

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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HELD AT: 250 Broadway - committee Rm
16th Fl.

B E F O R E: PAUL A. VALLONE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Farah N. Louis
Mark Gjonaj
Peter A. Koo
Brad S. Lander
Carlos Menchaca
Keith Powers

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

Rachel Loeb, Chief Operating Officer, New York City Economic Development Corporation

Susan Rosenthal, Vice President of Initiatives New York City Economic Development Corporation

Lydia Downing, Senior Vice President, Government and Community Relations, New York City Economic Development Corporation

Monique Hector, Manager of Queens' Feast Program, Queens Public Library

Jose Sanchez, LMN Development Partners Co-sponsors of the Bronx Point Development

Reginald Peters, Universal Hip-Hop Museum

Jerry Keyes, Development Engagement Manager, Brooklyn Community Pride Center

Eddie Yang, Deerfield Management

Dr. Jean Joseph, Certified Accountant, West Indian-American Carnival Association

Joel Kupperman, New York City Community Garden Coalition

Aziz Deacon, New York City Community Garden Coalition

Dr. Jean Joseph, Certified Public Accountant &
President, Western American Accountants and
Member of WIADCA

Michelle Gall, President & CEO, Digital Girl,
Inc.

Brendan Omelveny, Chief Aquatics officer at
Imagine Swimming

Ted Smith, New Heights Youth, Inc.

Jeffrey Davis, Dedicated Strategies

Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director, New York City
Community Garden Coalition

Justin Turner

2 (sound check) (pause)

3 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Ready to go?

4 Alright, good afternoon everyone. Welcome to the
5 Committee o Economic Development. So, (gavel) we'll
6 get this thing going. Thank you. The ladies who are
7 here today to testify I think this is a great way to
8 segue into as we start 2020. It's a good way to take
9 a look at not so much oversight, but jus the projects
10 that are in existence where we are with them, and
11 give folks a chance to maybe just get up to speed
12 with some of the amazing projects that are going on
13 over at the EDC looking at the five boroughs because
14 what we always want to is bring EDC out to all of the
15 boroughs and—and explain where we are with a lot of
16 these projects. So, welcome everyone. Today we're
17 actually gong to have two hearings in one. We're—at
18 some point we're going to do a vote on two pieces of
19 legislation that we've spoken about before. First,
20 it was on the Speaker's Food Policy Package, and as
21 soon as we get a quorum, hopefully thereafter my
22 testimony or EDC's and Rahcel's. We'll take that
23 quick vote. The second part of the hearing today is
24 overview of several of Economic Development
25 Corporation major projects currently underway and

2 what we've done is selected one from each borough so
3 we can get to the boroughs with that to highlight
4 EDC's work in each area. I'll just give you a little
5 bit about the two bills. So, the first bill Proposed
6 Introduction 1652-A sponsored by Council Member
7 Alicka Ampry-Samuel, which we have a statement from
8 her, we would require the Department of City Planning
9 to categorize community gardens as open space,
10 outdoor recreation, a community garden or other
11 similar description the Primary Land Use Tax Lot
12 output statues also known as PLUTO. Currently the
13 PLUTO database, which is maintained by the Department
14 of City Planning and the Department of Finance
15 classifies community gardens as vacant lots.
16 Proposed Intro No. 1652-A would prohibit PCP from
17 categorizing community gardens as vacant. Proposed
18 Into 1652-A would take effect 180 days after it
19 becomes a law. The second bill produced-proposed
20 today is 1654-A sponsored by Council Member Diana
21 Ayala, which would require the Department of Health
22 and Mental Hygiene to conduct specific public
23 awareness and education campaigns regarding the
24 city's Farm to City Projects, which includes farmers
25 markets, community supportive agriculture , food

2 boxes and fresh pantries. DOHMH would also be
3 required to post all relevant information regarding
4 these awareness and education campaigns to its
5 website. Proposed Intro No. 1654-A would take effect
6 270 days after it becomes law. I support the
7 Speaker's commitment to improving the state of food
8 policy in our city, and applaud our Council Members
9 Ampry-Samuel and Ayala on the bills. We will hold up
10 the actual vote on those so we get a quorum. Moving
11 on, the oversight topic for today we on the committee
12 have been fortunate enough to have toured several of
13 EDC projects at locations throughout the city,
14 including the Hunts Point Market earlier this year.
15 It was freezing, but we went, and at the Brooklyn
16 Navy Yard and facilities last summer and a visit to
17 the Innovation Cyber Hub just up Broadway last fall,
18 and we are taking ideas for this year in 2020 where
19 we're going to go, but we'll keep this new—even the
20 security is excited when we move out the hearing to
21 different places. However, EDC is involve in so many
22 different large projects throughout the city that we
23 wouldn't presume to attempt to discuss them all today
24 in a single hearing. That's why we selected the five
25 projects for our topics today with each project

2 representing one EDC development in each borough, and
3 hope that we could drill down on some of the issues
4 facing those projects in a bit more detail. The five
5 projects we've selected today for this borough by
6 borough snapshot are: Jamaica NOW, Bronx Point, the
7 Manhattan Life Sciences Campuses, Brooklyn's Bedford
8 Union Armory & the Stapleton Waterfront Redevelopment
9 on Staten Island. To begin I'd like to highlight
10 that the Jamaica NOW Project in our home borough of
11 Queens is \$153 million project in Jamaica designed to
12 increase access to quality jobs, expand commercial
13 growth, improve liability and increase tourism to
14 Jamaica. Several of the projects in Queens were
15 identified such as Downtown Far Rockaway, Sunnyside
16 Yards, which I'd like to thank EDC for doing a
17 presentation for the entire Queens Delegation. It's
18 very helpful when you can break down to each of the
19 members. That was a big success, and Willets Point,
20 which is really at the footstep of my district, but
21 we ultimately decided Jamaica NOW was the most right
22 for today's discussion, and we'll hear about that for
23 Queens. While we applaud EDC on working with
24 stakeholders and other city agencies in developing
25 Jamaica NOW, we on the committee have several

2 questions about the project including the different
3 partnerships that are involved with the project, the
4 amount of community engagement that proceeded the
5 project, and where we are today, and what sort of
6 tracking EDC is doing to graduate the Jamaica NOW
7 Workforce Development Program. In Brooklyn, we
8 identified the Bedford Union Armory Project, which is
9 the redevelopment of a former U.S. Calvary Training
10 Facility that is being redeveloped into a 60,000
11 square foot fitness and recreation center, and an
12 adjacent affordable housing project. The recreation
13 center appears to be on track to open at the end of
14 this year, and the housing development is slated to
15 open sometime between 2021 and 2022. We have
16 questions regarding EDC's partnership with the third
17 party financiers, whether MWBE goals are being met
18 for the Bedford Union Armory project and the amount
19 of affordable housing that will ultimately be
20 available when the project is completed. Moving to
21 the Bronx, the Committee is focused on Bronx Point a
22 mixed-use development program along with Harlem River
23 Waterfront designed to create permanent affordable
24 housing, cultural attractions, educational
25 facilities, commercial and retail opportunities, as

well as open community space. Bronx Point is currently in its first phase in its plan to create roughly 540 units of affordable housing, serving low, moderate and middle-income households. The space will also feature a state of the art movie theater, a site—a city science facility, and a universal hip-hop museum. A universal hip-hop museum is coming to the Bronx. The first residential project base is estimated to be completed in 2022, but we have questions regarding the timeline and other components of the Bronx Point project including the—whose EDC's partners are and which components are getting priority as the project moves forward. Next, we identified within Staten Island the Stapleton Waterfront Redevelopment Project, which is part of the large Staten Island Home Port. EDC's Stapleton Waterfront Project is expected to develop 35 acres of mixed-use property along with the waterfront in Downtown Staten Island for community space, a new public pool, a new local infrastructure and transit improvement. The first phase of the project was completed in 2016, which added 12 acres of new public open space, walking and biking paths and reconstructed streetscape to the waterfront area.

2 The next phase began with the rezoning in 2019, and
3 development is currently underway for the next
4 project phases to build a new public school,
5 connectivity improvements and community spaces. The
6 committee has questions regarding the timeline of
7 these developments, the estimated public cost of the
8 project, what expansion opportunities EDC foresees
9 for the Homeport in the near future. Lastly, the
10 committee selected the Manhattan Life Science NYC
11 campus, which will redevelop the 12-story building on
12 Park Avenue South to act as an incubator space to
13 healthcare and biotech start-up companies. EDC has
14 partnered with different financiers as well as the
15 healthcare incubators to support the estimated \$500
16 million cost of the project, which is expected to
17 create 5,000 jobs for the New Yorkers including 1,400
18 career positions in the field. The committee has
19 several questions regarding the project's cost
20 including how much of the investment comes from city
21 funds, how many of the 5,000 jobs for New Yorkers
22 will remain available after the project is complete,
23 and to build partners, EDC is connecting with to
24 produce the graduates for this new incubator program
25 and what insurances, if anything, those partners have

2 made for its supporting Life SCI NYC Startups. We
3 look forward to discussing the details of these
4 projects with EDC today, and hope to have a candid
5 and public discussion about what if anything the
6 Council—the Council can do as representatives of the
7 public to continue to support the community's
8 impacted by these major projects. With that being
9 said I'd like to thank you my committee staff as
10 always, Legislative Counsel Alex Paulenoff, Policy
11 Analyst Emily Forgione, and Finance Analyst Alia Alli
12 who's trying to hide for their hard work putting this
13 hearing together. Now, we absolutely can do both
14 Council Members Adams as well. So we have Council
15 Members Adams, Koo, and Gjonaj that are here.
16 Council Member Adams, if you'd like to give a
17 statement because I know you're running around from
18 committee to committee.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank so much
20 Chair Vallone. Thanks for having this hearing today.
21 I just wanted to step in to make sure that—that you
22 and your—and that this committee knows because you
23 all already know my commitment to Jamaica NOW is one
24 of the original co-chairs for Jamaica NOW Council a
25 few years ago, and the excitement that Southeast

2 Queens and particularly the Downtown Jamaica Corps
3 celebrated during the inception of all of that hard
4 work that we put into, and that you all continue to
5 put into Jamaica NOW. It is something, a concept that
6 was not heard of before. We had an infusion quite a
7 few million dollars, and a lot of support from the
8 city and state to make this happen, to revitalize
9 Downtown Jamaica, to create many, many jobs and
10 opportunities for youth, young and old alike to
11 promote marketing, brand new marketing for Downtown
12 Jamaica to enlist the DOT for revitalization and
13 beautification of Downton Jamaica, and so much more.
14 So, I just wanted to make sure that I was here to
15 lend my support to the Downtown-to the Downtown
16 Jamaica area always, and to our Jamaica NOW Council,
17 partners and friends internally. So, I know that my
18 constituents, Council Member Miller's constituents,
19 Council Member Lancman's constituents are very, very
20 grateful and very thrilled about what continues to go
21 on through the work that implores and that embodies
22 the concept of Jamaica NOW. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you, Council
24 Member and if you have any other questions you wanted
25 to ask, we're going to start off with the Queens

2 project first. So, if you want to just give it to us
3 and we'll make sure that we turn over to the panel.
4 Actually, I'll we'll swear you in. Do you swear
5 today's testimony will be the truth and you'll give
6 your answers honestly to the Council Members today?

7 I do.

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you very
9 much.

10 RACHEL LOEB: Good afternoon, Chair
11 Vallone and members of the Economic Development
12 Committee. My name is Rachel Loeb. I'm the Chief
13 Operating Officer the New York City Economic
14 Development Corporation also known as EDC. In this
15 role I oversee EDC's priority for real estate, asset
16 management, capital and planning. This is my first
17 time before the committee, and I'm pleased today to
18 testify on behalf of EDC's work over the past 12
19 months and our priorities for the coming year. I'm
20 joined today by my colleagues Susan Rosenthal, Vice
21 President of Initiatives, and Lydia Downing, Senior
22 Vice President, Government and Community Relations.
23 EDC is the city's go-to vehicle for creating more
24 connected and resilient neighborhoods, and helping
25 grown new industries to grow the city's economy.

2 Strengthening communities and helping to create a
3 fair and more equitable New York for today and or
4 tomorrow takes time, and requires extensive
5 collaboration. It's why we're grateful for our
6 relationship with the Council and members of the
7 community. It's because of these relationships we can
8 move projects across the finish line, ensure that
9 promises made to the community are promises kept and
10 deliver real and lasting impact. In today's day and
11 age, economic development doesn't just mean
12 constructing a building or creating jobs. It means
13 fostering an environment where business want to
14 work, and where workers can succeed. That is why at
15 any given time EDC is working on hundreds of economic
16 development projects that may seem to vary widely,
17 but they all tie back to the central aim. This work
18 includes investing in 21st Century job training
19 programs, preparing vulnerable neighborhoods for
20 climate change, and turning under-utilized land into
21 new development projects that serve public need. Our
22 goal is to make New York City the gold standard for
23 inclusive economic development, and a mode that can
24 be replicated by cities around the world, all within-
25 and with under two years left in the Administration,

1 this goal has never felt more urgent. Across the
2 five boroughs we have initiatives doing just that,
3 and I'm spend this portion of my testimony
4 highlighting several of them. In Queens this year
5 marks the five-year anniversary of the city's \$153
6 million investment in Jamaica through the investment-
7 through the Jamaica NOW Neighborhood Action Plan,
8 which seeks to increase quality jobs and small
9 business support, promote commercial growth and
10 economic development, and improve livability in the
11 neighborhood. In partnership with the members of the
12 Jamaica NOW Leadership Council including local city
13 officials, we have been able to meaningfully propel
14 this plan forward, and deliver on the commitment to
15 strengthen the local Jamaica economy. Some of our
16 collective victories to day include transforming an
17 under-utilized NYPD garage into the Archer Green
18 Apartments, a new mixed-use development with nearly
19 400 affordable homes, a community facility, office
20 space, and a supermarket, creating 90 new food
21 business through the Jamaica Feast Program, which
22 helps food entrepreneurs build their businesses and
23 thrive in the neighborhood and beyond, and launching
24 the Jamaica is Home, the citywide marketing campaign,
25

1 which celebrates Jamaica's US and Innovation hub is
2 launching. (sic) I want to tell you about 28-year-
3 old Keely Martinez one of our amazing graduates and
4 owners of Keely Cakes. Following the incredible
5 success of Jamaica Feasts and its expansion across
6 the Borough, Keely joined the first Long Island City
7 cohort, which graduated in December of 2019. Only
8 two weeks after applying to the program, Keely and
9 her family were forced into a homeless shelter in
10 Brooklyn. A self-taught baker it wasn't until the
11 Queens Feat that she learned she could build a
12 business selling cakes inspired by her Dominican
13 heritage. As soon as she began marketing her
14 delicious cakes, Keely was able to earn \$1,700 in the
15 first week alone creating a pathway out of homeless
16 and laying a strong foundation for her family and
17 herself. Keely couldn't be here today, but she
18 submitted her testimony. It's been incredible to
19 partner with many of the leader in the Jamaica
20 community to realize the community's vision for
21 investments in this downtown district and provide
22 people like Keely with the opportunity to achieve
23 their dreams. The city's waterfront has and will
24 continue to be a place to invest in key public
25

2 amenities that create more connected and stronger
3 community. It is why in Staten Island when making
4 significant investments in key infrastructure to
5 support existing and new development along the
6 burgeoning North Shore Waterfront. And ED said—an ED
7 let initiative the new Stapleton Waterfront will
8 activate 35 acres of previous off limit land. A
9 former U.S. Navy home port, the new Stapleton
10 Waterfront will include a 12-acre park with a
11 playground, restrooms and barbecue area, affordable
12 housing, a public school, new sewers and
13 infrastructure and shoreline resilience measures.
14 Additionally thanks in part to New Capital funding we
15 received through the Bay Street Rezoning, EDC is
16 currently design for the Thompkinsville Esplanade.
17 When complete, this project will fill an important
18 missing link connecting the new Stapleton Waterfront
19 northward to Lighthouse Point and the Saint George
20 Ferry Terminal via 1.5 miles of uninterrupted
21 waterfront gangway. Residents of Stapleton,
22 Thompkinsville and Saint George will have access to
23 more open space, affordable housing, and key public
24 amenities. It is through critical investment like
25 these that we can help create a stronger Staten

2 Island for generations to come. Across the city we
3 are committed to diversifying economies and growing
4 key industries including life sciences. Last
5 September we announced the new partnership with
6 Deerfield Management a New York City based health
7 care investment firm to redeveloped a 12-story
8 building on Park Avenue South into a life sciences
9 campus. The 300,000 square foot campus will provide
10 a life sciences base to support healthcare and
11 biotech setups, a growing company that works on
12 cutting edge R&D to treat diseases and chronic
13 conditions. This partnership is part of our LifeSci
14 NYC a \$500 million commitment to establishing New
15 York City as a global leader in the life sciences R&D
16 innovation spurring an estimated 16,000 jobs and
17 creating up to 3 million square foot of new space for
18 life sciences companies and researchers. The campus
19 will offer life science set-ups and high growth
20 companies' access to laboratory space, and critical
21 resources to grow providing a single location for
22 entrepreneurs to take concepts and turn them into
23 treatments for diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's,
24 Diabetes among others. In addition, Deerfield will
25 commit up to \$30 million to fund programming and

2 partnership with EDC to ready New Yorkers for careers
3 in life sciences. These efforts will focus on
4 workforce development, diversity and inclusion and
5 will impact nearly 5,000 New Yorkers in the
6 burgeoning life sciences ecosystem. Initial
7 programmatic offerings will expand EDC's Life Science
8 NYC Internship Program and Deerfield's existing CUNY
9 Fellows break into the board room and women in
10 science initiatives. I want to take a moment to talk
11 about incredible Deerfield fellow Veronica Rescova
12 (sp?) a Brooklynite with dreams of becoming a life
13 sciences professional. She's here today. Veronica.
14 Prior to her fellowship she earned an associates
15 degree at Kingsborough Community College continuing
16 on to Baruch where she received a bachelor's.
17 Veronica did not stop there. She also earned her
18 masters degree in biotechnology from Johns Hopkins
19 University. Veronica started her career in life
20 sciences as a medical billing specialist prior to her
21 fellowship with Deerfield. She has successfully
22 completed her fellowship and is now applying her
23 knowledge full-time at Deerfield where she is
24 watching her skills building a professional network,

2 and being mentored by leaders in the life sciences
3 space.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And Veronica, if
5 you'd like to come up to one of the panels and give
6 us your story, you're more than welcome to do that,
7 but today is one of those days and you can sign up if
8 you'd like.

9 RACHEL LOEB: And, um, Veronica is also
10 joined by her fellow intern Eddie as well. Yeah. the
11 Campus, which is expected to open in early 2021 will
12 create approximately 1,4000 quality jobs. The life
13 sciences sector is comprised of mission driven
14 companies in fields like biotech, physiology and
15 biochemistry that work to translate scientific
16 research into cures, treatments and technologies that
17 saves lives and improves human health. With an
18 average salary of \$75,000 a year the life sciences
19 industry presents a key opportunity to create good
20 jobs in New York City. To strengthen communities we
21 must ensure under-utilized land is being revitalized
22 for public use and invest in infrastructure to
23 support growth. In the Bronx we're doing just that.
24 Bronx Point along a vacant site is being transformed
25 into a mixed-use development that will support the

2 community's open space and housing needs today while
3 preparing for the future. Bronx Point will include
4 up to 1,045 units of housing with phase 1 delivering
5 over 500 units of 100% permanently affordable housing
6 over an acre of new open space on the Harlem River
7 Waterfront, recreational and educational programming
8 for all ages, a first of its kind universal hip-hop
9 museum, an 80,000 square foot community space, local
10 retail, a state of the art movie theater and spaces
11 for education and community facilities. This first
12 phase is anticipated to be completed in 2023, and
13 will be affordable to households with incomes ranging
14 from extremely low to moderate. In collaboration
15 with then Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Bronx
16 Community Board 4, we advanced a robust community
17 engagement effort that helped inform much of the
18 programming at Bronx Point. An average development
19 partner, Advance was designed through PDC. We
20 continue to rely on that input and the feedback from
21 the community. It's truly been a collaborative
22 effort and we would not be here today without their
23 help. It's important to note that Bronx Point is
24 only the beginning of our investments in all of our
25 conquest areas of the Southwest Bronx. In addition

2 to delivering much needed affordable housing, we're
3 committed to fulfilling a promise over a decade in
4 the making. As part of the \$194,000 infrastructure
5 allocation that the De Blasio Administration made in
6 2015, we are advancing the design and construction of
7 a new 2.3 acre park on East 104th Street and exterior
8 along the Harlem River. This was a commitment made
9 as part of the Conquest Rezoning in 2009, and we are
10 also advancing the full reconstruction of Exterior
11 Street from 138th Street to 150th Street improving
12 safety for pedestrians along this very busy corridor.
13 A huge thanks goes out to Council Member Diana Ayala
14 for her ongoing support for this project. More
15 affordable housing means more families will have a
16 roof over their head and have a foundation to build
17 an environment with their children and they can
18 apply. (sic) Kids will have access to a new park
19 where they can play, learn, grow and form new
20 friendships. By rebuilding those that put pedestrian
21 safety first, we're easing the minds of many
22 neighborhood parents. It's the critical investments
23 like these that will make the Bronx an even stronger
24 neighborhood. In Brooklyn, the Bedford Union Armory
25 is a great example of where ED is creating a more

2 connected community. This past December we
3 celebrated the ground breaking of the Armory's
4 redevelopment. Once complete the Armory will deliver
5 over 400 units of housing, two-thirds of which will
6 be designated for those earning at or below 60% of
7 the area median income, a recreational center with
8 three basketball courts, swimming pool a multi-use
9 field safe for entertainment arts events, a café open
10 to the public and classrooms for continuing education
11 program. When open countless residents—local
12 residents will have a place to take coding classes
13 and dance, swim, a place where local public schools
14 that don't have a gym can take physical education
15 classes, a place to celebrate the culture of Crown
16 Heights, a place to honor this community's history, a
17 place to celebrate together recitals, concerts and
18 graduations. And on top of that, 30 non-profits and
19 civic organizations that are the threads in the Crown
20 Heights community will finally have a permanent home.
21 It was just two weeks ago that I had the honor of
22 celebrating the lease signing of the Brooklyn
23 Community Pride Center. Their new home at the Armory
24 represents a dramatic expansion of their ability to
25 reach more members of the LGBTQIA community with

2 critical services and programs helping to create a
3 more inclusive and equitable New York. Today, we're
4 joined by several of the Armory's non-profit tenants
5 can these community institutions will now have a
6 permanent home enabling them to have an even greater
7 impact in the lives of so many, The Reactional
8 Center a non-profit space at the Bedford Union Armory
9 is expected to open by the end of 2020 and the
10 residential components are set to open in 2021 and
11 2022. The Armory represents what is possible when we
12 work together and put community engagement at the
13 center. We want to extend a strong thanks to
14 Council Member Laurie Cumbo for her unwavering
15 leadership to make this dream a reality. Building a
16 New York that is fair creates opportunity for all,
17 and is ready for the challenges of tomorrow, the
18 cries of bold vision, strong action and an approach
19 that puts community and collaboration at the center..
20 It's through this lens that the E-D-that EDC views
21 its initiatives and projects. Across the five
22 boroughs we are committed to investing in and
23 strengthening communities. From affordable housing
24 and infrastructure to resilience and workforce
25 development, the projects I've referenced not only

2 address the immediate needs of the city and that the-
3 that the public face today, but plan for the future
4 as well. Thank you so much for your time and
5 attention today. I'm happy to answer any questions
6 that you may have.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: See, there goes
8 your first testimony. Now, you say that any more.
9 [laughter] You're officially--now you have to do your
10 song for the portion there (laughter) But you didn't
11 know that part?

12 RACHEL LOEB: No I think I'd do it again
13 with all the reading.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, there is so
15 much there. So thank you for all that testimony, and
16 going through it pretty quickly. Each one of those
17 could have their own hearing and they may, but we had
18 one budget season come upon us, so, we wanted to try
19 to get this overview to everyone on some of the
20 projects that are going on throughout the city. I
21 know that Council Member Gjonaj has a couple of
22 questions, but before Council Member Adams left, she
23 left us three questions--

24 RACHEL LOEB: Sure.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --on the three--on
3 the Queens project. Her first one was: How much more
4 is there until it's complete, the Jamaica NOW
5 project?

6 RACHEL LOEB: So, recently we--

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Could you just kind
8 of give us a timeline question there?

9 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, so we just celebrated
10 like the five-year anniversary of the Jamaica NOW
11 Action Plan, which was as I mentioned \$153 million
12 investment. There were over 28 actions 4 of which
13 were EDC's.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: What do you mean by
15 action?

16 RACHEL LOEB: Um, there were 40-28
17 different commitments that were made as part of the
18 plan. Some of them were in ED's purview, some of
19 them are with our colleagues at SBS or the other
20 agencies. The ones that are directly under EDC
21 include the Archer Green, which was the redevelopment
22 of the NYPD garage. That is under construction. We
23 closed last year, and that was a little over 1,300
24 afford homes. It's, yes, and it's slated to conclude
25 in 2021. We're--we've--on the--we've renewed our

2 ongoing commitment to the Jamaica Feast Program, and
3 looking to continue to support what a successful
4 program that is. I should mention that we've had
5 over 90 graduates to date, and--

6 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And that's--that's
7 the training program?

8 RACHEL LOEB: This is the training
9 program.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's continuing
11 entrepreneurs into the Launch Food Businesses?

12 RACHEL LOEB: Yes the Launch Food
13 Business and this is done in partnership with the
14 Queens Public Library, and it--it grew out of Jamaica
15 but it's been so successful that the rest of the
16 Queens is bringing it through Queens Public Library
17 to other neighborhoods in Queens.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Have we had
19 graduates already?

20 RACHEL LOEB: Yes, we've had 90 graduates
21 to date, and over 87% of them have actually
22 registered as businesses. So, we're seeing--this is
23 an example, you know, people always think some--some
24 of the things that EDC does is always about real
25 estate. It's always about deals, but also we're

2 working with people. We're about jobs and businesses
3 as well. So, looking at that those programs that we
4 can create to create entrepreneurs and help them grow
5 as companies as well. The--so I mentioned--I should
6 mention that--

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And it has the
8 historical?

9 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, you have the
11 32--

12 RACHEL LOEB: Yes, the 32.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: 32 additional
14 storefronts on Liberty and Jamaica Avenue. Do we
15 have any more storefronts coming? I think that's
16 just the first.

17 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, I actually--I'm sorry.
18 I don't know what the next phase of the SBS Plan is
19 for additional surplus, but we can follow up on that
20 and get you the information. It's all the
21 additional--

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (interposing) So,
23 the--the agencies that are handling that part is there
24 interagency coordination on that? I believe I see
25 it?

2 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah we have ongoing
3 interagency coordination because even whether it be
4 the Storefront Program or working on the Feast
5 Program or some of the programs like when--affordable
6 housing we are coordinating with our colleagues with
7 HPD. Another example the one that

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (interposing) As if
9 they weren't. That's when we can step in--

10 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah.

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --and make sure
12 they are getting that.

13 RACHEL LOEB: No, I think this is a
14 really great example of all hands on deck, everybody
15 working together for Jamaica and realizing the vision
16 and continuing to hold each other accountable for the
17 follow-up for those.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So with--within that
19 program I think is a question that I bring up at
20 every hearing that can take the next step. So in
21 doing so much and providing those small business
22 opportunities, affordable housing, permanent jobs I'm
23 always looking for the step that we can connect into
24 the school system, and showing the students hey look
25 what's happening in the Jamaica area and the growth

2 and the opportunities just like within the graduates
3 within the Feast Program. Is there anything you can
4 expand on or tell us? Is there plans or are there
5 any plans, or where they couldn't be considered for a
6 future plan on working within the districts that
7 comprise, the school districts that comprise that new
8 development that can bring the students in to see the
9 next step--

10 RACHEL LOEB: That's right.

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --of their
12 educational process the jobs that can be.

13 RACHEL LOEB: Let's say, Chairman, I want
14 to let Lydia answer. Sure. I mean I think
15 specifically on the Jamaica project, I think that's a
16 fantastic idea and something that we can work
17 through. Actually just--I believe it was last month
18 or maybe earlier this month we worked closely with
19 the Department of Education to participate in their
20 Queens CTE Career Day where we had folks from our
21 Initiative Team and those are the--that's a part of
22 our organization that's focused on different
23 industries that are growing, going out to meet with
24 school kids. They spent the entire day sort of

2 giving them ideas about industries that are growing
3 in New York City.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So there's two of
5 them in the schools.

6 RACHEL LOEB: Not a price without a job,
7 and so we're in conversation with the Department of
8 Education about other ways to make sure that when we
9 have things like internship becoming available, et
10 cetera that we're making sure that those
11 opportunities are also sent out sort of through their
12 communication channels as well. I agree with you
13 this an area for opportunity and growth, and
14 something that we're really interested in
15 collaborating on.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yeah, I think that
17 when you mentioned the--the CEC, the CPECs, the PTAs
18 the different districts that is in every borough, I
19 almost want to make EDC not even an additional ask to
20 be there. I wanted to be there because when I'm in
21 the schools, which are every week I don't think the
22 students or the children are quite aware of these
23 opportunities just yet. It's almost like the mystery
24 of EDC. We're trying to break down the wall and let
25 them know there isn't a wizard behind the curtains.

2 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That there actually
4 is these opportunities. I think that.

5 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, so we—we look forward
6 to partnering with that.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And we are joined
8 by Council Members Menchaca and Powers and I noticed
9 that—maybe we can jump and take the vote while we
10 have everybody here and then we'll let the Council
11 Member Gjonaj. So, Council Member Samuel with her—
12 there on Intro 1652. I'm just kind of speed read
13 her—her sentence. Her bill addresses the ongoing
14 demands to protect our community gardens by
15 appropriate reclassification— Sorry. I just turned
16 to it anyway—reclassification. Currently community
17 gardens are just made as vacant lots, and we know
18 that they are not vacant. They are full of life and
19 contribute to positive health outcomes for people
20 while predisposed and diagnosed with diet related
21 illnesses such as asthma, cancer and diabetes. This
22 bill is precedent for me because I remember earlier
23 last year when my mother was diagnosed with an
24 illness that required her to immediately shift to a
25 plant based diet. She could not find a fresh head of

2 lettuce anywhere in the neighborhood. The local
3 grocery store down the street recently closed and
4 slated for development. Community gardens like
5 Isabella Group with Campaign Against Hunger were able
6 to provide my mother. So, I look forward to working
7 with City Planning, with Parks and Recreation and my
8 colleagues to advocate this bill into reality and
9 that is on 1652. So, we will be voting on 1652 and
10 1654. So, if we want to take the—anyone else want to
11 make a statement on either of these two bill?

12 Alright so are we ready to take our vote?

13 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk
14 roll call vote Committee on Economic Development.
15 Introduction 1652-A and 1654. The items are coupled.
16 Chair Vallone.

17 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Aye on both.

18 CLERK: Koo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

20 CLERK: Menchaca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on both and
22 can I be added to the sponsor's list on both of them?

23 Thank you.

24 CLERK: Gjonaj.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

2 CLERK: Powers.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the affirmative
5 zero in the negative and not abstentions, both items
6 have been adopted by the committee.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Alright, are they
8 any council members that are on their way that we
9 need to hold for the vote?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER: Landers.

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Landers. Alright.
12 So, we'll keep the vote open while we continue on
13 with the rest of the meeting. Okay? Looking for
14 yes. Okay, alright, well, I didn't want—I'd like a
15 community vote on it. Perfect. Good. so we'll keep
16 that open for any other Council Members, and the last
17 question the Council Member had on the Jamaica
18 project was is something for our underpass, and
19 Atlantic Avenue Extension are extremely vital.
20 Please detail timeframes and work plans for both.
21 Education.

22 RACHEL LOEB: Oh, yes. So, the Atlantic
23 Avenue project is underway. It's a roadway extension
24 and reconfiguration that includes three pocket parks
25 and some—over an acre of open space.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So those are the
3 parks?

4 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay.

6 RACHEL LOEB: And the anticipated
7 completion is actually this summer. The underground
8 infrastructure is nearly complete, and once the—I
9 think spring unfortunately is already here, but
10 plantings will begin when spring officially starts.
11 So, it is expected to be complete this summer.

12 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: This summer.

13 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We'll pass that on
15 and Council Member Lander if you'd like to vote on
16 the two bill we have I think 5 in the affirmative and
17 zero opposed. Since you just came if you'd like to
18 join in on the vote.

19 CLERK: Introduction 1652-A and 1654-A,
20 Council Member Lander.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye on
22 both.

23 CLERK: The vote is now at 6 in the
24 affirmative.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Alright. So I know
3 Council Member Gjonaj you had some questions?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Yes. thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: If any other
6 Council Members let me know if you want the house to
7 check. (sic)

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you. So
9 great to have you here, and I agree with you
10 wholeheartedly that ED is just not about building
11 buildings and creating jobs. There's a real need to
12 make sure that the infrastructure is there in place
13 to meet the growth demand as well as preserving the
14 uniqueness of our neighborhoods, the character and
15 uniqueness of our neighborhoods. I've been at the
16 forefront of pushing for ferry expansion especially
17 in the borough of the Bronx. It was only last year
18 that we got the ferry up and running.

19 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Now, you can join
20 me in my request.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Right. We need
22 to expand the ferry service to other parts of the
23 Bronx and making sure that all New Yorkers have a
24 fair share—an ability to use the service and it
25 shouldn't be for a select few. So I might just go

2 through a few things and hope we can answer them all
3 at once. The Metro North one of the largest
4 investments coming to the Borough of the Bronx, what
5 part—where are you and what part—role are you playing
6 in the City Planning's view of the rezoning efforts
7 and the needed infrastructure for this incredible
8 long awaited investment that is going to truly
9 change the future of the borough for a much more
10 positive—in a positive way--

11 RACHEL LOEB: Uh-hm.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: --including
13 schools and traffic flows and, densities and over-
14 population. We currently are waiting for thousands
15 of seats to be filled by our current needs, and when
16 these economic developments occur, they put a further
17 strain on not only education and roadways, but also
18 on the infrastructure of healthcare. Emergency rooms
19 have incredible wait times. They police resources
20 and first responders from both EMS and the Fire
21 Department. Today, we had an incredible viewing on
22 being in the small business trying to care—help it.
23 Reiterate some of the issues that were brought up
24 today in a joint hearing about cyber security and the
25 threat of cyber security to all small business across

2 the board. I don't believe the city has put enough
3 police officers or attention on this matter and give
4 if the priority it deserves. This is a threat for
5 the entire city and the future of New York. When EDC
6 involves and plays a role in rezoning efforts in and
7 around the Metro North, the community's input is of a
8 major concern, and in many cases someone gathers new
9 information, but it fails to become part of the road
10 plan. We don't take into consideration those that
11 have lived in neighborhoods, neighborhoods and
12 communities what they are today. Those that have
13 paved the road can in essence be forced out or have
14 their quality of life impacted to the point where
15 they no longer feel a part of the community. So we
16 strive to build communities.

17 RACHEL LOEB: Uh-hm.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: We also have to
19 keep in mind that we need to preserve their
20 uniqueness and the character. The threat of
21 commercial corridors between e-commerce and some of
22 the other changes big box store and we see the
23 vacancies out there. I'm reminding you and I noticed
24 that this impacts all of us here. We rely on EDC to
25 be a part of the solution and not the problem, and

2 there's always the unintended consequence. We want
3 this buy line going back into that. So, I think we
4 just did a whole hearing on my list of questions. (

5 RACHEL LOEB: I know.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm going—now I'm
7 awaiting your response.

8 RACHEL LOEB: So, you know, I think se
9 share the a lot of things with you that, you know,
10 like I had mentioned in my testimony we really want
11 to, Council Member make sure that that, you know, New
12 City is the gold standard of inclusive economic
13 growth and so what does that mean, and that means we
14 have to have to support those historic industries as
15 well as looking at future ones, and you mentioned
16 cyber security, and as you probably know, and if you
17 don't we'd love to come and spend some time talking
18 to you about our Cyber Security Initiative that we've
19 been building at EDC and partnering with the private
20 sector as well as educating the workforce to be ready
21 for these big—not only is it critical to defend our
22 institutions, but also in our business but also with
23 a good job opportunity. So, we'd love to come back
24 and tell you more about that and bring our colleagues
25 that focus on that every day, and specifically

2 looking at small businesses who can't afford like the
3 large banks to provide—protect themselves and how
4 we're thinking about that. I also agree with you
5 that, you know, jobs are critical. You mentioned
6 about the Metro North and the rezonings around there.
7 That's a DDP City Planning led initiative. So, you
8 know they otherwise are looking at the—the rezoning
9 efforts potentially in those areas. We fully support
10 infrastructure and we fully support efforts that make
11 sure those communities are strengthened as entities
12 are that are looked at. Lydia, do you have anything
13 you want to add?

14 LYDIA DOWNING: Sure, just, you know,
15 we're working closely with DCP on this. We
16 completely agree with you Council Member that for,
17 you know, a project there to be successful we need to
18 make sure that we are focusing also on the economic
19 development strategy and so that's something that we
20 are hoping to work closely with you and members of
21 your community on along with DPP, and as that project
22 advances the—the Metro North investments that are
23 happening do create a huge opportunity in that area,
24 and it's something we want to work with the local
25 institutions that are there, your office and others

2 to make sure that we're coming up with a thoughtful
3 strategy that's responsive to the needs of the local
4 community.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: While you're on
6 that subject--

7 LYDIA DOWNING: Uh-hm.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: --are we fully
9 funded. Is the Metro North expansion fully funded?
10 And if no, has EDC been engaged to see if there's a
11 need for additional funding?

12 LYDIA DOWNING: You know, I-I-I apologize.
13 We can't speak to the MTA and where their funding is.
14 So, we'd have to circle back with them in terms of
15 what their funding and capital plan is for the Metro
16 North Basin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: You know you got
18 to ask six more question there.

19 LYDIA DOWNING: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Bye to Councilman
21 Gjonaj and now we have Councilman Powers and then
22 Councilman Menchaca. Oh, the vote actually. Are
23 there any questions on ferries? I'm all--all about
24 those.

2 RACHEL LOEB: So, we are, you know, we
3 are so proud of the work that we've done so far on
4 the ferry system and the ferry network, and how it's
5 connecting neighborhoods and people to an operating
6 transit system that hasn't been available, and we are
7 focused, laser focused right now on expanding that
8 service and bringing it to neighborhoods that haven't
9 had it before. We have plans right now focused on
10 Staten Island and further neighborhoods in the Bronx
11 and we're constantly re-evaluating the system, but
12 right now we're focused on adding those two stations
13 or those two stops for the ferry network.

14 LYDIA DOWNING: That's right and the
15 expansion that we're currently focused on that next
16 phase will include Ferry Point Park, and so that's
17 something that we're—we're very focused on in the
18 short term and you know we—we look forward to a
19 continued engagement with Council and members of the
20 public about potential further expansion that we
21 could think about after we get through this new
22 phase.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: (off mic) Do we
24 have any serious on the schools?

2 RACHEL LOEB: So schools, you know, we—
3 again this is—this is an area where will support our
4 colleagues at SCA and DOE wherever we can. If
5 they're looking for opportunities they often ask us
6 and we will try to partner with them to identify
7 locations and if need be, if there's a project that
8 we're doing and it's an opportunity to create a new
9 school, but again we do that in partnership and
10 follow their lead and their analysis of where school
11 seats are needed, and I'm sorry, of the other one?
12 Oh, it's Small Businesses.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay, before you
14 jump into small businesses—

15 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --on the schools
17 one I think all the Council Members are coming out at
18 some point how that process is instituted and against
19 because I don't think—there's not one of us that
20 would not want like a life sciences off campus.
21 Within our districts or want to bring anyone in the
22 city. We wouldn't want that either.

23 RACHEL LOEB: No.

24 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, is there a list
25 of sites with SCA and/or DOE that have identified for

2 future locations? How do we accumulate that list?

3 What is the process of having an EDC site incorporate
4 a brand new school with it or that's always one of
5 our questions.

6 RACHEL LOEB: Just the, um—SCA does their
7 own analysis, and I can't speak to exactly their list
8 because they would need to provide you when they do
9 their mapping.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: But if EDC is doing
11 a project and there is the incorporation of a school
12 is that at the outset something that's discussed? Is
13 it something that becomes—because that theater is
14 giving you a list of sites within a certain borough
15 that if you're going to our local site here we need a
16 school, how does that site so how does—We would like
17 to expand that because you have a track record that
18 is exemplary on it. With schools that is not
19 sometimes the case whenever we--

20 RACHEL LOEB: It's also a basis of a push
21 of process through the EIS and the analysis of
22 mitigating and addressing needs that is part—often
23 part of our projects that if that school needed taken
24 aside, but each project is looked as on its own basis

2 and what it's trying to address and in conversation
3 with our agency partners, and where we are.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I guess so maybe we
5 could we could help when it came to budgetary process
6 and so I think today that DOE are going to include
7 within the budget. There may be a way at that point
8 where we can insert EDC projects with DOE projects to
9 jointly budget, and I'm just trying to think of a way
10 that we can go forward and maybe include some
11 additional projects and then explode. (sic) Preaching
12 to the choir.

13 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We want the same
15 capacity with all our schools.

16 RACHEL LOEB: Right.

17 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We're all looking
18 at a way to-to bring these great new sites to the
19 district. I think that might be an avenue we can--

20 RACHEL LOEB: We look forward to
21 following up and figuring out a way we can discuss it
22 better with you.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Alright, and
24 there's one last part of that.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Small Business.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Small business.

3 RACHEL LOEB: Small businesses.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay, I've got the
5 Chair of Small Business so we've definitely have
6 that.

7 RACHEL LOEB: So, we also there will
8 partner a lot with SBS and that decision there, areas
9 remain and as we look at projects or initiatives to
10 support small business owners, making sure that there
11 is retail in a mixed-use community to create an
12 environment that is robust and seats—and meets the
13 needs of local residents. So, we look at each of our
14 projects on a case by case basis but small business
15 support, you know, we're talking to our neighbors,
16 SBS that we're in the same building all the time, and
17 where we can partner to support them.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I think the
19 concern for the Mayor--

20 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: --is the change in
22 landscape and the Internet, and--

23 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: --and commerce was
25 changed and the commercial corridor.

2 RACHEL LOEB: Right.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: We see vacancies
4 now evident across the city, which historically has
5 not been the case. There is a responsibility and a
6 wealth of EDC to play here. So, yes, maybe we can't
7 control our consumer behavior changes--

8 RACHEL LOEB: Right.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: --or big box
10 store competition or e-commerce, but it's our
11 responsibility to come up with, but try to be
12 proactive in how to protect and preserve giving those
13 small businesses an opportunity to continue to stay
14 in business and thrive.

15 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: They are an
17 important part of our economic engine. When they go,
18 there's no one that's replacing them at this point.

19 RACHEL LOEB: You, we--

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: We present the
21 small businesses that will make it to your time. If
22 you're a restaurant is 80%.

23 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, we-we couldn't agree
24 with you more Council Member and that's why I know
25 our public markets in providing, you know, affordable

2 spaces for businesses and retailers in our public
3 markets. We think is-is something that we're
4 committed to and supporting that network and shining
5 a light on the good work and growing businesses
6 there, and you know, just looking at the success
7 we've had at Essex at welcoming new-new vendors there
8 and the investments we're making at Moore Street, and
9 continuing to support businesses, small businesses
10 like that. You're welcome Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And I think we have
12 just been advised that there are no additional
13 Council Members coming on the committee so we can
14 close the door down on those two Intros. Council
15 Member Powers.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: (coughs) Thank
17 you. Just a couple of questions here on the Life
18 Sciences in Manhattan. I have both the Park Avenue
19 South site as we're discussing sale at the
20 Alexandria. Can you talk about any relationship
21 between the two? Are they competitors? Is there
22 collaboration? Are they and will the be interested
23 if you have different types of tenants or just how
24 does that...? I think the Alexandria is doing their
25 third phase.

2 RACHEL LOEB: Right,

3 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: They're building
4 now. So, how will one impact the other?

5 RACHEL LOEB: I mean, um, so we are so
6 excited about the Life Sciences Ecosystem that we're
7 building, and we thank you very much for your support
8 in that and the fact that, you know, just a few years
9 ago no one would even talk about New York City as a—
10 as a place for a life sciences happening. It's a
11 real testament to the work that we're all doing to
12 build this industry, and, you know, with Alexandria
13 and the success—success that they've had for their
14 first two and then building on that with a third.
15 Deerfield is slightly different. They're having a
16 slightly different product and addressing a different
17 aspect of the—of the market. I'm going to let my
18 colleague Susan Rosenthal who actually works on this
19 day in and day out answer your question.

20 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Sure. So, um, thank
21 you. It's a really important question, and from our
22 perspective. So, first we actually work closely with
23 both Alexandria and Deerfield on the investments they
24 have made in the life sciences space. What I would
25 say is that there's actually many clusters developing

2 on the East Side to support life sciences growth, and
3 we expect to see tenants that are at every stage of
4 growth out of incubators into—as they’re expanding
5 and growing. I do think that there would actually be
6 similar tenants across both campuses, but that—
7 there’s plenty of room for that right now, and we see
8 there’s a huge benefit to having a cluster effect
9 where you have peers of yours in the same area for
10 the ecosystem.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Got it and what’s
12 the expected growth after you—after the Park Avenue
13 South site is completed, Deerfield site is completed,
14 Alexandria third phases? How much more life sciences
15 do you—what—what is the expected job growth or space
16 growth in the city beyond those two projects?

17 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Do you want me to jump
18 right in?

19 RACHEL LOEB: Oh, go for it.

20 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, we have a window
21 based on those organic growths that’s happening
22 without EDC and then EDC supports to about 2 million
23 additional square feet of space coming online between
24 2023 and 2024.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Needed or expected
3 to come online?

4 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Expected to come
5 online. We do think that there is room for at least
6 3 million additional square feet inclusive of that
7 2.2 million or so, and so we think that there's
8 plenty of room for growth and once those smaller
9 companies start to grow more there could be even
10 three (sic) and more beyond that.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: So, if you were
12 the City Council Member representing the East Side of
13 Manhattan, you might be inclined to help look for
14 space that is for life sciences growth.

15 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay. There is I
17 believe and there is a City Council Law that passed
18 in the—I don't know maybe about 10 about 10 years ago
19 that created tax credit for biotech, which is the
20 believing improvements. These—are any of these
21 projects taking advantage of that tax credit?

22 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: I actually would need
23 to follow up on that, that direction.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay. I asked
25 because I think it's due to expire this year that tax

2 credit and, um, so if it is for the growth there
3 should be conversation that is happening right now
4 and as I—I will say somebody actually flagged that
5 for me--

6 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Okay.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: -and that is it.
8 I would just--but I would appreciate follow-up in
9 terms of just knowing about what's the status and
10 timelines related to the biotech tax--

11 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Tax credit.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yes. Thank you.
13 Thank you, Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, a follow-up
15 on your question as Lower Manhattan. So, I guess
16 with Veronica's story and the rest—the integration
17 with the DOE to life science project there, how is
18 that happening? How are we—how are we pursuing the
19 students' into that pipeline.

20 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, that is very near
21 and dear to my heart as somebody who comes from both
22 life sciences and education in my background so-

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Great to know.

24 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, it was really
25 critical to us when we chose Deerfield as a partner

2 that we made sure that we were putting into place
3 talent and workforce development programs as part of
4 that campus, and so as part of it there are many
5 different elements that's expanding the Deerfield
6 Fellows Program where we're working with CUNY
7 directly with Deerfield to expand that opportunity
8 for seniors and CUNY across the city. There are
9 programs like Breaking Into the Board Room where we
10 have women leaders to give them more exposure.

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, how are the
12 seniors in CUNY specifically brought to that program?

13 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So Deerfield does
14 recruitment directly with various schools in the CUNY
15 system, and then for the Deerfield building that
16 we've invested in we've asked them to expand that
17 program to have five additional fellows every year
18 for the life of the program. Does that make sense?

19 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: It does, but beyond
20 that so is--that's CUNY throughout the city--

21 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We're not doing the
23 handling. (sic)

24 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yes, yes, and I believe
25 they are looking. I'm trying to see if I have the

2 staff as a member of the school, but I believe they
3 have somewhere between 5 to 10 schools that they
4 recruit from across the city for the CUNYs and in
5 addition to that, we have expanded our Internship
6 Program, Life Sci Interns. We-it's an incredible
7 program. It's been live for three years. We will
8 have an additional 10 interns every year through the
9 life of the Deerfield program. Last year we had 107
10 interns across almost 50 companies and of those 107
11 about 30% then transferred into full-time offers and
12 so it's a really exciting opportunity, and just
13 yesterday we made our first two matches for offers
14 for interns for this summer. So, we're really
15 excited to have that expand as well.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I think there's a
17 great opportunity there with not just career days,
18 but I think the students as they're pursuing our
19 juniors and seniors in high school--

20 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Uh-hm.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --as they're
22 thinking of their college opportunity sometime CUNY
23 doesn't get all of the attention that they actually
24 do provide and they may lose out on someone who is
25 looking in a field, and may go to a different private

2 college, but I think we can take it down to that
3 level also because that's where I'm seeing where
4 multiple students are working for that path.
5 College students are declaring their majors and
6 figuring out their futures--

7 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --it's the high
9 school students that I think who really can bring
10 that beacon of light to what we're doing here I
11 think. Is there any on that level?

12 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, um, we're actually
13 working through the ideas for it now. There is up
14 two half a million dollars a year that's being
15 dedicated to the Talent and Diversity Programs that
16 EDC has full control over, and so we are actually
17 working through how do we make sure that programs go
18 back further from university into high school now.
19 None of them have been launched at this point, but
20 that's just because they're still in the works.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: But I would think
22 with all of these I think we've--we've touched and
23 we'll go into some of the other boroughs quickly
24 because we talked about these here. The integration
25 of the project to the community or going into has an

2 opportunity beyond the project itself within the
3 careers that we're touching in my community with the
4 students who are touching it, it can mean small
5 business opportunities from existing so that we can
6 show the small businesses there happens to positions
7 around the and competitions around them, and
8 competitions around them. I think it's—it's an
9 overall vision for the next step that I would see
10 through EDC and these projects so that we can show ab
11 better integration with the existing community from
12 the projects that are coming in and the
13 opportunities. I would like to see when we are
14 creation—creating or announcing or doing the RFP
15 process that we take the next step and the
16 opportunity when it's through the DOE, or through
17 Small Business, whether it's a DFTA for our seniors
18 to bring that attention to the project and I think
19 you'll have even a better integration of students and
20 jobs for the project. Now with the Staten Island
21 Project we always have to show some love. Debi Rose
22 will be very mad at us if we didn't talk about Staten
23 Island. We were up to—actually you brought them in
24 your own testimony--

25 SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --that there's some
3 new capital coming. So how did that come about? You
4 said thanks in part to new capital funding we
5 received with the esplanade.

6 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, we are. As part of—I
7 mean in part thanks to Council Member Rose's
8 leadership and as we

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We were there.

10 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, and part of the Bay
11 Street Rezoning a commitment an additional commitment
12 of \$74 million was made to the Thompkinsville
13 Esplanade, which I mentioned. So helping addition—
14 bringing additional infrastructure and connection for
15 residents of these communities to the Waterfront and
16 then connecting those communities from one another.

17 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So that there are
18 separate bays? Will that be integrated to the town?

19 RACHEL LOEB: It will eventually be
20 integrated but we are working on design now and then
21 those will be integrated and connected so that
22 there's a network and a lot of open space and
23 esplanade from North Shore near the ferry all the way
24 down to New Stapleton Waterfront.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's great. Is
3 there a timeline for this?

4 RACHEL LOEB: Design is underway now and
5 hopefully the last part will be completed by the end
6 of 2023.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Has there been any
8 talk thereof any other off-shore or wind generation
9 or we can develop some of those-the waterfront there
10 on that path?

11 RACHEL LOEB: Um, you know we are looking
12 at—we are committed, EDC in particular are very
13 committed to supporting whatever we can do to address
14 climate change and particular supporting the offshore
15 wind industry and the-and other that could also lead
16 to green jobs and so we are looking at how we can use
17 the infrastructure on the Staten Island Waterfront to
18 support that because the cement is growing. So
19 whether it be at home port or other places are
20 constantly looking at opportunities.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Do we have any
22 other waterfront vision area for EDC? One of the
23 things we were thinking about not all the Council
24 districts do go to water, but for—for those like nine
25 that do, there are so many possibilities of regaining

2 access to waterfronts and looking at some of the
3 city-owned lots that are sometimes lost in
4 transition. DCP may have a project, EDP may have a
5 project, DOT may have a project and I'll take a
6 portion of the land and I'll use it for the—for that
7 project and then we kind of lose that land. That's
8 happened a lot in College Point--

9 RACHEL LOEB: Uh-hm.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --by us and we're
11 trying to lie reclaim that water space. Is there
12 something that we can initiate for EDC to look at
13 maybe to feasibility and usability of some of these
14 non-city-owned water access areas that we haven't
15 touched?

16 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, I think that, you
17 know, where EDC is involved and where we have access
18 we see the plan to the waterfront, we do look at how
19 we can—how we can address that from multiple
20 samplings so it's not just water—residents and local
21 neighborhood community access, but how we can think
22 about also in terms of resiliency--

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Do we have a list?

24 RACHEL LOEB: -- job creation

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Do we have like
3 knowledge of the amount of luck that would be-fall
4 under that category? Is that something we need to
5 look at again through powers through city-owned lots
6 that may be went into EDC or other agencies that we
7 can compile?

8 RACHEL LOEB: We have some knowledge
9 about all of them but also for our agencies, you
10 know, agency partners that control some of these
11 sites. If you'd like to do something we'd love to
12 partner with on it to make sure that we have a full
13 inventory of all of the city-owned waterfront sites.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I think it will be
15 a great idea. I think they have an great educational
16 opportunity, but also as we look at future careers -

17 RACHEL LOEB: Uh-hm.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --and maintain
19 marine biology I think that somebody had the sites
20 together, but there's an opportunity there.

21 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: With the Queens
23 Project, um, the graduates that we are talking about,
24 what-do we-do we have a number on the graduates that
25 are coming out of the Queens?

2 RACHEL LOEB: Yes, we've had 90 to date
3 and then the next cohort will be coming together in
4 the spring of 2020.

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And how are those
6 students? Are they from the Jamaica area, are they
7 from Queens? How are they?

8 RACHEL LOEB: The--they're throughout
9 Queens.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay and that's
11 also for the small businesses, too that are existing
12 that have opened up?

13 RACHEL LOEB: In the oddest of graduates?

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Uh-hm.

15 RACHEL LOEB: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, what would be
17 your next--what would be your next goal there?

18 RACHEL LOEB: Well, to continue to learn
19 obviously from what's worked and what hasn't worked
20 and to continue to grow the program, and reach more
21 entrepreneurs and small business people, and--and
22 continue to grow the program. We just--I'd have to
23 get--I don't have the exact number of how much we just
24 reinvested into the Feast Program so I can get that
25 back to you--

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That would be
3 great, and I think you mentioned--

4 RACHEL LOEB: --and I also have--

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --I think you said
6 you said you were re-evaluating the scope for the
7 revitalization of Station Plaza.

8 RACHEL LOEB: Oh, okay. I'm sorry. I
9 thought we were talking about the Feast Program.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well--well both.
11 That--that was another one.

12 RACHEL LOEB: Okay I can talk to you
13 about Station Plaza if you'd like.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Sure.

15 RACHEL LOEB: So, um,

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE:

17 RACHEL LOEB: So Station Plaza we are re-
18 evaluating the scope. We went through a process
19 that's OMB and--and our partners at DOT to make sure
20 that we got the--the--a project that could deliver on
21 the program and--and be executed. We are really
22 looking forward to getting--there is some shortage of
23 funding for that project, but we are working with DOT
24 and OMB to figure out exactly what is needed and get
25

2 that money into the budget so that we can finally
3 execute with Station Plaza and Programs.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: However we have to
5 do at OMB who has—if it's not on the budgetary list
6 for that year it's not happening, but what do we need
7 from DOT to get? So, maybe what-what-what are we
8 missing from the DOT side that we can push them
9 along?

10 RACHEL LOEB: Yes, we've actually had
11 great cooperation with them. So, we went through a
12 value engineering process where we looked at all the
13 programmatic elements and made sure that we were
14 getting the programmatic needs for the right cost
15 together with—with them and delivering on the
16 original program and intent. So, it was a great
17 exercise that we worked on together and now it's just
18 moving it forward.

19 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Is the magic budget
20 getting in the budget? Is that something that will
21 be—I know one of our next hearings will be on
22 budgets. Will this project be included?

23 RACHEL LOEB: We are going to be making
24 requests and having conversations on that.

2 RACHEL LOEB: And Council Member if I
3 may add just one thing on the--on the--on the great
4 work that we've been doing with Jamaica Feast I just
5 want to say that we're so grateful for our close
6 partnership with the Queens Public Library on that
7 project. That's been such a great way, to, you know,
8 make sure that we're reaching New Yorkers where they
9 are. So many folks are already coming into the
10 libraries looking for resources on how they start a
11 business, and in that--with that partnership that's
12 been one great way where we've been able to reach
13 both Jamaica residents and then also residents across
14 Queens. So, I just wanted to put that in.

15 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yeah, our libraries
16 will be coming to our Community Center now--

17 RACHEL LOEB: They really are

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: -- for everybody.
19 It's taken a new look now for all different
20 generations. I think just a couple of questions on--
21 in Brooklyn because haven't shown Brooklyn too much.
22 On the Bedford Union Armory what about the Armory?
23 Are we still on track to open up by 2020 or is it
24 2021? Where?

2 RACHEL LOEB: So, I'm so happy that you
3 asked about it, but that certainly the Armory project
4 is really moving along. In December we had ground
5 breaking, and we all came together with our community
6 partners and the Council Member and the Development
7 partners and the funding agencies to-to break ground
8 on the Trail Shed where the community facing our
9 effects of the program will happen. That is-if you
10 haven't been abler to yet, I would actually recommend
11 people coming to visit. It is quite spectacular to be
12 in that space and to be next to the town.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: To be next to it.
14 We're going to--

15 RACHEL LOEB: Yes, it's breakthrough
16 fifth. We'll be happy to fill it up, and, um--

17 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: When you're
18 traveling at the EDC hearing where we go to--

19 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah that's great.

20 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --different sites
21 throughout the city..

22 RACHEL LOEB: We want to. SO, the, um,
23 hopefully by the end of the-the plan is by the end of
24 this year or early next year that this first-our-our
25 partners and the local non-profits will be inside the

2 space, and starting to provide services to their
3 engagement.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Who are some of the
5 partners?

6 RACHEL LOEB: So, it's an amazing and
7 diverse list. As I mentioned in my testimony I got
8 to go to the lease signing a couple weeks ago for the
9 Brooklyn Community Pride Center.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's it.

11 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, but they're also in
12 addition—I mean it's—it's quite an amazing list. I'm
13 going to read it so I don't forget anybody if you
14 don't mind. Everything from New Heights use to
15 digital growth with the coding process. There's a
16 Viadica, it's by a cultural arts academy. The west—
17 the dedicated to the struggle—oh, sorry. The Carrie
18 Debbie Foundation, Imagine Swimming for the Concept,
19 and in addition to that, there's community
20 partnerships with DOE. So, there's a couple schools
21 in the neighborhood--

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I love that.

23 RACHEL LOEB: --who don't have access to
24 gyms. So they will be able to have their physical
25 education classes in a year.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: It's so important.
3 There's no room left.

4 RACHEL LOEB: There's Working with the
5 Department of Youth and Brooklyn and Community 9 to
6 make sure that in addition to the--these non-profit
7 programming they're reaching out to the community
8 boards to bring in additional programming.
9 Partnering with the New Crown Heights Pravada and
10 other figures, the Yeshiva. So they are coming in
11 for swimming classes as well and other activities and
12 also with the Explore Network Charter Schools. So
13 there is a--it's going to be a lively exciting
14 bustling and for our--

15 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Has the job
16 opportunity part clicks in yet? We are doing job
17 fairs and we are doing it?

18 RACHEL LOEB: Yeah, they're starting, and
19 Eric is here who is in the back and he's helping
20 coordinate all this.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: You can't hire a
22 policeman (sic) . (laughter)

23 RACHEL LOEB: So he has the--the space
24 that isn't out there in terms of, you know,
25 recruiting and hiring, and dealing with the hiring.

2 They've also started construction on the housing
3 portion. So that is underway.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: How many affordable
5 housing?

6 RACHEL LOEB: There's—of the 400 total
7 units there are about 60% are affordable. So, that's
8 240, and at 60% AMI. In addition, there are 25 units
9 of formerly homeless housing set-asides.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, it's not too
11 far off on the line. Really it's happening.

12 RACHEL LOEB: It's coming along and, the
13 other thing I should mention, too, is that we've had
14 a pretty aggressive MWBE goal for them or 25% and so
15 far they're exceeding that, and we are going to
16 continue to work with them to make sure that they can
17 get that MWBE participation as high as possible.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, any closing
19 remarks? There's a lot of questions for the five
20 projects, but if you wanted to add anything.

21 RACHEL LOEB: I just want to thank you
22 for your leadership and your partnership and working
23 with you and if there's anything else, if you have
24 ideas so, you know, we're laser focused. We've got a
25 little bit of under two years left to go. There's

2 nothing like a timeline and a clock to keep you
3 focused on getting those things that you want to
4 accomplish and set up for the--

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (interposing) If
6 anyone—if the EDC always stays, but if you have a
7 question for any of the panels that come up and we
8 will submit it to them, and they always get back to
9 us.

10 RACHEL LOEB: Yes, thank you very much .

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you very much
12 to this panel and to the Chairs, and our first panel
13 after EDC will be from Bronx Point, Jose Sanchez or
14 Joshua Sanchez, and then Reginald Peters from
15 Universal Hip-Hip-Hop Community, Eddie Yang From
16 Deerfield Management and Monique Hector from PPO EDC
17 Jamaica Now. (background comments/pause) Dewey, I
18 think you're safe to go. I think we're—I think we're
19 good on the vote because we've been on kind of—
20 (pause) I think we have room on this panel if you're
21 the only one if we scared everyone away. (background
22 comments) Maybe if you want them we can put everyone
23 so the other panel if they're still here is Jed
24 A.K.P.—JPs from the Brooklyn Community Pride Center;
25 Eric Woodwin from Bedford Union Armory; Diana Ogle

2 from Bedford Union Armory and Peter Zaratin Global
3 Sports. We might as well put it all in one big happy
4 group. Oh, wait. I actually have two more panels so
5 that's just the next one So, I can get everyone
6 quickly. So, there's still two more panels if your
7 name wasn't called. (background comments/pause)
8 We'll add one more chair.

9 MALE SPEAKER: Well, you need to move
10 over this way.

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: You know, why don't
12 you wait? You wait to the next panel so you don't so
13 you don't get lost in the next hearing. (background
14 comments/pause) Alright, so this is the hard part.
15 You guys get to decide who goes first on this. God
16 ahead. You are right there. Jump right in there.

17 MONIQUE HECTOR: Hi. Good afternoon.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Good afternoon and
19 thank you for your patience.

20 MONIQUE HECTOR: Thank you. So, I love
21 the questions that you asked about Queens' Feast
22 because I'm actually a manger for the program at
23 Queens Public Library.

24 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Wonderful.

2 MONIUIQE HECTOR: We have questions that
3 we know, but on behalf of Queens Public Library I
4 would first like to thank EDC, the Queens Borough
5 President's Office and the Jamaica Now Leadership
6 Council. Queens Public Library is a trusted resource
7 for the community where residents develop skills to
8 succeed in work.

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I don't think I got
10 your name on the record.

11 MONIQUE HECTOR: Monique Hector. Sorry.

12 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you, Monique.
13 We'll make sure that you're on the record.

14 MONIQUE HECTOR: That makes sense, right.
15 (laughs) In work, business and life we've coordinated
16 formal and informal education, training information
17 and supportive services. Queens Feast formerly known
18 as Jamaica Feast, which we talked about a lot today
19 was born out of the Jamaica NOW Action Plan of Mayor
20 Bill de Blasio and Queens Borough President Melinda
21 Katz. Feast's primary objective is aid culinary
22 entrepreneurs to actively participate in the economic
23 growth and revitalization of the Greater Jamaica Area
24 as envisioned in the Jamaica NOW Action Plan. The
25 food entrepreneurship and serves as training space,

2 which there the Feast Program was created to serve
3 food entrepreneurs in Jamaica, Southeast Queens and
4 wider Queens area by providing the necessary
5 knowledge tools and resources to be successful in
6 today' culinary industry. Beginning in late 2016,
7 Queens Feast has accomplished this with 12 weeks of
8 in-class workshops, and visualized assistance and
9 support from industry experts as well as external
10 opportunities at city agencies and non-profits alike.
11 In 2019, Queens Public Library was thrilled to learn
12 that we secured additional funding to sustain and
13 expand the highly successful Feast Program through
14 2022. Thanks to EDC Queens Feast will serve up to
15 270 individuals over the next two years not only in
16 Jamaica but also in Flushing, Long Island City and
17 Far Rockaway.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yay, Flushing.

19 MONIQUE HECTOR: Yay, Flushing, yes, and
20 the Flushing Program is actually-actually a
21 contextualized DSO program. It's pretty cool.

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Peter Koo would
23 like to take all the credit for Flushing, but he does
24 share that with me.

25 MONIQUE HECTOR: Yes. (laughs) We do.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: It's worth
3 repeating.

4 MONIQUE HECTOR: This continued
5 investment allows program participants to realize
6 their dreams of starting food businesses that
7 showcase community culture, and enrich the economic
8 landscape for individuals and families. Entrance in
9 and with responsive fees from the community has been
10 overwhelming. We were positive. We have received
11 over or 1,000 applications from all five boroughs,
12 Long Island, New Jersey and Upstate New York, but we
13 actually can only accept 20 students per cohort upon
14 intensive application and careening processes.

15 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Can we grow that
16 number?

17 MONIQUE HECTOR: We can, you know, with
18 more money, of course. (laughs)

19 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We will make it
20 grow then.

21 MONIQUE HECTOR: To date these have
22 graduated: 148 entrepreneurs. So, she mentioned
23 earlier 90. We actually have 148 now to date
24 because we started the program in 2019, over nine
25 cohorts averaging and 82% retention rate, which is

2 exciting for us. During each cohort and following
3 graduation, the teams supports food entrepreneurs in
4 all areas of the industry, both food truck operators,
5 caterers and restaurant owners to private chefs, food
6 market vendors and product manufacturers. So, it
7 doesn't span just this healthy sector in the program
8 but we help them post-program up to a year, and
9 sometimes more because they become like family.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Perfect.

11 MONIQUE HECTOR: 78% of accepted students
12 are women; 68% are persons of color; about 20% are
13 immigrants and over 50% have gone on to reduce their
14 product, sell at market and events or launch catering
15 operations. Our holistic instructional approach
16 encourages peer to peer learning and provides
17 economic growth opportunities to those who might not
18 meet the requirements to utilize more traditional
19 business development services such as funding. We
20 look forward to continuing a successful Queens Feast
21 for years to come and thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you. That's
23 something I think we could probably get another
24 Queens delegation meeting on. You probably want to

2 speak to the 13 Council Members at once to talk about
3 how we can expand that.

4 MONIQUE HECTOR: That sounds great.

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I'm happy to do
6 that.

7 MONIQUE HECTOR: Yeah, the library has 65
8 locations so right now we're only at four so being
9 able to expand with the city.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: For everyone.

11 MONIQUE HECTOR: It would be great, yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you, Monique.

13 MONIQUE HECTOR: Alright, and there is
14 also a testimony from one of the graduates that she
15 mentioned, and if you want me to yes, I will read it--
16 that for her.

17 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Just if you will
18 read that for us then we're--

19 MONIQUE HECTOR: Yeah, sure.

20 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --out of here.

21 MONIQUE HECTOR: Alright. Thank you.
22 Alright.

23 JOSE SANCHEZ: Hello, Good afternoon,
24 Chair and members of the City Council's Economic
25 Development Committee. Thank you for this time. We

2 are excited and privilege to be a part of the Bronx
3 Point project and the Bronx Point story and how we're
4 collectively working together to transform a long
5 vacant under-utilized site for a special designation
6 for the benefit of New York City and the Bronx
7 Community. My name is Jose Sanchez. I'm with LMN
8 Development Partners who along with Type A projects
9 are co-sponsors of the Bronx Point Development. Type
10 A is our partners and a New York City Certified WBE
11 Development Partner. So, we're thrilled to have the
12 opportunity to partner with New York City to deliver
13 this monumental project that will catapult
14 development along the Bronx Harlem River Waterfront
15 in a major way. As spoken by Rachel at EDC, these
16 over 500 units of permanent affordable housing, a new
17 state of the art cinema, a permanent home for the
18 Hip-Hop Museum, which we'll hear about more in a
19 minute, and educational spaces for Bronx Works.
20 Bronx Works has been a strong community partner.
21 They've been doing great work in the Bronx for over
22 40 years, and as was mentioned by EDC all of these
23 uses in the building will be surrounded by a new
24 waterfront park and esplanade. Just want to stress
25 that Bronx Point is-is really a true team effort

2 where we've collaborated with numerous city agencies
3 including EDC, HPD, DPR, PDC and HDC, alphabet soup
4 here. We've collaborated with community-Community
5 Board 4 and District Manager Paul Philps, and we had
6 early design sessions with them to incorporate their
7 feedback into the design. We want to thank Council
8 Member Ayala who has been very supportive and-and
9 provided us direction and guidance for the project as
10 well as Borough President Diaz as well for his-his
11 strong support for the project. So, all in all Bronx
12 Point is a-is a true team effort. We've involved
13 over 20 city, state and federal agencies, departments
14 and offices. So, at one point or another we had over
15 20 agencies that were involved for approvals and
16 feedback for the project. I'd also like to thank EDC
17 and the committee to acknowledge that the MWBE
18 priority set forth by the City of New York for this
19 project. So this project was an RFP site, and one
20 of the key measures in the RFP was to bring an
21 emerging new develop-development partner into the
22 development team, and so Type A project-I'm speaking
23 on their behalf, but they've been a co-laborer a co-
24 sponsor with us In the Land of Women partners as
25 well. They're a certified MWBE and it's been great

2 to—to bring this project to fruition and seeing one
3 of the—the measures that were part of the RFP really
4 bear fruit. So, we look forward to what comes ahead
5 We look forward for Bronx Point to serve as a model
6 community development and encourage and bring
7 opportunity for generations to come. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you.

9 REGINALD PETERS: Good afternoon,
10 Chairman Vallone and Council Members. My name is
11 Reginald Peters, and I'm speaking on behalf of the
12 Universal Hip-Hop Museum. I am the Board's Secretary
13 and I manage the daily operations in our current
14 semi-permanent exhibition at the Bronx Terminal
15 Market, the revolution of hip hop located at 610
16 Exterior Street. The revolution of hip hop opened
17 its doors to the public on December 6, 2019. It is
18 our prototype of what will be the smart museum of the
19 future. In three months we have received over 10,000
20 RSVPs from visitors of all demographics with everyone
21 leaving enlightened, educated and entertained. Our
22 dynamic mix of memorabilia, oral histories, visual
23 print and interactive technology offers a unique
24 museum experience that appeals to all visitor in the
25 local community Our community engagement has include

2 local K through 12 schools, higher education,
3 churches, at Miss U, special needs, after school
4 programs, group homes and senior citizens with our
5 technology partners Michael Soft and the Manhattan
6 Institute of Technology for Advance Center of
7 Virtuality . Our goal is to ultimately offer STEM
8 education programming, social entrepreneurship and
9 workforce development initiatives to the community at
10 large. From the moment you step through our doors
11 artistically we engage you visually as the true
12 spirit of the culture via our formula called the
13 Roots of Hip-Hop by graphically tells the RGs of Hip-
14 Hop and teaches the five elements of Hip-Hop. We
15 also host a weekly art lecture that teaches aerosol
16 art. Children, especially love the basics of
17 creating stylized letters through dance and print.
18 Our sold out bi-weekly movie night showcases films
19 and documentaries that are educational and pertinent
20 to the Hip-Hop cultural experience. East Saturday a
21 guest Djay spins for teens to teach them the history
22 of Djaying and vinyl records, and in our present form
23 tourism is falling through our exhibition with many
24 of those guests being first time visitors to the
25 Bronx while visiting New York City. Hip-hop culture

2 has always been a part of me personally and
3 professionally since I was a teenager in the Bronx
4 and I'm honored to be a part of creating this space
5 to preserve its history and to lift the borough pride
6 of the people who reside in the first place of Hip-
7 Hop culture that is now worldwide. Thank you,
8 Speaker. Thank you everyone.

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Reginald, that was—
10 it was wonderful for especially in Queens. We want
11 to get out to see you. So what would be the next
12 step to expand the project?

13 REGINALD PETERS: Well we are in
14 development with Ballen and Type A Houses. (sic) We
15 have a permanent location, which is across the street
16 from where we presently are at.

17 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: When are we getting
18 into our location?

19 REGINALD PETERS: I don't have a
20 definitive when we're getting into it, but within the
21 near future we'll be breaking ground in the new
22 space.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, that could
24 give you space that you need?

25 REGINALD PETERS: Absolutely.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, keep us
3 posted. I know we can bring that now to more
4 students and more people that want to come out and
5 see it.

6 REGINALD PETERS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: It can be very
8 exciting.

9 Alright. So, thank for accepting me to
10 present testimony today about E-D--

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Is the mic on?
12 You've got a deep enough voice that you don't need it
13 then.

14 JERRY KEYES: There we go.

15 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: There you go.

16 JERRY KEYES: Okay. So my name is Jerry
17 Keyes. I'm the Development Engagement Manager at
18 Brooklyn Community Pride Center the first and only
19 LGBTQIA community center located in and serving
20 Brooklyn and I just want to say especially to Rachel
21 for coming to our lease signing to Eric and BOC
22 Partners, to Council Member Cumbo and Council Members
23 from this committee and Menchaca and Lander for the
24 support they have shown us in reaching the point we
25 are at today. That said, as an organization we were

2 founded in 2008 by a group of leaders who asked the
3 question: Why should hundreds of thousands of LGBTQ
4 people living in Brooklyn many of them poor people of
5 color, have to travel into Manhattan to access clear
6 affirming spaces and services? Access to LGBTQ
7 services and spaces has proven to be quite literally
8 life saving for youth and elders and everyone in
9 between, social isolation, homelessness, and housing
10 instability, mental health challenges and poverty
11 among LGBTQ people of color and transgender or gender
12 non-conforming people have been linked time and time
13 again to increased susceptibility to death by
14 suicide, addiction, hate, violence and neglect. Our
15 center is currently located in Restoration Plaza in
16 Bedford Stuyvest where we've been operation form
17 since October 2017. In calendar year 2020, we are on
18 track to serve more than 8,000 visitors, but 8,000 is
19 a fraction of the estimated 200,000+ at a minimum
20 200,000+ people who are LGBTQ who call Brooklyn home.
21 Opening a second location at the Armory in Crown
22 Heights will more than double our ability to serve
23 our community. We anticipate that within a year or
24 two we could see as many as 20,000 visitors per year.
25 Our Bed-Stuy location will remain open and will

2 continue to be the home of our city leading program
3 in LGBTQ Workforce Development along with youth
4 services, drop-in programs and community partners.

5 As we expand into the Armory we will offer several
6 new or increased services . These include a We Work
7 style communal workspace for entrepreneurs,
8 freelancers and small community groups free of charge

9 The borough's first LGBTQ focused mental health

10 clinic in partnership with Callen-Lorde and inclusive

11 health and fitness options in partnership with the

12 other tenants of the Armory. We chose our locations

13 with care. Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights are the two

14 neighborhoods that continue to lead New York in new

15 HIV infections especially among men of color who have

16 sex with men and transgender women. They are also

17 communities that deeply represent the diversity of

18 Brooklyn and the diversity of the LGBTQ community.

19 The Armory represents a lot more than just a state of

20 the art new headquarters for Brooklyn Community Pride

21 Center. It is a dramatic expansion of services to a

22 woefully under-served population. It is a new

23 opportunity to spread the word about the programs we

24 offer. It is a chance to forge new connections with

25 new partners. It is the prospect of supporting and

2 incubating more LGBT service organizations for
3 Brooklyn, and it is organizational stability in a
4 city where growth carries massive risks for non-
5 profits of our size, but most of all, it's a way for
6 more and more LGBTQ people to connect to their own
7 community and get the life saving benefits that
8 provides.

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: The second location
10 within it?

11 JERRY KEYES: It will be open with the
12 opening of Bedford Union Armory. We anticipate the
13 end of this year or very early next year.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Any plans on going
15 down in Brooklyn or just...?

16 JERRY KEYES: We are a Brooklyn based
17 community center. There are similar community
18 centers in Staten Island, Queens and the Bronx. They
19 all face the similar challenge that we do and 90% of
20 LGBTQ services are located in Manhattan for poor
21 people who don't have the means or inclination to
22 travel to gentrified white neighborhoods that can be
23 a challenge, but we are—we are Brooklyn based. We do
24 plan to expand beyond these two locations, though.
25 Our long long-term prospects is to make sure that

2 there is a clear forming space within a reasonable
3 travel distance of every LGBTQ person living in
4 Brooklyn. We have our sites set on, and in early
5 talks about possibly the third location being out in
6 Coney Island.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you very
8 much.

9 MATTIE MALLIER: Good afternoon.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Good afternoon.

11 MATTIER MALLIER: I'm Mattie Mallier
12 (sp?), the Executive Director of the Isatara Dras
13 Academy. Isatara is a movement. It's a place where
14 the value, strength and creativity of the African
15 Diaspora empower, embolden and elevate youth and
16 families. Our programs are designed to empower young
17 people and their families to reach their full
18 potential, and to become changed agents in their
19 community whether it's through in school arts
20 education, on-site within an advanced cultural arts
21 programming or the Isatara Youth Emsemble our Award-
22 our award wining emsemble of 17 young leaders who
23 with their training can mouth social relevant
24 interdisciplinary work each year that raise awareness
25 around issues facing their community. Their focus

2 this year is the 2020 census. Our Right to Passage
3 Program grounds young adults of the African and
4 Caribbean Diaspora in deep appreciation and
5 understanding of their heritage while preparing them
6 for the world around them. Meanwhile, our financial
7 education institute and the Market Start a Cultural
8 Heritage Program folds an entire generation into the
9 Isatara community through wraparound services that
10 support and include financial literacy workshops,
11 matched savings accounts, cultural education
12 workshops, lectures with guest speakers and group
13 travel. Together these initiatives foster cultural
14 awareness and thrive through their strong sense of
15 community and holistically support families of Africa
16 and the Caribbean—or families of African and
17 Caribbean descent. We server over 2,000 young people
18 annually through out on-campus and in-school programs
19 and we know our programs can work. We work with
20 young people age 2 to 18 and their families. Our
21 programs are culturally sound and achieve results.
22 Over 90% of our graduate and high school students
23 enroll in college. Our students are less likely to
24 be involved in violent incidents, and are more likely
25 to be engaged in community activism and our families

2 stay with us. The rate of retention for students
3 staying with us for four more years is almost 80%. We
4 have searched for a permanent home located within the
5 communities we've served for the past 20 plus years
6 and have to—have had to borrow and beg space in our
7 desire to remain and keep our program, and it's been
8 too, a problem. We have run programming out of a
9 hospital, a daycare center. We've rented an
10 apartment to name a few of our creative solutions to
11 remain in a community that becomes more unaffordable
12 to non-profits and residents each day. Our new
13 permanent home is the Bedford Union Armory represents
14 (speaking foreign language) which means our ground
15 based in your borough. It is the ground on which we
16 stand and for future generations to come. the
17 Bedford Union Armory relocation will be a stabilizing
18 force in which to retire as our home, our village.
19 This spectacular new location will allow us to co-
20 locate administration and programs in a single space
21 or at the same time enabling us to provide on-campus
22 programs, programming for up to seven days a week
23 from 9:00 AM TO 9:00 PM each day. This new location
24 has the added benefit of breaking down program silos,
25 enhancing inherent communities of four solid (sic)

2 initiatives as well as fostering a greater cross-
3 pollination among our program participants. We are
4 projecting a 20-year increase in year 1, a 25
5 increase in year 2 and a 25% increase in year three.
6 Bedford Union Armory in the latter part of 2020--I'm
7 holding you guys to December--will be a mark in the
8 road, a watershed moment these entire. Thank you for
9 this opportunity to talk about housing tracks in our
10 community.

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's a beautiful
12 ending for that story. I was getting nervous. Is
13 like you maybe a home or an apartment. (laughter) I
14 said well, we'll get--we'll get you here. We'll get
15 something going. So, please keep it as form that I
16 told. That's a great story.

17 MATTIER MALLIER: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank for all you
19 passion. Thank you to the panel.

20 MATTIER MALLIER: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We have another
22 panel. We actually have two panels to go, but this
23 panel I know Eddie you were hanging--you re hanging in
24 there. So, Eddie Yang from Deerfield Management,
25 Joel Kupperman from New York City Community Garden

2 Coalition, Aziz Deacon from the New York City
3 Community Garden Coalition, and Dr. Jean Joseph from
4 the West Indian-American Carnival Association.

5 (pause) Alright.

6 MALE SPEAKER: Yeah.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Do we want to
8 combine those? Let's see. Since there's only two
9 maybe we can be—I have Ted—the last panel I have Ted
10 Smith from New Heights, Brendan O'Mallon from Imagine
11 Swimming; Michelle Gall from Digital Girl and Jeffrey
12 Davis from Dedicated Strategies. If you guys want to
13 join. (background comments/pause)

14 MALE SPEAKER: Go for it.

15 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I know. Eddie, if
16 you want to--

17 EDDIE YANG? Yeah

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --since you waited
19 from the last panel if you want to start us off.

20 EDDIE YANG: Yeah.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: You can sit there.
22 Still the struggle. It's the struggle. The story of
23 my life. (laughs) The story of my life. (laughs)

24 MALE SPEAKER: This corner I'm trying go
25 get it fixed.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Absolutely. If
3 there's no room there, maybe we can get you on that.
4 Alright Eddie, kick us off.

5 EDDIE YANG: Alright. Good afternoon. My
6 name is Eddie Yang and thank you for providing me the
7 opportunity to speak. I represent Deerfield
8 Management. I have been at Deerfield for three years
9 and graduated from the McCaulay Honors College and
10 Baruch College, I'd would like to speak to what
11 Deerfield College (sic) Program has done for us. So
12 when I first joined Deerfield I had previously no
13 experience in healthcare and a limited knowledge in
14 science. I just did not know what Deerfield really
15 was at that time when I joined. So, when we joined
16 Deerfield as a fellow, we're expected to know nothing
17 at all including healthcare or finance, which is
18 great. As a matter of fact, even though that I
19 though I knew something, I, in fact, did not know
20 anything at all.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I'm learning
22 everyday.

23 EDDIE YANG: (laughs) So under the
24 supervision of Ken Cohen we were taught from scratch
25 about the fundamentals of healthcare and finance with

2 great patience, which is great because he spent days
3 pouring over what the healthcare roles meant to us
4 having analyzed companies, how to recognize and
5 understand biases all in an attempt to help us become
6 successful and what it has to choose. We started
7 with a basic for both healthcare and finance such as
8 learning how to analyze. While the company is
9 understanding the role of the FDA or building and
10 developing new companies and new technologies. By
11 the end of the year-long fellowship, we understood
12 broadly how Deerfield a role in advancing healthcare—
13 in advancing healthcare. While a lot of my learning
14 experiences can be attributed to them, I cannot
15 forget to mention how wealthy I am to be surrounded
16 by a group of intelligent, diligent and kind people
17 at Deerfield. I believe one of the greatest
18 opportunities offered at Deerfield's Fellowship
19 Program is the opportunity to ask any questions even
20 the most basic questions without the fear of feeling
21 stupid. (sic) While everyone at Deerfield is
22 extremely busy with their normal day to day job,
23 whenever we had questions and needed ten minutes to
24 understand concepts, everyone was willing to take the
25 time to help us fellows better understand and grow.

2 People at Deerfield are always willing to—willing to
3 give up their precious time to help us, a fact that I
4 truly never appreciated during my time as a fellow.
5 If you're asking me—if you're to ask me almost three
6 ago before joined—joined Deerfield if I expected to
7 be where I am now, I would say absolutely not, and I
8 do know for a fact that I'm extremely grateful for
9 this opportunity with the Fellowship Program and all
10 the benefits it has provided me in growth and
11 opportunity. Thank you.

12 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: Good afternoon.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Just slide the
14 microphone over.

15 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: Good afternoon and
16 thank you for giving me this opportunity. My name is
17 Dr. Jean Joseph. I'm a certified public accountant.
18 I do have my own practice, but my work to be to
19 serve, and therefore, I take the time off to serve on
20 different organizations in my community, and I am the
21 President of the Western American Accountants for the
22 Association, and for those who are not familiar with
23 this organization, it's the Labor Day in Brooklyn.
24 Labor Day on the Parkway in Brooklyn and when I refer
25 to we WIADCA I am talking about the West Indian

2 American Day Carnival Association. When the West
3 Indian-American Day Carnival Association moved to
4 Brooklyn in 1967, there was no evidence that it will
5 forest into the spectacle that it is today. Our
6 pioneers will simply picture the cultural infusions
7 (sic). We are elated for the opportunity to proudly
8 and publicly celebrate the heritage. So, operating
9 out of the past landmark home of Carlos Lozano
10 located at 1023 John Street was not just an additive
11 pursuit. The WIADCA Administration of 2002 realize
12 the time has come for the association and its
13 operation to be more streamlined and year-round and
14 so as to secure the premises we now occupy at 325
15 Rogers Avenue in Brooklyn. It's year 2020 and this
16 Administration continues to build on the legacy of a
17 clear vision induced and aided by the times and the
18 tourists. (sic) Thus, we are quite competent that the
19 time has come for expansion. We are thrilled that
20 this is now a reality as we prepare or the move into
21 our beautiful renewable as the refurbished Bedford
22 Armory.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Again, I was
24 getting nervous where the story was going. (laughter)

2 I thought we would find you a home also. Like, hey,
3 what's going on?

4 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: Thank you, Eric. For
5 us this is a huge progressive move, but it's the
6 consequence of any upper movement besides our
7 increased expense. Therefore, in the immediate
8 breath following the one of fresh air of our new
9 home, comes the appeal to this August gathering
10 persistent with increased funding and funding stream.
11 We are happy and grateful for the unwavering support
12 you have given to the association in the past. With
13 this new home as anticipated in corresponding from
14 both the public and titled (sic) spaces we will
15 finally be able to realize some long held dream of
16 faith and past administration. Within crisp space we
17 will be able to strengthen our community support by
18 shedding some long desired public program. These
19 include the craft of wire brazing, costume making and
20 children playing as well as other opportunities to
21 commit to these carnival productions. As well, we
22 will be able to provide workshops and classes in the
23 non-creative, but equally important aspect of what it
24 takes to produce a carnival den such as marketing,
25 publicity, business management, grounds lighting, the

2 counting and navigation funding to name a few. Among
3 plans for our new space is the creation of a
4 veritable carnival museum in which the winning
5 costumes of each year will be plain. Additionally on
6 this space will be affordable of carnival staff and
7 other carnival offset and memorabilia all aimed at
8 creating an exciting show we call the West Indian
9 Carnival Experience in Brooklyn.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Alright. Is that
11 the 52nd Anniversary you said?

12 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: (laughs) Yes it is to
13 us. It is.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you Doc. So
15 thank you for everything.

16 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: Okay. Do you want this
17 one, too, or that's enough for now?

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Oh, now, you got
19 class. You can keep rolling. Yeah, you can just
20 keep going. (laughter)

21 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: The beautiful and
22 extravagant costume bands you see on just the parkway
23 are symbols of old carnival dreams but from its
24 inception their leaders have been subjected to
25 difficulty of finding space for their homes known as

2 Mass Camps. We are thrilled that there is now room
3 to make equitable arrangements to house some of these
4 MAS Camps. We are thrilled that there is now room to
5 make equitable arrangements to house some of those—
6 these MAS Bands thereby eliminating the exorbitant
7 rentals really during the carnival season, and I will
8 just add to that we're also seeking suitable
9 rehearsal space for our field band. That is not
10 quantifiable. The additional benefits of community
11 pride should not be undervalued. The Brooklyn
12 Carnival is an event that attracts everyone from
13 President to politicians for their level, courage
14 and, of course people from every walk of life.
15 Having a magnificent and beautiful home such as one
16 we will occupy in the Armory is something to be proud
17 of not just when the association was for our entire
18 Caribbean common nature. (sic) As such, I eagerly
19 look forward to occupying my new home and our new
20 home, and the attendant progress that comes with it.
21 I am in anticipation of the ways in which we will
22 blossom and bloom as an organization and strengthen
23 the bonds that unite us as we work together to make
24 this world a choice, this elite world and, of course,
25 the Mass on Labor Day. (Speaking Foreign Language)

2 The blessing already depart. I thank you, and one
3 thing I must say Council Member Laurie Cumbo so
4 working with us also on the project the developers,
5 oh God, they do have patience with me. Thank you
6 Eric.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, we need space
8 for the steel drums there?

9 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Alright. So, I'm
11 going to have to expand.

12 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: It is very, very
13 important.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: My son and I are
15 avid drummers, but we have not conquered steel drums.

16 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: Steel drums--

17 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, we would have
18 to expand this project. We're in another land. (sic)
19 Stuck in the Led Zeppelin 70s days with my drumming.
20 I'm going to have to expand out with my drumming
21 capabilities. So with that, the bill is signed. I'm
22 glad you have a new home. As for the other groups,
23 that's wonderful. Keep us apprised to how the moving
24 goes. Okay?

25 DR. JEAN JOSEPH: Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Shine it off there.
3 Michelle, I think you're up. Alright.

4 MICHELLE GALL: Hi, good afternoon. I
5 thank you so much for giving Digital Girl, Inc. the
6 opportunity to speak about the Bedford Union Armory
7 Project. So, Digital Girl, Inc. were are a 501(c)(3)
8 non-profit organization. We were founded in 2014
9 through Empowering Intercity Youth especially young
10 girls to pursue careers and studies in science,
11 technology, engineering and math. I'm the founder
12 and the Executive Director, and our goal is to use
13 early application, hands-on training, mentorship,
14 tutoring and social events to boost confidence, raise
15 self-esteem and promote them, career awareness within
16 less fortunate areas. It is our overall goal to
17 create professionals who can positively contribute to
18 their skill or study and society as a whole. We
19 started in one school. Today we are in 14 schools
20 and partnering with 14 schools and community based
21 organizations and have serviced well over 5,000
22 students in stem instruction particularly computer
23 science. Although our initial goal was to offer
24 education instruction to the youth, we still realize
25 that our responsibility extended far beyond just

2 young people. We realize our entire community rests
3 on exposure. To thrive in today's society it's
4 essential that we learn to design, create, and
5 express ourselves within digital technology. We
6 should at least understand that technology and not
7 shy away from conversations involving STEM. We're
8 proud to be tenants at the historic Bedford Armory
9 this November. This project is an extension of our
10 mission to provide the community with access to
11 technology and STEM instruction. Based on our
12 Roundtable Focus Group conducted last year by
13 Verizon, such a facility is a top priority for
14 Central Brooklyn as the area currently such a
15 valuable resource. The Technology Sensor will not
16 only feature a state of the art tech lab, but also a
17 classroom to host our workshop classes, and training
18 that will be offered to the community, and the lab we
19 plan to offer access desktop continues with desktops,
20 tablets, iPads, printers, 3D printing, rollout
21 projectors, soundboards, and simulated experiences
22 such as the virtual reality or VR. The Tech Center is
23 a tremendous access to—or asset to the community at
24 large. There will be regularly scheduled after
25 school and summer school classes geared towards the

2 youth along with courses for young adults and adults
3 in technology entrepreneurship and with a focus on
4 workforce and professional development. Our Senior
5 Tech intergenerational Classes also known as STIC
6 will be offered as well. We will build into the
7 scheduled open hours for the community use to you,
8 and we'll have technology experts on hand to provide
9 assistance to users of the lab equipment. It's
10 important to provide a service to those who are often
11 overlooked to be able to have a space where people in
12 the community can come and do employment searches,
13 work on their resume, learn a new skill or just
14 search the Internet or help to bridge the economic,
15 social and digital divide that still exists across
16 the city. I do want to thank the New York City
17 Council for their continued support, Laurie Cumbo,
18 Council Member Laurie Cumbo and Council Member Robert
19 Cornegy. They are, you know have been supportive of
20 us and continue to support us in this project, and
21 Senator Zellnor Myrie. Also is, you know, one of our
22 supporters and we're so thankful to have the support
23 of the community. Many of the other organizations
24 that are going to be neighbors with us, we're just
25 like our lives are intertwined. You know, it's not

2 just like this one thing that we need specifically.
3 They need all of us. They need us together. It
4 makes me so happy to hear the stories of it because
5 we all have this similar journey of trying to find a
6 space as Eiffel Tower (sic) mentioned earlier, you
7 know us, two, we were—we were like begging and
8 borrowing—bartering for space. We were in a public
9 school. We worked in our President's living room for
10 about a year. You know, just anywhere that we could
11 possibly go. So, we do have an office that's based
12 in Bed Stuy, but those selective technology
13 components. So, we're really happy for this
14 opportunity. Again, thanks to Eric who is so patient
15 and diligent in working with us and we look forward
16 to giving this service to the community.

17 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Michelle, you
18 should be commended on all that you've done with
19 that, and I love that you're expanding into a stick
20 with the seniors. So, I think that's the future in
21 bringing the generations together especially with
22 traditional employment senior centers versus what the
23 needs are of our new seniors, which is not based on
24 the old model.

25 MICHELLE GALL: Right.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Being this model is
3 what I envision in the future.

4 MICHELLE GALL: Well, thank you so much.
5 We found that, you know, a lot of the seniors are
6 raising grandkids so, you know, when we go into the
7 schools they are left out of the conversation because
8 they don't understand, you know, you can't even use a
9 flip phone or buy a flip phone.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Hey, you spoke of
11 my father.

12 MICHELLE GALL: (laughs) Um, you know,
13 and--

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: It's just if they
15 close this and I know that there are no more phones.

16 MICHELLE GALL: Right, and they are like
17 you can find it somewhere, you know, so I finally got
18 my mom using You Tube, and it really changed her
19 life, you know, to have the opportunity to hear music
20 that she hadn't heard since her childhood. She's
21 from Barbados. So, you know, that it meant so much to
22 her, and have with that to communicate and seeing
23 people across the--you know, when we go through these
24 instances we really like them, but, you know, they

2 cry. This, you know, I with them. So, thank you.
3 Thank you for just hearing me.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you. Thank
5 you. Alright, who's next? I have Steve Connelly.

6 BRENDAN OMELVENY: Hi, my name is Brendan
7 Omelveny. I'm the Chief Aquatics officer at Imagine
8 Swimming.

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I've been at it.
10 (sic)

11 BRENDAN OMELVENY: Imagine Swimming is
12 New York City premier learn to swim school. We teach
13 about 4,000 children a each week at 15 locations
14 throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. Like many swim
15 schools water safety is our number one priority. The
16 United States Centers for Disease Control and
17 Prevention states that participation in formal
18 swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by
19 up to 88% among young children. What separates
20 Imagine from other schools is that in addition to
21 teaching our children how to survive in and around
22 the water, we also teach them how to thrive in it.
23 We're on a mission to inspire a lifelong love for the
24 water in each of our students. That lifelong love
25 allows them to reach their potential and enrichens

2 their lives in so many ways both in the water and out
3 of it. A large scale study done by the Griffith
4 University in Australia showed that childhood
5 swimming lessons improves motor coordination,
6 balance, strength, and flexibility. This study also
7 showed improved emotional, social and cognitive
8 abilities among young swimmers compared to their
9 peers. And the increased self-confidence children get
10 from facing their fears and learning how to swim is
11 nothing short of transformative. I could talk for a
12 long time about how swimming saves, changes and
13 enriches people's lives, but I think most of you
14 realize this already. You may or may not realize that
15 drowning disproportionately affects African-Americans
16 predominately due to the lack of access to the
17 aquatic facilities and quality swim instruction.
18 Imagine Swimming is excited to expand our offerings
19 to the people of Central Brooklyn at the Bedford
20 Union Armory. For years we've struggled to meet the
21 demand for swimming lessons in Brooklyn because there
22 just aren't enough pools. Our lessons at Medgar
23 Evers College are full or nearly full year round.
24 When the Armory opens we will be able to more than
25 double the amount of children we currently serve in

2 Brooklyn adding spots for at least 1,000 more
3 students in our first year of operations alone. Many
4 of these spots will be reserved at affordable rates
5 for low and middle income residents of Central
6 Brooklyn. Imagine has a history of reaching out to
7 the community. We partner with schools, camps, and
8 daycare centers, and with a host of numerous drowning
9 prevention events along with Olympic swimmers
10 including Imagine's Ambassador Anthony Urban.
11 Anthony is the current Olympic Champion in the 50 New
12 York Freestyle. He is the first ever Olympic
13 Swimming Gold Medalist of African-American descent,
14 and he is a former swim instructor who rediscovered
15 his once lost love for this sport while teaching at
16 Imagine Swimming. Locally in Crown Heights we hold a
17 free drowning prevention event each year called
18 Brooklyn Swims where we teach water competency skills
19 to children from the Evitts Fields Houses. In
20 addition to swim lessons, Imagine offers lap swim,
21 family swim, water exercise classes, senior programs,
22 water polo, synchronized swimming and more.
23 Lifeguard and CPR courses will be offered as well
24 opening up high quality and employment opportunities
25 to Crown Heights youth. We are so grateful to have a

2 home for all of these offerings with the Bedford
3 Union Armory. Thank you for your time.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you very
5 much. As a former lifeguard, I have a passion for
6 swimming and always trying to get students to learn
7 confidence in the water, exude confidence in life. I
8 always believed that. So, go ahead.

9 TED SMITH: I guess I'm up. Thank you
10 both for your time and good afternoon. My name is
11 Ted Smith. I'm the Executive Director New Heights
12 Youth, Inc. and we're a 501 (c) (3) non-profit here in
13 New York City that uses basketball as a hook to
14 engage youth in education and leadership development
15 and ultimately has grown college prep. Since I'm—I'm
16 the sports guy and I just tell the stats. Since we
17 became a non-profit in 2005, we've had 100% high
18 school graduation rate. 98% of our kids which are
19 going to college and 75% of our kids have graduated
20 college within six years. We've also helped our
21 youth and families earn over \$58 million in financial
22 aid and scholarship opportunities in that time. I'd
23 also like to add with our mission because that's
24 obviously what drives us. The mission rights to
25 educate and empower promising intercity youth to be

2 leaders, champions and student athletes by developing
3 skills necessary to be successful in high school,
4 college and life, and hearing all of my-my soon to be
5 neighbors and team mates and I think we had a similar
6 story that Michelle and Fataio (sp?) and all the
7 organizations who shared. You know, we've been beg,
8 borrowing and stealing important classroom space
9 around New York City for over a decade, and our goal
10 is always then to have a home and be really deeply
11 enrooted in the community. We're a citywide
12 organization, but the majority of our kids and
13 families come from Brooklyn. So we're really excited
14 to be able to expand and increase our programming.
15 Right now we work with about 250 boys and girls. We
16 have a 50/50 boy to girl ratio from 4th Grade to 12th
17 Grade, and with a new home in the Armory, we're going
18 to be able to scale over Ten X and serve thousands of
19 kids and families and working on partnerships with
20 the DOE, other youth organizations, adult leads,
21 senior leads. So creating programming and right now
22 we're working with some educational consultants to
23 make sure that importantly as we're creating new
24 curriculum models and opportunities in the community
25 that we're also mindful that we're creating data and

2 metrics to measure our success and impact in the
3 community. So, for us having a home is a
4 transformative event for New Heights and we're really
5 excited to become even deeply--more deeply enrooted in
6 the community. So, thank you to EDC to the FCU, to
7 the Council for all your support and look forward to
8 our move-in date. Hopefully, the end of this year.

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Clearly stated, but
10 clearly that that's the Union Armory Advisory Group
11 that we want. You guys have got some great neighbors
12 working together. We're all going to have to get
13 over there. I think that's going to be our next. I
14 heard they're all coming after you then pretty soon.

15 TED SMITH: (off mic) Yeah, they are.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Right here--right
17 here. There has to be a hearing over at your spot.
18 It is the place to be. We can do everything. Thank
19 you. I think--did everyone We had everyone right?

20 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

21 Some I am not her--

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I've got to get you
23 closer to the table.

24

25

2 JEFFREY DAVIS: No, no, make it—I'm not
3 talking about the Armory. (background comments) I'm
4 talking about the 60--

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: How dare you not
6 talk about the Armory.

7 JEFFREY DAVIS: No Well, I--by the way--

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: How did you get on
9 that side?

10 JEFFREY DAVIS: No --I'd be glad to talk
11 about the Armory if there's anything, I'll take it.
12 (laughter)

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's when we're
14 going to leave the room, (laughs) and by the way
15 Justin Turner I think is the last. Is Justin here?
16 Justin? Justin, if you want to jump in, this is--
17 after them you're going to go, okay.

18 JUSTIN TURNER: (off mic) Peter is.

19 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Peter, oh. Just
20 bring everyone up on you own things. (sic)

21 JEFFREY DAVIS: No Hello, Jeffrey Davis.

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Jeffrey, how are
23 you?

24 JEFFREY DAVIS: Organization dedicated to
25 this struggle. Also--

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (interposing) By
3 the way, we've been joined by Council Member Inez
4 Barron.

5 JEFFREY DAVIS: I address you. Also
6 known as James E. Davis Stop Violence Foundation.
7 The history initially is called Love Yourself Stop
8 the Violence dating back to 1989 and 1990 founded by
9 my brother Brooklyn Councilman James E. Davis. So,
10 and then unfortunately he was killed inside City Hall
11 in 2003. So, we changed the name of it in his honor.
12 We've been addressing violence for 25, 30 years.
13 Through numerous acts of marching, Love Yourself/Stop
14 the Violence marches, and memorials, scholarships.
15 Recently a children's book, documentaries. Today we
16 were just nominated, incidentally I will present if I
17 can. And we were nominated for Emmy, the New York
18 Emmy Awards today for a documentary that came up 6/11
19 only in New York about my brother. Today, they put
20 the nominations out. So, we just left the studio
21 like this: (shouts) Okay, alright. So doing
22 different things in the community through fashion and
23 arts and addressing those in Crown Heights, in
24 Brooklyn in general, but particularly in Crown
25 Heights there's been an uptick in balance with hate

2 crimes. So, the only reason, a wonderful place right
3 there in Central Brooklyn that can address that to
4 bring communities together and we have wonderful
5 programs. The gang violence is surrounding the
6 community and that's a steady stream. So, again we
7 can address that in this wonderful building. Since
8 then we've been having meetings in my home, senior
9 citizen centers. Where else did you have it.
10 (laughs)

11 FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic] In Board
12 members' homes.

13 JEFFREY DAVIS: In board members' homes
14 and houses trying to get a handle on things, buy
15 aggressively tending to the situation and the park
16 tending so that Bedford, you know, normally allowed
17 us a location a central location that had an office
18 space, and we appreciate that, EDC and the City
19 Council. So, we'd like to thank Eric for that and
20 all the members of the FC and Economic Development
21 Corporation so we can get a handle on that and have
22 something under one roof wit these dynamic
23 organizations, New Heights, Digital Girl, Imagine.
24 All these wonderful organizations under one roof.
25 They can really get something done, and so we're

2 looking forward to it. Did we say November of 2020?

3 No? We're trying to push it up to--sorry, the June,

4 did we say June 2020? (laughs)

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well this town
6 wants a Christmas Parade. So, that season.

7 JEFFREY DAVIS: And--and--and this movie
8 cost you for others? (sic)

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Oh, well, when your
10 brother says it's my brother--

11 JEFFREY DAVIS: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --and the Council.

13 JEFFREY DAVIS: Yes, and--and your brother
14 as well. You lost some family. So this a wonderful
15 opportunity for us to jump on things, jump on top of
16 things like hate crimes, gang violence, the arts can
17 do wonderful things on working--underneath one roof
18 with amazing councilors, amazing people in this--in
19 these different particular fields, and I thank you
20 for all your support. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you. Alright,
22 whose next? It's agreed. (sic) You can't avoid it
23 any more. You have to look, friend.

24 AZIZ DEHKAN: I wasn't trying to.

25 (laughter) Thank you. My name is Aziz Dehkan, I'm the

2 Executive Director of the New York City Community

3 Garden Coalition. We're a non-profit formed in 1996

4 in the wake of watching community gardens throughout

5 the city being destroyed and taken away by the former

6 Mayor Giuliani—Rudy Giuliani. Since then we've

7 managed to save a number of gardens, and we're

8 currently just under 600 community gardens in New

9 York City. I'm here to talk about and thank you for

10 1652-A. I think it's very appropriate that 1652-A is

11 in the Economic Development Committee. The community

12 gardens provide quite a bit of economic development

13 and opportunity. We have—Vicki Been who was the

14 former HPD Commissioner and is currently Deputy Mayor

15 when she was the—before she entered public life was

16 with the Furman Institute, and what she once wrote in

17 her thesis was that properties within a thousand feet

18 of community gardens see their values go up, and

19 that's because it creates—they're called community

20 gardens, and not gardens because they bring community

21 to neighborhoods, and people like one of my favorite

22 stories ever was when a man was talking about he'd

23 lived in his apartment for 25 years. He was pretty

24 certain it was the same person that lived across the

25 hall, but he didn't know who he was, but he knew his

2 name was in community gardens, and that's the value
3 of community gardens besides the fact that there's
4 about \$14 trillion dollars of free labor that goes
5 into these gardens because they're all run by
6 volunteers. Recently about ago every--every four years
7 we get--community gardens get four-year licenses from
8 Green Thumb and Parks. This last license that came
9 out went from 7 pages to about 16 pages. There were
10 a lot of clauses within that that were very onerous
11 and people didn't want to sign them. There's about
12 30% of the gardens who have not signed yet. We've
13 been asking Parks and Green Thumb to join us back at
14 the table. They have given us some concession on the
15 license, but there's two major ones that we had
16 difficulty with. One is the at-will termination by
17 the Commissioner, and the other one is that it forces
18 community gardens to purchase their own liability
19 insurance. We have a proposal that we've given for
20 Parks that--and have not had any response where we
21 can--we found a liability insurance policy that will
22 cover approximately 350 gardens for just around
23 \$300,000, and we were asking the city if--

24 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's an umbrella
25 policy for your building?

2 AZIZ DEHKAN: Yes, sir.

3 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, how does it
4 cover the ones that are not?

5 AZIZ DEHKAN: Well, the ones aren't are
6 either privately owned or Fema Land Trusts.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay,

8 AZIZ DEHKAN: And if they want to join
9 that then the number, the \$300,000 probably goes down
10 a little because of the more people that live in the
11 policy. We haven't heard back from Parks yet and
12 they were--

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And you were on the
14 list?

15 AZIZ DEHKAN: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So it's many months
17 of waiting.

18 AZIZ DEHKAN: Yes and we intend on the
19 13th of March to go to the budget hearing and ask
20 those questions. I bring that up because this is the
21 Economic Development Committee, and we feel it's
22 really important for everyone to know what's going on
23 and we've been finding that resources have been
24 denied to community gardens that have not signed.

25

2 There's about—I would say about 25% of the gardens
3 have not signed their licenses at this point. So--

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I would even joined
5 with you. It's even beyond the gardens. There's
6 vacant lots. I had the question earlier about
7 bringing to your attention those along even by the
8 waterfronts or previous agencies had projects that
9 were stopped and now they are kind of abandoned lots
10 there, and we've got to preserve those before those
11 are taken up also. So I think there is--

12 AZIZ DEHKAN: Yeah and I agree with you.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --there is a--there
14 is an opportunity. In these last two years you have
15 a Council of fans with ECD's bills that are coming
16 out to try to preserve what we have left.

17 AZIZ DEHKAN: I know and--and--and truly we
18 believe that this bill helps. Once you take the
19 vacant name away from community gardens then you're
20 adding some more value to what these pieces of
21 property are.

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: It's a stop, look
23 and listen. This is not a vacant lot. This is
24 actually a garden.

2 AZIZ DEHKAN: Thank you and—and I dare
3 anybody to go to a community garden and call it a
4 vacant lot.

5 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (laughs) No

6 AZIZ DEHKAN: And there's plenty of them
7 in you—in your district and all the Councilmen's
8 districts as well. The only concern we sort of have
9 is that developers who are next to the community
10 gardens because they are now not vacant lots, may be
11 able to use those as part of their open space
12 criteria, and so we want to make sure that there's
13 some kind of—that we avoid a slippery slope of
14 developers using that as a way to, you now, create
15 more open—say that they have more open space, and I'm
16 not certain that this is really the case, but some—
17 some of the attorneys that we've talked to have
18 expressed that issue and understand and bring that
19 our just for you. The other part of this is
20 congratulations because the words "community gardens"
21 are very rarely used in the lexicon of New York City,
22 and so to see this in a bill makes us very happy to
23 see. You know, we want to--

24 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (interposing) And
25 you waited to the very end. So, we appreciate that.

2 AZIZ DEHKAN: (laughs) I couldn't
3 resist.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yeah, we started on
5 time, but you waited two hours and 10 minutes to
6 testify on this issue.

7 AZIZ DEHKAN: Thank you very much. SO,
8 anyway so that's where we're at. We hope that the
9 mapping continues to eliminate the vacant
10 designation, and we hope that your committee also
11 helps us to get to parks and to create a fair and
12 just license that addresses volunteers and not treat
13 us concessionaires, which is really what this license
14 here is like.

15 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Partnerships with
16 Parks would be a wonderful progressive tactic--

17 AZIZ DEHKAN: We were saying that at
18 times. (sic)

19 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: --with the schools,
20 with city land with community groups. It's very
21 difficult and I don't know why. It just seems to be
22 this grand void that just sits in the Parks
23 Department waiting for the legal review and it drives
24 us all crazy. We have so many gardens that at
25 stopped and actually adjacent to schools that we're

2 trying to create a better garden or a better
3 playground and I'm stopped because I need permission
4 from the Parks Department and it's a cement lot.

5 AZIZ DEHKAN: Right.

6 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: It has nothing to
7 do with that. Yes, so I figured--

8 AZIZ DEHKAN: (interposing) Well lets all
9 join together--

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yes.

11 AZIZ DEHKAN: --and--and push our parks.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you very
14 much, and I think we have--So who was in the--who is it
15 in the room that asked to testify? Come on up,
16 then, and thank you for staying all the way through.
17 (background comments/pause) Alright, so we're going
18 to open up the voting for Council Member Barron. So,
19 Billy, if you can take our vote.

20 CLERK: Introduction 1652-A and 1654-A,
21 Council Member Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you, Council
25 Member.

2 CLERK: The final vote on these items is
3 now 7 in the affirmative, zero in the negative.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I think we
5 officially closed the voting on it. It's sustained.
6 Alright, gentlemen a few stills and you get the
7 privilege of closing out our hearing today.

8 JUSTIN TURNER: Well thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: No problem.

10 JUSTIN TURNER: Hello. My name is Justin
11 Turner and I am the President of the Bedford Union
12 Armory Advisory Committee. Thank you for inviting me
13 to testify here today. First, I would like to take a
14 moment to honor the electives that are here today,
15 and thank you for your commitment in doing the work
16 that allows projects like this one to thrive and
17 serve the needs of their community. In my testimony
18 I would like to share my personal support for the
19 Brooklyn Armory Project and explain how our Advisory
20 Committee will help to ensure that the project is not
21 only successful, but also that is responsive to
22 community needs. I've known a black man who were
23 born and raised and currently still lives in walking
24 distance from the Armory. I support this project
25 because I know first hand the need for community

2 space that offers affordable and accessible services,
3 and resources to the community and that—and that is
4 exactly what the Bedford Armory will do. I also
5 support this project as a father. My daughter turned
6 one—one years old this past Sunday.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Congratulations.

8 JUSTIN TURNER: Thank you, and it is
9 reassuring to know that the community that I was
10 raised in and now planning to raise my daughter in is
11 going to receive the investment that it deserves. An
12 investment that will positively impact both the older
13 and younger generations of our community. The Bedford
14 Union Armory Project ensures a brighter future for my
15 daughter and all the other children who live nearby
16 the Armory and will play, learn and grown within its
17 wall. Now, I would like to share with some
18 background in the Bedford Armory Advisory Committee.
19 We are a group of community residents who volunteer
20 to offer input, general—general information and
21 support for the Armory project. The Committee is
22 comprised of approximately 15 community members who
23 have been tasked with advising DFC and its
24 programming. Originally, the committee was given a
25 mandate to meet on a quarterly basis meeting four

2 times a year and after the election of the Executive
3 Committee we quickly—we quickly realized that four
4 times wasn't enough and have decided to meet monthly
5 during the phase of development to gather upbeats and
6 information from the DOC to ensure that the project
7 is meeting the needs of the community For instance,
8 recently the community—the committee has created
9 subcommittees including programming, not-for-profit
10 space, community center membership advice, housing
11 affordability and art advising. The committee is
12 also making plans to include the community in other
13 decision making aspects of the Armory such as mending
14 holes and voting on important community members to
15 acknowledge. The Armory provides—will provide many
16 benefits to the community, and it is refreshing to
17 see how consistently the BFC has included the
18 community in those decisions. For instance the
19 Advisory Committee will be divided in membership
20 pricing plans and advising on holistic programming
21 that serves both the senior and youth population of
22 that area. The Armory will build the service we've
23 got for you to not have an outlet or access to
24 community programming as well as provide subsidized
25 space for not-for-profit usage that is currently

2 relevant to community residents like the ones you've
3 heard in plethora today. So, ultimately, through the
4 Advisory Committee the community has a consistent
5 opportunity to give feedback. We are not only
6 listening, we are committed to collaborating with the
7 community. We plan to listen to the pulse of the
8 community and to hold BS(sic) as an accountable tool,
9 and for that we are thankful. So, again, thank you
10 for not only all the work you have done, but also for
11 the work you will do to ensure the project remains
12 supported. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, what will be
14 the next leap for—next step for the group at this
15 point? You are in in collaboration with the Board.

16 JUSTIN TURNER: Yes. So, tomorrow
17 actually we have our—our next meeting. We will
18 solidify the subcommittees and start to give our pass
19 and work going forward.

20 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, you can tell
21 when you successfully testified three whole—it's all
22 about your guys' subcommittees on the record.

23 JUSTIN TURNER: Well, good. (laughs)

24 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay.

2 PETER ADAMS: Hello, Peter Adams from My
3 Global Concepts.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank You.

5 PETER ADAMS: We're working closely with
6 Bedford Union Armory. We're the soccer, mostly sport
7 operator within the space.

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Soccer coaching?

9 PETER ADAMS: Soccer coaching is our
10 specialty, but we work with all different entities
11 and groups so from fencing to gymnastics to
12 pickleball, anything that can be state--

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (interposing) What
14 is pickle?

15 PETER ADAMS: It's a great one. I haven't
16 played it myself, but it's almost like a form of
17 tennis.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Alright.

19 PETER ADAMS: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We hear you.

21 PETER ADAMS: So, it's apparently-it's a
22 booming-booming sport.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (laughs)

24 PETER ADAMS: I just, you know, the name
25 probably has to change but

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We need a new idea.

3 PETER ADAMS: But we're entertaining all--
4 we're basically connecting all the dots. So, working
5 closely with Eric with the community finding out what
6 the needs are and then taking about 6,000 hours and
7 trying to accommodate everyone in that space from
8 local colleges, universities, from you know,
9 community programs, from soccer programs to even
10 youth Rugby. You know, so we've--we've gotten a lot of
11 inquiries, and now we're beginning starts of how to
12 fill that space.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, the program is
14 working within--what age group of students who are
15 physical?

16 PETER ADAMS: They can start as early as--
17 I mean there's programs that have reached our as
18 early as childhood development from 3 years of age.

19 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: In the First Kicks
20 program?

21 PETER ADAMS: Yeah, yeah, there's
22 different types of programs out there that will reach
23 out. Soccer Shots or Super Soccer Stars. Different
24 entities that need space, and we're looking to
25 accommodate.

2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, thank you.
3 Eric, you're the last man standing.

4 PETER ADAMS: Thank you, Peter, thank
5 you Jackson. Thank you Council Member Vallone for
6 inviting me to speak. Thank you Jennifer, and thank
7 you Rachel and Lydia. I've worked with Rachel and
8 Lydia for four years now on the project and there's
9 some crazy times where we were escorted out by police
10 (laughs) and there were good times like today, but
11 there are more good times than the bad.

12 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, the police
13 are still waiting for you, you know.

14 PETER ADAMS: Yeah, okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: They're watching
16 him.

17 PETER ADAMS: So this project is huge,
18 and I come from a Boys and Girls Club background so I
19 was in the Bous and Girls Club leadership, which had
20 five buildings and located in also three schools
21 incubator (sic) and I helped create that. So, I want
22 to bring that to Crown Heights. What is important
23 about this as you see is the collectiveness in that
24 its harmony already, and everyone that's standing
25 here, Justin is here, but everyone that was here was

2 with us four years ago. Dr. Joseph came on board
3 recently as the new president when Mr. Howard passed
4 away last year, but we were extensively with Mr.
5 Howard on creating space for within the Imagine and
6 Carnival Association.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: She was on that?

8 PETER ADAMS: Yeah, she was great, and so
9 I've got probably no problems going forward because I
10 I work with a great bunch of people. I think Rachel
11 hit all the touch points on they formed it in 15
12 units to 50 affordable and 50 to 60 families at 50 or
13 60% of the area median income. We'll have those 250
14 apartments through New York City Connect. You spoke
15 of engagement. I can talk about engagement to the
16 schools. BSC Partners the Community Engagement
17 Director as well as kind of the asset manager for the
18 facilities that are in the—the Bedford Union Armory
19 by the way will change its name to the Major Owens
20 Community Center. So, here's a great story.

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's nice.

22 PETER ADAMS: It was always in the making
23 but we got Crystal and the son of Major Owens. We
24 talked to him about three months ago, and he approved
25 it, and it was always in—in the works, but we had a

2 meeting with the family and they said you have our
3 blessings.

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Oh, good.

5 PETER ADAMS: And so we're going through
6 a naming process today with Justin, and I hope it's
7 near. So think of it as the Major Owens Community
8 Center, but here's an engaging story for you. So,
9 DYCD helps me meeting all the organizations. So, now
10 before we even started we met at the Armory and so
11 there were 17 organizations there, and one of the
12 young ladies in my tour kept staring intensely and
13 I'm thinking. Oh, my God, here's an activist. Here
14 it comes, and she says, can I just interrupt you for
15 a minute?

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: You knew what was
17 coming?

18 PETER ADAMS: She had—no she had tears in
19 her eyes, and I said: What's wrong? She says, I want
20 to show you emails. So, she pulls out her phone and
21 shows me an email for 2012 between her and Major
22 Owens. That was her professor and between New York
23 Wagner School—and the young lady's Wagner School and
24 Medger Evers they both were on the analysis and the
25 focus groups to see what would be best inside the

2 Armory, and so I was reading her email and she and
3 Major Owens were exchanging ideas about community
4 activism, how to answer questions at the next meeting
5 and so started tearing up because that's the project
6 she worked on seven years ago, which has come to
7 light today, and so she's walking around the Armory,
8 which is under construction, but she got to see all
9 the work that's being done from the work that was not
10 done in 2012, and she was just amazed, and she also
11 lives two blocks away. So, that's an engagement
12 story--

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: It is.

14 PETER ADAMS: --but to that point I've
15 worked with the Community School District 17 with
16 Superintendent Ellis and Superintendent Michael
17 Prenner, and, um, we've done surveys and focus
18 groups. We have a Principals Task Force, and so
19 we've operated soccer programs current--I mean today.
20 We've operate a martial arts program. We operated
21 tennis credits and then we're starting a mindfulness
22 program at Operation Aspiration High School, which
23 directly across the street. So we have a mindfulness
24 coach and then earlier I think someone mentioned the
25 Carrie Duvet Foundation. That's what Rachel did, the

2 Carrie Duvet Foundation is one of the organizations
3 within the--the facility. Carrie Duvet well Chanelle
4 Duvet is in Florida right now at a clinic for
5 Mindfulness, but she's also a certified yoga
6 teacher. So, she and a mindfulness coach are going
7 to combine new talent and provide clinics and
8 workshops at the Aspirations High School starting in
9 March. Really huge. So our engagement is--

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: (interposing)

11 Unless she wants us to join her in Florida at the
12 next committee.

13 PETER ADAMS: Yeah, that would be nice.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I think I'd like
15 that.

16 PETER ADAMS: But our engagement is
17 widespread. Michelle talked about the coding for
18 seniors. We've also been coding for elementary
19 school kids in MS61 and so I just wanted to
20 piggyback, on your comments about engagements with
21 the schools. We've met seven yushivas, and we--
22 currently this all about community to see how they do
23 with the honoring of Ron Ropus (sic) and so, we've
24 actually carved out of them already, and so, they've

2 talked about everything else. Do you have any
3 questions I can answer?

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: No. I think you're
5 -it's an example of why a properly balanced
6 development with community groups has the right place
7 in the future and it incorporates and needs a home.
8 There are a lot of groups that are struggling out the
9 that it doesn't have the space, and when you do it
10 the right way, it's a win for everybody. So,
11 congratulations.

12 PETER ADAMS: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Anyone did not
14 testify? I think we had everyone in the room.
15 Alright, thank you very much. I think we're done.
16 Council Member Barron, did you want to make an
17 closing comments. Alright, with that we close our
18 committee. Thank you everyone. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date March 14, 2020