

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

Jointly with

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

And

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

And

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT &
INVESTIGATIONS

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September 30, 2025

Start: 10:43 a.m.

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HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Jennifer Gutiérrez
Chairperson

Yusef Salaam
Chairperson

Chris Banks
Chairperson

Gale A. Brewer
Chairperson

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

Brett Sikoff

Executive Director for Franchise and
Administration and Broadband at OTI

Chantal Senatus

Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters at OTI

Anthony Mascia

NYPD Inspector

Eva Trimble

Chief Operating Officer for NYCHA

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Alissa Johnson

Surveillance Technology Oversight Project

Talia Kamran

Brooklyn Defender Services

Michal Gross

Youth Law Team at Neighborhood Defender Service
of Harlem

Noel Hidalgo

BetaNYC

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

Layla Law-Gisiko
Democratic District Leader Chelsea and Manhattan

Roger Wareham
Center for Law and Social Justice of Medgar
Evers College

Michele Anne Blondmonville

Christopher Leon Johnson

Clayton Banks

Beverly Blondmonville

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
3 to today's New York City Council hearing for the
4 Committee on Technology jointly with the Committees
5 on Oversight and Investigations, Public Housing, and
6 Public Safety. At this time, we'd like to ask
7 everybody to silence your cell phone and electronic
8 devices to minimize interruptions. No food or
9 beverages in the chambers. If you wish to speak
10 today, you need to fill out an appearance card with
11 the Sergeant at Arms. And as a friendly reminder, do
12 not approach the dais unless your name has been
13 called. Chairs, we're ready to begin.

14 [gavel]

15 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so
16 much. Thank you everyone for your patience. Good
17 morning, welcome. I'm Council Member Jennifer
18 Gutiérrez, Chair of the Committee on Technology.
19 Thank you for joining us at today's oversight hearing
20 on the use of surveillance in NYCHA developments and
21 Big Apple Connect. I'm joined by Chair Banks of the
22 Committee on Public Housing, Chair Salaam, the
23 Committee on Public Safety, and Chair Brewer of the
24 Committee on Oversight and Investigations, and I also
25 want to acknowledge my colleagues who are here ready

2 to get the day started, Council Member Chi Ossé,
3 Council Member Chris Marte who is here, Council
4 Member Rita Joseph, Council Member Vickie Paladino,
5 Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, and that's it for now.
6 Anyone on Zoom? No. Great. Three years ago on the
7 very morning of a Council hearing on broadband, OTI
8 announced Big Apple Connect. It was presented as a
9 victory for closing the digital divide after the City
10 abandoned the Internet Masterplan, but three years
11 later, the shortcomings are clear. There has been no
12 expansion to RAD/PACT or other Section 8 housing, no
13 new infrastructure, and no real city-backed
14 affordable broadband expansion beyond state programs.
15 Thousands still left without affordable broadband or
16 access at all. Instead we have a \$40 million a year
17 price tag with no long-term path to affordable
18 internet for thousands across the City. It's like
19 handing out free umbrellas in a storm, but never
20 fixing the roof. And most concerning, what was
21 billed as free internet came at the cost of something
22 invaluable, the privacy of NYCHA residents. The
23 truth only came out after OTI delayed a FOIL request
24 16 times over nearly two years, and disclosure only
25 happened after an Article 78 case was filed in court.

2 Again and again, OTI has failed to be transparent,
3 whether through delayed reporting or encrypting
4 police radio channels that cutoff public oversight,
5 and when it comes to technology, this administration
6 has chosen capacity [sic]. I can't stress what a
7 dangerous path this is. Today, law enforcement eyes
8 are everywhere, more than 30,000 cameras are tied
9 into the domain awareness system. While the cameras
10 in NYCHA may represent only a fraction of that, the
11 difference is profound, because they extend NYPD's
12 reach into people's homes. We have to ask what does
13 it mean for our values, our ethics, and for
14 generations of low-income New Yorkers growing up
15 under constant surveillance. I also want to
16 acknowledge the nuance. I represent nine public
17 housing developments and when there are spikes in
18 violence I understand why residents call for cameras.
19 It's a natural response to fear, but surveillance is
20 not the same as safety. How many acts of violence
21 have happened in our city in areas surrounded by
22 cameras. In my community we saw crime go down over
23 the decades, not because of cameras, but because of
24 long-term investments in violence interruption
25 programs, anti-gang initiatives, afterschool

programs, and neighborhood-based organizations working to build trust and reduce violence. So, the question before us is not whether people deserve safety. We all agree that we all do. The question is should low-income New Yorkers have to pay to connectivity with their privacy? Is surveillance truly making them safer, or simply expanding NYPD's reach into the most intimate spaces of our city? Today, I want candid answers from OTI, from NYPD, from NYCHA, and most importantly from residents about what this trade-off really means. Finally, I'd like to thank Technology Committee staff, our attorney Irene Byhovsky [sp?], Policy Analyst Erik Brown, and my Chief of Staff Anya Lehr [sp?] for their tremendous work on putting this hearing together. I will now turn it over to Chair Salaam for his opening statement.

CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Thank you. Good morning. I'm Council Member Yusef Salaam, Chair to the Committee on Public Safety. I want to welcome everybody as well and to thank my Co-Chairs Gutiérrez, Banks, and Brewer for co-chairing this important hearing on the use of surveillance in NYCHA developments. Public safety, as you know, in NYCHA

housing authority developments is critically
important. The expansion of NYPD's CCTV surveillance
are potentially enhancing safety raises serious
concerns that need to be addressed. From a public
safety perspective, our primary concern is ensuring
that these technologies truly enhance the safety and
security of residents without eroding community trust
or creating unintended harms. While surveillance can
be a valuable tool for preventing crime and
supporting investigations, it must be implemented
responsibly, transparently, and with proper
oversight. One focus of today's hearing is examining
the practical public safety implications of these
programs. We want clarity regarding how the NYPD is
using live camera feeds in NYCHA developments to
prevent or respond to crime. We want to know what
safeguards are in place to ensure residents' safety
while protecting privacy. We want to know if and how
residents are given the opportunity to participate
with NYCHA, the NYPD and other stakeholders in
developing and modifying the use of this technology.
We want to have a more informed and detailed
understanding of how and whether or not these
surveillance initiatives are achieving their intended

2 public safety objectives. We want to identify
3 opportunities to strengthen accountability,
4 strengthen oversight, and indeed strengthen community
5 trust. We look forward to hearing directly from the
6 NYPD and NYCHA representatives, residents and other
7 stakeholders and to working together going forward.
8 I thank everyone here today for participating in this
9 important conversation and I look forward to a
10 thoughtful and constructive dialogue. I now turn it
11 back to Chair Gutiérrez.

12 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair
13 Salaam. I'd like to call onto Chair Brewer for her
14 opening statement.

15 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you very much.
16 I'm Gale Brewer. I chair the Committee on Oversight
17 and Investigations. As you have heard today we will
18 be examining the use of surveillance in NYCHA
19 developments. I'd like to thank the representatives
20 from the administration, the public, my fellow co-
21 chairs, and my council colleagues. I also want to
22 thank New York Focus which covered this initially in
23 the press. The hearing will focus on the expansion
24 of NYPD CCTV surveillance in NYCHA developments.
25 Last month, as I indicated, New York Focus published

2 an article detailing how this administration is using
3 Big Apple Connect. It's a program sponsored by the
4 City to provide free internet to public housing
5 residents. I have to say the residents love the
6 program. I'll be honest. I know many of them. I can
7 give you all the locations in Manhattan, because I
8 know everything about Manhattan. I don't know the
9 rest of the City at all. To facilitate the
10 connection between CCTV cameras in NYCHA operated
11 buildings and NYPD's domain awareness system-- which
12 I don't actually understand. According to the
13 reporting with the installation of new modems and
14 routers in the common areas of NYCHA-operated
15 buildings-- we want to understand exactly where in
16 the common areas. NYPD is now able to feed CCTV
17 footage directly into its citywide surveillance
18 software systems, stream it remotely in real time,
19 and review footage beginning 30 days prior to an
20 incident, all while not having to ask NYCHA for
21 permission. By the end of this year, NYPD plans to
22 connect video cameras to 20 developments, NYCHA
23 developments, to this domain awareness system which
24 is the Department's counterterrorism and anti-crime
25 platform that without warrants collect footage from

2 thousands of cameras across the City. A recurring
3 theme of the Oversight and Investigation Committee's
4 work this session has been the importance of the
5 public's trust in city government. Alongside Chair
6 Salaam and Gutiérrez, in February we co-chaired a
7 joint hearing of the Committees on Public Safety,
8 ONI, and Technology, examining NYPD's implementation
9 of something really important which is the public
10 oversight of surveillance technology known as the
11 POST Act. The committee did not hear any details
12 about the use of real-time CCTV cameras under Big
13 Apple Connect. I look forward today to hearing more
14 about it. Alongside Chair Banks, the Committee kicked
15 off the session in February 24 with a joint oversight
16 hearing of the Committees on Public Housing,
17 Oversight and Investigations, and Contracts examining
18 NYCHA's response to bribery and extortion in micro-
19 purchase contracts. These hearings have reinforced
20 the need to hold the administration accountable to
21 the public and demand transparency while facilitating
22 our shared public safety goals, as you heard from
23 Chair Gutiérrez today, and ensuring the security of
24 our public housing residents, most important. I look
25 forward to continuing that important work and hearing

2 about what today both the administration and the
3 residents feel about the current state of
4 surveillance technology and their privacy
5 implications for NYCHA residents. I would like to
6 thank the following council staff for their work.
7 From the ONI Committee staff, Nicole Cata [sp?],
8 Erica Cohen [sp?], Alex Yablon [sp?], and from my
9 office, Sam Goldsmith. I want to thank everyone who
10 worked on this hearing today. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair
12 Brewer, and I'd like to call on Chair Banks for his
13 opening statement.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you to my
15 colleagues and to the Chairs, to the administration
16 who's represented here today. Good morning everyone
17 and welcome to this hearing. I'm Council Member Chris
18 Banks, the Chair of the Public Housing Committee, and
19 I'm proud to join my co-chairs and colleagues here at
20 this important hearing. First of all, I can't help
21 but acknowledge the almost comedic pattern of
22 behavior represented in the circumstances that
23 inspired this hearing. Yet again, NYCHA residents
24 have been thrust into a situation where they must
25 endure the consequences of decisions that intimately

affect their daily lives, yet were made-- that were
made without resident input, communication, or
transparency. What is particularly troubling here is
how NYCHA residents were promised a beneficial
service, something long awaited and much needed.
Affordable broadband access only to have that
essential service become a guise for installing and
expanding intrusive surveillance capabilities. I
want to be clear here. Security at NYCHA
developments is indeed a pertinent issue, and I know
many residents would also welcome the increased
safety in their developments, but surveillance is not
safety. One does not guarantee the other, and our
residents desire for improved security at their home
should not be used suddenly and secretly to place
them under scrutiny 24/7. I would also be remiss if
I did not acknowledge the fact that NYCHA's
population including those currently being surveilled
include some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. and
it is apparent to me that most NYCHA residents and
even some NYCHA administrators were unaware that
their new internet service also met constant
observation by the NYPD. Our public housing
residents should not be forced into a tradeoff

2 between a violation of privacy and an expectation of
3 safety, especially when these decisions are made
4 without their informed consent. For all NYCHA
5 residents and especially our most vulnerable, we need
6 to do better. Finally, the Mayor's decision to
7 expand this program just one day before a scheduled
8 council oversight hearing is not just disrespectful,
9 it's a deliberate effort to undermine the communities
10 we represent. Mayor Adams may like to posture as a
11 dictator, but this is not a one-man show. The City
12 Council is a coequal branch of government, and while
13 we have-- while he has failed to grasp the reality
14 over the last three and a half years, hopefully he
15 can figure it out in the few months that he has left.
16 New Yorkers deserve transparency. Their elected
17 representatives deserve answers, not after the fact,
18 but before major decisions are made. I have
19 consistently supported digital inclusion at NYCHA and
20 my budget allocations back that up. But I will not
21 stand by while this administration attempts to
22 bulldoze serious concerns about Big Apple Connect,
23 especially when questions remain about its potential
24 link to the NYPD's domain access. I'm eager to hear
25 from the administration about just how this situation

came to unfold, and I'm also eager to gain a comprehensive understanding of the present status and efficacy of the cameras and the Big Apple Connect program, as well as future plans for these programs. And I look forward to hearing from the experts, advocates, the residents gathered here today about the current and future impacts of these programs on the lives and wellbeing of NYCHA residents and public housing communities. I would like to thank my staff, Michael Lambert [sp?], Kyle Graham [sp?], along with the Public Housing Committee staff, Jose, Charles, Carla, Reese [sp?], James, Sierra [sp?] for all the work they've put into this hearing. Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair Banks. And also just want to wish you a happy birthday. Happy birthday, Chair Banks.

CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Happy birthday.
Okay,--

CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing]
Appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: It's a quick celebration. I also want to acknowledge Council

2 Member Marte who's returned, Council Member Krishnan,
3 and Council Member Darlene Mealy. Oh, and Council
4 Member Alexa Avilés. Skipping, I'm sorry. Now, today
5 we're going to hear testimonies from the New York
6 City Office of Technology and Innovation, OTI, NYPD
7 and NYCHA, followed by testimonies from the public.
8 I want to welcome Brett Sikoff, Chantal Senatus, Eva
9 Trimble, Inspector Anthony Mascia. I'm going to pass
10 it over to Committee Counsel Irene.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Thank
12 you, Chair. Good morning, everyone. And before we
13 begin, I kindly request everyone from the
14 administration to raise their right hands. Thank
15 you. Do you affirm to tell the truth and respond
16 honestly to Council Member questions? Brett Sikoff?

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: I do.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chantal Senatus?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: I do.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Inspector Mascia?
21 Eva Trimble?

22 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I do.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. You may
24 proceed with your testimony.
25

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Good morning.

3 Good morning, Chairs Gutiérrez, Salaam, Banks,
4 Brewer, and members of the Committees of Technology,
5 Public Safety, Public Housing, and Oversight and
6 Investigations. My name is Brett Sikoff, and I am
7 the Executive Director for Franchise Administration
8 and Broadband for the Office of Technology and
9 Innovation, or OTI. I'm here today with Chantal
10 Senatus, OTI's Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters
11 and my colleagues from the New York Police Department
12 and the New York City Housing Authority to discuss
13 our respective roles in facilitating public safety
14 enhancements at certain NYCHA developments. Big
15 Apple Connect is the nation's largest municipally
16 subsidized broadband program, providing free high-
17 speed internet and basic cable access to over 330,000
18 New Yorkers in 220 NYCHA sites. The program is
19 incredibly popular, with 82 percent-- 82 percent of
20 all eligible households enrolled in Big Apple
21 Connect. On Monday, Mayor Adams announced the three-
22 year extension of Big Apple Connect through June 2028
23 and a new \$1.2 million investment by Big Apple
24 Connect providers Charter and Altice toward digital
25 literacy programming that will benefit public housing

residents. The competitive pricing we secured with Charter and Altice ensured the maximum benefit for the least cost, including the ancillary opportunity to leverage Big Apple Connect pricing to facilitate NYPD's video integration effort. We defer to NYCHA and NYPD to share additional details regarding their agreement with respect to that program. At OTI, we are committed to bettering the lives of all New Yorkers through technology. We are incredibly proud of our efforts to bridge the digital divide, especially the continued success of the Big Apple Connect program. With that, happy to take any questions the Council may have.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you.

INSPECTOR MASCIA: Good morning, Chair Salaam, Chair Gutiérrez, Chair Banks, Chair Brewer, and members of the Council. My name is Anthony Mascia, and I'm the-- an Inspector in the New York City Police Department. I serve currently as the Commanding Officer of the Information Technology Bureau. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Department's use of NYCHA cameras in connection with our criminal investigations. Video footage in NYCHA housing and across the City is a vital tool in the

Department's effort to keep the people of New York City safe. When crimes are captured on video, NYPD detectives can use that video to identify and apprehend the perpetrators, even if a crime itself is not on video, we may be able to use the video footage to corroborate key elements of the victim's account, or see where a criminal has fled. Sometimes, video footage shows us that a victim or witness was mistaken about certain elements of what transpired. Video footage may implicate individuals in criminal conduct and also may exonerate them. Reconstructing events using video footage can be painstaking work, particularly if someone is moving about. Our detectives may need to pull together clips from numerous cameras to determine exactly what transpired. Speed is of the essence. The sooner we see those videos, the sooner we can bring a killer to justice, identify a key witness, or rule out a suspect. Delays in obtaining video footage are impediments to achieving justice for victims and are obstacles to public safety. Historically, detectives conducting investigations on NYCHA property have had to physically retrieve video footage from a NYCHA office during business hours, on a DVD or thumb

drive. NYCHA does maintain an emergency access unit for obtaining video footage after hours, but even in the best of circumstances, this process is time intensive. It slows our detectives down. Direct camera access solves this problem. About 10 years ago under the previous mayoral administration, NYCHA allowed the Department to use fiber cable to give the Department direct access to some of NYCHA's video cameras. As a result, we have had access to a little over 7,000 cameras across 37 NYCHA buildings. This direct access has enabled the Department to solve crimes in NYCHA housing more efficiently and effectively, has improved safety in those buildings. For example, on May 9th, 2025 at 8:45 at night, a homicide occurred in a NYCHA building in the seventh precinct. Because we had direct access to the relevant cameras, NYPD detectives were immediately able to view the video and determine the suspects direction and method of flight. On July 14th, 2025 at 2:30 in the afternoon, an individual was shot in NYCHA housing in the confines of the 32 precinct. Again, detectives were able to use direct access to NYCHA cameras to quickly identify the shooters. This past December, detectives in the 120 precinct on

1 Staten Island with direct access to cameras on NYCHA
2 property we able to immediately identify the
3 perpetrator of an attempted murder. These are just a
4 few of many examples. The bottom line is that direct
5 camera access eliminates delays in criminal
6 investigations in which every second counts. With
7 the new internet access in NYCHA housing through Big
8 Apple Connect, NYCHA is allowing the Department to
9 have direct access to additional cameras without the
10 need to install costly fiber. We have already
11 obtained access to 68 additional cameras. We planned
12 to gain access to approximately 1,900 more cameras
13 across 19 NYCHA sites by November, and we intend to
14 phase in additional cameras beyond that. This
15 expansion of the Department's direct access to NYCHA
16 cameras will significantly increase the speed and
17 efficiency of our criminal investigations and will
18 ultimately help reduce crime in NYCHA buildings. I
19 want to emphasize that the cameras to which we are
20 getting access are pre-existing NYCHA cameras. They
21 are not Police Department cameras. We have access to
22 them, but we do not control them in any way, all the
23 cameras in hallways, lobbies, building entrances, or
24 other locations outside the privacy of an individuals
25

home. I also want to note that the Department's access does not in any way slow down or interfere with the internet access that NYCHA residents have through Big Apple Connect. Let me end by speaking as a former Commanding Officer of the 44 and the 41 precincts. Community leaders were regularly asking for more cameras, because they wanted what we all want, to be safe and to feel safe. They are a critical crime fighting tool that allows us to uphold our commitment to every New Yorker wherever they live, that we will do everything we can under the law to ensure their safety. Expanded direct access to NYCHA cameras will help us live up to that commitment. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today, and I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so much. Thank you for your detailed testimonies. We have started a little late and there's many committees and many questions, so if we could just be as concise. First, I just want to start my-- my questions will be directed to OTI. I want to just explain-- I just want to get from you all how we got here. So, over the course of six weeks we've heard a

2 few different stories about how Big Apple Connect
3 ties into NYCHA's camera systems. In June, NYCHA
4 said that the program wasn't meant to support CCTV
5 cameras. In early July, OTI described it as
6 improving security infrastructure, but insisted PD
7 didn't have live feeds. Days later, OTI walked that
8 back saying there are no Big Apple Connect Cameras,
9 and then by August, NYPD admitted cameras at one
10 development were live with plans to expand to 20. So,
11 the story kept shifting. And this is of course from
12 an article that I'm pulling. So we went from no
13 cameras, to not live, to real-time access, to one
14 site already connected. Can you explain why there
15 was such contradictory explanations of this program
16 and who's responsible for misleading us?

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: thank you
18 for the question, Chair Gutiérrez. So, I-- just
19 taking a step back and I know we've talked about this
20 at a number of hearings. Big Apple Connect is first
21 and foremost an internet program that delivers free,
22 fast, high-speed connectivity to NYCHA--

23 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
24 Right. We're being concise.

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: in their
3 homes. No, for sure. But I think it's important
4 just to set the foundation that that's what's Big
5 Apple Connect is.

6 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: It was in your
7 testimony.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: And the
9 priority was and still remains connecting folks in
10 their units. Big Apple Connect just for clarity is
11 not a internet connection. It's just the
12 programming. We've contracted with Altice and
13 Spectrum three years ago, and then the program was
14 set to expire this week, and we're super excited to
15 be able to extend the program and provide some
16 guarantee that the service will be there long term
17 for residents. In terms of the connectivity for
18 other services, whether it's--

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
20 Well, why were there so many contradictory
21 statements? Why was there like a kind of no, we're
22 not connected. Yeah, we kind of are, and then PD had
23 to-- was like, yes, we actually are currently
24 connected? That's my question.

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah, and I
3 don't want to speak certainly for NYPD or NYCHA in
4 terms of the cameras and have it being utilized, but
5 I do want to clarify again, there's no such thing as
6 a Big Apple Connect camera for--

7 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] This
8 was a quote from OTI staff.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Understood,
10 and it may have been a, you know, a statement on our
11 part. So, I do apologize for adding to any
12 confusion. But Big Apple Connect provides service to
13 NYCHA residents and to the extent that contract
14 vehicle that is Big Apple Connect, can support other
15 city operations, whether it's for public safety or
16 potential other uses that may come along in the
17 future. We would like to leverage the very
18 competitive pricing that we engage, that we entered
19 into with both providers.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: So, you have no--
21 you cannot tell me why there were so many different
22 responses to this specific question about whether the
23 cameras are connected using a Big Apple Connect
24 program?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: I'm just here
3 to set the record straight in terms of how it's being
4 utilized, how it's being implemented. What was said,
5 I apologize for any confusion that may have been
6 caused, but--

7 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Okay. I
8 mentioned in my opening statement repeated FOIL
9 requests and ultimately an Article 78 that was
10 requested to be able to finally attain the Big Apple
11 contract-- I remember the September hearing that we
12 had. it was in the afternoon, early in the day. OTI
13 had made their announcement about Big Apple Connect
14 that had asked for contract. Again, there were a lot
15 of questions in the beginning. I think I've
16 repeatedly asked for it here on the record. We've
17 never gotten it. And so, my question is why was the
18 contract never shared? I think it still to this day
19 OTI has not shared it directly with OTI. We were
20 able to attain it because of the lawsuit, because of
21 the FOIL lawsuit. So, my question is why did we have
22 to obtain it through this way? Typically, the
23 agencies are able to share that with the City
24 Council.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Good
3 morning, Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Good morning.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: It was my
6 understanding that you were provided with the
7 contract. I know you had asked at one point for even
8 the mini-BID associated with Big Apple Connect, and
9 we provided that as well, so--

10 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] We
11 were not provided the contract, no. From OTI, the
12 Big Apple Connect contract, we were not provided
13 that.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Okay. My
15 apologies. There's no reason why shouldn't have been
16 provided with the contract.

17 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And any--
18 can you share any reason why the 16 FOIL requests
19 also did not make it so that OTI share the FOIL--
20 shared-- responded to the FOIL request of sharing the
21 contract, Big Apple Connect contract?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: I mean,
23 unfortunately, this is the case with FOIL requests.
24 There are may FOIL requests that the agency receives.
25 There's no distinction with respect to the fact that

there was a request for contracts. They get
responded to as soon as we can get to them. So, to
the extent that we do have a backlog, it's an
unfortunate reality in--

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] I'll
let Chair Brewer ask the FOIL questions, because
she's got a great FOIL bill. Okay, so I'm going to
ask some yes or no questions, and there'll be time
for follow-up. So, did anyone formally sign off on
connecting cameras at the NYCHA sites using-- whether
it's Altice or Charter connectivity through Big Apple
Connect to NYPD? Is there-- was there a formal
approval?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah, I
apologize, Council Member, I'm not entirely sure I'm
answering this question correctly, but there was no
formal approval. Essentially, NYPD could utilize a
modem and a router just like anyone would have in our
homes or in this room perhaps to be able to download
the information from the cameras. We were able to
work through our Big Apple Connect contracts just as
they put in common area Wi-Fi, working with tenant
association residents, property managers to put them
in court yards and offices. We similarly partnered

2 with the providers, or had the providers work with
3 the team to install it in a room on behalf of the
4 effort that--

5 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] And
6 but so the access that PD has to the modem and the
7 routers which are paid for through Big Apple Connect
8 program--

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: [interposing]
10 Correct.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: depending on the
12 provider. My question is was there an approval from
13 OTI to allow this access? Is that a part of any
14 process for OTI?

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: So, it's
16 enveloped in the common area Wi-Fi provision of the
17 contract. So essentially, it's the same exact
18 technology, the modem router and a coax cable. So--

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
20 Okay.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: instead of
22 doing it in a courtyard it's in a management office.

23 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: When did this
24 integration first begin?
25

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: The actual
3 integration is probably in the 2023 area. So, mind
4 you, the contract started in 2022. The deployment of
5 the imp-- the implementation of the program
6 connecting residents within the first few weeks, tens
7 of thousands of residents. By nine months, over
8 330,000 residents at NYCHA had access and it wasn't
9 until probably about a year and a half later that
10 there was surveys being done to see where the
11 connection can be made to support the NYPD effort.
12 But it was-- it's been roughly about a year, year and
13 a half at this point.

14 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And my
15 question, a very quick question for NYCHA was were
16 you all aware that this was happening?

17 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: By
18 this, do you mean--

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
20 That there was connectivity by PD into the modems and
21 routers that were being installed through the Big
22 Apple Connect program at NYCHA sites?

23 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes,
24 it's part of our MOU negotiation in 2023 with the
25 NYPD. We were informed that they were considering

2 using Big Apple Connect as their internet service
3 provider to facilitate those camera feeds.

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And you all
5 approved?

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We were
7 more focused on negotiating the MOU with NYPD on the
8 cameras. We were somewhat agnostic as to what
9 internet service provider they used to feed those
10 cameras.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Have
12 residents been told that cameras are now connected to
13 NYPD's systems through the connectivity of-- through
14 Big Apple Connect?

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: I don't know
16 that that's something that we would have
17 communicated. Yet, our efforts were entirely focused
18 on connecting folks in their homes doing outreach,
19 doing mailers, door-knocking, all those--

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
21 Right, connecting them, having them sign up.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yep.

23 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But not aware if
24 any-- if there was any public notice or anything in
25 writing that would have notified them that yes, while

2 they are getting this subsidized or free internet and
3 cable service, there is also infrastructure here that
4 makes it so that PD can have more connection to the
5 cameras, because I know they already exist in some of
6 the public housing. Was anything like that ever
7 shared with NYCHA residents?

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Not from
9 OTI's perspective, no.

10 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. and when
11 NYCHA residents signed up for Big Apple Connect
12 services, did they sign an agreement referring
13 transmission of CCT video feeds to PD? Did they--
14 was there any contract, any exchange for NYCHA
15 residents once they agreed to Big Apple Connect?

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: No, and they
17 wouldn't-- there's no contract with the City.
18 There's no contract with OTI. The contracts or they-
19 -

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] Is
21 with the provider.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: sign up
23 directly with the providers.

24 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But do you know
25 if there's any contract with the providers?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Language
3 referring to the cameras, or the--

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] For
5 their internet service.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah, so you
7 sign up. You do provide your name and address. They
8 confirm that you're eligible for the program, and
9 there's-- I don't know if it's a contract, per say,
10 but it's just an agreement that they're accepting the
11 services and any add-ons that they choose to select,
12 premiums channels, those types of things would be
13 added on.

14 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, but they
15 never-- separately from the contract with the direct
16 ISP, they never signed anything with the City, like,
17 directly saying that this is a Big Apple Connect
18 program, or they do not-- were given any information
19 about transmission of CCTV video feeds.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: That's
21 correct.

22 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Can I just
23 get clarity on the specifics of accessing camera
24 footage? I know you shared a little bit about it in
25 your testimony. So, right now, there is an existing

2 process for NYCHA footage. Can you explain what that
3 process is right now?

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Okay. So, right now,
5 what we have are 37 sites that have a fiber
6 connection. Those sites have access through the
7 domain awareness system program where we're able to
8 view the video. The change with the Big Apple
9 Connect is that for those-- the Big Apple Connect
10 sites that were as we integrate, the video for those
11 videos are actually stored locally at the site.
12 Since they are NYCHA cameras, it's a NYCHA hard
13 drive. It's a requirement that we're almost-- we're
14 logging in remotely into their existing camera
15 system, and utilizing that infrastructure to view
16 video at that time and/or pull video at that time.

17 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Can you share-- I
18 have questions about this. Can you share what the
19 existing process is for NYCHA development sites where
20 you are not connected through-- or you don't have
21 access because of the Big Apple Connect program?

22 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Absolutely. So, the
23 way our current system works is that during business-
24 - depending on the locations. Let's say they're not
25 integrated, they're not Viper [sic] and they're not

2 fiber, our detectives would have to either call
3 somebody on-site that might have access.

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: A NYCHA employee?

5 INSPECTOR MASCIA: A NYCHA staff, yes,
6 absolutely, or go to a location that-- for instance,
7 in the Bronx in the 44, we would go down to the 43
8 location, and we would then request video during the
9 business at that time. If this was an off-hours
10 request, there's an emergency line that we're able to
11 call, and we'll wait for video to be pulled for us.

12 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, so you
13 need-- you-- NYCHA staff basically has to give you
14 some kind of like access to be able to--

15 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: be able to see
17 this video.

18 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And how--
20 can you share how many CCTV cameras in NYCHA are
21 currently connected to PD under Big Apple Connect
22 surveillance?

23 INSPECTOR MASCIA: There's one site live
24 today. There's 68 cameras at that site.

2 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, one site,
3 and then-- and are there-- can you share are there
4 any more intended to be connected through the end of
5 the year?

6 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The current plan has
7 19 sites to be added by the end of November 2025.
8 That would be a total of 1,905 cameras.

9 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: 1,905 cameras, 20
10 sites?

11 INSPECTOR MASCIA: 19 sites more.

12 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: 19 plus the
13 existing one?

14 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: So, 20.

16 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes. Yes, sorry.

17 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Yeah? Okay. Oh,
18 I'm sorry, I would also like to acknowledge Council
19 Member Cabán, Council Member Holden, and Council
20 Member Salamanca, who has joined us via Zoom. And
21 just to emphasize, Council Member Cabán has been
22 here. My apologies. My apologies. Can you share
23 the criteria you use to select these ultimately 20
24 sites?

2 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, the 20 sites were
3 chosen-- it's kind of like a phased approach where if
4 we're going to incorporate and send a-- an
5 electrician has to go to the site. There's surveys
6 that have to be done. We choose the sites-- they're
7 really consolidated in a way that would be the most
8 efficient to get it done at that time.

9 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I see. I'm
10 sorry. What is the-- the 20 sites that you've all
11 decided on, I'm sorry, are-- what is like-- is it
12 crime? Like what is specific-- why are you choosing
13 these 20 sites?

14 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, the 20 sites were
15 chosen-- I'd have to confirm and I'm going to get
16 back to you on that what the exact criteria is,
17 because I do not want to misspeak on that. but those
18 20 sites as well as the rest of the projected sites,
19 I'll get the exact verbiage of what the ranking was.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Okay. Are
21 these camera feeds connected to the domain awareness
22 system?

23 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The one in the newest
24 site is.

2 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: and then what
3 about the existing ones where you are-- the ones you
4 mentioned in your testimony?

5 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The 37?

6 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Yeah.

7 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes, those are
8 connected.

9 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, so all of
10 them.

11 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yeah.

12 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Where--
13 this is-- my question is specifically now for the Big
14 Apple Connect sites at the end of the year. Where
15 will NYPD officers be able to access this footage,
16 inside precincts, PSAs? Like, One Police Plaza? Who
17 are the people that can access this footage?

18 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Okay, so the
19 overarching rule for access is covered by our
20 computer's policy. You have to access for official
21 Department purposes. A regular patrol officer does
22 not have access to view camera feeds across the City.

23 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: There's no app on
24 their phone?

2 INSPECTOR MASCIA: There's no-- the app
3 on their phone is-- it's permission level based. So,
4 a patrol officer does not have the access to view
5 what is like-- if I work in the 44 and I'm a patrol
6 officer, I can't log into the cameras. It's role
7 based and it's rank based. So, a Sergeant, a
8 Lieutenant, a Captain-- a Sergeant, Lieutenant could
9 view their command that they control, that they
10 patrol. And a Captain has citywide access. A
11 Detective Bureau personnel which sometimes could be
12 an officer en route to becoming a detective, they
13 have citywide access to the cameras too.

14 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Commanding
15 Officers have citywide access, is that what you said?

16 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And then
18 detectives as well?

19 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And is there any
21 instance where a patrol officer requests access to a
22 detective or a commanding officer of the precinct and
23 that access is then given to them directly from their
24 Commanding Officer?

2 INSPECTOR MASCIA: No, the access is
3 handled by the-- here in downtown Manhattan, in the
4 1PP Information Technology Bureau. We have
5 permission levels that we set forth across the entire
6 city. The domain awareness system is auditable. We
7 have audits across. We know what everybody accesses.
8 When you playback video, there's a watermark across
9 it which includes my-- if I played back a video just
10 to ensure that I'm not recording it, there's a
11 watermark that says my name and tax number. Anybody
12 that replays video, we have all-- we have these
13 security measures in place to ensure privacy of the
14 video.

15 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. And
16 then for folks that do have permission to the Big
17 Apple-- the cameras that we're specifically talking
18 about today, how can they access it? Is it on their
19 phones? Is it a computer at the precinct, or at One
20 Police Plaza?

21 INSPECTOR MASCIA: It's all three of
22 those. So, the phones have an application that
23 they're able to view camera feeds from. The desktop
24 computers have an application that we view cameras
25

2 from, and then of course, at One Police Plaza we have
3 the same technology as the field.

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Does-- thank you.
5 Does any non PD personnel have access to the feeds,
6 NYCHA personnel, TA Presidents?

7 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I could speak for only
8 the NYPD. I'm unaware of who would have access on
9 the other side.

10 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. NYCHA, do
11 you all have access to the particular, like the live
12 feeds?

13 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So,
14 NYCHA has access to all cameras except the NYPD Viper
15 and Argus system cameras. Those are only viewable by
16 the NYPD. But the other cameras that are NYCHA
17 cameras are-- we do have access to. We don't view
18 cameras in real-time. We don't have the capacity to
19 view live. We go back in time and will review based
20 on an incident or situation once we're informed of
21 it.

22 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, thank you.
23 And for PD, when they have access, can you just share
24 a little bit? This is-- are they-- for those who
25

2 have permission, are they-- they can essentially tap
3 into it and watch in real-time, correct?

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And do
6 they need any reasoning to do that?

7 INSPECTOR MASCIA: All computer use
8 should be governed by official Department business.
9 So, if during an audit or something's conducted, you
10 should be able to identify why you were logging into
11 any camera or playing back video at any given time.

12 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But you are only-
13 - a PD personnel is only sharing that during the
14 audit, or is there something before that prompts them
15 before they get access?

16 INSPECTOR MASCIA: There's nothing that
17 prompts them before.

18 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. I think
19 you answered this, but I just want this on the
20 record. Is there maintained detailed record of who
21 access live-stream or video recordings?

22 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We have a-- yes, if
23 you ran an officer by tax number, you'd see
24 everything that they would access.

2 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. are there
3 any other agencies including state and federal given
4 access to live-stream or archived CCTV footage?

5 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Not that I am aware
6 of.

7 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Not that you're
8 aware of.

9 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yeah.

10 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. My-- I'm
11 almost-- I'm almost done. Will NYCHA be able to use
12 this footage to enforce trespass lists or pursue
13 tenancy termination?

14 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We use
15 the photo-- we use our cameras to enforce and, you
16 know, partner with the NYPD to support criminal
17 investigations. We do use it to enforce our lease as
18 well. So, if there's tenancy issues that occur, if
19 there's an incident in a lobby with a resident, we
20 are able to pull that footage and use that as part of
21 a tenancy action.

22 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. I have just
23 two more questions for OTI and then I'm going to pass
24 it because I know we have a lot more questions. For-
25 - what cyber security safeguards are in place to

2 ensure that the Big Apple Connect camera networks
3 provided by Altice and Spectrum cannot be hacked or
4 exploited to gain unauthorized access to NYCHA
5 residents internet traffic or CCTV feeds?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Thank you
7 for the question, Chair. You're asking what cyber
8 security provisions?

9 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Yeah, so where--
10 obviously, and I know that this might not-- this
11 might be a-- this is a question for you all because
12 the contract by Altice and Spectrum is through the
13 City, right, through OTI for Big Apple Connect. What
14 are the cybersecurity safeguards to ensure that the
15 internet service cannot be hacked or exploited to
16 gain unauthorized access for residents? This is the
17 concern, right? They want to make sure. I think that
18 there's a lot that we're still kind of reading
19 through the contract that was finally shared, but
20 what do we have in place as a city to enforce with
21 Altice or Charter to ensure that they're not-- you
22 know, that residents' internets are not easily being
23 hacked?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: With
25 respect to our Big Apple Connect, SSTP we do have

2 like provisions that take into account privacy and
3 keeping information confidential. I would have to
4 get back to you with respect to specific to provision
5 with respect to the actual--

6 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] But
7 you're not aware of any-- anything specific in your
8 contracts with Altice and Charter about cyber
9 security?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: They're
11 required to safeguard our user information. However,
12 it would be up to the franchisee, up to the internet
13 providers to provide those safeguards to a customer
14 just like they would any customer who has service.

15 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. So, the
16 safeguards in place that they have with NYCHA
17 residents should be the standard safeguards that they
18 have with any New Yorker.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Correct.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And are you aware
21 of any access that these providers have to NYCHA
22 residents browsing history, anything directly to
23 their-- anything tied directly to their data? Are
24 you aware of any of that?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: No, no, not
3 at all. it would operate the same way as you getting
4 internet from the providers where it's a separate
5 modem with that identification number associated with
6 it--

7 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] But
8 you--

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: but I'm not
10 aware of anything--

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
12 You're not aware, but not necessarily doesn't-- you
13 cannot confirm that in a contract it specifically
14 bans the access of individual user's browsing
15 histories by these providers?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: No, I'm
17 aware that they do have privacy policies that dictate
18 how data is used which were reviewed as part of
19 entering into the Big Apple Connect agreement.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, so they
21 have-- they could have access to personal data? They
22 do have access to the resident's personal data,
23 correct?

24

25

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: At least
3 their names and addresses to the extent that you're
4 talking about personal data.

5 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Do they have-- do
6 you know if they have access to user's browsing
7 history? Is that explicitly outright, you know,
8 banned in the contract? Do you have like specific
9 provisions saying you are not-- as a provider, that
10 is contracted with the City, you cannot have access
11 to internet-- to individual user's browsing
12 histories?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: I'm not
14 aware of anything specifically in the contract, but
15 cable providers--

16 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
17 Okay.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: are
19 regulated by the federal government and there are
20 provisions associated with that in those--

21 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
22 Okay. Thank you. I have some more questions. I want
23 to acknowledge Council Member Ariola who's joined us
24 on Zoom and Council Member Restler who's here as
25

2 well. Thank you. I'm going to pass it to Council
3 Member Salaam. Yes?

4 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Thank you.

5 Actually, I want to start perhaps with the camera
6 vendor and origins audio capabilities. Do we know
7 who the supplier of the cameras are, the vendors, the
8 manufacturer?

9 INSPECTOR MASCIA: These are not NYPD
10 cameras, so I'd have to turn it over to NYCHA to
11 answer that.

12 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We
13 probably have a variety of vendors that installed our
14 cameras over many years. I have to get back to you
15 on the specifics of the vendors that have installed
16 or the types of-- the model cameras that we've used,
17 but we can pull some examples of that for you.

18 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Do we know whether
19 these cameras were made in the United States or made
20 in China?

21 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I don't
22 have that information with me today, but we can
23 follow up.

24 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: So, we would like
25 maybe more details about the cameras themselves, such

2 as the manufacturer, the models, and the
3 specifications. I'm not sure if you have any of
4 that-- any more of the information, but if not, we
5 would definitely need that.

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: No, I
7 don't have any of that with us today, and just as a
8 reminder, NYCHA has almost 20,000 cameras across our
9 portfolio of varying age, but we can pull some
10 samples of the models and makes that we use and
11 provide that information.

12 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Do we know if any of
13 these cameras have the capability of capturing audio?

14 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: None of
15 our cameras capture audio.

16 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Okay. It's
17 mentioned that the NYCHA cameras are plugged into
18 the domain awareness system. I want to acknowledge
19 and thank you for the response that you provided in
20 your letter to our questions, that due to time
21 constraints we were unable to ask for the POST Act
22 hearing. In that letter, you mentioned that the
23 augment-- that augmented reality technology
24 integrates directly with the DAS and that officers
25 using augmented reality have access to all

2 information available through DAS. Would officers be
3 able to see the camera feeds through augmented
4 reality, that technology?

5 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Any-- the use of the
6 DAS program which encompasses a bunch of different
7 technologies in it, is-- to view video is strictly
8 permission based. So, a general use officer
9 regardless of how they log into DAS whether they use
10 augmented reality or the desktop, they would have to
11 have the correct permission levels and the need to
12 use the camera feed.

13 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Can you tell us when
14 the decision was made to link the NYPD cameras-- I
15 mean the NYCHA cameras to the NYPD domain awareness
16 system? And when did NYCHA learn that these cameras
17 would be used in that way?

18 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I'll speak to the one
19 part of that would be, from the NYPD's perspective,
20 we've had access going back to the previous mayoral
21 administration back to 2015 as we started rolling out
22 the fiber sites. Those fiber site locations are
23 within our domain awareness system, and this is an
24 expansion of connections utilizing Big Apple Connect.

2 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Can you tell us also
3 which NYCHA developments were being targeted to have
4 their cameras linked to the NYPD in the future, and
5 when was that process supposed to occur?

6 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The additional-- so,
7 by November 2025, there's a plan to add 19 additional
8 sites which would be a total of 20. The future
9 phases, a total of 99 more sites, would be-- it's not
10 scheduled right now at this time. That would be a
11 future phase.

12 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: You mentioned about
13 the retention for the access to the videos, and what
14 I'm wondering is that does the NYPD or OTI record the
15 videos from the cameras in NYCHA developments, or is
16 use limited to live-feed only?

17 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, for the Big Apple
18 Connect cameras, the feed and the video everything is
19 stored locally at the Big Apple-- at the site at the
20 housing location. The access and the retention
21 period is reliant on the retention period that's
22 within that hard drive. So, you might have-- it's
23 less than 30 days. It's probably 22. It could be
24 lower. It just depends on the size of the hard drive
25 at the location.

2 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Is it like being
3 written over within a certain amount of time? Is
4 that--

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes,
6 our camera retention ranges from 14 to 21 days, and
7 after that it's written over.

8 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: You said 14 to--

9 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
10 [interposing] 21.

11 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: 21 days. How has
12 the integration of NYCHA CCTV feeds into NYPD
13 surveillance system directly improved public safety
14 or crime prevention?

15 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The access to cameras
16 anywhere in the city, live access to cameras for us,
17 immediately an incident has occurred, they're
18 invaluable to our daily operations.

19 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: How many times has
20 NYPD responded to a crime scene as a result of
21 something observed through NYCHA cameras?

22 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I don't have that data
23 in front of me.

24

25

2 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: How does the NYPD
3 determine when NYCHA developments-- which NYCHA
4 developments to prioritize for camera integration?

5 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, I-- that's
6 something I want to get back to you on exactly what
7 was chosen for these sites and why they put them in--
8 why we receive them in a certain order. I just want
9 to confirm that and we'll respond to the Council with
10 that.

11 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: In regards to facial
12 recognition, you testified also-- you testified and
13 also stated in a letter dated in July 22nd of 2025
14 that the NYPD does not use real-time facial
15 recognition technology. Can you confirm that this is
16 still the case?

17 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We are not running on
18 any of the cameras real-time, live, facial
19 identification. There's no biometric tracking of any
20 individual. It's a camera feed, solely a camera
21 feed.

22 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Will the CCTV
23 footage or live-stream from NYCHA buildings be cross-
24 referenced with existing NYPD or NYCHA databases such
25 as facial recognition systems, gang database,

2 trespass limits, or housing records to actively
3 identify residents and/or visitors?

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, the system is not
5 live. It's not live in a way with their-- there's no
6 computer algorithm running on top of it. There's no
7 live facial identification. There's nothing to
8 compare it to that's being taken.

9 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: You also mentioned
10 earlier in your testimony that there-- that the NYPD
11 can view the footage. Does someone from the NYPD
12 watch the video feed from NYCHA cameras on a 24/7
13 basis?

14 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, initially when--
15 for the NYPD we had what was called the Viper Rooms
16 and we would have officers sitting in the Viper Room
17 watching those videos 24/7. With the integrations
18 that we have, it's on an as-needed purpose-- basis
19 that we would log in and view the cameras.

20 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Do we know-- do you
21 know if the technology has the capability to
22 recognize an image or movement and automatically
23 alert an officer?

24 INSPECTOR MASCIA: These cameras, to my
25 understanding, and NYCHA could speak directly to what

2 they-- what's actually on the cameras if they have
3 this ability, but to my understanding they do not
4 have it, and as a department, we do not deploy live
5 facial recognition or any biometric tracking.

6 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: I actually want to
7 just pause for a moment just to recognize that we've
8 been joined by members from Pace University. I want
9 to say hi to you all and welcome to the people's
10 house. Thank you. The number of cameras, you
11 mentioned 7,078-- I'm sorry, 7,086 additional and
12 19,000 more. What I'm wondering is how many CCTV
13 cameras in NYCHA are currently being connected to the
14 NYPD? Is that the total number or is there--

15 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] Yeah, so
16 under the previous agreement with the 37 sites, those
17 are the fiber sites. Those are high bandwidth site
18 that we ran wire, the fiber connection to. That's 37
19 sites, and that's 7,118 cameras. That's the previous
20 method of connecting. Big Apple Connect has one site
21 live today that is 68 cameras. In total, to give you
22 the final stats of what we're looking at it's going
23 to be 119 sites that's planned right now, for 17,897
24 cameras.

2 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Will other agencies
3 such as the FDNY be given access to the live stream
4 or archived CCTV footage? And just to give context,
5 the Fire Department has reportedly used drones for
6 safety reconnaissance on buildings, and it is our
7 understanding that the NYPD sometimes requests access
8 to that footage for its own purposes. Can you
9 clarify whether a similar situation is occurring with
10 the Big Apple Connect CCTV feeds, specifically, and
11 are other city, state, and federal agencies being
12 granted access to these Housing Authority cameras
13 once they're linked to the NYPD's system? And if so,
14 under which circumstances and what safeguards?

15 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The agreement was
16 between NYCHA and the NYPD. MOU is-- that's where it
17 ends. Our access that we have is not transferrable
18 to other agencies. If during the course of a criminal
19 investigation that we're assisting with it comes to
20 bear that that's part of the investigation, we call
21 legal and figure out if this is something that we're
22 compelled to do, our Legal Bureau within the NYPD.

23 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: These sites that
24 these cameras are at, do we have the, like, the
25

2 location? Do we know? Are you able to give us the
3 names of those sites?

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I have the sites--

5 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: [interposing] And
6 maybe I don't-- I don't necessarily mean like to list
7 them all now, but--

8 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] Yeah.

9 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Are we-- maybe
10 somehow later you--

11 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing]
12 Absolutely, sir.

13 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: deliver that
14 information to us? Yes. How were these sites
15 chosen?

16 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I don't want to
17 misspeak on the exact prioritization. I do know that
18 part of the decision-making that went into play was
19 that we should do-- where we're sending a-- we have
20 to send a survey team out. So, in the effort of even
21 just efficiency, it makes more sense that if there's
22 some in Brooklyn south or some in Brooklyn north, to
23 survey those locations first.

24

25

2 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Are these cameras
3 visible to tenants or are they like camouflaged,
4 hidden in any way?

5 INSPECTOR MASCIA: These are existing
6 NYCHA cameras. I'll let NYCHA discuss anywhere
7 they're placed.

8 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Our
9 cameras are typically placed in public areas, so
10 lobbies, external outside areas, and all of our
11 entrances that have cameras are also labeled with
12 signage informing, you know, all residents and
13 visitors that they are being recorded.

14 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: In June 2024, Mayor
15 Adams and the NYPD Commissioner announced the Fumis
16 [sic] Program, a camera integration platform allowing
17 private businesses to voluntarily register or
18 integrate their security cameras with their local
19 NYPD precinct. Is this program still active?

20 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The Fumis program is
21 still active.

22 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: how many businesses
23 have signed up?

24 INSPECTOR MASCIA: That information I'd
25 have to get back to you with the exact count.

2 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: And also, how can
3 businesses sign up? You know, we ask this because
4 the link to the sign-up is currently not working.

5 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Then I will ensure
6 that's fixed. It's to ensure that the businesses are
7 able to sign up. That's e-valuing [sic] program.

8 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: I think those are my
9 questions. Thank you.

10 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Thank you, sir.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair.
12 I'd like to pass it to the birthday boy, Chair Banks,
13 for his questions.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you to my
15 Chairs and thank you to the administration again.
16 NYCHA has a responsibility to its residents, am I
17 correct? Does NYCHA have a responsibility to their
18 residents?

19 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We have
20 many responsibilities to our residents.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: When NYCHA makes
22 significant changes that impact or affects their
23 residents' lives, does NYCHA typically inform the
24 residents as to these changes?

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes, we
3 communicate with our residents on a variety of
4 operational changes that we make, policy changes that
5 we make. We are governed by HUD rules that require
6 public--

7 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Right.

8 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: comment
9 on certain areas and certain issues that we-- so we
10 put some things out for public comment. So, it
11 depends on the policy or issue.

12 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. would you
13 agree that 24/7 police surveillance is something that
14 affects the residents' daily lives?

15 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: It's
16 something that our residents are constantly asking us
17 to improve on. We have, I think every single time I
18 meet with--

19 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Well,
20 we're not talking about security, we're talking about
21 surveillance.

22 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
23 residents, they ask for additional security.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, but when it
25 comes to surveillance, would you--

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:

3 [interposing] Every single resident leader I ask for
4 asks for additional cameras.

5 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Did NYCHA residents
6 obtain any-- give any consent to NYCHA cameras when
7 they were integrated to the NYPD's domain-- domain
8 awareness system?

9 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We
10 inform residents that there are cameras on-site, and
11 that we-- again, all of our resident leaders ask us
12 for additional cameras at our sites.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And the-- where
14 residents who units were enrolled in this particular--
15 - in the BAC, were they informed that the free
16 internet that they were getting was also going to be
17 a door to surveillance?

18 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Big
19 Apple Connect is an OTI program, and so it's-- I will
20 defer to them as far as their communication about
21 that program.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Well, since
23 this story was reported, what has NYCHA communicated
24 to the residents or the resident associations about
25

2 the use of the BAC infrastructure to set up cameras
3 or for surveillance?

4 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Again,
5 BAC is a OTI program, and so I defer to their
6 communication plan.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Trying to
8 understand NYCHA's broader camera infrastructure. In
9 total how many cameras are located at NYCHA
10 developments, and how many of those cameras are
11 maintained by NYCHA, and how many are maintained by
12 the NYPD?

13 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So,
14 NYCHA has approximately 20,000 cameras across our
15 portfolio. NYPD has access-- there are about 3,200
16 cameras that are NYPD cameras that we don't have any
17 viewing access to. Those are NYPD-only cameras.
18 Those are through the Viper and Argus programs, and
19 then-- but all the other ones NYCHA is responsible
20 for maintaining.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Does the total
22 include any cameras that are at the PACT development?

23 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: No,
24 these are just the NYCHA portfolio of Section 9
25 housing.

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Is there any
3 coordination with any of the PACT developments when
4 it comes to their surveillance with NYCHA? Is there
5 any coordination?

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: The
7 property managers for PACT have their own security
8 systems and their own security protocols.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Question to NYPD. Is
10 there any coordination with the surveillance or
11 camera systems within the PACT developments?

12 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The PACT developments
13 that we previously had linked, we lost access to.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, if there is a
15 need to review cameras in those PACT developments, is
16 there-- you actually request permission to do so?

17 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We would have a
18 [inaudible] process.

19 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Can you provide the
20 exact breakdown of how many Viper cameras and how
21 many Argus cameras and how many-- how many are
22 standard CCC cameras that exist?

23 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So, we
24 approximately 17,700 NYCHA cameras, and approximately
25 3,100 Viper cameras and 90 Argus cameras.

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, for the Argus
3 cameras, are they on NYCHA campus, and if so, are
4 they inside the buildings or are they in the common
5 areas?

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: All of
7 the cameras are across NYCHA's portfolio, but all of
8 our cameras are in common areas only. They are not
9 pointing towards doors or any areas that have assumed
10 privacy.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And I think it was
12 said earlier, but maybe you can just clarify. Does
13 the-- do they produce any live feed?

14 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So,
15 there is live feed, but there's no one watching them
16 24/7.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay.

18 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So,
19 the-- when we're informed of an incident or a
20 situation, we can go back if it's within the 14 to 21
21 days of the storage and check that footage.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And the Viper
23 cameras, are they on NYCHA campuses, and if so, are
24 they inside buildings or are they only outside?

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Again,
3 all of the cameras, Viper and Argus, are in common
4 areas that are not private areas.

5 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And the CCTV cameras,
6 are they on NYCHA campuses as well, and do they-- are
7 they inside the building or are they only outside?

8 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes,
9 all of our cameras are in common public areas,
10 lobbies, elevators, and then on the outside.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. How many of
12 NYCHA's cameras are operational as of today? NYCHA
13 just closed a \$433 million in funding for a PACT
14 renovation project across 14 buildings in Brooklyn,
15 and according to reporting, those upgrades will
16 include the installation of new surveillance cameras.
17 Will those cameras be connected to the NYPD's domain
18 awareness system?

19 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Can you repeat the
20 question? As part of the expansion for the new--

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Yes,
22 I'll slow it down for you if you need it. How many
23 of NYCHA's cameras are operational to this day? And
24 NYCHA recently just closed a deal for \$433 million in
25 funding for a PACT renovation project across 14

2 buildings in Brooklyn. According to reporting, those
3 upgrades will include the installation of new
4 surveillance cameras. Will those cameras be
5 connected to the NYPD's domain awareness system?

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So,
7 I'll take the first part of that question, Council
8 Member. So, I don't have it as of today since we
9 printed our materials the end of last week to study
10 for the hearing, but as of last week, we only had 61
11 open work orders on cameras. You know, that's 61
12 over 20,000 cameras in our system that had some open
13 work order that needed some type of repair. Again,
14 regarding the PACT closing, that private developer
15 now will be installing their own camera system, and
16 so it is a property that NYCHA-- that the NYPD would
17 have to request access to just like any other non-
18 public housing site.

19 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. So, what is
20 NYCHA's level of access to the cameras maintained by
21 the NYPD, and what are the protocols for accessing
22 those feeds?

23 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We do not maintain the
24 cameras that are the Big Apple Connect cameras.
25 NYCHA--

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Those
3 are the Viper. You maintain the Viper and--

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] The Viper
5 cameras, we have some Viper that we maintain. The
6 Argus cameras are outside. We maintain those
7 cameras. The Big Apple Connect cameras or the CCTV
8 cameras that are across--

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] You have
10 access to the Viper and the Argus cameras, am I
11 correct?

12 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Alright. And NYCHA,
14 the CCTV cameras, those are the ones you have--

15 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
16 [interposing] Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: access to, okay. When
18 it comes to signage and notification to the
19 residents, has NYCHA posted signage on all cameras
20 connected to the domain awareness access-- domain
21 awareness system?

22 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: No, our
23 signage simply states that there is CCTV at that
24 site.

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. When there are
3 security cameras in a location, is it standard
4 practice to post signs notifying people--

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
6 [interposing] Yeah.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: that they're being
8 recorded?

9 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes,
10 all of our sites with cameras have signage that
11 notify residents that this area has CCTV systems in
12 place.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. When it comes
14 to like the private versus public spaces and NYCHA
15 campuses, when a person who is not a tenant enters
16 the NYCHA campus without authorization, would NYCHA
17 consider that person to be trespassing?

18 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I think
19 it depends. I think that's a difficult question to
20 answer. It depends. There's obviously many guests
21 and visitors that are--

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Well--

23 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: that
24 enter NYCHA campuses that are not residents, and
25

2 tenancy can be complicated, and so I think it depends
3 on the situation.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Well, when it comes
5 to purposes of criminal trespass, does NYCHA treat
6 its property as private property?

7 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes,
8 but there's-- and we-- but again, we're not watching
9 cameras in real-time.

10 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay.

11 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So, if
12 there is a criminal incident that occurs--

13 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] right.

14 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: we will
15 look at the footage and determine, you know, what the
16 situation is with that incident.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. in a 2023 MOU
18 between NYCHA and NYPD it states that pedestrian and
19 vehicle operators using the public space in, on, and
20 adjoining to NYCHA's developments have no expectation
21 of privacy concerning their presence in public
22 spaces. Is that NYCHA's stance?

23 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Help me understand
25 this. Are there developments NYCHA, private property

2 or public spaces on NYCHA develop-- on NYCHA
3 property?

4 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: There's
5 common areas--

6 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] There's
7 common areas.

8 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: within
9 NYCHA property.

10 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, so, okay. So, if
11 it's common-- so, are there private areas on NYCHA
12 property?

13 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: NYCHA
14 is private property in that we don't allow loitering
15 or other activity by non-NYCHA residents. So,
16 somebody can't just come in and start a barbeque on
17 our grounds, right? There's ways that we can enforce
18 that, but there's common spaces and then there's
19 private spaces like your apartment.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, if public, how
21 can NYCHA enforce the trespass laws?

22 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We have
23 to coordinate with our partners at NYPD on law
24 enforcement.

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay and if they
3 flip-flop, does NYCHA classification of its property
4 change depending on whether it's for the purpose of
5 excluding people versus surveilling them?

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We
7 don't conduct surveillance. We have safety and
8 security tools in our toolbox that we use to help
9 protect our residents from criminal activity, but we
10 are not watching our cameras in real-time, so there
11 is no surveillance going on. And so we--

12 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] PD is
13 doing the surveillance.

14 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: But we
15 coordinate with NYPD on all criminal activities.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: PD is doing the
17 surveillance? PD does the surveillance you're
18 saying. would you agree that--

19 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] We don't
20 actively just have the cameras on for no unofficial
21 business rule. Like there's-- you need to be
22 conducting official Department business when you're
23 viewing these cameras.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. targeting the
25 public housing residents-- the 2023 MOU between NYCHA

2 and the NYPD states that the NYPD's domain awareness
3 system is a counterterrorism tool. Is it standard
4 practice for the NYPD to use their surveillance
5 technology in privately-owned housing?

6 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The-- on NYCHA
7 properties. So, the domain awareness system serves
8 two purposes. It's a counterterrorism tool, but it's
9 also a crime fighting tool. We use the access that is
10 provided through the domain awareness system to
11 absolutely investigate and respond to crimes that
12 occur on NYCHA property.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Why is this
14 technology being used on NYCHA residents?

15 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The technology is-- to
16 call-- it's a video feed. So, the video feed is
17 ingested. Actually, for the Big Apple it's very
18 different. So, for the Big Apple Connect we log in
19 through the domain awareness system into the camera
20 where we then view the video feed and/or pull it in.
21 By utilizing domain awareness system we have our
22 built-in audit features that we're able to control
23 the access to these cameras.

24

25

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And are there any
3 specific terrorism threats at NYCHA developments to
4 justify this 24/7 counterterrorism surveillance?

5 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, again, the domain
6 awareness system serves two different functions. It's
7 a counterterrorism tool as it was initially built,
8 but it's also a key tool in our ability to fight
9 crime across the entire city.

10 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, well, why did
11 NYCHA agree to subject its residents to a
12 counterterrorism surveillance program?

13 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Again,
14 it's not surveillance in that nobody is watching it
15 24/7. We agreed to work with the NYPD as an
16 important partner to improve safety and security at
17 our sites.

18 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Right.

19 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: And
20 every resident leader and resident that I speak to
21 asks for additional cameras and additional safety and
22 security support from the NYPD.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Well, NYCHA's
24 required to track demographic data about its
25 residents from HUD reporting, am I correct?

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And what percentage
4 of the NYCHA residents are Black?

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I don't
6 have that information.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: What percentage of the
8 NYCHA residents are Hispanic and Latino?

9 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I don't
10 have that information with me.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, I guess I'll--
12 and I guess you won't have the response for the next
13 question. Are you aware of any similar
14 counterterrorism surveillance programs located in
15 luxury buildings on the Upper East Side?

16 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I
17 wouldn't necessarily have that information?

18 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Is that a yes, no?

19 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: My
20 personal information of what I know about luxury
21 buildings [inaudible]

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Well,--

23 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: personal
24 information?
25

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: I'm not asking for
3 your personal inform-- opinion. You represent NYCHA
4 today.

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I would
6 defer to the NYPD to ask about surveillance at other
7 properties.

8 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Well, then you can
9 answer that.

10 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Am I aware of any use
11 of Argus cameras or--

12 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] I mean,
13 let me answer--

14 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] We have
15 Argus cameras--

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] the
17 question so you can give me a better response. Are
18 you aware of any similar counterterrorism
19 surveillance programs located in luxury buildings on
20 the Upper East Side or in Tribeca?

21 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Just to be clear
22 again, this is not a counterterrorism surveillance
23 program. It is-- the domain awareness system is a
24 tool that we have that we use to fight crime, respond
25

2 to crime, and investigate crimes that occur across
3 the entire city.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Well, okay. so, is
5 this counterterrorism surveillance system being
6 deployed primary in communities that are
7 approximately 90 percent of color, and while similar
8 surveillance is not deployed in predominantly white
9 residential buildings, is that the case?

10 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I am unaware of the
11 demographic of the buildings that we currently have
12 cameras deployed in.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: In 2023, there was an
14 MOU between the NYPD and NYCHA that states that no
15 one will be targeted based on race. How do you
16 reconcile that statement with deploying this system
17 primarily in communities of color?

18 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We are not targeting
19 anyone by deploying-- first of all, we're not
20 deploying cameras. We're integrating with existing
21 NYCHA cameras. And there is no targeting going on.
22 We are responding to crime, investigating crime and
23 ensuring safety and security for the residents.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: In 2023 there was an
25 MOU that also states that in certain cases that the

2 CCTVs, "many utilize or be integrated with systems
3 and technologies deployed by other bureaus or
4 divisions of the NYPD." Do any of these systems or
5 technologies include biometric analysis or
6 recognition, and in other words, can you say for
7 certain that NYCHA data will not be used for
8 biometric analysis?

9 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, I'm glad you
10 brought that up, because other bureaus use the domain
11 awareness system. The domain awareness system is our
12 centrally-located-- it's our tool that we have across
13 the entire Department for access. We do not have any
14 live facial recognition. We do not have biometric
15 tracking or targeting. We don't have that
16 capability.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Does NYCHA
18 receive any alert or notifications when NYCHA data is
19 used with other NYPD systems and technologies?

20 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We view the video.
21 That's--

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Okay.
23 does NYCHA have authority to prevent its camera
24 footage from being used in any other NYPD
25 technologies?

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We
3 defer to NYPD for whatever tools they use as part of
4 their criminal investigations.

5 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. The
6 partnership between the NYPD and NYCHA-- has the NYPD
7 obtained warrants in its 24/7 surveillance of NYCHA
8 properties?

9 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Have we obtained
10 warrants to produce video?

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Yeah.

12 INSPECTOR MASCIA: That's what it'd be.
13 If we were served with a warrant, we'd be guided by
14 our legal bureau on how we proceed.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. And is the MOU
16 between NYCHA and NYPD that was signed back on
17 September 16, 1994, is that still in effect?

18 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I am unaware of the
19 details of that MOU. I'd have to confer with my legal
20 bureau on that.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay.

22 INSPECTOR MASCIA: 1994, correct, sir?

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Yes, September 16th,
24 1994. I want to also touch on this and then I'll hand
25 it over to my colleague. The Mayor's Office Action

2 Plan which-- neighborhood safety which we know as
3 MAP. Can you provide us with an update on the MAP
4 program? For NYCHA.

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes.
6 The Mayor's Action Plan program included CCTV and
7 layered access doors at 16 developments. All MAP
8 projects were completed in 2023, and I believe the
9 project details are publicly available on our
10 website.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. in 2015 the
12 Manhattan District Attorney announced an \$89 million
13 upgrade to connect the MAP site cameras to the NYPD's
14 Lower Manhattan Security Initiative. Did this
15 connection ever occur?

16 INSPECTOR MASCIA: LMSI is how we
17 connect. We connect through LMSI. It's part of ht
18 DAS program, too. So, the cameras get connected. So
19 I imagine that's through part of the previous
20 administration's agreement. The 20-- between 2010
21 and 2019 we network 37 sites through fiber
22 connections.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, these cameras are
24 still connected to the NYPD system as of today.

25 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And will residents at
3 the MAP developments, were they notified that they
4 might be monitored through a counterterrorism
5 network?

6 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The notification
7 process would be through NYCHA, but again, this is
8 not a counterterrorism tool in that respect. It's
9 not part of a counterterrorism surveillance program.

10 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: NYCHA. What is
11 NYCHA's level of access to those cameras and the live
12 feed?

13 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We have
14 access to all the cameras that are not Viper or
15 Argus.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. And are the
17 MAP-funded cameras currently integrated with the
18 domain awareness system.

19 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I'd
20 have to check whether those cameras at those 16 sites
21 are a part of the cameras that we have in the MOU.

22 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yeah, we'd have to
23 just double-check, because we have the MOU of the 37
24 sites that we mentioned in the beginning of our
25

2 presentation to see which ones exactly are part of
3 that program.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. and does NYCHA
5 plan-- is there any plan to expand MAP, and if so,
6 does those plans include installing cameras and
7 upgrading existing cameras to connect to the NYPD
8 system?

9 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: There's
10 no more additional funding through the MAP program
11 for cameras, and all of our cameras that we install
12 now are funded by City Council or Borough President
13 or other elected officials that provide us funding to
14 support our camera programs.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Madam Chair,
16 I'll turn it over to--

17 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
18 Thank you, Chair Banks.

19 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I want to
21 acknowledge Council-- we've been joined by Council
22 Members Won and Bottcher. Next, I want to call up
23 co-chair Gale Brewer.

24 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you very much.
25 A couple of issues. First of all, just all residents

2 do want more cameras, but I think they'd like to know
3 that if they're getting what I'd consider free
4 internet, television that is connected. Did the
5 tenant association or individuals who have that
6 service, did they get notified about the connection
7 between them and the cameras and the surveillance, so
8 to speak?

9 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I defer
10 to my partners at OTI regarding the Big Apple--

11 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] No,
12 no, but-- I mean, I happen to know they did not, but
13 go ahead.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah, thank
15 you, Chair Brewer. And just to be clear, again-- I
16 often misspeak. There's no Big Apple Connect camera.
17 There's no Big Apple Connect infrastructure. There's
18 no Big Apple Connect cables. It's a program name that
19 refers to a contract that we signed with providers to
20 provide--

21 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] I
22 understand.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: free service
24 ultimately to NYCHA residents. So, there's just no
25 natural synergy between the Big Apple Connect

2 program, the service that's being provided to the
3 residents, and how other agencies might use and
4 leverage the aggressive competitive pricing that we
5 negotiated for other services such as to help
6 facilitate the network that supports the existing
7 cameras for NYPD.

8 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. but so-- even
9 that explanation wasn't provided to residents who
10 have the service is what you're saying.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: That's
12 correct.

13 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I'm just saying
14 that's a mistake, because NYCHA residents are super
15 smart, particularly those who are the TA leaders, and
16 I think they would have like to know that, because my
17 understanding is up to now nobody knew until the New
18 York Focus and others found out. So, I'm just saying
19 in the future, sunshine is better than secrecy, and
20 it would be good to tell people, you know, and they
21 could decide whether they-- I assume they still want
22 the free service. But I think they'd like to know
23 what it means. That's a mistake, if I may say, and
24 it's across all agencies. It's not just you. I think-

2 - I assume there was a discussion and then somebody
3 decided not to share that information.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: No, and to be
5 fair, Chair Brewer, there's no condition for getting
6 the free service, right? Residents are entitled to
7 it. They live at the development. This is a program
8 that would have-- the cameras existed, residents are--
9 - you know, as NYCHA mentioned, are well aware of the
10 cameras, the signage posted. There's an effort by
11 NYPD to gain access for the-- for their public safety
12 purposes, and they're just-- instead of using a
13 protracted expensive method to get that, they're
14 leveraging the Big Apple Connect contract.

15 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I understand that.
16 I'm just saying it would have been nice to explain
17 that to people so that they understand the
18 connection. That's all. because before had
19 standalone cameras with those that are-- have some
20 kind of crime and they have to go back and get the
21 footage. I believe in sunshine, and I think that the
22 administration should do the same. Second question
23 is about the POST Act. So my question is how do you
24 feel, because it's had several amendments, as I'm
25 sure you know. How do you feel that you are in

2 compliance with the PAST Act or not in terms of this
3 program.

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: This program only
5 changed the method by which we access the cameras.
6 Any disclosures for the POST Act, we work closely
7 with the Legal Bureau to ensure we're in compliance.
8 I would say confidently that we are in compliance
9 with the notification process that is required
10 through the POST Act.

11 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: So, you feel like
12 there's no need to do more in terms of the POST Act?

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: I feel like
14 I'll answer any questions for transparency reasons
15 that you might have to understand that what
16 information gaps that there might be, but the only
17 thing that changed by integrating the NYCHA cameras
18 through Big Apple Connect was the method by which we
19 integrated these cameras.

20 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. My other
21 question is what-- could you provide us, not today,
22 because you've given quite a few numbers-- I got the
23 20,000. I got the 3,100 Viper. I got the 90-
24 something. I got the 68 cameras for the Big Apple at
25 one site, etcetera. I'm wondering if you could as a

2 group provide to the committee Chair the listing of
3 information that is-- those numbers to me don't add
4 up. So, I'm just wondering-- you could provide that,
5 I assume. Somebody could.

6 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We'll provide that
7 after the hearing.

8 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. The other
9 question I have is-- the-- you mentioned in your
10 material that there are three incidents where these
11 systems have provided support in terms of criminal
12 activity. Do you have-- maybe this has been asked,
13 but I didn't get a clear answer. What exactly-- how
14 many times it's been helpful? How is it differently
15 helpful than those that are basically standalone and
16 have to be retracted or reviewed later? How is this
17 system helping you seriously with criminal activity
18 that could be curtailed?

19 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Okay, absolutely. So,
20 to give it a hard number, obviously we don't have a
21 hard number with us right now.

22 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: But you can get it
23 to us, please, because otherwise it's just three
24 examples.

2 INSPECTOR MASCIA: To speak to the use of
3 cameras, the NYCHA cameras our Argus cameras that
4 are-- we are blessed to get from funding, they give
5 us the ability that when somebody calls 911, we're
6 immediately able to log into our systems on our phone
7 and on our desktop if needed, and immediately see
8 one, live what's going on right at this moment,
9 because remember that our phones are-- we have such a
10 quick notification process that as somebody's talking
11 to the 911 operator, we're getting a text that
12 there's a robbery in-progress. We're able to quickly
13 log in and immediately see exactly what's going on.
14 Maybe we just see two people running away. Maybe we
15 still see the robbery in-progress, but the ability to
16 live feed-- and then after the fact, to play it back
17 to see what we might have missed is an unbelievably
18 valuable tool for our crime fighting purposes.

19 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. So that's in
20 the however many sites that you have those individual
21 type of-- otherwise it's part of the NYCHA system.
22 My question is what kind of, you know,-- I mean, you
23 really do feel that in those locations where you have
24 these cameras, it's safer as opposed to what I would
25 consider the nicer only cameras? It's actually--

2 have you see an improvement in the quality of life
3 for those residents where those cameras exist?

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Statistically, again,
5 I don't want to misspeak on it--

6 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] No, I
7 understand that.

8 INSPECTOR MASCIA: but you have the
9 camera systems in place to ensure fair outcomes to
10 have truly know what happened at a reported incident,
11 again, it's crucial for law enforcement. And to be
12 honest, when we prosecute cases, it's what's expected
13 that we do video canvases, and we try to get video of
14 exactly what happened.

15 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I understand that.
16 I'm just saying they're all-- we're all concerned
17 about the issue of surveillance, even though you
18 might call it something else, and that's why I'm
19 asking is it really something-- you, obviously, the
20 process is better, but then at that campus, that
21 development, is there really an improvement? That
22 would be something that I would think NYPD or NYCHA
23 would evaluate, because it would A: the resident who
24 are in some cases pleased with the cameras and
25 pleased with the free service, might also like to

2 know that it's seriously improving security. But at
3 the same time, those of us who are concerned about
4 overall over-surveillance would also like to know
5 that because maybe that's not making an improvement.
6 You got to help the public understand a little bit
7 better. I know you just worry about the-- those that
8 are concerned about security, and I got that, but you
9 also have to think a little bit more about the
10 overall-- what you're doing to have such incredible
11 knowledge about people's comings and goings. People
12 are concerned about that.

13 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I appreciate your
14 concerns.

15 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. And the
16 second thing is, how do you decide. Like, is it the
17 entire lobby, the entire elevator, or does it depend
18 on funding as to where you put these cameras? I know
19 how it works for the NYCHA ones. Either the NYCHA
20 pays for it, or sometimes those of us on Reso A
21 funds. But in this case, like, how do you decide
22 where the cameras go, etcetera. Or who decides that?
23 is that you? It is NYCHA?

24

25

2 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Well, these, the
3 cameras that are utilizing Big Apple Connect were the
4 pre-existing NYCHA cameras.

5 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I understand that,
6 but do you add more?

7 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, the decision-- no-
8 -

9 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] You
10 didn't add more?

11 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We did not add more.
12 The decision of where they're placed was made
13 previously by NYCHA.

14 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. Do you-- you
15 said 30 to 90 days, is that how long the footage is
16 retained? How does that work?

17 INSPECTOR MASCIA: No. We do our video--
18 for--

19 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] For
20 your cameras.

21 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Big Apple Connect is
22 reliant on the servers and the hard drives that NYCHA
23 systems have.

24 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Right. So there's
25 no end to the archiving?

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Our
3 footage is stored for 14 to 21 days, depending on--

4 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] Okay.

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: our
6 system.

7 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: So, you're talking
8 also about the footage on the Big Apple also? That's
9 what I'm trying to understand.

10 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Again,
11 it's just NYCHA cameras.

12 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I understand that.

13 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: And
14 it's our network and our servers, and so it's 14 to
15 21 days.

16 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: So, all the cameras
17 are 14 to 21 days?

18 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Even if it's the Big
20 Apple cameras?

21 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
22 Regardless of who's accessing them.

23 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. So, that's 14
24 to 21, and then the-- it's archived or deleted I
25 assume?

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: It's
3 deleted.

4 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Deleted, okay. The
5 other question I have is about the-- oh, God-- net
6 neutrality. Do the ISPs that are part of the Big
7 Apple Connect program adhere to net neutrality
8 principles?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Thank you
10 for that question, Council Member, Chair Brewer.

11 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I spent a lot of
12 years on net neutrality. Go ahead.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: I'm not
14 aware of-- I actually don't have an answer at this
15 time. Happy to get back to you with respect to this,
16 though.

17 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. That would be
18 important for me, for sure. The other issue is, does
19 this infor-- as we heard earlier, nothing gets shared
20 with any other agencies. We're all panicked about
21 federal agencies, for instance. I assume none of
22 this information is shared with any other agency,
23 state or federal?

24 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The NYPD does not
25 engage in any civil enforcement.

2 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay, alright. How
3 did the two agencies, meaning government-- I mean
4 private sector, Spectrum or Charter and Altice, how
5 did they get selected? Was that just based on an
6 RFP?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: That was
8 based on a mini-BID between our providers who are
9 also part of our enterprise agreements. So,
10 essentially it was a mini-BID between Verizon,
11 Altice, and Charter, and there were specifications
12 laid out with respect to what we wanted for the NYCHA
13 program.

14 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. On FOIL which
15 is my favorite topic, I think that the People's
16 Choice filed a request to produce copies of the
17 contract and access to and copies of communication
18 with the companies that you just mentioned. But I
19 guess the question was, the documents to People's
20 Choice for about two years, and then there was an
21 Article 78. I think we talked about this a little
22 bit, but why does it take so long to produce the
23 documents when they were initially requested, and why
24 didn't OTI discuss the surveillance component, the
25

2 question that I asked earlier prior to the reporting
3 from New York Focus? Let's--

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Okay. So,
5 your initial question--

6 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] Was
7 about the FOIL.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: was about
9 the FOIL. I mean, again, just going back to how many
10 FOIL requests agencies receive on a daily or weekly
11 basis, this is-- this was just one of another FOIL
12 requests that-- one of the many FOIL requests that
13 our agency receives. So, to the extent that it was
14 specifically for the Big Apple Connect-related
15 contracts, that didn't unfortunately make a
16 difference with respect to the speed with which we
17 were responding to our FOIL request.

18 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: How long does it
19 normally take you-- obviously, it depends-- to
20 respond to a FOIL? There is a law as to how long you
21 have, and then of course, if you need extensions.
22 How long does it usually take you?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: I would
24 have to come back to you with that information.

2 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. Just so you
3 know, we'll try to pass a law to make it clearer to
4 the public on FOIL, just FYI. And then the second
5 part was about the surveillance and disclosure which
6 you sort of answered earlier, but go ahead.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Just to
8 step back, our mini-BID with respect to Big Apple
9 Connect is essentially based on our
10 telecommunications enterprise agreements. They're
11 umbrella agreements that we negotiate for the City
12 for use by mayoral and non-mayoral agencies. So,
13 taking that step back, this particular mini-BID was
14 for the Big Apple Connect program. So that's what
15 was in the agreement. To the extent that you're
16 talking about surveillance, all-- we essentially
17 fulfilled-- like one of our core missions, providing
18 infrastructure to other agencies, the same way we
19 provide telephones. To the extent that this
20 agreement had language that was broad enough to allow
21 for those connections, we were able to use it and
22 save cost for the City.

23 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. And that had
24 to do with the-- alright. That's the answer that you
25 have. Okay. On Wi-Fi capabilities, is Wi-Fi

2 available in each apartment through a router, or do
3 residents typically connect directly via a wired
4 connection? How does that work?

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah, great
6 question, Council Member. Every unit, all 80--
7 excuse me-- 125,000 households that are enrolled in
8 Big Apple Connect have a direct wire connection.
9 It's coax and a hybrid kind of fiber thing that goes
10 to everybody's unit. They can plug directly into a
11 computer or they have the modem and router which
12 allows them to use the Wi-Fi in their units.

13 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. Do the Wi-Fi
14 routers detect human movement even though obstacles
15 such as drywall, fences, or concrete walls function
16 in effect like cameras inside the home with the
17 ability to see through the walls? I just-- I ask
18 this because there are different systems and I just
19 didn't know which ones are used at NYCHA. NYCHA
20 developments typically have very thick walls. How
21 does that work for NYCHA?

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah. So,
23 the modems and routers are like every other modem and
24 router they would install at any unit whether it's,
25 you know-- any apartment whether it's NYCHA or

2 anywhere else in the City that provides Wi-Fi
3 connectivity. Beyond that-- and both providers do
4 provide support if there is a signal that's not
5 getting around a turn or into a back bedroom. They'll
6 be able to provide an extender to help enable them.
7 But anything else that you described, I'm not
8 familiar with any detection of movement capabilities.

9 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. And I just
10 want to be very clear. When this CCTV video feed was
11 accessible to the NYPD, I assume there was nothing,
12 even in fine print-- I don't read fine print. I'm one
13 of the worst consumers. But there was nothing in
14 that sign up for the CCTV that indicated that there
15 was relationship with NYPD via the cameras. Is that
16 a correct statement?

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah. I
18 mean, essentially when we offered the program to
19 NYCHA residents, we let them know too that common
20 area Wi-Fi hotspots would also be available. We work
21 with tenant association presidents, property managers
22 to see A, if they want that in their community, and
23 where they would like that to be, whether it's in a
24 courtyard or a playground or other common area
25 spaces, or in some cases offices if they're used for

2 community purposes. And so that-- all that
3 information has been disclosed and all residents
4 fully aware--

5 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] But it
6 wasn't something that they signed a piece of paper
7 when they signed up stating that we know that this is
8 also for better or for worse accessing and enabling
9 NYPD to see the feed? That wasn't part of the
10 signup--

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: [interposing]
12 No, that wouldn't have been.

13 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. Alright.
14 Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so
16 much, Chair Brewer. We're going to go right ahead to
17 member questions. Council Member Cabán?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So excited. Four
19 Chair hearings, it's tough. Good morning or
20 afternoon. I want to start here. Which agencies
21 besides NYCHA have cameras that the NYPD can
22 currently monitor in real-time?

23 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, other agencies
24 besides NYCHA that we can monitor in real-time? We

1 COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY WITH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC HOUSING, AND COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS 101

2 have other agreements with different stakeholders
3 across the City where we have MOUs--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] Can
5 you just name the agencies? I only have limited
6 time. Just name the agencies.

7 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I don't want to leave
8 any out and I don't want to misname them--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing]
10 Okay.

11 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We can provide you
12 that after the hearing.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Can you name the
14 ones that you know at least to get us started, and
15 then you can provide the rest later? Like who else?

16 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I am unable to provide
17 you any for sure.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: You don't know who
19 else?

20 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Like that-- that are
21 official agencies that we have access to the camera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay. Given the
23 topic of the hearing, I would have hoped you come
24 with that information. What policies if any are in
25 place to ensure that officers aren't using their

2 access to NYCHA cameras to monitor or investigate
3 first amendment protected activity?

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, all usage of the
5 cameras is completely auditable. It's for official
6 Department business and official Department use.

7 So,--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] But
9 what policies are in place to ensure that officers
10 aren't accessing them to investigate first amendment
11 protected activity?

12 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, we-- officers
13 would not be investigating first amendment protected
14 activity in that manner. You're describing a
15 situation that--

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] I'm
17 going to-- so, I'm going to push back on that for a
18 second, because we know for a fact, for example, that
19 when you talk about counterterrorism work, when you
20 talk about the SRG's work, that is connected to
21 protest activity which is related to first amendment
22 activity, right? And so this is complicated stuff,
23 and so that's why I'm asking where's the training
24 around this, especially when-- because you said these
25 cameras, you only access them for crime fighting,

2 right? And there's a lot of things that you would
3 consider crime fighting that maybe some of us would
4 not agree on. But to take it as an example, under
5 your definition of crime fighting, we know that at a
6 previous hearing, the NYPD testified and acknowledged
7 that for example in SRG training materials they
8 define "violent groups" and gave the examples BLM,
9 Black Lives Matter, anti-Trump demonstrations, and
10 Occupy Wallstreet, right? And so based on those
11 definitions in your own training and connecting that
12 to the work of counterterrorism and some of the
13 protest-related work that the SRG does, you make that
14 connection and there's an argument that at some point
15 your officers could be fighting crime by accessing
16 NYCHA and there may be crossing a line going into an
17 area that's actually protected speech, right? So,
18 what I want to know because this is a really
19 important thing and we're seeing it run over at every
20 level of government, are there policies in place that
21 ensure that officers know the difference and are--
22 and whether they're monitoring or investigating a
23 first amendment protected activity?

24 INSPECTOR MASCIA: All officers, whatever
25 their role is within the Department-- I have not been

2 through the SRG training, and I did not watch that
3 hearing-- are guided by whatever they're doing with
4 this camera access, if they have the permission level
5 to have the access that is within Department
6 guidelines and conducting official Department
7 business.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, what do the
9 guidelines say about first amendment protected
10 activity? What-- how is it defined, is there a
11 section on it?

12 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Well, in preparation
13 for this hearing, that wasn't one of the items for
14 discussion.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay.

16 INSPECTOR MASCIA: It was for the camera
17 integration--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] I
19 mean, this is about surveillance in NYCHA communities
20 and that would include surveillance of first
21 amendment protected activity. I really don't buy
22 that, but I'm going to move on. Which external
23 actors, government or private, have been given access
24 to NYCHA surveillance footage since January 1st of
25 2025?

2 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Our agreement is
3 strictly with NYCHA. Anything outside of NYPD, NYCHA
4 access, would have to be run through the Legal Bureau
5 for anybody else to even see the footage.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay. But if it--
7 let's say it gets run through the Legal Bureau. Who
8 else has had access after that process since January
9 1st, 2025?

10 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I'm unaware of that
11 information.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Can you get that
13 information and give it to us?

14 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We do not actively
15 give access to anyone else besides the NYPD--

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] Well,
17 you-- well, I mean, you said for example that you do
18 civil immigration enforcement which means--

19 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] No, no,
20 no, no, no, no. Let's be very clear. The NYPD does
21 not engage in civil immigration enforcement.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I mean, I'm sorry,
23 criminal, and that you don't civil. I misspoke.

24 INSPECTOR MASCIA: No, no--
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] But
3 based on your testimony that you don't do civil
4 immigration, but you do do-- you do cooperate with
5 the feds on federal immigration-- on criminal--

6 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] When
7 required by law--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] Yes,
9 yes.

10 INSPECTOR MASCIA: we cooperate, yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, I'm asking--
12 so you're telling me that the answer to the question
13 as to whether you have given any NYCHA surveillance
14 footage to any external actor, the answer is no?

15 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The answer's going to
16 be the same. When required by law and I would confer
17 with my Legal Bureau.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay, and so after
19 conferring with legal, who has gotten access?

20 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We do not have that. I
21 don't have that information for this hearing.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay, can you get
23 it for us?

24 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I'll have to confer--
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] Can
3 I ask a few more questions, Chairs? Thank you.
4 Yeah, I mean, your answer does not make sense. Like,
5 that is just-- it's not plausible. It's not
6 believable. What's the process for giving-- I know
7 you just said you don't do it at all, but what's the
8 process for giving federal agencies access to NYCHA
9 camera feeds? Yeah, what's the process?

10 INSPECTOR MASCIA: All access is within
11 NYPD official Department guidelines, and it's
12 required--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] What
14 are those guidelines?

15 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [inaudible] When
16 required by law, we confer with our Legal Bureau to
17 figure out if they-- whatever they're producing is
18 enough for access. It's all through Legal Bureau.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay.

20 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I would have to
21 confer.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay. So, that's
23 a little bit different of an answer that you just
24 gave. So, how many times has that happened since
25 January 2025?

2 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I think you're asking
3 the same question again--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: [interposing] Yeah,
5 but you gave a different answer, and so that's why
6 I'm asking.

7 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [inaudible] I think
8 we've changed the stem of the question. I'd have to
9 confer. That's not information we have, and I'd have
10 to confer with Legal Bureau on that.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay. The last
12 thing I'll say, I mean-- you know what, I've covered.
13 I've taken over past my time. But thank you, Chairs.

14 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you,
15 Council Member. Next we have Council Member Won for
16 questions.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Good morning. Thank
18 you so much, Chair Gutiérrez. I want to drill down
19 on some of the questions that my colleagues have
20 already asked. Could you help me understand? So,
21 the way that we have surveillance cameras all
22 throughout the City right now on public land such as
23 the subway stops, bathroom in a public park, street
24 lights on a public street, can you help me
25 understand-- so if NYCHA is publicly owned land, does

2 it fall under the same legal requirements and
3 regulations as the way that you install cameras in a
4 subway or any other publicly-owned land?

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I just
6 want to clarify that NYCHA is not publicly-owned
7 land. NYCHA is not public property. It is private.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: So, who has the
9 ownership of NYCHA?

10 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: NYCHA.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: So, NYCHA is a quasi
12 federal, state, city agency? How would you identify
13 NYCHA?

14 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Our
15 property is deeded through a deed of trust with HUD.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: So, it's federal.

17 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: It's
18 private.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Okay, but HUD is a
20 federal agency?

21 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes,
22 it's our source of authorization, but we are not
23 public land.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Okay, so if it's
25 privately-owned land, can you help me understand the

2 regulations that are currently in place legally on
3 when you are installing cameras that will be routed
4 or used by NYPD, a city agency?

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We
6 install our cameras and we have worked with our
7 partner with NYPD to allow increased access in order
8 to help facilitate criminal investigations.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: For NYCHA, when did
10 you start installing cameras on your properties? I
11 assume it was before Big Apple Connect.

12 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We've
13 had cameras on our property for decades. I'm not sure
14 how long. We've had an NY-- we've had an MOU with
15 NYPD since at least 2014. I understand maybe it goes
16 back to 1994, but this is a longstanding
17 relationship. It is far predated from Big Apple
18 Connect.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: So, now the only
20 difference is that your cameras are utilizing the Wi-
21 Fi that Big Apple Connect provides?

22 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: That is
23 correct. Previously they used a different internet
24 service provide.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Okay. So, there
3 isn't a change in your surveillance of NYCHA
4 properties.

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Again,
6 we don't surveil NYCHA properties. We use cameras to
7 enforce criminal activity and help improve our safety
8 and security for our residents.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Okay, but you've
10 been doing it for a very long time. Okay. Thank
11 you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you,
13 Council Member. The Chairs, we're going to do a
14 second round of questions for our chairs. I'm going
15 to call up Council Member Banks.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you, Chairs.
17 Dealing with NYCHA's privacy policy, when does
18 NYCHA's-- when does NYCHA's privacy policy-- I'm
19 sorry about that. Where can you find the public--
20 can the public view NYCHA's private policy? Privacy
21 policy, sorry about that.

22 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: NYCHA's
23 privacy policy is established by HUD in Public and
24 Indian Housing Notice 2015-06.

1 COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY WITH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC HOUSING, AND COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS 112

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: No, where can-- where
3 can the public view it.

4 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: You can
5 lok up that notice on HUD's website.

6 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. How often do
7 you update the privacy policy?

8 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I have
9 to check the last time it was updated. I will find
10 out for you.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And when does NYCHA's
12 private policy apply?

13 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I mean,
14 NYCHA's privacy policy establishes written standards
15 to be used by NYCHA employees, consultants, and
16 vendors with respect to personally identifiable
17 information, or PII, in our records.

18 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, okay. So, does
19 the NYCHA's privacy policy apply to the RAD/PACT
20 developments and also to the Trust?

21 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Our
22 RAD/PACT developments are under management of a
23 private property management operation, so our policy
24 does not-- our NYCHA policy does not pertain.
25 However, the PACT program is still governed by HUD

2 regulations and would still be governed by, I
3 believe, many of these HUD privacy policy notices.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, does NYCHA
5 require--

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
7 [interposing] Including Section of PII.

8 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. So, does NYCHA
9 require PACT partners to develop their own privacy
10 policies, and does NYCHA-- do you review these
11 policies?

12 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I'd
13 have to check with our Real Estate Development Team
14 on that.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. I'd like to get
16 clarity on that. Are residents consulted during the--
17 - during the development or upgrading of NYCHA's
18 privacy policies?

19 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Our
20 privacy policy is dictated by HUD regulations, and
21 that is the--

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] I said
23 are the residents consulted, that's the question.
24 Are residents consulted during the development or
25 updating of NYCHA's privacy policies?

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: To the
3 extent that HUD rules and regulations go through
4 public comment, then NYCHA residents may--

5 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] You do
6 update them.

7 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: comment
8 on that.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Where do NYCHA
10 residents go if they feel that the privacy policy is
11 not being followed or being-- or being violated?

12 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
13 Residents can contact our compliance Department if
14 they have any concerns that NYCHA is not conforming
15 to any of our required compliance.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And during the
17 recertification, when they're doing their
18 recertification, do residents receive a copy of this
19 private-- privacy policy?

20 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I'd
21 have to check on that.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Under NYCHA's privacy
23 policy, NYCHA's Law Department reviews all requests
24 for personally identi-- what they call PII
25 disclosures on a case-by-case basis. Was NYCHA's Law

2 Department involved in the decision to integrate the
3 BAC camera live feeds into the NYPD's domain access--
4 awareness system?

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Again,
6 there's no such thing as a BAC camera. NYCHA CCTV
7 camera systems that-- and we entered into an MOU with
8 NYPD originally back in 2015 and amended again in
9 2013, and as the Law Department, they are the-- they
10 are the primary drafters of any legal agreements.
11 So, yes, they were aware of our legal agreement with
12 NYPD.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. How does NYCHA
14 ensure that video footage is disposed of securely?

15 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I defer
16 to NYPD for the chain of-- chain of custody regarding
17 video footage that is turned over to NYPD.

18 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The CCTV cameras that
19 are accessed through the Big Apple Connect, the data
20 is stored locally on a CCTV hard drive at the
21 location. Any video footage that is downloaded as
22 part of our criminal investigation is retained as per
23 the guidelines that we are held to legally for the
24 retention of that-- those documents.

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. NYCHA is
3 exempt from the citywide privacy protection policies
4 and protocols, is that correct?

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I'd
6 have to check on that. I'm not sure.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, so-- alright.
8 So I guess we'll-- is NYCHA open to publishing any
9 annual transparency report detailing camera
10 functionality, law enforcement access, and data
11 sharing practices?

12 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: I'm
13 happy to talk further with you about future
14 disclosure and transparency reports that you'd like
15 to see from NYCHA.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Are residents
17 informed that their images are being captured on
18 surveillance cameras and that may be shared with law
19 enforcement agencies without their warrant?

20 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Again,
21 as I've mentioned before--

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Or
23 without a warrant.
24
25

2 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: all of
3 our lobbies that have cameras are noted with signage
4 that there are cameras in place.

5 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. And do you
6 believe public housing residents should have an
7 expectation of privacy in their homes?

8 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Yes,
9 and they do have privacy in their homes. We are only
10 having camera footage in public common areas.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. And I just
12 want to back up when it comes to the RAD/PACT
13 converted developments and their security apparatus.
14 I just want to get clarity as to NYCHA's involvement
15 in that, and are they just given free reign to set up
16 any type of security apparatus that they deem
17 suitable for that particular development, or is there
18 some standards that are set by NYCHA?

19 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We
20 review a general-- I believe the Real Estate
21 Department reviews a general scope of work for the
22 entire construction project, and that may include
23 install of security systems, layered access doors as
24 well as cameras, but other than that, I don't believe
25 there's anything further.

1 COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY WITH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC HOUSING, AND COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS 118

2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Are there any--

3 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:

4 [interposing] We can check with real estate as to see
5 if they have any further review of their security
6 systems.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Are there any
8 individuals agreements made with NYCHA and the
9 different management companies that are managed under
10 these RAD/PACT converted developments?

11 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: In
12 regards to cameras?

13 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Correct, security.

14 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: No.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: You said no?

16 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: No.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you, Madam
18 Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair
20 Banks. I will pass it to Council Member Salaam for a
21 second round of questions.

22 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: I just want to get
23 some clarity. So, it was mentioned that cameras are
24 located in common areas, I just wanted to know could
25 you be more specific about these common areas? The

2 reason why I'm asking is, is an elevator considered a
3 common area? I know you mentioned lobbies.
4 Mailboxes, mailbox location, is that considered a
5 common area, hallways on each floor?

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So,--

7 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: [interposing] Where--
8 what's the specifics about the common--

9 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:

10 [interposing] Sure, Council Member. Happy to provide
11 some more detail. The common areas that are covered
12 by cameras are typically the lobbies, and that does
13 include depending on where the mailboxes are located.
14 It does typically include the mailbox area. We do--
15 have cameras in our elevators, and then obviously
16 external on grounds, on the corner of buildings to
17 cover the grounds. We do not have cameras in our
18 hallways or in our stairwells.

19 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Typically, but are
20 there any other-- other non-typical areas where
21 cameras may be found?

22 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: In the
23 few developments that have laundry facilities, maybe
24 there'll be a camera in a laundry facility. So I
25

2 can't list everything, but typically it's the lobbies
3 and elevators.

4 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: No stairwells?

5 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: No,
6 typically we don't have camera footage in our
7 stairwells unfortunately. It's an area that we've
8 been asked to have more cameras in, but we don't.

9 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Can the--

10 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
11 [interposing] If Council Members would like to fund
12 additional cameras for our stairwells, we'd be happy
13 to install them.

14 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Can the NYPD remote--
15 - can the NYPD remote pan, tilt, and/or zoom in or
16 out of the NYCHA cameras?

17 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The NYCHA CCTV
18 cameras, we do not have the ability to do that.

19 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: And about the PD,
20 what about the PD cameras?

21 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The Argus cameras that
22 are outside, we do have the ability to do that, the
23 ones that are-- the ones on the streets that you see
24 all over the city.

2 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: You mentioned that
3 the sharing of the footage that you all receive has
4 to go through legal. Is there any situation where
5 the NYPD has to share information after it's gone
6 through legal with ICE?

7 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We do not engage in
8 civil immigration enforcement. I do not know of any
9 situation that fits this criteria, and I'd have to
10 confer with legal on that.

11 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: And just finally,
12 what are the NYPD's future goals with respect to
13 expanding the number of cameras they can monitor in
14 real-time?

15 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The goal is honestly
16 to ensure fair outcomes for everyone by having this
17 camera coverage throughout the city where we're able
18 to quickly respond to and investigate crimes.

19 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Thank you, Chair.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair
21 Salaam. I want to pass it to Chair Brewer.

22 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you very much.
23 I know that in addition to what you talked about
24 about the Big Apple Connect, there's also apparently
25

2 a digital literacy program that's part of it. Is
3 that something that is in effect?

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Thank you,
5 Council Member, Chair Brewer. So, as part of the
6 renewal for Big Apple Connect, the three-year renewal
7 that the Mayor announced yesterday, the two providers
8 that we've engaged in contracts with have committed
9 \$1.2 million to support digital literacy training
10 targeted to NYCHA residents. So, it'll include
11 commitment to fund and support the Neighborhood Tech
12 Help program, which has administered by a number of
13 the libraries. All the library systems across the
14 city. Provide digital navigators, help people get
15 one-on-one tech support, as well as standing up a new
16 website, a new portal, a digital literacy portal that
17 will provide resources for NYCHA residents to get
18 access to information, how to use Microsoft Office,
19 how to use-- you know, be wary of cyber crimes, types
20 of things like that. We'll also have live virtual
21 training sessions monthly targeted to NYCHA residents
22 for NYCHA residents.

23 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: This will be for
24 everyone, not just for those that are signed up?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: 100 percent.

3 It'll be open to all NYCHA residents, yeah.

4 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Alright. Is
5 somebody supposed to know this? We're just supposed
6 to know it from-- I mean, like, are you going to tell
7 elected officials, Community Boards, schools,
8 somebody?

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Absolutely.
10 We're going to widely communicate to everyone once
11 the website-- once the portal is up and running.
12 It's being built currently, and the existence of the
13 Neighborhood Tech Help program is already in place
14 and folks know about it, but we're going to do an
15 expanded outreach to make sure residents know it's
16 available.

17 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I'll check with my
18 residents to see if they actually know about it.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Absolutely.

20 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I'm not sure they
21 do. The other thing is, my understanding from the
22 Altice proposal, up to three property cameras into
23 video service feed allowing residents to self-monitor
24 entry and exit cameras which is what they really
25 want, and watch board meetings on a dedicated

2 channel. I assume board meetings of NYCHA. Are these
3 live-streams the same as those transmitted to NYPD?

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: I'm sorry,
5 Council Member, I'm not familiar with what you're
6 describing.

7 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you. Okay, so
8 you don't know anything about that, about this with
9 Altice-- apparently did make that comment, no? Okay.
10 and then the other thing is, I guess in the new
11 option that three years that the mayor just
12 announced, there is an affordable broadband act
13 that's now in effect, and that was-- would allow
14 internet available for people who receive benefits
15 for \$15 a month, and that the cost I guess originally
16 for this contract was \$24 and 94 units-- \$95 per
17 unit. So, I'm wondering if the-- is there any
18 contract term changed in the new three-year
19 extension, and would this-- will it be the same in
20 terms of the cost, and is it the same package as what
21 was originally given to the residents in the first
22 three years?

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yes, Council
24 Member. The terms are largely the same in terms of
25 the offerings. So, it's the high-speed internet this

time with increased speeds from 300 megabits per second download up to 500, as well as the cable TV portion. So, the cable TV, the internet, the modem, router, cable box, remote control, all of that is included. It has well over \$100 rate, typical rate that you would get on the market. The ABA program that you referenced, the state requires certain ISPs to provide a low-cost service to--

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] The \$15.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: \$15 for I believe it's 25 megabits per second. So, relatively slow, below the federal standard, or a \$20 program offering which is a little bit higher speed, but Big Apple Connect speeds and the components of it far exceed what ABA provides.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: But I should note, and I'm sorry to interrupt, we're aggressively promoting. We want folks to know that ABA is available to them outside of the NYCHA community. So, we do resource fairs. We're engaged with the Public Engagement Unit from the Mayor's Office to get the word out that ABA is a valuable resource.

2 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Even though it's
3 slower, but it's something is what you're saying.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Just generally,
6 though, I mean this may be a NYCHA question, then
7 I'll stop. The whole issue-- it's great to have
8 cameras for reasons that, you know, as long as
9 they're utilized correctly, and that's always a
10 concern for all of us here, but the widespread
11 opportunity for Wi-Fi is not there. And I'm just
12 wondering for NYCHA, although this may not be
13 directly related to the cameras, what are we doing to
14 have more Wi-Fi, not just the ABA program, the state
15 program, but generally what we doing about for Wi-Fi
16 for residents? Obviously, not everybody is signed up
17 for Big Apple.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: They are not,
19 and we're very happy to report that it is a 82
20 percent enrollment which is--

21 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] And who
22 would turn down free internet and free TV for God's
23 sake?

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: So, people
25 do, Council Member.

2 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Oh, I don't think
3 so. Everybody I know I signed up for it.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah, so a
5 lot of people just decided they don't want it. A lot
6 of folks have another provider--

7 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] They
8 have Vios [sic].

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: They just
10 choose-- yeah.

11 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: They have Vios.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yep, they
13 choose to pay Vios, and that's certainly an option
14 that's available to them as it is an optional
15 program.

16 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay, so you're
17 saying that-- but just generally Wi-Fi at NYCHA, what
18 are you doing to enhance it?

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Well, given
20 this obviously very sizable commitment to Big Apple
21 Connect and the fact that 125,000--

22 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] Well,
23 it's not everybody.

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: households
25 have it, I do feel--

2 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing] You
3 have many more than 5,000 households at NYCHA,
4 however.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: I'm sorry?

6 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: You have many more
7 than 5,000 households.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: A hundred--
9 yeah, it's 125,000--

10 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [interposing]
11 Correct.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: households
13 compared to the-- what is it, 150 or so that's
14 eligible. Again, many of them have Verizon, so we
15 feel confident that they are connected, and then some
16 folks just choose-- you know, we have a table set up.
17 We offer the program. We tell them everything about
18 it, and say no thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: But Wi-Fi generally,
20 how are you discussing or offering that?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: do you mean
22 like a common area Wi-Fi service?

23 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Just generally, yes.
24 Yeah, common areas, route-- whatever.
25

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: So, every
3 apartment is wired for connectivity, right?

4 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Right.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Whether it be
6 through Big Apple Connect source or just through a
7 provider providing service, and we do work with the
8 tenant association presidents to offer common area
9 Wi-Fi if that's something that's of interest to them.
10 So, NYCHA is-- we're very happy to report that
11 NYCHA's well-connected.

12 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay, thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair
14 Brewer. I also just want to acknowledge Council
15 Member De La Rosa who has joined us. Thank you.
16 Okay, I'm going to close out with my questions. So,
17 first I want to ask for-- to PD. And thank you so
18 much for all of your responses. Can you share of the
19 previously connected programs in the 38 developments
20 that you mentioned, how is PD connected to those
21 cameras? Is it-- through what?

22 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, the previous
23 integration was done through high-fiber-- high-speed
24 fiber connections. Those connections began in the
25 2010s and ended somewhere around 2020 where we were

2 physically running fiber cable to these locations. It
3 was pretty costly. Because the locations didn't
4 have-- did not have the ability. There was not like
5 internet service to that level to provide the access
6 that were-- that we can now. So, that's how those
7 were accessed.

8 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And how are you
9 connected now?

10 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We still have those
11 connections for those--

12 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] It's
13 still the fiber.

14 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes. And now the new
15 method of connecting that we're here today to discuss
16 is to integrate the established housing CCTV cameras
17 utilizing the Big Apple Connect program.

18 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And that'll be
19 through their router? Through the routers--

20 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] We get
21 one--

22 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: through the ISPs.

23 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yeah, one more modem
24 and one more router at the location.

2 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. So, it's
3 not the-- is it Wi-Fi?

4 INSPECTOR MASCIA: We have a-- we're into
5 the-- we're at-- we connect directly into the modem
6 and then it comes back to us. The Wi-Fi would be
7 locally at the location.

8 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. and have
9 you had any instances whether through the previous
10 connection or, you know, very recently in this one
11 development, any issues of the networks being hacked?
12 What are the safeguards? If they didn't exist before
13 or not necessary before, what are you doing now? I
14 think obviously there's a lot more threats.
15 Obviously, we just learned of this threat that I
16 think PD interceded a couple weeks ago. So how--
17 what can you tell us about how you all are working
18 together to improve those safeguards?

19 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I understand your
20 concern with that question, but in the case of the
21 connection utilizing the Big Apple Connect program,
22 we're just another person logging on in essence.
23 We're logging onto that network. So, any network
24 security questions regarding the building and the
25

2 facility, I'd have to turn over to either OTI or the
3 vendor at that point.

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: They're going to
5 tell me it's the vendor? Okay. I think that's disa--
6 I understand that, but I think it's disappointing
7 that you're not-- like, even if it is the vendor, we
8 should be prepared to speak on that. I think that it
9 is a concern of everybody about what the City is
10 doing every step of the way. So, I understand that
11 it's not Big Apple Connect programs. I understand
12 all of those distinctions, believe me, but I think we
13 at the end of the day, OTI is responsible. If there
14 is, you know, God forbid, some kind of cyberattack on
15 any of these cameras, whatever it is, residents are
16 not going through the nuance of like, oh, I think
17 this is Spectrum and I didn't read it in my
18 agreement. They're going to go straight to the city.
19 So, you all have to be prepared. We all have to be
20 prepared to respond to that. So, is there anything
21 that you can share with me right now about these
22 safeguards, if you're looking to improve them? What
23 were the existing safeguards? Is there anything you
24 can share with me right now on record regarding that?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS:

3 Unfortunately, not at this time, but I'm happy to
4 look into it.

5 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Can you get back
6 to us on that? And if there's no intention right now
7 to update and improve it, I need to know that as
8 well. You can share that. Thank you. For PD, you
9 mentioned before that you don't have access to
10 biometric technology through accessing these cameras,
11 but do-- does PD have access to that after the fact?
12 Like, is any of the footage cross-referenced with any
13 of the databases like the gang database, for example?
14 I understand that in live-- in the live sense, you
15 don't have access to, you know, maybe facial
16 recognition technology, but because you can have
17 access to this data or this information for up to 21
18 days, do you know of instances where PD is utilizing
19 their biometric technology on this footage to then
20 cross-reference with other databases?

21 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I don't. As part of
22 criminal investigations-- it would have to be part of
23 an active criminal investigation. So, they wouldn't
24 just take somebody who's listed on the criminal
25 database and just check on them. It would have to be

2 part of an active investigation. We do not-- we
3 don't like pull this data in. we don't like tag it,
4 label it. There's no biometric system that we have
5 that would do any of that.

6 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. So, what
7 you-- the scenario that you shared earlier about like
8 getting a call and being able to in real-time access
9 that--

10 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] Yeah.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: They're-- you're
12 saying that there's no way to cross-reference it in
13 that moment with someone who is on a gang database?

14 INSPECTOR MASCIA: No, absolutely not.
15 So, it would be like logging into your Ring camera at
16 home at that point.

17 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I don't have a
18 Ring camera, but I get what you're saying.

19 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The idea would be just
20 logging on live. There's no--

21 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] But
22 it could be.

23 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [inaudible] Could be?

24 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: It could be
25 cross-referenced. Like, it--

2 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] There's
3 no-- there's no live facial recognition tagging.
4 There's no biometric tagging of the individuals
5 included in the video.

6 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But still shots
7 of a live footage can be taken and cross-referenced.

8 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, if as part of a
9 criminal investigation a still shot was taken-- let's
10 say somebody was fleeing or somebody was observed
11 with a gun. So, we have an active criminal
12 investigation. So, now a still shot was taken of
13 that. Could that still shot with official department
14 business be taken as part of the investigation and
15 put through facial identification at that point, yes,
16 but it would be under a considerable policy
17 considerations under the rules and regulations that
18 guide the facial identification procedures.

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Okay.
20 That's helpful. That's direct answer. Thank you. I
21 have one question for NYCHA. You mentioned earlier
22 that there is signage, and I've seen this signage
23 around the NYCHA cameras-- cameras just letting
24 people know that they're being recorded. Do you know
25 if the same signage exists for the PD cameras, and

2 can you share with me if the wording of the signage
3 says you're being recorded and can be accessed by PD?

4 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: We
5 don't differentiate the PD cameras from our own
6 camera systems, so it's all the same signage. The
7 Viper rooms themselves where the camera facilities
8 are stored are marked as NYPD Viper rooms so
9 residents are typically aware that those exist on
10 their property. But otherwise, each individual
11 camera, it's all the same signage.

12 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: They have the
13 same signage. And in the wording of that signage?

14 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: All the
15 same.

16 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: What is that
17 wording? Is it just that they're being recorded?

18 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: It's
19 just this is-- the site has CCTV cameras in place.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: That's it.
21 There's no reference to like any-- the NYCHA has-- I
22 mean, PD has access to it, specifically.

23 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE:
24 Correct.

2 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Thank you.

3 I wanted to ask for PD, do you know if any safeguards
4 are in place to prevent suspicious long term
5 monitoring of individual residents?

6 INSPECTOR MASCIA: The safeguards in
7 place would be our auditing process that we have, the
8 ability to audit anybody. So, if an allegation came
9 in that an officer who had the permission level,
10 which they first have that permission level to even
11 access the cameras, was abusing it in any way, that
12 allegation would be able to be investigated through
13 an audit trail that's a digital audit trail. That is
14 what the domain awareness system gives us the ability
15 to do by having that be the access point for the
16 majority of the officers that have the permission
17 access. So, it would be investigative, because what
18 you're describing is it's improper, right? And we--

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] Yes.

20 INSPECTOR MASCIA: would investigate.

21 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: That's a fear.
22 That's a concern.

23 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And I even-- even
25 the process to approve who gets access to it is also-

2 - I don't know how much of that you can share, but it
3 is also concerning. It is also-- it is concerning. I
4 don't think just because the audit exists, I don't
5 know how often this audit happens. I don't know if
6 it's happening every single day of people
7 specifically who have access to these cameras so
8 that, you know, you can assess how people are
9 utilizing this technology. I'm not aware of how
10 often this audit happens. I don't know if the only
11 way the audit happens is if someone complains that
12 there's a misuse of it, but the concern is that, and
13 you can certainly understand that is a rational fear
14 that someone with permission is just watching
15 somebody or watching-- or whatever it is, because
16 they can. So, what can you share with me about this
17 audit, and like what is the-- what enforcement
18 mechanisms do you have when someone who has access
19 and permission is misusing their ability to access
20 these cameras?

21 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, the audit features
22 are-- I could put in-- we could look up a person and
23 see what they've accessed across pretty much anything
24 in our Department systems. That's part of the
25

2 investigation that would then go to Internal Affairs
3 where they would handle the results.

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But it's only--
5 an audit is only triggered when there is a complaint
6 filed?

7 INSPECTOR MASCIA: That's probably the
8 primary way that-- I just got to double-check the
9 procedures on exactly how often the audits are
10 occurring within the command levels to see who's
11 accessing the videos at what time. As part of the
12 Viper program, I remember there was definitely
13 significant audit too where you do playback of some
14 of the videos to see what people are accessing.

15 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Is there no
16 concern right now? So, I'm concerned that the audits
17 are only being triggered by like issues that--

18 INSPECTOR MASCIA: [interposing] I
19 understand.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: arise. Like, is
21 there no concern-- how are you all looking to improve
22 this? I mean, a lot of what we're trying to advocate
23 for and working with and even with OTI is trying to
24 figure out how to prevent misuse, for example. So,
25 something like an audit in my opinion shouldn't just

2 rely on, you know, being triggered by someone who has
3 suspicion that someone with access is misusing it. I
4 mean, to be responsible, it's-- we're assessing this
5 every single day. We're ensuring that whoever has
6 access is doing it with a purpose, is not doing this
7 essentially, is not sharing it with people. It's
8 concerning. What can you share about how the
9 Department is looking at improving these safeguards.
10 So, safeguards for residents and of your department.

11 INSPECTOR MASCIA: So, I'm going to take
12 away everything-- I completely agree with you.

13 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, take it in.

14 INSPECTOR MASCIA: And I'm going to take
15 it with us and have a true transparent discussion
16 about what audits should be in place to ensure that
17 there's trust across-- that you trust that we're
18 using it correctly, and that we have a correct audit
19 in place.

20 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. I
21 think a lot of what-- and similar to I think what
22 many of my co-chair said is yes-- I represent nine
23 NYCHA developments. They-- for decades they want
24 more cameras, right? But I think we have the
25 responsibility to share with them they're like--

these cameras work a little differently now, that they're relationship with PD and NYCHA and these like access to cameras is a little bit different now, and I think that they deserve to know that. That's the purpose of like what we're trying to get here today. And with that, for PD, there's also an elevated level of responsibility because this is different. This is the same technology, but it's a different use. It's a different level of access, and so I think there is an increased level of safeguards that we need to prioritize. Okay, my next question-- my last questions are for OTI. I think Council Member Brewer did ask a number of these. But I wanted to ask what happened at the end of 2028? What is the plan? What are you leaving for the next administration as far as this program and being able to continue to allow connectivity for NYCHA residents through Big Apple Connect?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah, Chair Gutiérrez, it's a fantastic question, and it's one of the reasons why did prioritize the extension for NYCHA residents, given that this past week I think is the three-year anniversary of Big Apple, and it's been a-- as I noted a couple times, it's been a

2 fantastic success. So, we did want to lock it in.

3 We wanted to give residents the assurance that it's
4 not going anywhere. It's been something that's been
5 vocalized by them to us that's very important to make
6 sure that they know that they're going to have that
7 consistent connectivity. We-- it was important for
8 us to extend it to through the end of the school year
9 so that, you know, there's no disruption potentially
10 if the program does change or shift.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: It'll be through
12 the end of? I'm sorry.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Of June of
14 2028.

15 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: So, it'll go
17 through the school year of that year, at least. I
18 can only speak for myself. I hope this program is in
19 place for quite a long time and as long as I have any
20 involvement in it. It's been a-- the feedback we've
21 gotten has been fantastic, and you know, we'll cross
22 that bridge, but for now it's been good for us. It's
23 been good for residents, and we'd like to see it
24 continue.

2 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: So, there's--
3 what can you share-- so, okay. Excuse me. You've
4 extended the contract through the end of June 2028,
5 understood. Obviously, the City will continue to be
6 on the hook for price of this program. What can you
7 tell me about NYPD's access after that? Let's say
8 August of 2028 for whatever reason there's no more
9 funding for this program. What happens to these
10 cameras? Who's responsible for maintaining these
11 cameras in this situation? Is it still NYCHA? What
12 can you tell me about what we're talking about right
13 now in 2028?

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: Yeah, I can
15 only speak for OTI's perspective. Given that NYPD is
16 using just the connectivity portion, something that
17 they were already doing through other means, it just--
18 - theoretically, if the program ended and there was
19 no contract between us, between OTI and the
20 providers-- I certainly don't want to speak for NYPD,
21 but I would presume they'd find other means of
22 connectivity.

23 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Say that again.
24 I'm so sorry.
25

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIKOFF: They would
3 probably find other means of connectivity, but I
4 defer to my NYPD partners.

5 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And I know
6 I said no more questions for PD, but if you could
7 just take this back, because I think that my
8 colleagues have asked this, but I just wanted to get
9 the specificity. I know you mentioned there's no
10 real time use of facial recognition. Can you also,
11 when you take this back-- if you can ask about gait
12 recognition as well. Also, really important, and
13 we're trying to legislate how we protect New Yorkers
14 and their gait and how they walk. So, if you could
15 also include that on how they're looking to safeguard
16 NYCHA resident in this specific instance?

17 INSPECTOR MASCIA: I just--

18 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] And
19 if you can confirm if any of the instances where
20 facial recognition can be used, if PD is including
21 gait recognition. That's the question.

22 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Okay, for the second
23 part, absolutely, and for the first part, just for
24 clarity, like, we are not running anything. There's
25

2 no biometric AI running on top of this video to say--
3 like, I just turned on this camera--

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] I
5 know. I know. You clarified it. You clarified.
6 You clarified it. I just want to make sure that if I
7 can also include gait recognition in that piece.

8 INSPECTOR MASCIA: Absolutely.

9 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. Okay.
10 does anyone--

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: [interposing] Yeah, I
12 just have a--

13 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing]
14 Council Member, okay. Sorry, let me pass it Chair
15 Banks.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you. Back in
17 late August, the HUD launched a crackdown on illegal
18 immigration in public housing, and the Trump
19 administration had ordered a nationwide review of
20 public housing in an effort to root out residents who
21 are in the country illegally according to-- I believe
22 this was the Housing and Development Secretary Scott
23 Turner. Turner wrote that each public housing
24 authority had 30 days to conduct an audit to ensure
25 that the existing orders were being enforced. The

2 Department was also was asking for information about
3 public housing units and verifiable citizenship or
4 eligible immigration status. And I use that to frame
5 our question as to how does NYCHA ensure that the
6 NYPD using the live feeds for legitimate purposes,
7 and are the live feeds even accessed by NYCHA or the
8 NYPD for purposes of identifying minor lease
9 infractions that do not rise to level of a crime.
10 Because I know earlier you mentioned that the
11 cameras, the CCTV cameras are used to I guess
12 identify if there's a violation of tenancy. So, can
13 you explain the-- what-- is there-- what's the
14 purpose? Are they using it for that particular
15 purpose, and is the camera footage ever used by NYCHA
16 to enforce the trespass list or pursue termination of
17 tenancy proceedings?

18 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: So, an
19 example of how we use the cameras on tenancy is if
20 there is an unregistered pet, a pit bull, a dog in a
21 unit and there's an incident with the dog in the
22 lobby, maybe the dog bites another tenant or pees on
23 the floor, and that information is reported to us, we
24 can look up the footage, and call the resident down
25

2 and hold them accountable as part of lease
3 enforcement.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, it's only used
5 for those violations?

6 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Excuse
7 me?

8 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: It's only used for
9 those violations?

10 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: That's
11 an example of a lease violation and how we use it for
12 lease enforcement to help improve the quality of life
13 for our residents.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Let me give you an
15 example. For example, is there-- is it used to
16 determine an unauthorized occupant who's entering an
17 apartment?

18 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TRIMBLE: Again,
19 we don't have any cameras in our hallways to see
20 apartments, so I couldn't tell you who's entering an
21 apartment.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. That answered
23 my question. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. I
25 also just want to acknowledge Council Member Pierina

2 Sanchez who was at a hearing next door. She was with
3 us. And I'm going to call up Council Member De La
4 Rosa and then Chair Brewer for questions.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you,
6 Chairs, multiple. I wanted to ask a little bit about
7 the contract with Cable Vision and Altice. Altice
8 may collect, use and disclose detailed information
9 including specific third-party websites, traffic, app
10 usage, browser used, browsing history, devices,
11 devices ID, and even television channels watched.
12 That's according to the change order number five
13 exhibit one. Does that practice align with the New
14 York City's privacy protocols?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Thank you
16 for the question, Council Member. Given the fact
17 that the relationship between the provider and the
18 customer is similar to what we have generally that
19 exists, it's my understanding that it's likely
20 consistent with what's offered essentially citywide
21 to any person who has cable, but I would have to take
22 a look into the extent to which that does or doesn't
23 align with our privacy policy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Okay. We
25 were also informed that Altice may obtain additional

2 information from publicly available sources such as
3 research consultant data service providers and
4 marketing firms like that of brokers. From time to
5 time Altice may combine this information with
6 information collected directly from users which may
7 include age, gender and other demographic data. Is
8 this information shared? And if so, with whom?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: I would
10 have to look into that for you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: And
12 specifically, the Council would like to know if this
13 information is ever shared with law enforcement and
14 if it is, which law enforcement agency, as well as if
15 the data is retained and the language suggests that
16 it's potentially retained in perpetuity. So, we'd
17 like to know for how long.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SENATUS: Thank you.
19 We'll take that all back.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Now, Gale?
22 Council Member-- okay, alright. We did it. I hope
23 you can all stay. Thank you so much for your
24 responses, and I look forward to all of the follow-
25 up. Excuse me. Now, we're going to open this

hearing for public testimony. I remind members of the public that this is a formal government proceeding and that decorum shall be observed at all times. As such, members of the public shall remain silent at all times. The witness table is reserved for people who wish to testify. No video recording or photography is allowed from the witness table. Further, members of the public may not present audio or video recordings as testimony, but may submit transcripts of such recordings to the Sergeant at Arms for inclusion in the hearing record. If you wish to speak at today's hearing, please fill out an appearance card with the Sergeant at Arms and wait to be recognized. When recognized, you will have three minutes to speak on today's hearing topics, on use of surveillance in NYCHA developments. If you have a written statement or additional written testimony you wish to submit for the record, please provide a copy of that testimony to the Sergeant at Arms. You may also email written testimony to testimony@council.nyc.gov within 72 hours of this hearing. Audio and video recordings will not be accepted. Our next panelists are Michal Gross, Alissa Johnson, Laura Morah [sic], David Moss. Thank

2 you. Anybody can start when you're all settled in.

3 Just make sure the mic is on.

4 DAVID MOSS: Hi. Thank you so much. I'm
5 David Moss on behalf of Legal Defense Fund. In 2010,
6 we were one of the organizations that filed Davis V.
7 City of New York, the trespass enforcement case about
8 NYCHA policing that was incorporated into the Federal
9 Monitorship. And this year we joined with partners
10 to file civil rights lawsuit challenging the NYPD
11 gang database, which particularly harms the NYCHA
12 community. We want to raise a few additional forms
13 of surveillance that NYCHA residents face to give a
14 mor fulsome picture of the policing and monitoring
15 that they endure everyday. For one, NYCHA residents
16 endure the constant physical presence of police.
17 While the NYPD can't randomly enter and patrol
18 private residential buildings, they can do this in
19 NYCHA, subjecting residents there essentially to a
20 second-class citizenship. In fact, Mayor Adams
21 encourages these so-called vertical patrols where
22 officers treat the halls of NYCHA as beats to roam
23 freely. Predictably, police in NYCHA engage in
24 disparate enforcement against Black residents and
25 they conduct high rates of unlawful stops. NYCHA

residents are also acutely impacted by the NYPD gang database which also sits within the domain awareness system. It's a list of 13,000 New Yorkers the NYPD identifies as gang-affiliated often based on little or no evidence. The NYPD has designated entire NYCHA complexes as gang locations. In fact, it's even listed some NYCHA buildings as gangs themselves. For example, these locations are listed as the names of criminal groups in the database: Neptune Ave from West 33rd to Bayview Ave-- that's the Gravesend Houses in Council Member Brannan's district-- 3661 and 3663, Nostrand Ave, which are parts of the Sheepshead Bay complex in Council Member Narcisse's district; Bronx River Houses in Council Member Salamanca's district, Unity Houses Blakeside and Unity Houses Sutterside in Chair Banks' district, Dykman Houses in Council Member De La Rosa's district, and Mariner's Harbor Housing complex in Council Member Hanks' district. These are all listed as the names of criminal groups in the gang database. The database also relies heavily on social media surveillance with police scanning young people's social media and adding them for simply posting pictures of themselves with friends in so-called gang

locations like NYCHA buildings. Our lawsuit challenging the database tells the story of three people who grew up in NYCHA and who have endured constant police surveillance throughout their lives. They're regularly stopped, arrested for minor offenses like littering, detained for hours, and questioned about things in their community that they have nothing to do with. One plaintiff has been pulled over so many times that he just avoids driving altogether now. Another stopped bringing his young daughters to the Mariner's Harbor Playground because he doesn't want them to see him getting harassed by police. The NYCHA community deserves so much better. We urge the Council to root out and stop the physical and digital surveillance that NYCHA residents and visitors endure daily, and we call on the Council to pass Intro 798 which would abolish the gang database. Thank you.

LAURA MORAFF: Hi. I want to thank the committees and the chairs for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Laura Moraff. I'm a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society's Digital Forensics Unit, and at Legal Aid we believe that access to justice and freedom shouldn't depend on income or

housing status. When living in public housing means having your movements recorded and potentially streamed directly to the police, our city has a major problem. There are more than 20,000 surveillance cameras operating on NYCHA properties. Some of these are NYPD's cameras in the NYPD's system, but more than 17,000 of these cameras are NYCHA's cameras and are part of NYCHA's own system. Until recently, NYPD personnel didn't have direct access to those cameras in the NYCHA system. And as you heard, if the NYPD wanted to access that footage, they would have to contact NYCHA and physically visit NYCHA's control rooms. Giving the NYPD direct real-time access to NYCHA's cameras and linking them to the domain awareness system which aggregates and combines data from multiple different surveillance tools and databases represents a serious threat to the privacy of NYCHA residents and their visitors. And we don't have all of the information about how the domain awareness system is being searched. You heard about audits from the previous panel, but we rarely if ever gets audits in our criminal cases that would actually tell us whether our clients were being surveilled before there was probable cause for a crime. The type

2 of suspicion less [sic] surveillance of NYCHA
3 residents that we're talking about today is bad
4 enough in and of itself, but the fact that this
5 increased surveillance in collaboration between NYCHA
6 the NYPD was shoehorned into the Big Apple Connect
7 program and deliberately withheld from the public
8 makes it all the more appalling. Big Apple Connect
9 was supposed to provide free internet access.
10 Weaponizing the program to build out the NYPD's
11 already extensive surveillance system that the NYPD
12 could directly monitor footage of our city's low-
13 income residents was deceptive and unjust. The
14 agency's persistent lack of candor around the
15 surveillance leaves us needing real answers now.
16 NYCHA residents, the City Council, and the public at
17 large need to know how the NYPD is choosing which
18 properties to connect to, which we haven't been able
19 to get an answer to at this hearing today. We also
20 need to know who is involved in the decision to
21 connect NYCHA's cameras to the domain awareness
22 system. We need to know which cameras are already
23 connected, what's the one site that's already been
24 connected, and what are the other 19 that they're
25 targeting before the end of this year? We also need

2 to know how the agencies will ensure that NYCHA
3 residents are consulted about these changes and these
4 types of changes in NYPD's and NYCHA's surveillance
5 practices going forward. And how many cameras does
6 the NYPD already have real-time access to in the
7 City, and how many more are they aiming to connect
8 to? What are those actual numbers? we also have
9 many other questions highlighted in our written
10 testimony and the other answers that the Council
11 Members today have asked and haven't been able to--
12 and that the agencies haven't been able to answer.
13 We think it is of the utmost importance that the
14 agencies be compelled to provide written answers to
15 these questions and that the public get access to
16 those answers as well. The NYPD must be prevented
17 from conducting this type of real-time suspicion less
18 surveillance of NYCHA neighborhoods and now is the
19 time to act. Thank you.

20 ALISSA JOHNSON: Good afternoon, Chairs
21 and Committee Members. My name is Alissa Johnson.
22 I'm a legal fellow with the Surveillance Technology
23 Oversight Project, or STOP. STOP is a New York-based
24 civil rights and anti-surveillance group that
25 advocates and litigates against discriminatory

surveillance. STOP strongly opposes the incorporation
of NYCHA cameras into the NYPD's domain awareness
system, or DAS. As committees assembled today have
rightly noted, New Yorkers did not agree to trade
their right to privacy for the promise of free
internet. Without warning residents or the public,
the NYPD has linked cameras at NYCHA development into
their DAS. These cameras allow the NYPD to access
live camera feeds and search back through footage
from up to 21 days prior. As Council Members have
rightly pressed representatives of the NYPD and NYCHA
today, the public does not have accurate or
transparent assurances that live camera footage
linked to the DAS will not be used to violate our
first and fourth amendment rights. We just have to
take the NYPD at their word that [inaudible] camera
footage is used solely to investigate crimes and that
the NYPD's audits are sufficient to determine its
use, which has historically not been the case. NYPD,
NYCHA, and OTI insist that this is just business as
usual, but in the years the Big Apple Connect has
been in development, these agencies have failed to
disclose and prevaricated about its surveillance
component. Never in dozens of City Council hearings,

Q&As, press events, and publicly available documents did they mention that free Wi-Fi would come at a cost of 24/7 video surveillance. Meanwhile, OTI internal documents indicate that incorporation of these cameras into DAS has been in the works since 2022. Assimilation of these cameras into DAS expands the vast dragnet of surveillance that New Yorkers face going about their daily lives. The DAS surveils where we go, who we see, and whatever we do. The surveillance has a profoundly chilling effect on our fundamental right to free association and has a disproportionate effect on marginalized communities. Any NYPD officer can call up a DAS dossier on any New Yorker on their smartphone. Without a warrant, an officer can access a person's appearance, vehicles registration, social media accounts, 911 and 311 calls, social affiliations, even DNA. NYPD can run snapshots of the surveillance videos through facial recognition systems, putting NYCHA residents at risk of false facial recognition matches and wrongful accusations. DAS searches also refer to NYPD's notoriously racist gang database which can expose people of color to suspicion and police stops for reasons as innocuous as wearing the wrong clothes,

2 staying out late, attending the Puerto Rican Day
3 parade, or posting a social media message like,
4 "Happy Brithday, gang." We applaud the steps that
5 City Council Members have already taken to halt the
6 expansion of Big Apple Connect's video surveillance
7 component and to demand transparency and
8 accountability from OTI, NYCHA and the NYPD. City
9 Council must not allow the NYPD to surveil NYCHA
10 residents in this way. But more broadly, New Yorkers
11 will not be safe from omnipresent surveillance until
12 DAS itself is dismantled. Thank you for the
13 opportunity to testify today.

14 TALIA KAMRAN: Good afternoon, Chairs and
15 Committee Members. My name is Talia Kamran and I'm
16 an attorney in Brooklyn Defender Services Seizure and
17 Surveillance Defense Project. Brooklyn Defenders
18 represents low-income New Yorkers in Criminal Court
19 in Brooklyn and Queens and also represents people in
20 Brooklyn in Family Court and immigration proceedings
21 as well as offering a range of civil legal services.
22 Most of the people that we represent are people of
23 color who live in neighborhoods subject to some of
24 the heaviest policing and surveillance in the City.
25 Our clients in their communities are tracked by

2 street cameras, shot spotter, license plate readers,
3 predictive policing systems, and NYPD databases. And
4 now, with this new plan to blanket NYCHA housing with
5 police-controlled cameras tied to the Big Apple
6 Connect Wi-Fi program, the City is expanding that
7 constant surveillance into people's homes. The POST
8 Act was passed to ensure that New Yorkers know how
9 they're being watched. It requires the NYPD to
10 publish an impact and use policy, or IUP, at least 90
11 days before deploying new surveillance technologies
12 or expanding existing ones. It also requires a
13 public hearing before implementation so that the
14 people most affected can weigh in. Big Apple Connect
15 is being used to support surveillance-- the
16 surveillance abilities of the NYPD. Therefore, it is
17 a new surveillance technology under the law, and it
18 should have had its own IUP. Similarly, adding
19 thousands of cameras from NYCHA buildings into the
20 NYPD's CCTV system is not business as usual. It is a
21 major change in the use and scope of the NYPD's
22 camera system which itself also requires an addendum
23 in their CCTV IUP per the POST Act. Yet, none of
24 this happened. There was no public notice, no pre-
25 implementation hearing, and most importantly, no

opportunity for the residents whose lives will be impacted to ask questions or raise concerns. And beyond the POST Act, this program cuts at the very core of the fourth amendment. All New Yorkers are already subject to the NYPD's eye in the sky, its citywide CCTV network that tracks people on sidewalks, in parks, and at intersections. But traditionally, that surveillance ends when you get to your front door. NYCHA residents will now lose even that respite. There's no longer any meaningful boundary between their private homes and the NYPD's gaze. The Constitution does not allow the government to place entire communities under around the clock suspicionless surveillance at their homes and daily movements, and it is fundamentally discriminatory to tell public housing residents that in order to access affordable housing and basic internet services, they must surrender their constitutional rights. Finally, this raises serious equal protection concerns. Over 500,000 New Yorkers live in NYCHA housing and the majority of whom are Black and Latino. Singling out NYCHA residents for blanket surveillance means that people of color once again bear the heaviest burden of the NYPD's most-invasive surveillance practices.

2 The NYPD insists that surveillance placements are
3 data-driven, but we know from Floyd versus City of
4 New York that the Department has a long and well-
5 documented history of deliberating concentrating
6 policing in Black and Latino neighborhoods. And when
7 the NYPD now claims that cameras are being placed
8 where data or crime occurs, we must ask what data and
9 how is it produced. Decades of bias policing means
10 that the information the Department collects
11 overwhelmingly only reflects communities it has
12 chosen to police most heavily, Black and Brown
13 communities. Data that is born of discrimination
14 only reproduces discrimination. City Council must
15 end the collaboration between NYPD and Big Apple
16 Connect and provide NYCHA residents basic internet
17 access without around-the-clock surveillance. NYCHA
18 residents, like all New Yorkers, deserve the right of
19 privacy within their own homes. Thank you.

20 MICHAL GROSS: Good afternoon. My name
21 is Michal Gross, and I am the Supervising Attorney of
22 the Youth Law Team at Neighborhood Defender Service
23 of Harlem. There I represent young people facing
24 charges in Family and in Criminal Court. I represent
25 some of the NYCHA residents that the other members of

1 this panel have already spoken about, but I am going
2 to focus my testimony specifically on children,
3 teens, and young adults since those are the NYCHA
4 residents I mostly represent. We have seen the
5 results of NYCHA surveillance and how it's abused by
6 the police. We've seen the police following children
7 around, documenting their interactions with their
8 neighbors and with their family, and labeling those
9 interactions as gang affiliation. We've seen this
10 surveillance and its results used against our clients
11 in court, used in asking judges to set higher bail,
12 used in trying to keep cases in adult court for young
13 people. The NYPD has subjected this surveilled use
14 to constant harassment when they're walking around
15 the neighborhood. The situations that were discussed
16 by the other panelists are things that I hear from my
17 clients on a daily basis. They have no privacy and
18 no safety within their own homes and within their own
19 community. On the first panel we had NYPD
20 representatives speaking about how this surveillance
21 is used to reconstruct events and used to solve
22 crime, but that's now how we've seen it used. We've
23 seen it used to follow people around, using the
24 direct access that they have and using live camera
25

footage, not footage after-the-fact. In court filings, police have admitted to surveilling youth via NYCHA video, watching who they spend time with, who their friends are, and even documenting how they spend time with their own family members, documenting it so that they can use it against them one day if they come to court. One example that I've seen of how it's used against the youth, using this surveillance to label one of my clients as a gang member because of who he spent his time with, including his own family members. He was observed by NYPD spying on him using live surveillance in NYCHA housing, and NYPD admitted to watching him over 50 times with these same individuals. This is a violation of his first amendment right of association simply based on where he lives, a choice that a teenager doesn't get to make. And an important part of being a child, of being a teenager is spending time with peers, and our clients shouldn't have to worry about the police surveilling them, surveilling children, and using it to build a dossier just because they live in NYCHA housing. At Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, we understand how important community is, and we should be encouraging

2 youth to develop positive relationships and healthy
3 community, not criminalizing childhood friendships
4 and childhood family relationships. We thank the City
5 Council for this oversight, and urge the Council to
6 put a stop to this extreme policing, because NYCHA
7 residents, especially the children who live in NYCHA
8 housing, shouldn't have fewer rights just because of
9 where they live.

10 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so
11 much. And I just want to apologize, I mispronounced
12 your name. Michal, right? My apologies.

13 MICHAL GROSS: That's okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I just have two
15 general questions for folks. And you had raised, and
16 rightfully so, the line of questioning regarding
17 audits. It seems like a very flimsy way of holding
18 officers, you know, or PD accountable. To your
19 knowledge, what do they need to be audited? Like,
20 the response that we got from PD was like, well, if
21 someone has suspicion, I guess. I don't know. Like,
22 can I request an audit? It is something that
23 internal-- what do you know? I know it's
24 intentionally very [inaudible], but do you know what
25 they need for an audit?

2 LAURA MORAFF: Unfortunately, I--
3 unfortunately, I don't know the answer to that. I
4 think that-- I mean, it's definitely something that
5 if the NYPD is capable of just producing those audits
6 for searches of the domain awareness system, that's
7 certainly something that we should be getting in
8 criminal discovery, and we are typically not. I
9 don't know, and I think that's something else that we
10 deserve to know, that our clients deserve to know.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Absolutely.
12 Thank you. And then my question is for you, Michal.
13 For the clients, many of who your referenced, what
14 can you-- I think for myself, I speak for myself. I
15 have nine developments. Many of the TA leaders of
16 the residents, you know, associate more cameras.
17 They, of course, I don't think know with this
18 particular program now that it's like in real-time
19 and that it was tied to this, like, program that the
20 City is touting as like a huge victory. What is like
21 the engagement or the conversations with NYCHA TA
22 leaders up-- while protecting your client's privacy,
23 right, but like what is the education that we could
24 do to our NYCHA leaders, residents? A lot of my
25 folks that are aging in place, they just associate

2 cameras with safety, police with safety. This is
3 real. They hear this, they're going to be like, oh,
4 I didn't approve of this. but like, what-- what does
5 that look like? What does that sound like to better
6 equip them with this information?

7 MICHAL GROSS: I'd start off by saying
8 that a lot of my clients, as teenagers growing up in
9 NYCHA housing, a lot of them are living with older
10 family members, grandparents. So those aging NYCHA
11 residents may very well be parenting teenagers, and
12 if they heard that their children, their grandchild,
13 their loved one was being followed by NYPD, not even
14 in a live in-person officer, but an officer who's
15 following their whereabouts. They're walking to the
16 store, back from the store, when they left for
17 school, who they said hello to on the way, if they
18 understood how deep the surveillance was, I think
19 they would be alarmed. This isn't about safety. This
20 isn't about NYPD watching footage that has already
21 happened to see if they can identify someone who
22 perpetrated a crime. Instead, it's NYPD proactively
23 following around some children that they have decided
24 these children are the ones that we're going to
25 follow around, and so much of that has to do with the

2 gang database in the first place. That's how they
3 get-- they identify these children and choose to
4 follow these children around. So, I understand the
5 concerns that the aging residents of NYCHA housing
6 have about safety, but this isn't about safety. This
7 is about identifying young people so that they can
8 build up 50 times of following one youth around, and
9 50 times is when they saw this youth with another
10 person that they had identified. I don't know how
11 many other time they followed this youth around, how
12 many months this went on for before they actually
13 wrote this up. So, if NYCHA residents understood the
14 depth of the surveillance and how it's being used,
15 not to prevent crime, not to investigate crime, but
16 instead to label young people as gang members, as
17 criminals before anything has happened, I think they
18 would be as alarmed as we are.

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And in the
20 clients that you're representing, were there
21 instances where PD-- the personnel that access to it
22 were not the people that were described today, either
23 a captain or a detective?

24 MICHAL GROSS: I only know from the sworn
25 affidavits and testimony that we've been provided, so

2 I don't actually know who had access and how it came
3 up. All I know is that they have admitted to
4 following young people around. So, I don't have--
5 this is the first time I had heard that it's only
6 supposed to be a captain. I don't know the rank of
7 the individuals who were testifying or, you know,
8 swearing that this is what they've actually observed
9 and seen.

10 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. Chair
11 Brewer?

12 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I think some of you
13 mentioned the POST Act. I didn't know-- I feel like
14 it's-- you know, we heard from the Police Department
15 they are following all POST Act protocol, and I just
16 didn't know if you're familiar with it and if you
17 agree with that or if you think there are other
18 aspects of it that are not being followed as a result
19 of this program.

20 TALIA KAMRAN: Yes, I think, you know,
21 our office is position and the OIG's position is that
22 the NYPD still has a substantial way to go to be
23 in compliance with the POST Act, and I think when it
24 comes specifically to their use of Big Apple Connect
25 for the bandwidth to support their live-stream CCTV,

that should and could be considered a new
surveillance technology that should have its own IUP
under the POST Act. When Big Apple TV-- Big Apple
Connect Wi-Fi was-- you know, when NYPD gained access
to that, that should have been something that had a
hearing on it. I don't know who mentioned, you know,
the tracking of bodies using Wi-Fi, but that is
something-- you know, the waves that Wi-Fi emit, you
can track human movement using those waves. Xfinity,
for example, is already providing this as an
additional "security service" for Wi-Fi users. So,
you know, while they're saying, we're just getting
Wi-Fi access, this actually does have surveillance
capabilities and should be covered by the POST Act,
as should the expansion, the major expansion of their
CCTV system outside of the 37 DAS cameras. That
should be considered either something requires an
addendum in the CCTV IUP or its very own new IUP.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you very much.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so
much. I will call the next panel up. We have Noel
Hidalgo, or Noel, my apologies, Layla Law-Gisiko-- my
apologies-- and Roger Wareham.

2 NOEL HIDALGO: Goodness. I'm surprised
3 it's so cold in here. I guess this is how they keep
4 everybody awake. Yeah, exactly. My name's Noel
5 Hidalgo, Executive Director of BetaNYC. I have
6 written some comments, printed them out. They're
7 also posted to our website at beta.nyc. To summarize
8 them: Since 2013, we have been advocating for four
9 freedoms of the 21st century, the freedom to connect,
10 the freedom to learn, the freedom to innovate, and
11 the freedom to collaborate. Freedom to connect is
12 fundamentally the idea that we need universal high-
13 speed broadband. It is a pre-requisite for full
14 participation, economic growth, job creation,
15 educational opportunities, public safety, digital
16 government services, and for the access of affordable
17 health care. It is an absolute disservice to be
18 putting NYPD surveillance on top of Big Apple
19 Connect. It actually ruins our ability to go out and
20 advocate for the freedom to connect. It violates the
21 whole notion of that we're able to live in a 21st
22 century and connect people to the internet. We want
23 full transparency about where all of these
24 developments are affected and what data is being
25 collected or shared. The Council Member who brought

2 up the data use provisions with inside of the
3 internet connectivity is actually one of the other
4 scary things. OTI is essentially walking away and
5 saying, well, we don't know what type of commercial
6 surveillance is happening, but we do know that there
7 is significant amount of commercial surveillance
8 that's then being turned around and repurposed to
9 data brokers. And so, the other great comment that
10 was made by the panel beforehand is that Wi-Fi, the
11 Wi-Fi signals can be measured, and they can track
12 what the presence of individuals. Phillips Hue [sp?]
13 just launched a new product this past-- either this
14 month or last month where they will be able to
15 measure millimeter wave discrepancies to understand
16 how many people are in a room based upon a smart
17 lightbulb. All of these things that we're engaged in
18 our 21st century society have some element of
19 surveillance. All of those things that as they get
20 introduced into our public sphere need to have some
21 level accountability. We need to understand exactly
22 what are the impact assessments that are-- and make
23 sure that those impact assessments are co-designed
24 with residents, privacy advocates, and technologists.
25 Lastly, we really need to have clear, clear

guardrails and oversight. I am absolutely
flabbergasted that the NYPD can be sitting in this
exact same chair and then say that no, there isn't
any type of biometric information that's being used.
We know exactly how those files-- and we've seen
images being leaked to the press. We know that this
type of information can easily be used in yes, the
course of justice or however it was defined, but we
really need to make sure that there are independent
audits. And I want to end very quickly on audits. I
am-- it is unbelievable as a technologist that the
NYPD isn't running internal audits and listing of
what are the officers and how long officers are
logged into these different systems and how their
internal investigations or the CCRB is getting lists
of who has access to this domain awareness system. If
I was the CTO and I came to present to you how my
greatest surveillance technology is being used across
the City, I would be able to tell you who are the top
10, who are the top 50 officers. This-- NYPD should
be able to produce audits for you at a moment's
notice, and it is appalling that they weren't able to
do that. everything else is in my written testimony.
Thank you.

2 LAYLA LAW-GISIKO: Thank you so much. My
3 name is Layla Law-Gisiko. I am a democratic district
4 leader representing Chelsea and Manhattan, and I
5 welcome the opportunity to speak on this issue. I
6 oppose the installation and expansion of video camera
7 surveillance in NYCHA. It is wrong to normalize
8 mass-monitoring of low-income residents who have done
9 nothing to merit suspicion. Cameras don't address
10 the root cause of harm, and they chill daily lives.
11 They invite profiling and too often become tools for
12 the punishment rather than safety. But what I want
13 to address today is that it is also a structural
14 risk. As NYCHA buildings are privatized under
15 RAD/PACT or the Trust, the camera portfolio, hardware
16 footage, and data pipes [sic] may move into private-
17 managed properties with weaker public transparency
18 and accountability. What begins as public safety
19 infrastructure can become private surveillance with
20 different retention policies, opaque data sharing
21 with third parties and less community control.
22 Residents would lose FOIL access or may lose FOIL
23 access and democratic oversight while facing greater
24 exposure to misuse, leaks, and analytic creeps [sic].
25 Once again, once the buildings are being privatized,

it is unclear how the surveillance data would transition. Not that it is right in Section 9 buildings, but it really, you know, poses a great risk as these buildings are being privatized. Safety in public housing should be built with people and not pointed at them, and in-- so, you know, I will leave it at that, but you know, this is really a great addition. And I totally echo what previous panelists have said and they're the experts on this issue. I'm not, but I wanted to really point to this body that, you know, there's also an additional layer with the privatization of public housing and how this surveillance may be used. Thank you.

ROGER WAREHAM: Good afternoon. My name is Roger Wareham and I'm a Staff Attorney at the Center for Law and Social Justice of Medgar Evers College which 40 years ago next will be the-- it was established as a community-based legal organization to address racial justice issues. Most of what I'm going to say is in the written testimony, so I'm just going to touch on a couple of points that I think are important. One is I think that the police, the PD, sort of skirted on the question of the NYPD's dome awareness system that Council Member Brewer talked

about and the integration of the information that they're going to be taking from NYCHA into that. And I think this whole hearing has to be looked at in the history of the NYPD. I think there's a concern in terms of the history of constitutional abuse of Black and Latino communities by the NYPD and they have a long and disreputable record in that report, in that respect. The Center for Law and Social Justice even when it began in 1988 set up-- there were so many abuses they set up a citywide police surveillance hotline so people could report what was happening. The committee may be familiar with the 1985 Handschu Federal Agreement that put a-- that was designed to prevent illegal police surveillance of political activity, and while it is still in effect, the decree has done little to stop the NYPD from continuing to violate the rights of Blacks, Latinos and Muslims. And then there's Floyd V. City of New York which was the federal consent decree settlement that was supposed to stop the Stop and Frisk campaign that we historically we know how that affected hundreds of thousands of Blacks and Latinos. So I just want to deal with a couple of questions that-- some of which were raised earlier today, but I think the committee

2 needs to get answers to. One, why was the Big Apple
3 Connect video program implemented in secrecy? How
4 long will NYPD keep footage that it collects? And I
5 think they began to answer that. What will it be
6 used for? Will it be redirected towards other
7 programs? Will civilians have access to it? For
8 example, in lawsuits against the PD, will they have
9 access to that? Who is monitoring this process and
10 who should be monitoring it? In which NYCHA
11 developments, and I think [inaudible] where are they
12 and why were they chosen? And then I think the
13 question that was raised, I think in terms of the
14 domain assistance-- awareness program is-- it was
15 developed as a counterterrorism mechanism and the New
16 York City is part of the Joint Terrorist Taskforce.
17 So, there's no-- there's the question of how will
18 that information-- it won't be walled off as they are
19 maintaining. I think the NYPD's history, they do not
20 have the benefit of the doubt in terms of trust us,
21 and I think that's the attitude that needs to be
22 taken in terms of looking at what their assurances
23 are, and until they can answer those questions and
24 provide the data that the committee is asking for,
25 the Big Apple program should be stopped. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you all so
3 much. Thank you for your testimony. Okay, the next
4 panel up is-- we have Arthur Chang, Barbara Manu
5 [sp?], Beverly Ann Blondmonville, Christopher Leon
6 Johnson. And I just want to again reiterate that
7 this is a formal government proceeding and we just
8 want to make sure that all the testimony is in
9 response to the topic and content of today's hearing.
10 Thank you.

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Art left.

12 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, thank you.
13 I still have to call him up. Thank you.

14 MICHELE ANNE BLONDMONVILLE: Hello thank
15 you so much. My name's Michele Anne Blondmonville.
16 I'm a health and fitness educator for 40 years,
17 former adjunct lecturer at New York University, and
18 trainer at American Red Cross among other health
19 facilities in the City. Thank you so much for
20 listening to us, and I'm speaking on everyday people
21 who are Havana Syndrome or anomalous health incident
22 victims who have gone from stalking and harassment to
23 biometric surveillance. With glowing awareness of
24 the benefits afforded to our diplomat counterparts,
25 we are hoping that everyday citizens will get the

2 same benefit and will be acknowledged in the
3 emergency medical system and different-- the 911
4 system and different agencies throughout the City.
5 Everyday people, Havana Syndrome victims, are
6 diagnosed with-- as public citizens who have been
7 unlawfully experimented on and who have endured
8 targeting in various nefarious manners. These
9 nefarious crimes includes but are not limited to
10 organized stalking, smear campaigns, noise harassment
11 in our neighborhoods, electronic assault from
12 directed energy weapons, and nonconsensual human
13 experimentation with different modes of technology
14 including B2K, blue eye [sic] technology and AI.
15 They are put on illegal lists unknowingly that are
16 distributed to various agencies for experimentation
17 for vindictive reasons, technological research,
18 political harassment, whistle such-- such as
19 whistleblowers, activists, and their families. No
20 one should have to go through their brain being put
21 on a computer or an AI program. We are assaulted 24
22 hours a day randomly for compliance and remotely
23 monitored. We would like our rights and laws to be
24 put to use like California Law SB1223 and the
25 California Law 241058, protecting our brain data

2 collected by devices, and we would like to also
3 repeal the Patriot Act. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you.

5 CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: Alright,
6 hello, Chairs Banks, Chair Salaam, Chair Gutiérrez,
7 and Chair Gale Brewer. My name is Christopher Leon
8 Johnson. I'm showing some support for the cameras. I
9 believe that we need more cameras in the NYCHA
10 developments while at the same time we have to call
11 for the abolition of Shot Spotter, because Shot
12 Spotter I believe that it does way more damage to the
13 certain areas than it helps. There's many times that
14 the recordings of those so-called shootings are
15 mainly pops and it puts-- all it does is it delays
16 time from the NYPD when it comes to that. I want to
17 call on the City Council to really help out Chair
18 Banks with protecting security guards, because he's
19 one of the many people that helped introduce a bill
20 to really protect the guards at NYCHA, right? And
21 the City Council, what I'm hoping that they support
22 Chris Banks in this effort. I know they allocated
23 millions of dollars into the City Council-- from the
24 City Council to the unions to help out security
25 guards with the pay, but they need to really make it

2 more safe for the people, the guards that actually
3 work, like bullet-proof vests and Tasers and bear
4 mace. You can have cameras all you want, and like I
5 said, I'm not against taking away cameras because we
6 need them. Rest in peace to P.J. Abito [sp?]. I
7 know Chris Banks was there for that. Rest in peace
8 P.J. Abito. I think we need to dedicate something on
9 behalf of him adding more cameras. I hope you do, Mr.
10 Banks, introduce another bill in honor of him. But
11 you can have all the cameras you want, but if the
12 guards don't feel safe-- and to be honest with you,
13 the guards are the first in defense, the first in
14 line defense of the tenants. It does no justice
15 that-- it does no service at all for anybody to live
16 there and for the guards. And I hope that 32BJ, Izzy
17 Melendez [sp?], who is so hell bent on protecting the
18 deliveristas more than the guards-- what he needs to
19 start doing as vice president of 32BJ for the
20 Security Division is to really come more to City
21 Council to hearings like this and advocate on behalf
22 of the guards instead of just advocating on behalf of
23 deliveristas. And I can say I'm not against
24 deliveristas safety, but I'm really for making sure
25 fellow-- my-- I used to be a security guard-- that

2 guards like myself and like many others be protected
3 on the job because this City Council has fallen
4 short in making sure that the guards are protected on
5 the job. I understand y'all introduced a bill
6 recently to-- on behalf of Elan Etany [sp?], but
7 where is the aspect in the bill to where that these
8 guards are able to get body armor, bullet-proof vests
9 and-- bullet-proof vests and be able to be protected
10 on the job, especially from NYCHA tenants. So,
11 that's all I got to say. Thank you for having this
12 hearing, and like I said, we have to-- like I said,
13 I'm for the cameras, but we got to protect our
14 guards, too. Protect the 32BJ guards because they
15 are the first line of defense of this stuff. So,
16 with no cameras don't mean anything. But thank you
17 so much. Enjoy your day. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. We
19 will now turn our witnesses joining us via Zoom.
20 Clayton Banks?

21 BEVERLY BLONDMONVILLE: My name is
22 Beverly Blondmonville. I have been in the banking
23 business--
24
25

2 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] No,
3 I'm sorry. I'm sorry, you-- did you-- we already--
4 who testified for you?

5 MICHELE ANNE BLONDMONVILLE: I testified,
6 but we were both--

7 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: [interposing] No,
8 but only one person signed up.

9 BEVERLY BLONDMONVILLE: Oh, okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I'm sorry. Do
11 you have written testimony? Can you give me a second
12 let me just do the Zoom and then we'll come back to
13 you. Okay? I apologize. Clayton Banks via Zoom?

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: You may begin.

15 CLAYTON BANKS: Alright, thank you very
16 much. And good afternoon to all the Council Members.
17 I appreciate it. I just wanted to quickly say that
18 thank you for the opportunity to speak. Obviously, I
19 want to talk about something simple but powerful.
20 Internet for All, we've been talking about it all day
21 in a lot of ways, but Internet for All for real. So,
22 I'm still on that. I was thinking I just recently
23 got back to America from Africa. I was 35,000 feet on
24 a plane, and I was on internet, but you can't NYCHA
25 buildings get it in their living room. Something's

2 wrong here. We got to get this right. I believe
3 internet is a utility, right? So, these are all
4 things we've been talking about for several years, at
5 least 10 years for me, and we are struggling on this.
6 We got to move this. We really got to move this--
7 very important. Because I work with a lot of kids,
8 they're dealing with their homework difficulty.
9 Seniors can't reach their doctors. I mean,
10 telehealth and even just workers, they can't apply
11 for a lot of jobs. So, I'm really focused on making
12 sure that we're looking at this to be much more, if
13 you will, internet master plan. In a lot of ways,
14 the Connect program is a step in the right direction,
15 obviously, in a lot of ways. We've been talking
16 about this. But let's be clear-- I mean, really,
17 pilots and patches won't cut it. We need a real,
18 permanent, sustainable, citywide solution. There's a
19 lot of places that have become better than New York,
20 and I know that's something everybody hates to hear.
21 Chattanooga, better. By the way, my father grew up
22 in Chattanooga and it was crappy back in his day.
23 Now, they got network everywhere. San Francisco,
24 wired up public housing. Minneapolis, digital
25 inclusion fund. Toronto even-- all types of poles

and rooftops and fiber. We got to get ourselves
together. Philadelphia, too. I could go on and on
and on, so I'm going to try to wrap it up here, but
here's what that means for NYC and what we talked
about today already about NYCHA-- there's a lot of
that, and I love hearing about it. I am the kind of
guy that walks around NYCHA all the time. I go
through those places. I meet a lot of those people.
I talk to those people. And guess what? There's
more cameras than there's access. I mean, that's
something wrong here. We got to really fix this.
So, high-speed internet, obviously, should be in
every NYCHA unit. We should have really a digital
equity fund for whatever reason, and I hope you guys
think about that. I think the City's assets to bring
costs down and speed deployment up-- prior to--
prioritize students, seniors, and families who need
it most. Keep residents at the table. Design with
them, not just for them. The bottom line is this,
every New Yorker whether they live in Midtown or a
NYCHA development deserves equal access to
opportunity, and it's just-- it's today's world.
Opportunity for all--

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Thank
3 you. Your time is expired.

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you.

5 CLAYTON BANKS: [inaudible] of broadband
6 connection. So, finally just will say, let's not be
7 the city that can light up Times Square, but leaves
8 NYCHA residents in the digital dark. Let's be the
9 city that proves Internet for All isn't just a
10 slogan-- hello, it's a standard.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you.

12 CLAYTON BANKS: Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. We're
14 going to go to our last in-person panel. Michele
15 Blondmonville.

16 BEVERLY BLONDMONVILLE: [inaudible]

17 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, you're
18 Beverly, and Michele, you were the first person that
19 testified. Okay.

20 BEVERLY BLONDMONVILLE: I'm here to bring
21 attention to the fact that many people are being
22 experimented on secretly and this is inhumane and
23 painful. We're being experimented on with various
24 technologies, with remote technology, and we are at
25 the mercy at whoever has access to our biometrics.

2 All of this is being done without our consent or
3 knowledge. We do not even know why this is
4 happening, who is behind all of this, who's
5 controlling this, who do we go to for assistance, for
6 help. The medical field can't help us because they
7 have no knowledge of what is being done. So, we are
8 asking for advocacy to protect our rights. It is
9 inhumane and painful and should not happen, not in
10 America. It should not happen. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so
12 much. If we have inadvertently missed anyone who was
13 registered to testify today and has yet to have been
14 called, please use the Zoom hand function and you'll
15 be called in the order that your hand has been
16 raised. I can't see anything. Thank you everyone
17 for your testimony today. Thank you to my co-chairs.
18 Thank you, Council Member Banks, for sticking it out.
19 This hearing is adjourned.

20 [gavel]

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1	COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY WITH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING, AND COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS	188
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
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12		
13		
14		
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17		
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1	COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY WITH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING, AND COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS	189
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
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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 October 15, 2025