



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS**  
**HEARING BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEES ON FINANCE AND HOUSING AND BUILDINGS**  
**MAY 13, 2019**

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Good afternoon, Chair Dromm, Chair Cornegy, and members of the Committees on Finance and Housing and Buildings. I am Thomas Fariello, Acting Commissioner of the New York City Department of Buildings (“the Department”). I am joined by Sharon Neill, Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration, Patrick A. Wehle, Assistant Commissioner of External Affairs, and other members of my senior staff.

The Fiscal Year 2020 (“FY 20”) Executive Budget allocates approximately \$199.5 million in expense funds to the Department. Of this funding, approximately \$154.7 million is for Personal Services, funding 1,852 budgeted employees, and \$44.8 million is for Other Than Personal Services. The Department is a revenue generating agency, and, as such, is expected to generate approximately \$335 million in FY 20, which does not include the more than \$70 million in penalties the City is expected to collect as a result of OATH/ECB violations issued by the Department.

I would now like to highlight the Department’s work over the past year. The Department continues to make tremendous progress in improving service to its customers and protecting the public by rigorously enforcing the laws and regulations that govern the more than one million buildings and 45,000 active construction sites under its jurisdiction, all while facing a scale of construction unparalleled in the City’s history.

In Fiscal Year 2018 (“FY 18”), the Department issued approximately 173,000 initial and renewal construction permits combined, a nearly 5% increase from Fiscal Year 2017 (“FY 17”). Of those

permits, 111,000 were initial construction permits and the remaining 62,000 were renewal permits. Despite the slight uptick in construction activity, our plan review times remain well below target. On average, we are completing our initial plan review for new buildings and major alterations in less than six days and for minor renovations in less than two days. For plans filed electronically, on average, we are completing our initial plan review for new buildings and major alterations in four days and for minor renovations in less than a day. These plan review times can be attributed to the hiring of additional plan examiners and the development of plan-exam guidelines for a wide variety of projects, which help ensure that plan review is efficient and consistent.

Department inspectors conducted approximately 188,000 development inspections in FY 18. Despite the uptick in construction activity, the wait time between a development inspection request and an inspection continues to decrease across the board. The wait time for a general construction inspection was under three days, for an electrical inspection under four days and for a plumbing inspection under two days. Wait times for development inspections have decreased nearly 40% from just two years ago. Progress on development inspection service levels can be attributed to the hiring of additional inspectors and efficiencies gained from the implementation of DOB NOW inspections, which allows for nearly all types of development inspections to be scheduled online.

Concerning development, the Department continues its efforts to maintain the City's building construction standards. We are in the midst of committee work to revise the Construction Codes, which were last updated in 2014. The amendments to the Plumbing Code, traditionally the first of the codes to be completed, were transmitted to the City Council earlier this year. The Department expects to transmit the balance of the amendments to the Construction Codes to the City Council by the end of 2019. These amendments will bring the City's Construction Codes up to date with the 2015 International Code Council family of codes, the national model code for construction.

The Department is also in the process of revising the City's Energy Conservation Code, last updated in 2016, to bring the City's sustainability requirements in line with Local Law 32 of

2018, which required more stringent energy efficiency standards for certain buildings and the NYSERDA Stretch Energy Code. These amendments are estimated to bring 14% energy savings to projects complying with such standards. We anticipate these revisions being submitted to the City Council for adoption this fall. We have also kicked off, for the first time in seven years, revisions to the City's Electrical Code. In all, the Department is managing 23 stakeholder committees, with almost 800 members from across the spectrum of those impacted by construction, including architects, engineers, developers, labor representatives, manufacturing associations, and our agency partners. In 2018 alone, committee members met for more than 24,000 hours, over 205 meetings, which is a significant commitment of time and expertise to ensure our codes recognize advancements in materials and methods of construction and protect the safety of the public and workers to the greatest extent possible.

The Department is also managing an effort to develop a code for structures to address existing and future waterfront structure types in the City. The project has kicked off and will continue over multiple years, with the City's consultant providing recommendations on the development, adoption and implementation of a Waterfront Code and agency operations for the City.

The Department also continues to make progress in responding to complaints from the public expeditiously. We received nearly 17,000 Priority "A" complaints in FY 2018. "A" complaints capture violating conditions that if occurring, present an immediate threat to the public and include unsafe demolition, building instability and improper egress. It should also be noted that the Department is now treating complaints that allege that work is being conducted without a permit in an occupied building as an "A" complaint. While our target to respond to these complaints is 24 hours, we respond within 10 hours of receipt and even faster for the most serious cases, down 50% from nearly 20 hours just two years ago. We also received 78,500 Priority "B" complaints in FY 2018. "B" complaints capture violating conditions that if occurring, while serious, do not present an immediate threat to the public. These include complaints of excessive construction debris, cracked retaining walls, and tampering with posted notices. While our target to respond to these complaints is 40 days, we respond within 13 days, down 70% from nearly 43 days just two years ago. As a result of responding to such complaints,

and our proactive enforcement concerning safety and tenant protection, the Department issued more than 84,000 OATH/ECB violations, a nearly 75% increase from just four years ago.

The Department also continues to issue its Monthly Enforcement Bulletins, which are publicly available on our website, and which detail the Department's actions to sanction and deter bad actors in the construction industry through the enforcement of safety laws and codes of conduct for construction professionals. Last year, enforcement actions resulted in the City's collection of nearly \$75 million in penalties as a result of OATH/ECB violations issued by the Department. Additionally, the Department continues to take action to suspend or revoke the licenses, registrations, or filing privileges of professionals who work unsafely and put their lives and the lives of others at risk. In 2018, the Department took disciplinary action against over 100 licensees, including revoking or suspending the licenses of 10 individuals or corporations, and 22 design professionals either surrendered filing privileges or had them revoked. Notable disciplinary actions are highlighted in the Monthly Enforcement Bulletins.

Construction safety continues to be a focus of the Department. The Department has hired additional enforcement inspectors, increased penalties for safety violations, required safety professionals on more construction sites, and strengthened education and outreach programs by working with industry professionals to raise awareness about best safety practices. Last week, during Construction Safety Week, Department staff visited construction sites to promote safety and hosted its annual Build Safe | Live Safe Conference, which was attended by hundreds of industry professionals.

While the number of construction-related injuries increased slightly in 2018, the number of construction-related fatalities has remained the same for the past four years. Such increases in accidents could be attributed to the uptick in construction activity and required safety professionals on more construction sites reporting accidents that have previously gone unreported. Sadly, in early April, there were three construction-related fatalities – the first of 2019. Following these fatalities, the Department coordinated a citywide safety enforcement sweep. During the twelve-day enforcement sweep, inspectors visited nearly 6,500 work sites across the five boroughs, issued stop work orders at 322 sites with serious safety lapses, issued

1,081 OATH/ECB violations and distributed over 12,000 leaflets with construction safety information to workers, in an effort to promote awareness of proper site safety practices. The bottom line is that construction is dangerous and workers, and their supervisors, need to be trained to ensure that construction work can proceed in a safe manner.

The Department is hard at work implementing Local Law 196 of 2017 (“Local Law 196”) and would like to thank the City Council, and particularly this Committee, for its partnership on the important issue of construction safety. When fully phased-in, Local Law 196 will require that workers at many job sites receive 40 hours of safety training and that supervisors at such job sites receive 62 hours of safety training. Since the enactment of Local Law 196 the Department has been hosting numerous information sessions for all facets of the construction industry and has also been providing regular updates concerning the law’s implementation through a number of different channels, reaching many thousands of stakeholders. Leading up to the second and third major implementation milestones, December 1, 2019 and September 1, 2020, respectively, the Department continues to perform outreach to stakeholders with the goal of ensuring that all workers and supervisors receive the training they need to continue working – safely – on construction sites.

Additionally, to hold construction professionals accountable for prioritizing safety on their construction sites, the Department launched the new Construction Safety Compliance (“CSC”) Unit in September 2018. The CSC Unit, which when fully staffed will have 50 dedicated inspectors, is tasked with performing proactive periodic safety inspections on all active construction sites, including ensuring that workers and supervisors have the training required by Local Law 196. To date, the CSC Unit has performed nearly 11,000 inspections, which resulted in the issuance of over 5,000 violations and nearly 1,500 Stop Work Orders.

The Department is also hard at work protecting tenants living in buildings under construction. Last year, the Department implemented over a dozen laws aimed at combatting the issue of construction as harassment. As previously mentioned, the Department is prioritizing its inspection of Work Without a Permit complaints related to construction work in an occupied building, is requiring more detailed Tenant Protection Plans, is performing proactive inspections

to ensure that Tenant Protection Plans are being complied with and is auditing more professionally certified applications for work in occupied buildings. The Department also launched the Office of the Tenant Advocate over the summer, which serves as a resource to help tenants understand the laws that govern construction and to investigate complaints of construction as harassment. The Department looks forward to implementing the dozen bills the City Council enacted last week, which provide additional measures to further increase protections for tenants. Of particular importance is the ability to shift the burden of creating and submitting a Tenant Protection Plan to the Department from owners to contractors. Given that contractors are performing the work, they are in a far better position than owners to determine the means and methods for protecting tenants from construction. This reform will greatly improve the quality of, and compliance with, Tenant Protection Plans.

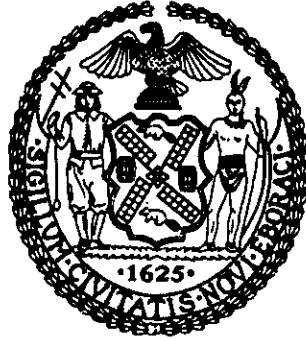
The multi-year replacement of the Department's core information system is also progressing as we continue to shift additional filing types off the mainframe system that the Department has relied on for over thirty years to a new browser based system called DOB NOW. Upon completion, customers will be able to perform virtually all interactions with the Department online and the system will also result in increased transparency both externally and internally.

The Department recognizes the significant impact that construction can have on the public. As such, the Department has made enormous strides in improving the public's access to its data. The public now has more access to the Department's data than ever before. For example, Building on My Block, which is a searchable online database that is organized by Community Board for easy reference, allows users to search by property address or Community Board to find major projects near them. Over the last year, the Department also released a real-time Construction on Your Block Map, which allows users to identify the status of all active major construction projects, and an Elevator Report, which shows the history, current status, and vital statistics of more than 84,000 elevators. Additionally, in March, we released an Interactive Building Profiles Map, which shows the location of each of the more than 128,000 buildings in the City that have had interactions with the Department in the past year. The Interactive Buildings Profiles Map includes information on construction permits issued, complaints generated, inspections

conducted, violations issued, and construction-related accidents to which the Department responded.

We thank the Council for its continued support and look forward to continuing our work together to improve the Department for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

We welcome any questions you may have.



**Testimony of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development to  
the New York City Council  
Committee on Housing and Buildings and Committee on Finance**

**FY2020 Executive Budget Hearing**

**May 13, 2019**

Good morning, Chair Cornegy, Chair Dromm, and members of the New York City Council Committees on Housing and Buildings and on Finance. My name is Louise Carroll, and I was recently appointed Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). I am joined by our Executive Deputy Commissioner Eva Trimble, Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement and Neighborhood Services AnnMarie Santiago, Deputy Commissioner for Asset and Property Management Anne-Marie Hendrickson, Deputy Commissioner for Development Molly Park and members of HPD's senior leadership team.

It is my second week as HPD Commissioner, and I am both humbled by the responsibility and excited about the opportunity to lead an agency that is charged with tackling several of the city's most pressing problems. Having spent more than a decade at HPD, I am familiar with the broad sweep of the agency's mission and have the deepest admiration and respect for the talented and dedicated people at HPD who work tirelessly each and every day to deliver the safe, quality, affordable housing that New Yorkers need and deserve. I am honored to take the baton from Eric and build on the administration's historic efforts to ensure that New York is fairer and more affordable for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HPD's Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Budget and how this funding will help us to achieve our agency's goals. First, I will provide a brief overview of HPD's budget, before describing some of the agency's key priorities in the coming year. I am then happy to answer any questions you may have.

**FY2020 Budget Overview**

As you know, HPD's important work requires significant investment from the City and federal governments. HPD's Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Budget is approximately \$987 million.



However, this includes about \$204.5 million in pass-through funding for NYCHA. So aside from this pass-through funding, HPD's true expense budget is about \$782 million for FY2020.

Of this \$782 million total, approximately \$132 million comes from City funds and about \$649 million comes from federal funds. That means 83% of HPD's expense budget is federally-funded. This huge proportion of federal versus City funding in the agency's budget is important because when we seek to save City tax dollars—as we are constantly trying to do—the amount we can save is limited because so many of our programs are restricted by federal requirements, City funding, especially City Tax Levy (TL), is critical for flexibility and strengthening areas not otherwise eligible for federal grant funding.

As part of the Executive Plan, HPD received new City Tax Levy funding totaling approximately \$5.2 million over FY19-23. This important funding will go toward:

- Our Emergency Repair Program (ERP), an important tool to ensure the quality and safety of our housing stock when property owners fail to correct immediately hazardous conditions;
- Supporting our Emergency Housing Services, which help provide safe accommodations for New Yorkers forced out of their homes due to unsafe or illegal conditions, or in the case of natural disasters;
- Expanding the Landlord Ambassadors Program, a pilot initiative that provides outreach, education, and technical assistance to small property owners, and can connect them with financing to help improve the physical and financial stability of their building;
- Continuing the Neighborhood Preservation Consultant contracts with key community-based organizations—across all five boroughs—who identify buildings that are in disrepair, thereby protecting tenants from displacement.

There's a new economic reality in New York City and we're responding accordingly. HPD has identified mandatory savings targets that will help make the agency more efficient without affecting our core priorities that make this city fairer and safer for all New Yorkers. We are thankful for the important role that City resources play in our expense budget, and my testimony will highlight several areas where this new City funding will help us further strengthen our programs and services.

### **Priorities in Fiscal Year 2020**

We continue to push forward on the broad goals of Housing New York (HNY). This includes developing and preserving affordable housing at record pace; serving more of the most vulnerable New Yorkers; protecting tenants and enforcing their right to live in safe, quality housing; and engaging in community-focused neighborhood planning. In November 2017, we accelerated and expanded the plan to create and preserve 300,000 affordable homes by 2026 – two years ahead of schedule and with 100,000 more homes than initially planned. To achieve that expanded goal, we released an update to the plan, Housing New York 2.0 (HNY 2.0). HNY 2.0 offers a suite of new programs, partnerships, and strategies to help thousands more families and seniors afford their rent, buy a first home, and stay in the neighborhoods they love.

I'm pleased to say that last calendar year, HPD financed more than 34,000 affordable homes, setting a new high-water mark for affordable housing production, with more new construction units financed—10,000 new homes—than at any time in the agency's history. This brings the total number of homes financed under HNY to nearly 122,000. And while roughly 85 percent of all the homes created or preserved serve low-income New Yorkers, a full forty percent of those homes serve families earning less than 50% of Area Median Income or \$48,000 for a family of three.

Since the start of Housing New York, the City has been working to reach more homeless New Yorkers, while achieving deeper affordability across the board. At a minimum, we now require at least 10 percent of apartments in almost all affordable developments be set aside for homeless New Yorkers – and allocate as much as 20, 30, or even 60 percent in the case of our supportive housing projects. As a result, we are producing homeless housing at a faster pace than ever before, with nearly 10,000 units set aside for homeless households since the beginning of the plan in 2014. We created a new City rental assistance program to advance the Mayor's commitment to create 15,000 supportive housing apartments over 15 years, and also launched a new Down Payment Assistance Fund with the Robin Hood Foundation and other partners to help nonprofits acquire vacant private properties for supportive and affordable housing development. Since 2014, we have financed over 4,700 supportive housing units, which include units funded under NYC 15/15 and prior administration housing plans.

Most recently, we've partnered with the Department of Social Services and City Hall on a plan to acquire and convert cluster units to permanent, affordable housing operated by local nonprofits. The first deal transitioned nearly 500 cluster units across 21 buildings into permanent affordable housing for over 1,000 New Yorkers in need. We financed the Joint Ownership Entity (JOE) NYC and Neighborhood Restore to acquire this portfolio and, in conjunction with several local non-profit organizations, stabilize and manage the buildings, coordinate light-touch social services, and prepare for rehabilitation of the buildings in the next 18 months.

At the same time, this administration has made senior housing a major priority. Last year, we financed 1,831 senior homes, bringing the total number of senior homes financed under HNY to nearly 7,700. This is due to programs like our Senior Affordable Rental Apartments (SARA) Program and major policy changes like Zoning for Quality and Affordability (ZQA) that amended the zoning resolution to make it easier and less expensive to create quality, affordable senior housing. In HNY 2.0, we introduced Seniors First, a three-pronged strategy to expand the City's existing commitment from 15,000 to 30,000 seniors served. Already, senior housing construction in New York City has increased to unprecedented levels. Similarly, our financial commitment to senior housing has increased – from \$40 million in total public resources in FY14 to more than \$425 million in FY18. HPD is on track to finance more than 800 units of new senior housing in FY19. There is \$84 million in the budget for those senior housing projects, funds that will leverage debt, low income housing tax credits, and other public subsidies. Robust pipelines and budget commitments in FY20 and FY21 will ensure that more senior housing units will come online every year.

HPD is also actively working to preserve the hundreds of senior housing developments that the federal government financed decades ago through the HUD 202 program. Under HNY,

we are targeting our outreach efforts to those properties most in need of protection, and already have assisted 19 HUD 202 projects for a total of nearly 2,000 homes. And last spring, HPD launched Aging in Place, a pilot program to conduct assessments of the apartments we preserve with residents 62 or older, to finance physical upgrades that make the housing accessible to ensure seniors can age in place.

Seniors First is just one of many initiatives in HNY 2.0 that we've been working hard to move forward. In March, we announced the community-based organizations selected through the new Partners in Preservation a program to develop and coordinate anti-displacement strategies with local stakeholders and tenants in three pilot areas in the Bronx and Upper Manhattan. And this summer, we are looking to roll out our new HomeFix program to provide funding, technical assistance, and counseling to hardworking families struggling to make needed repairs and otherwise maintain their homes.

This week, we are joining the American Institute of Architects New York (AIA-NY) to announce the finalists of our Big Ideas for Small Lots NYC design competition to promote innovative design and construction approaches to build housing on small, difficult-to-develop City-owned vacant lots. One of my priorities will be to continue to advance the many HNY 2.0 programs underway, while leaving no stone unturned in identifying new approaches and solutions to the affordable housing crisis.

### **Protecting New Yorkers by Ensuring the Quality & Safety of the Housing Stock**

Another key area of focus will be building aggressively on the agency's existing efforts to protect tenants and prevent displacement, which is at the heart of our work to preserve the affordability and quality of the city's housing stock. Every day, hundreds of HPD Inspectors are in apartments across the city enforcing the Housing Maintenance Code and issuing violations when landlords are not in compliance. Our Housing Litigation Division also brings cases in Housing Court against owners who do not fix outstanding violations and, when necessary, seeks findings of contempt and incarceration of recalcitrant landlords. HPD also proactively combats tenant harassment by participating with the New York State Attorney General's Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force, which investigates potential harassment and brings enforcement actions—including civil and criminal charges—against landlords who harass tenants.

Under this administration, we are always looking to be as proactive and comprehensive as possible in our work to protect tenants. Last year, we worked with the City Council to expand the Certification of No Harassment Program citywide and launch a new Speculation Watch List to identify buildings where potentially predatory investment may put tenants at risk. We are also launching the Tenant Anti-Harassment Unit – another tool in the toolbox – which will be dedicated to pursuing potential cases of maintenance harassment and connecting tenants to legal services resources. In all of this work, we look forward to partnering closely with the new Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants, which will serve as a point of entry for advocates and tenants and ensure aggressive action against bad landlords.

I also want to remind members of the Council that we will be launching the third year of HPD in Your District, where representatives from our Office of Enforcement & Neighborhood

Services will spend a Wednesday in Council Members' district offices to provide one-on-one education and assistance to tenants and owners. Members also have the option of mobilizing the HPD Outreach Van, our new mobile office, on the same day at a location of your choice. I encourage you to reach out to our team if you haven't already done so to set up a day for HPD to be in your district this summer.

### **Opportunities to Work Together**

Ultimately, all of this work is about fighting to ensure New Yorkers can afford to live and thrive in this City. But it cannot be done alone. We do this work in the face of very real threats from the federal government. Your advocacy to secure a fully funded Housing and Urban Development (HUD) budget is critical. So far, we've been successful in fighting the President's harsh and regressive proposals, last year even securing—for the first time in decades—increased funding for the public and affordable housing our communities desperately need. This outcome would not have been possible without the fierce and steadfast advocacy of the New York City Council, our Congressional delegation, and so many partners here and across the country, but the fight is far from over.

I want to thank the Council for their partnership and I look forward to continuing to find ways to partner on critical legislative priorities and needed reforms; on affordable and supportive housing projects; on advocacy for stronger rent-stabilization laws; and on a whole host of issues vital for the good of New Yorkers and for the future of our city.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss HPD's budget and our priorities in the coming year. This concludes my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Mayor's Office of  
Immigrant Affairs  
Bitta Mostofi  
Commissioner

May 13, 2019

**Testimony of Commissioner Bitta Mostofi  
NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs**

Before a hearing of the New York City Council Committee on Immigration:

“Executive Budget Hearing - Immigration”



Thank you to Speaker Johnson, Chair Menchaca, and the members of the Committee on Immigration. My name is Bitta Mostofi, and I am the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA).

MOIA is tasked with promoting the well-being of immigrant communities in New York City.

MOIA's focus over the past fiscal year has been ensuring that immigrants have access to and feel welcome engaging with the city and City services. Even in the face of relentless attacks by the federal government, MOIA has worked to strengthen and innovate programs for immigrants, address policy challenges, and coordinate the City's response to critical federal policies impacting our residents. In close collaboration with our sister agencies, MOIA has provided timely, crucial information to our affected communities to both empower and arm them with the necessary tools, and organized interagency and inter-city advocacy.

My testimony today will outline the environment that MOIA and indeed everyone working on immigration and with immigrant communities are facing, highlight investments in the Executive Budget meant to advance the wellbeing of immigrant New Yorkers in the coming year, touch on some successes from the last fiscal year, and address our goals for FY 2020.

### **Federal and State Context**

As has been widely reported, the Trump Administration has redoubled its bigoted attacks on immigrants, including here in New York City. MOIA's own analysis has found that in the New York City area,<sup>1</sup> ICE has drastically increased its arrests of immigrants, including long-term U.S. residents with no criminal convictions.<sup>2</sup> Total ICE arrests increased 88% in the first full federal fiscal year under the Trump Administration compared to the last full federal fiscal year of the Obama Administration.<sup>3</sup> This included a 414% increase of arrests of individuals with no criminal convictions.<sup>4</sup>

ICE agents also made arrests in and around courthouses in New York City and across the state, which could have chilling effects on immigrants' access to justice and trust in the judicial system, including by dissuading defendants, victims, and witnesses from coming to court.

In addition, the federal administration has proposed new changes to several longstanding policies. This includes the proposed change to the almost 20-year-old "public charge" test, which could have devastating effects on those in the U.S. who are applying for a green card. Following similar changes to the State Department's public charge test for visa applicants applying from

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<sup>1</sup> The ICE NYC Area of Responsibility comprises the five boroughs of New York City, plus Dutchess, Nassau, Putnam, Suffolk, Sullivan, Orange, Rockland, Ulster, and Westchester counties.

<sup>2</sup> New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, *Fact Sheet: ICE Enforcement in New York City* (January 2019), available at

[https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/immigrants/downloads/pdf/2019\\_01\\_moia\\_ice\\_enforcement\\_nyc\\_aor.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/immigrants/downloads/pdf/2019_01_moia_ice_enforcement_nyc_aor.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*



abroad, there has been an over 300% increase in public charge denials in the past year.<sup>5</sup> While this is due to the amendments made to the Foreign Affairs Manual's public charge inadmissibility procedures, this is an indication of the potential impacts that this proposed rule could have for those already in the U.S. should it ever be implemented.

The City is not alone in its concerns. New York State has also been active in responding to the needs of our immigrant communities. We are heartened by the Office of Court Administration's decision to take steps to keep courts open to all, which mirrors the City's own work to ensure that all New Yorkers feel comfortable coming to and from City property.

Similarly, the passage of the NYS DREAM Act has opened up financial aid for thousands of New Yorkers, including in New York City. We are eager to work together with the State, advocates, and other stakeholders to ensure that all eligible New Yorkers can access State financial aid and scholarships for higher education. Passage of the DREAM Act was a critical step in building a just and inclusive society, one where all students have a chance to succeed.

In addition, the City's investment, in conjunction with the State's for the 2020 Census represent a significant step toward ensuring that all New Yorkers are counted.

### **Executive Budget Highlights**

Highlighting just a few of the new investments that are present in the Executive Budget, I am pleased to note that the Administration has added funding in several areas intended to support immigrant New Yorkers.

First, as part of its work to ensure that New Yorkers with limited English proficiency (LEP) can be engaged in our democracy, the Administration has allocated \$1 million for the poll site interpretation project. This is in addition to another recently announced \$640,000 investment, for a total of \$1.64 million for interpretation services at poll sites. In addition, the Executive Budget includes dedicated new funding for language access, to increase the capacity of agencies through technical and other supports. This is alongside an additional centralized staff line to work exclusively on interpretation and translation services. Language access is a fundamental part of MOIA's work, and in addition to the increased staffing for language services at MOIA, the funding for language access staff and poll site interpretation will help address the needs of the nearly 25% of New Yorkers with LEP.

Second, the Administration has put forth significant funding for Census 2020 outreach and awareness. For FY2020, the Administration has allocated an unprecedented \$22 million for Census outreach, education, local capacity-building, and communications. In conjunction with the \$4 million allocated in FY 2019, the \$26 million total invested in Census by the City will help ensure that every New Yorker is counted in 2020.

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<sup>5</sup> Based on Federal Fiscal Year 2017 and Federal Fiscal Year 2018 data from the U.S. Department of State. Available at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-statistics.html>.

Third, the City continues to prepare for the summer launch of NYC Care, starting August 1 in the Bronx and operational throughout the city by the end of 2020. Across New York City, approximately 600,000 residents—including 300,000 people who are undocumented—lack health insurance or affordable health care. Under the Mayor's leadership, we are investing \$100 million annually to ensure that no New Yorker will go without a primary care provider or specialty care. The City recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the outreach work for the NYC Care program, which will distribute more than \$450,000 to community-based organizations. As MOIA prepares for the rollout of the NYC Care program in the Bronx this summer, we are excited to partner with community-based organizations in engaging uninsured New Yorkers to ensure that they understand the support available to them and learn how to enroll.

Finally, I want to highlight the Administration's \$2.4 million investment for IDNYC in anticipation of the first renewal period fast approaching in January 2020. We are in the process of developing an efficient and easy-to-use renewal system and will have more to share soon.

These new investments are in addition to the Administration's ongoing support for key programming for immigrants, which ranges from our IDNYC program, our legal services initiatives, We Speak NYC, and more. I will speak about those successes now.

### **Advancing the Wellbeing of Immigrant New Yorkers**

As the City's expert on immigrant communities and immigration policy, MOIA has long coordinated and supported on a broad set of issues, recognizing that the sheer diversity of immigrant New Yorkers demands an equally broad and diverse approach.

Throughout the last year, MOIA has engaged in a variety of programs and activities to advance the wellbeing of immigrant New Yorkers. Some notable accomplishments not yet discussed in my testimony include MOIA's work to:

- Provide a continuum of free legal services programs for immigrant New Yorkers. This includes work with our sister agencies, including HRA's Office of Civil Justice, to respond to new needs created by a fast-moving federal climate. As one example, the City allocated \$4.1 million to provide legal services to migrant children in response to the family separation crisis. As another example, the City recently added \$1.6 million in emergency funding for NYIFUP to respond to recent changes in court process at the Varick Street Immigration Court.
- Advise and support agencies in the implementation of LL30, the City's language access law.
- Track compliance with Local Law 228 of 2017, which prohibits the use of City resources to support immigration enforcement, by monitoring and collecting information about any requests from non-local law enforcement agencies related to immigration enforcement.
- Support City agencies in the effective provision of U visa certifications and T visa declarations.
- Respond to inhumane and cruel proposals from the Trump Administration including public charge and the 2020 Census.



- Provide agency partners with additional tools and resources to support their work serving immigrant New Yorkers including through the interagency task force.
- Increase access to IDNYC for minors by allowing 10-13 year olds to apply for the programs
- Increase capacity of We Speak NYC to deliver tools and classes to LEP New Yorkers—we notably won an Emmy for our new series.
- Share information with over 12,000 people, and refer over 3,000 people for services, through the Immigrant Information Desk.
- Respond to 504 calls through our hotline and 311, and provide 657 referrals. MOIA also received 332 e-mails and provided 165 referrals via e-mail.
- Advocate for and provide support to a U.S. citizen father and longtime New York City resident who had filed an immigrant visa petition for his daughter to come to the U.S. to live with him and her sister in order to provide a lifesaving bone marrow transplant.
- Train and support 8 CBOs, who were able to expand to provide immigration legal services in straightforward immigration matters.
- Build a KYR program targeting low-wage immigrant workers in November 2018. In addition, in January 2019, MOIA launched a new series of KYRs. These KYRs are on general immigrants' rights and take place in schools and communities.

### **Looking Forward to FY 2020**

MOIA's efforts will continue to ensure that immigrants are included in every aspect of the City's work. We will continue innovative new and existing programs.

First, in FY2020, MOIA will expand its work to increase cultural and linguistic competencies in the delivery of critical services and benefits across city agencies and within immigrant communities. As we prepare for the possibility of federal barriers to access to crucial public benefits, MOIA will work with our sister agencies and our community partners to build on our programs, and more efficiently and effectively connect New Yorkers to services.

MOIA will build on its successes with our legal services programs to ensure greater efficiency and stability, and ensure the programs' lasting legacy. Toward that end, MOIA, in partnership with HRA's Office of Civil Justice, will soon release a concept paper that serves as a precursor to a forthcoming Request for Proposal for ActionNYC, with the goal of beginning contracting in FY 2021.

MOIA will also work with our partners at NYC Health + Hospitals as the City implements the Mayor's new NYC Care program. The City is committed to providing access to health care for all uninsured New Yorkers, regardless of status. As the RFP process continues, MOIA is looking forward to working with community-based partners to ensure that uninsured New Yorkers eligible for the program are aware of and able to enroll in NYC Care.

Second, in the face of increased risk of arrest and deportation, MOIA will work in FY2020 to strengthen immigrant community protections against deportation by effectively connecting individuals to legal services and rights education.

MOIA is also fighting against unscrupulous individuals who would prey on fearful immigrants in this time of crisis. By providing resources for immigrants at risk of fraud and as well as rights education, helping to advance economic justice for vulnerable immigrant New Yorkers. All New Yorkers – regardless of immigration status – play a critical role in our City's future.

MOIA will work to expand our democracy to encourage all New Yorkers to participate in our civic life. We will accomplish this through community town halls and cultural celebrations that provide more opportunities to engage with the City, while simultaneously connecting communities to information and access. Additionally, MOIA will continue to expand poll-site interpretation services to help ensure that every citizen can have full access to vote regardless of language ability.

Finally, in FY 2020, the City will use all means at its disposal to defend our residents against anti-immigrant policies from the federal government. We will advocate for common-sense, pro-immigrant policies at the state and national level. We are committed to ensuring the safety and security of all New Yorkers, especially in their interactions with the City. In coalition with and across our sister agencies, MOIA will work to better serve immigrants and realize greater equity and fairness for all.

### **Conclusion**

I want to thank this Committee and the entire City Council for being a crucial partner in the fight to advance the well-being of immigrants in New York City. Without your help, and the help of the many community-based organizations and service providers we work with day in and day out, this work would not be possible.

You have our commitment to continue to listen to immigrant New Yorkers, monitor and understand the impacts of anti-immigrant policies, and work towards making New York City a city for our immigrant communities to flourish.

I'm happy to take any questions you might have.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Leida Borzaga

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: HPD

Address: HPD

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 5/13/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Annmarie Santagata

Address: HPD

I represent: HPD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 5/13/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bitta Mostoti

Address: 253 Broadway, 14th Floor

I represent: NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Address: 253 Broadway, 14th Floor

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

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in favor  in opposition

Date: 5/13/19

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Anne-Marie Hendrickson

Address: HPD

I represent: HPD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms**

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

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in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Louise Carroll

Address: HPD

I represent: HPD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

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in favor     in opposition

Date: 11/19

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Eva Thumble

Address: HPD

I represent: HPD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms*

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 1/13/19

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Molly Parkerson

Address: HPD

I represent: HPD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms*