to see if we can get to 80,000
25 slots. I think that could be achievable, but my

1
2 question is what would it take for DYCD to get to a
3 level of capacity where we could get 80,000 slots
4 for this summer?

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, I'll have Andre
6 White who ran the Summer Youth Employment Program for
7 five years talk a little bit because he can
8 understand the details more better--more good.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you.

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Is that
11 better? Yes. So, currently, our capacity is at
12 70,000 slots. A couple years ago when we released
13 the last RFP, we contracted to serve 23,000 young
14 people across all five boroughs. I think it's
15 important to understand that these providers have
16 tripled the number of slots that they were contracted
17 to do. Providers are stretched. They are very
18 committed to making sure that young people have a
19 meaningful summer job experience. Folks at DYCD
20 we're very committed to the work as well, and we make
21 sure that we provide the necessary resources. I
22 think that we have a point for this summer where
23 70,000 is what they could actually do. Moving
24 forward, as the Commissioner mentioned, we're
25 releasing and RFP in the fall, and the idea there is

1
2 to recruit additional providers into the portfolio
3 and their function there is if you have additional
4 providers capacity to an extent should be able to
5 increase. That's an assumption, but that's—that's
6 the thinking.

7 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay, I just want to
8 close and just say that if we are just talking now
9 about adding capacity at DYCD in terms of increasing
10 providers for the fall, that means that we won't see
11 any of that capacity until summer of next year, and
12 so just on the face of that, that's not good enough
13 for me. We need something this summer. We need to
14 make sure that there are more opportunities for more
15 young people, and so my question as we close is:

16 What else can we do today to see if we can add more
17 capacity so that more young people have a job.

18 Please understand our insistency and our frustration
19 and understand that a job is one of the best social
20 programs we could ever give a young person. Many of
21 us are all you guys are all SYEP recipients. You
22 know what it does for a young person, and so, I just
23 think about those young people that don't get
24 accepted, and it's heartbreaking because there are no
25 other opportunities. And so, I appeal to you in the

1
2 next few weeks to work with us, work with OMB and
3 this Administration to identify ways that we can
4 increase capacity and add more jobs for the summer.
5 And future wise, obviously, we will talk, but
6 definitely whatever we can do for this summer would
7 really be greatly appreciated by many, many New
8 Yorkers. I thank you, Commissioner for you and your
9 team for the work you're doing, and I thank you to
10 Chair Rose and Chair Dromm for always making the case
11 for our young people. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Commissioner, I want
13 to thank you for--for being here, and the hour is
14 late. We do have several other questions for you.
15 I'm going to limit it to just one that I'd like you
16 to address, and--and then we will send you the others--

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Fine.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --for an answer, but
19 based on--on responses that we got from your staff at
20 the Preliminary Budget Hearing, there was and
21 actually--there was actually a 3% increase in
22 Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act funding, and
23 a 10% increase in Community Development Block Grant
24 awards. Can you tell me what your plans are for
25 spending these enhancements this year?

1
2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, Jagdeen, do you
3 want to start answering?

4 JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, I'm not sure that
5 we're on the same page. So, can you repeat one more
6 time, please? I'm sorry.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, your staff
8 reported to us that, you know, when we talked about
9 our concerns, about federal funding for this year,
10 that you actually had received a 3% increase in
11 Workforce Investment Opportunity Act funding, and a
12 10% increase in Community Development Block Grant
13 Awards. So--

14 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Um-Okay, sorry. Go
15 ahead.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I wanted to know
17 what are you plans for spending these enhancements
18 this year?

19 JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, I think we're going
20 to have to get back to you, but I am assuming that
21 the 3% WIOA increase that you're talking about is the
22 increase on the-it's the President's Budget. It's-
23 it's-it hasn't trickled down to our agency as yet
24 both the CSBG and the-the WIOA funding that you're
25 respect-that you are referring to, but we will get

1
2 back to you on how it will impact the agency as we
3 get more data that comes in.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think this was the
5 Budget Agreement that Congress passed, but the way
6 federal money flows, it doesn't come to us directly.

7 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Directly, right.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It goes to the
9 state. So, WIOA money, the Workforce Investment
10 Opportunity Act money goes through the Department of
11 Labor, the State Department of Labor.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm.

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The Community
14 Service Block Grant money goes to the State
15 Department of State. So, they--they take percent off
16 the top, and then they give an amount. We don't know
17 that amount yet--

18 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Right.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: --but as soon as we
20 have a sense of how much that will be, we'll
21 certainly share that with you.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And traditionally
23 what do you do with those funds? One is Workforce
24 prep and the other funding stream for the Community
25 Development Block Grant is--?

1
2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, the
3 WIOA funds are used to run two programs, one that's
4 geared toward young people that are disconnected,
5 they are not in school and they are not working. So,
6 we upgrade their vocational and occupational skills
7 by providing training opportunities as well as
8 educational programs for those young people who might
9 have already maintained—I'm sorry, attained a GED or
10 high school diploma. The other program is called our
11 In-School Youth Program, and it's really to make sure
12 that high school juniors or seniors maintain—do not
13 drop out of school. We provide college awareness
14 prep, financial literacy and they are also giving us
15 a summer job.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So one is Out of
17 School Youth and the other is--

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: --and work
19 and school.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --in-school youth?

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Correct.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And for the--

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] So, is
24 it safe to assume that the increase in funding would
25 go to--

1
2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] To
3 serving more people.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --to those programs?

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

6 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean we're—as I've
8 said repeatedly in other hearings, you know, we're a
9 good investment. 94% of every dollar goes directly
10 to services. We have a very low overhead. You know,
11 most of our staff are in our city-owned buildings.
12 So, we don't pay rent for those staff. We're in the
13 process of consolidating two buildings into one. So,
14 we're—we want to—we understand the impact of every
15 dollar. So—so the CSBG money the same thing, will—
16 will go directly to expanding services.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I—I want to thank
18 you for being here. I'm sure that there's no
19 confusion that this Council wants to see, you know,
20 aggressive advocacy on behalf of SYEP that we are
21 looking really to be able to increase the capacity
22 for—for 10,000 more young people that we are
23 expecting that Summer SONYC will be funded, and that
24 we would like COMPASS to also be funded. That's the
25 message that I need you to take back to OMB and to

1
2 they Mayor when you have your conversation. We are
3 not going to relent and, you know, our pursuit for
4 these funds and, you know, I think when we have over
5 \$960 million in new needs in a budget, it's a very
6 sad statement on the behalf of an Administration that
7 calls themselves progressive, that says that they're
8 concerned about young people and their safety, that
9 saw the need to increase the Anti-Violence funds for
10 young people to keep them safe, but cannot reconcile
11 there is the same need to provide funding and
12 programming for young people from K to 12. And so
13 I'm asking you to advocate for us aggressively so
14 that we can avoid having this conversation again.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I-I, you know, I
16 appreciate the support. Well, I will continue the
17 advocacy as I have for the last five years. You
18 know, this is-I was telling my staff like this is my
19 13th year with DYCD. I did eight years in the
20 previous administration as an assistant deputy
21 commissioner. So, I'm proud of what we've because I
22 remember how bad things were in the previous
23 administration, and so, we can always do, and I see
24 the tremendous impact that the programs we fund have
25 on young people and on families and on communities.

1
2 So, it's not for lack of trying, but I, you know, I
3 will continue to advocate for DYCD. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And just before we
5 let you go, Commissioner, also just again to
6 reiterate all of the programs that Chair Rose has
7 mentioned, but also to highlight adult literacy,
8 which is of particular importance to me having been
9 the former chair of the Immigration Committee, and
10 having a community that is 68% immigrants, and seeing
11 long lists of people waiting for adult literacy type
12 programs. So, I just want to take this opportunity
13 also—I was going to make it a question, but I am
14 going to keep it more of a statement than anything at
15 this point.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, you know,
17 you're preaching to the—to the choir. I mean as the
18 son of immigrants from China, my-my father spoke
19 enough English to work in restaurants. My mother
20 didn't speak any English. So, I understand the
21 impact, and there were no literacy programs back
22 then. So, I understand. With the support of the
23 Council last year we were able to serve 7,400 more
24 people. We have a double capacity of English
25 teachers. So, again, we've made the case. It's, you

1 know, I think no one disagrees on the merits of these
2 programs. It's a question of in the back and forth
3 of what the city can afford, it's you know, those
4 decisions are unfortunately not just left up to me.
5

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Right. So I know, I-
7 we recognize that and we're going—we're going to
8 continue to fight for these as we move down the path
9 to—to an agreement, but you know, the Speaker has
10 said that one of his—or his top priority is protect
11 the social safety net, and these are the programs
12 that protect the social safety net, and so that's why
13 I think we are so—so emotional about, and so
14 committed to these programs, and it's not personal.
15 Believe me, it's not. It's just that these are
16 really top priorities for the Council.

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We appreciate your
18 advocacy.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you,
20 Commissioner.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you to the
23 panel for coming in. We look forward to continuing
24 to work with you on these. They're very important.

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much
3 and with that, I think we can say, that this day is
4 adjourned at 5:50—oh, I've got to read this in it.
5 Okay. This concludes our hearing for today. This
6 Finance Committee will resume Executive Budget
7 hearings for Fiscal 2019 on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at
8 10:00 a.m. in this room. On that day the Finance
9 Committee will hear from the Taxi and Limousine
10 Commission and the Department of Environmental
11 Protection. As a reminder, the public will be invited
12 to testify on Thursday, May 24th the last day of
13 budget hearings at approximately 4:00 p.m. in this
14 room. For any member of the public who wishes to
15 testify, but cannot make it to the hearing, you need—
16 you may email your testimony to the Finance Division
17 at financetestimony@council.nyc.gov and the staff
18 will make it a part of the official record. Thank
19 you and this hearing is now adjourned. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date June 5, 2018