

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY

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HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: DANIEL DROMM
Chairperson

DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams
Justin L. Brannan
Fernando Cabrera
Andrew Cohen
Chaim M. Deutsch
Vanessa L. Gibson
Rory I. Lancman
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Keith Powers
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Paul A. Vallone

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

James P. O'Neill, Commissioner, New York City
Police Department

Vincent Grippo, Deputy Commissioner of Management
and Budget, New York City Police Department

Thomas M. Chan, Chief of Transportation, New York
City Police Department

Dermot Shea, Chief of Detectives, New York City
Police Department

Jessica Tisch, Deputy Commissioner of Information
Technology, New York City Police Department

Rodney Harrison, Chief of Patrol, New York City
Police Department

Theresa Shorteli, Chief of Training, New York City
Police Department

Kevin Richardson, Deputy Commissioner and
Department Advocate, New York City Police
Department

Nilda Hoffman, Chief of Community Affairs, New
York City Police Department

[sound check] [pause] [gavel]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Thank you very much. Good morning and welcome to the City Council's seventh day of hearings on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal 2020. My name is Daniel Dromm and I Chair the Finance Committee. We are joined by the Committee on Public Safety, chaired by my colleague Council Member Donovan J. Richards. We're also joined by my other colleagues Barry Grodenchik and Rory Lancman, and I think others will be joining us shortly. Today we will hear from the New York City Police Department. Before we begin, I'd like to thank the Finance Division staff for putting today's hearing together including the Director Latonia McKinney, Committee Counsel Rebecca Chasen, Deputy Directors Virginia Poreda Ryan and Nathan Toth, Unit Head Eisha Wright, Finance Analyst Nevin Singh, the Finance Division Administrative Support Unit Nicole Anderson, Maria Pagan, Latina Brown and Courtney Samurai (sic) who pull everything together. Thank you all for your efforts. I'd also like to remind everyone that the public will be invited to testify on the last day of the Budget hearings on May 23rd beginning at approximately 2:00 p.m. in this room.

For members of the public who wish to testify, but cannot attend the hearing, you can email your testimony to the Finance Division at financetestimony@council.nyc.gov and the staff will make it a part of the official record. Today's Executive Budget hearing starts with the Police Department. The NYPD's Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget totals \$5.6 billion, which supports a total headcount of 51,585 of which 36,113 are uniformed positions. In the Executive Plan the NYPD shows savings and pegs totaling \$52.6 million across Fiscal 19 and Fiscal 2020. However, these modest savings are more than offset by the addition of \$73. Or \$74.3 million in new needs over the same period. One area where the Council had hoped to see deeper savings was with respect to the department's overtime budget. The NYPD's actual spending on uniformed overtime consistently exceeds its budgeted amount. In Fiscal 2017, the NYPD overspent by \$82.3 million and in Fiscal 2018, the number was \$51.8 million. In Fiscal 19, the year to date spending on uniformed overtime through March was \$448.9 million even though the total budget for the year is \$548 million. To that end, the Council has encouraged the NYPD and OMB to

2 right size the overtime budgets to more accurately
3 align with actual spending and to also impose
4 overtime controls to help contain costs. The Council
5 recently learned from the news that last month the
6 NYPD imposed a new overtime control policy that would
7 cap the number of hours of overtime that could be
8 earned. I understand that for high ranking
9 detectives, lieutenants and sergeants overtime will
10 be capped at 30 hours per month and 90 hours
11 quarterly. Police officers, detectives and sergeants
12 will have an overtime cap of 20 hours per month and
13 60 hours quarterly. While the steps the agency is
14 taking are positive, the Council should not have to
15 learn about these types of policy changes by reading
16 in the newspaper. I would hope going forward that
17 the Council would be briefed before the press and I
18 look forward to learning more about the details of
19 the overtime cap at today's hearing. Now, before we
20 begin I would like to remind my colleagues that the
21 first round of questions for the agency will be
22 limited to three minutes per Council Member and if
23 Council Members have additional questions we will
24 have a second round of questions at two minutes per
25 Council Member. I will now turn the mic over to my

2 Co-Chair Council Member Richards for his statement
3 and then we will hear from the NYPD Commissioner
4 James O'Neill.

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you, Chair
6 Dromm, and good morning and welcome to the Public
7 Safety Committee's Fiscal 2019 Expense Budget.

8 Before we begin, I would like to address the Daniel
9 Pantaleo trial happening across the street at One
10 Police Plaza, and reaffirm my commitment to
11 supporting Eric Garner's mother, Gwen Carr in her
12 five-year pursuit for justice. The world watched as
13 her son was killed while in the hands of the NYPD,
14 and there is no doubt in my mind that he would be
15 alive today if a chokehold was not placed around his
16 neck tragic day in 2014. I know the Commissioner
17 cannot comment about the case until the trial is
18 completed and a recommendation is sent his way from
19 the CCRB, but I do want to say that the world will be
20 watching once again, and more importantly the
21 residents of this city will be watching this very
22 closely. The results of this case will send a
23 message to New Yorkers as well as every NYPD officer
24 about how the NYPD will hold their officers
25 accountable in 2019 and beyond. Justice has been

2 delayed for far too long, but we still have an
3 opportunity to ensure that justice is not denied.

4 Lastly, I expect the Commissioner to be fair and
5 impartial in his decision and to consider the needs
6 for accountability as much as the officer's right to
7 a fair trial. Today we will hear testimony from the
8 Commissioner O'Neill and his staff on the Police
9 Department's budget, the department's Fiscal 2010
10 Executive Budget as Chair Dromm said is \$65.6 billion
11 and supports a budgeted headcount of approximately
12 52,000 personnel. The updated budget for Fiscal 2019
13 is now \$5.9 billion and reflects changes that
14 occurred throughout the Fiscal Year that adds to the
15 department's budget. New in the Executive Budget is
16 roughly \$30 million for the renovation-renaissance of
17 select precincts to be in full compliance with the
18 American Disability Act guidelines as well as \$11
19 million for other IT projects at NYPD facilities.
20 Today I hope to learn more about the department's
21 ongoing initiatives, its Capital Program and the
22 budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2020. I also look
23 forward to hearing more about the changes since we
24 last met at the Preliminary Budget hearing in March.
25 Throughout this past year the department has worked

2 to finish the implementation of the Neighborhood
3 Policing Program, the Right to Know Act, and has
4 outfitted patrol officers with body-worn cameras. I
5 would like to thank the department on their work to
6 implement these measures that only provide greater
7 oversight, but will aid in reducing crime and at the
8 same time improving community relations. I would
9 also like to thank my staff Jordan Gibbons and the
10 Committee staff, Financial Analyst Nevin Singh,
11 Committee Counsel Daniel Ades, and Policy Analyst
12 Casey Addison for their hard work. In the interest
13 of time, I would like to get started. Thank you
14 Commissioner O'Neill and to your staff for being here
15 today. Please begin when you are ready.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, swear—I'll ask
17 Counsel to swear in the panel, please.

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

21 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: I do. Good morning
22 everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss
23 with you the Mayor's Executive Budget for the 2020
24 Fiscal Year. It's a pleasure to be here again to
25 testify before City Council's Committee on Finance

1 and Public safety about the outstanding work the
2 members of the New York City Police Department
3 continue do to every day and every night. Each time
4 I testify in this capacity we discuss the absolute
5 for the police and all the people we serve to build
6 trust and strengthen our relationships in every
7 neighborhood. This is essential to sharing the
8 responsibility for public safety. The police cannot
9 do it alone. Earning and putting into real action
10 the full ongoing support of all New Yorkers is
11 imperative to driving crime and disorder order down
12 past the record low levels we have already achieved.
13 This is a crime fighting philosophy that is the basis
14 for neighborhood policing, New York policing, if you
15 will, and it is by the way this prove crime fighting
16 model that we will continue to keep this great city
17 safe, and to make sure everybody in every community
18 also feel safe, too. As you've heard me say before,
19 our job at its most fundamental level is to fight
20 crime and keep people safe. That is what every NYPD
21 member swore and oath to do, and so before
22 highlighting some key budget items this morning, I'd
23 like to speak about changes looming at the city and
24 state levels that I believe will significantly hamper
25

our collective ability to adequately accomplish that mission. I will be as brief as possible so our team may field as many of your questions as we can in the time we have available. The leadership of the NYPD agrees with advocates, elected officials, agency heads, residents and others that as a society we must find better ways to deal with the homeless and the mentally ill. We must work harder at keeping at risk youth out of the Criminal Justice System to begin with. We must help offenders leaving jail or prison successfully reintegrate into their communities. We must connect substance abusers to necessary treatment and we must take every single illegal gun off of our streets. The central issue, of course, is how to accomplish these shared goals while continuing to reduce overall crime and violence addressing quality of life concerns and keeping safe and free from fear all New Yorkers and the police who serve them. Public safety cannot be compromised. Recently, the State Legislature passed a measure taking effect in January that will greatly reduce the number of arrested people from whom judges may require bail or make a determination to remand. As currently enacted, this law will have a continuing and severely

2 negative impact on public safety. The NYPD favors
3 responsible bail reform. There is no reason to hold
4 non-violent offenders who pose no danger to public
5 safety on cash bail of any amount and in this era of
6 down trending crime rates and enhanced trust in the
7 people we serve, any reform package should allow
8 judges to remand any arrested person who poses a
9 danger to others as measured by the gravity of the
10 offense for which they have been arrested and also by
11 the gravity of offenses they have committed in the
12 past. The new law makes no such provision failing to
13 consider the public safety consequences of violent
14 recidivists being released because judges are
15 constrained. This will make New York one of only
16 four states in the nation that does not allow its
17 judges to weigh the dangerousness of a person in
18 determining whether to remand that person or to set
19 bail. Under the new law for instance, judge will be
20 expressly forbidden from remanding individuals who
21 are setting bail in the case of low-level robberies
22 and burglaries, and virtually all drug trafficking
23 cases no matter how many prior offenses the robbers,
24 burglars and drug dealers may have. Simply put, this
25 is a policy that is far too weak to ensure our public

2 safety in our neighborhoods. The new law also
3 requires that many arrested people be released with
4 desk appearance tickets or DATs without even being
5 held for arraignment. Typically, those who are
6 issued DATs are released from police station houses
7 within a short time following their arrest. What we
8 know is that approximately one-quarter of people
9 released on DATs never appear for their scheduled
10 court dates, and DATs have a negligible effect on
11 chronic offenders. Under the new law about 16,000
12 people arrested in 2018 with prior arrest involving
13 force, weapons or sex offenses would have been
14 released with DATs. Among them, 3,300 people with
15 prior felony assault arrest, 2,000 people with prior
16 robbery arrests and 200 people with prior sex offense
17 charges including rape and sexual assault. In fact,
18 approximately a thousand people arrested in 2018
19 would have been released with DATs under the new law
20 despite each of them having records of five or more
21 arrests of violent crimes in the prior three years.
22 Some bail reform advocates try to make it appear that
23 arrests from minor crimes are swelling the city's
24 jail population with individuals held on bail. In
25 actuality the opposite is true. As a matter of

1 police policy the NYPD has systematically reduced the
2 number of misdemeanor arrests, which are down 38% in
3 the past five years and about 87% of the people who
4 are arrested are released at arraignment or before
5 without bail or incarceration. The fact is New York
6 City's jail population has been declining for years,
7 down 29% since 2013 and 63% since 1993. In reality
8 the average number of fare evaders are awaiting trial
9 on any given days is two. The average number of
10 public marijuana smokers is one. The average number
11 of people charged with prostitution is zero. With
12 New York City's overall crime now at its lowest level
13 since 1957, some state legislators seem to have lost
14 sight of what it takes to keep crime down. Last year
15 was the second year in a row we had fewer than 300
16 murders, less than any year in New York City since
17 1951 where there a half a million fewer people in our
18 city. Also, in 2018, we recorded the lowest number
19 of shootings in our modern history for the third year
20 in a row. On five separate occasions, the City went
21 five or more days without a recorded murder including
22 for nine consecutive days, and for the first time
23 ever we recorded three straight months, October,
24 November and December below 20 murders. I these past
25

1 five years, Neighborhood Policing has pushed both
2 crime and enforcement down substantially. Overall
3 crime declined by 14.2% and murders by 11.9%.
4 Shooting incidents are down 31%. Compared to the
5 five-year period prior, the average number—the
6 average for murders for now is 30% lower and the
7 average for shootings is 29% lower. We are not just
8 achieving massive declines in violence, with our
9 intensified and focused investigation of gangs, we
10 are sustaining those declines over the longer term.
11 In other categories robbery is are down 32.6% in five
12 years, burglary is down 33.3%, auto theft is down
13 26.4%. It may be hard to believe, but there were
14 more than 140,000 auto thefts in New York City in
15 1990. Last year there were just over 5,000, a
16 reduction of about 96%. On the enforcement side
17 during the past five years street stops by our
18 officers are down by more than 90%. Overall, arrests
19 are down 37.3% and summonses are down nearly 79%.
20 Marijuana misdemeanors and violations arrests are
21 down 71%. As we believed we could in 2014, we have
22 shown that we can drive crime down significantly with
23 a far less intrusive enforcement profile. While
24 arrests and summonses for quality of life violations
25

1 and minor crimes are way down, felony arrests for
2 rape, assault, grand larceny and burglary are all up,
3 and while many misdemeanor arrest categories have
4 fallen steeply, Detective Bureau arrests are up
5 nearly 20% in the last five years. In short, New
6 York Policing is a game changer for our profession
7 and a model for the rest of the United States. As
8 such, we vow not to rest until every block and every
9 neighborhood enjoys the same level of safety and
10 wellbeing as the rest of the city. One zip code must
11 never be the primary determination of one's safety.
12 It is our pledge to ensure that every neighborhood is
13 safe regardless of where in New York City one calls
14 home. As I said at the beginning of my testimony,
15 however this job can only be accomplished in
16 partnership with the rest of our city inside and
17 outside government. Out of this historic
18 collaboration more change is coming. Change in how
19 we police, how we partner with our fellow city
20 agencies and elected officials, how we partner with
21 neighborhood residents and workers and how we partner
22 with business and civic leaders. Each of these
23 partnerships stands to generate the creative and
24 innovative solutions that adequately address the
25

2 entire public safety spectrum from traditional crime
3 to terrorism, to the seed bed activities that control
4 our young people down past their criminality. At the
5 end of the day Brownsville can and should be as safe
6 as Brooklyn Heights. Violence and disorder should be
7 as low in the South Bronx as it is on the Upper West
8 Side of Manhattan. This is a new era in many ways.
9 We know for example that the legalization of
10 Marijuana is coming at some point, and we need to
11 determine how and when laws about its use and
12 possession are enforced. I still have major concerns
13 about home cultivation and driving while impaired
14 because there's currently no instant test for
15 Marijuana levels in the human body, and what we would
16 decide to do about people under 21 years of age
17 smoking Marijuana. We are also facing pushback from
18 some from some quarters about the definition of who
19 constitutes a threat to public safety when it comes
20 to fare evasion in our subways. I think everybody
21 would agree that we need to control the entrance to
22 the subway system to make sure we keep all the riders
23 as safe as possible. To abandon our efforts there
24 would be both irresponsible and highly dangerous.
25 Turning to budgetary issues the Homeland Security

1 Preparedness Grant Application Guidelines have been
2 released. NYPD has now submitted project proposals
3 under the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Homeland Security
4 Grant Program to the Mayor's Office of Management and
5 Budget, which will coordinate the city's submission.
6 In addition, the NYPD is submitting applications
7 under the Transit and Port Security Grant Programs.
8 It is anticipated that these grants will be awarded
9 no later than September 30th 2019 and we are hopeful
10 that the NYPD will receive the same amount of funding
11 under the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Homeland Security
12 Grant Program that we received last Fiscal year. As
13 I mentioned during my Preliminary Budget hearing
14 testimony in March, the NYPD relies on these funds to
15 help protect all New Yorkers and visitors to our city
16 against terrorist attacks and to strengthen our
17 Homeland Security Preparedness. Specifically federal
18 funds have allowed the NYPD to develop and sustain
19 our sensor and information technology centerpiece
20 known as the Domain Awareness System or DAS, which
21 supports the Police Department's counterterrorism
22 mission. Higher intelligence research specialist
23 deploy officers to the transit system and to
24 strategic locations citywide based on intelligence
25

1 and train officers to respond to chemical, ordinance,
2 biological and radiological threats as well as active
3 shooter scenarios. The NYPD also uses federal funds
4 to purchase personal protective equipment for
5 uniformed members of the service, and to purchase
6 critical equipment that enhances our members' ability
7 to protect New Yorkers, and through critical
8 transportation and port infrastructure. Regarding
9 the Executive Budget and its impact on the NYPD, the
10 NYPD's Fiscal Year 2020 City Tax Levy Expense Budget
11 is \$5.3 billion. The vast majority of this, 91% is
12 allocated to personnel costs. Highlights in the
13 Executive Budget include additional funding for IT
14 maintenance totaling \$11.3 million annually, funding
15 for 64 additional school crossing guard posts
16 totaling \$960,000 in Fiscal Year 2020 and the out-
17 years. In order to fulfill the Police Department's
18 commitment towards compliance with the Americans With
19 Disabilities Act funding of \$162,000 in Fiscal Year
20 2019 and \$2.4 million in Fiscal Year 2020 and expense
21 funds to cover building rehabilitation that cannot be
22 covered with capital funds. The NYPD's Ten-Year
23 Capital Commitment Plan contains \$2.1 billion for
24 Fiscal Years 2019 through 2029. The Executive
25

2 Capital Plan included additional funding of \$29.3
3 million for ADA compliance renovations. The Police
4 Department's goal is to have fully or partially
5 accessible public areas within station houses and as
6 many of our facilities as possible. In closing, I
7 can tell you our city is much—is in much better shape
8 today than it was when I became a cop back in 1983.
9 Those of you who lived and worked here decades ago
10 know it, too, and each year we make even greater
11 headway. Together we are proving that New York City
12 is the place that others across our country wanted to
13 emulate, and we are setting—and we are setting that
14 tone for New York policing. Throughout the
15 tremendous changes we continue to undertake in the
16 NYPD we have had Mayor de Blasio's full support, and
17 we have benefitted greatly from the City Council's
18 support as well. I want to—I thank you for your
19 ongoing partnership and assistance, and for
20 everything you do to help us build a more effective
21 and more efficient NYPD, always with our officers'
22 safety in mind. In my experience, there's a direct
23 correlation between the level of community support
24 for the police and success in fighting crime and
25 terror, and so we will continue to work tirelessly to

2 earn and keep the trust and confidence of all New
3 Yorkers and to ensure that there are even better days
4 ahead. I look forward to working with each of you,
5 and I thank you again for the opportunity to testify
6 this morning. At this point I'm happy to take your
7 questions.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much,
9 Commissioner. We've been joined by Council Members
10 Adam and--and Steve Matteo as well, our Minority
11 Leader. Congratulations on the tremendous reductions
12 in crime that we have seen under your leadership.
13 It's really been wonderful. I just want to talk a
14 little bit first about overtime. As I mentioned in
15 my opening, I understand the department has a new
16 overtime control plan. Can you walk us through the
17 new plan and including when it will take effect and
18 the amount of overtime savings you will--that you'll
19 achieve?

20 VINCENT GRIPPO: Vincent Grippo, Deputy
21 Commissioner of Management and Budget. I--I want to
22 make pretty clear here that there--there really is not
23 a new overtime control plan. For the last three or
24 actually and this will be the fourth Fiscal Year that
25 we have been operating under what we call a Uniformed

2 Overtime Cap. In all of those years we have been
3 looking at—we have non-discretionary overtime, which
4 is details and assignments that require us to use a
5 certain amount of overtime throughout the year, and
6 then we've got other buckets of nondiscretionary
7 overtime where we have cops extending their tours for
8 activity where they can't go off the tour. Then we
9 have discretionary overtime that's used in targeted
10 ways. That overtime has been for the last four
11 Fiscal Years under a strict budget, and what happens
12 in everyone of those four years is we have to look at
13 the nondiscretionary overtime, which can be driven by
14 factors outside of the department's control. So in
15 any given year that overtime can be higher or lower.
16 That impacts the budget we have for discretionary
17 overtime and so then across the department decisions
18 are made how much of the discretionary overtime is
19 authorized. What, you know, ran in the newspaper is
20 the department doing what it's done over the last
21 four year and frankly its done before the overtime
22 cap existed, which is simply managing the overtime in
23 an intelligent way that prioritizes public safety
24 whether it's crime fighting on patrol or

2 investigations in the Detective Bureau that are
3 critical to maintain.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, as you can see
5 from this slide, many of the most common positions
6 that NYPD exceed 20 or 30 hours of overtime per
7 month. Will all uniformed members of the service be
8 impacted by the cap? Can you indicate where you
9 think you'll see the most savings? I would stress
10 again that the—the notion that there is a cap as was
11 represented in the papers is really not accurate.
12 What's happening is again on a case-by-case basis
13 down to the command level there is a budget for
14 discretionary overtime and that budget—ultimately
15 they have to manage that budget, and they do it in
16 various ways. In some—in some instances there may be
17 a reduction across the board and in some instances
18 there may be targeted reductions, but it's reductions
19 in discretionary overtime. We are still authorizing
20 overtime as needed for all of crime fighting
21 initiatives, all of those critical public safety
22 initiatives that we have.

23 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: So, it would be in
24 all those areas that are on the slide?

2 VINCENT GRIPPO: Well, this is—you're
3 doing by rank it looks like. For the—so first of
4 all, the uniformed overtime cap does not affect the
5 safety agents, traffic enforcement agents, and
6 criminalists--

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

8 VINCENT GRIPPO: --nor does it affect the
9 PAAs. I'm not sure if I'm missing any—or the PCTs.
10 So they have separate budgets each of those, and we
11 deal with that in a separate way. So, it would only
12 affect the uniformed titles, and again it's managing
13 to an overall uniformed overtime cap and trying to
14 stay within that cap.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.

16 Regarding Police Communications Technicians
17 specifically, excessive overtime can cause burnout.
18 Does the department have a need for more technicians,
19 and what resources are provided to technicians to
20 avoid burnout?

21 VINCENT GRIPPO: We're assessing that
22 now. So, we have been doing an analysis. Part of
23 the increase in overtime this year is related to
24 training the PCTs on Text to 911, which is a new
25 initiative. So, if you look at the overtime, last

1 year it's not as significant as this year. This year
2 that program is driving it. We're going to evaluate
3 the PCT staffing level through this year into next
4 Fiscal Year once Text to 911 has been implemented,
5 and at that time we'll work with the Mayor's Office
6 if we believe a headcount increase is needed.
7

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. In
9 the Executive Budget Plan the department reduced
10 headcount including 102 positions as part of the
11 hiring freeze, has 130 vacancy reductions in five
12 positions eliminating—eliminated from the Juvenile
13 Crime Desk. Which titles are included in the hiring
14 freeze?

15 VINCENT GRIPPO: So, ultimately what
16 we're doing we have about 400 civilian non-safety
17 vacancies, and those range across civil service
18 titles. At the current time the agreement here is to
19 freeze 100 of those positions. So, it brings—
20 essentially brings our headcount in Fiscal Year 20
21 down by 100 positions. The department is going to
22 evaluate on a case-by-case basis when we deal with
23 either the current vacancies or attrition, we will be
24 prioritizing those vacancies so that impact to—safety
25 impact to staffing levels in the commands, things

1 that could impact civilianization will be
2 prioritized, and we'll be looking at essentially the
3 less essential non-safety civilian positions that
4 will have to remain vacant because of the hiring
5 freeze. The 100 positions in terms of impact to the
6 department I think, you'd say is relatively small
7 given the fact that the size of our non-safety
8 civilian population is about 7,000 employees.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, with respect to
11 the traffic enforcement agent positions there are
12 about 200 open and 130 have been cut. So, what was
13 the rationale in reducing those vacancies from
14 Traffic Enforcement Division?

15 VINCENT GRIPPO: So, the thing that's
16 important to understand about the TEA vacancies is a
17 TEA headcount is we are actually getting a 70-person
18 increase. If you look at the staffing level in
19 Fiscal 19. So, we had—we had essentially pegged 200
20 TEA positions just for Fiscal 19 in the last savings
21 plan last year. We did an assessment throughout the
22 year of the TEA staffing. We're looking at all the
23 Vision Zero initiatives, all the Mayor's initiatives
24 around congestion mitigation, and we've come to a
25 conclusion that that headcount of adding 70 and

2 permanently subtracting the 130 that's the headcount
3 we believe works to implement all those programs.

4 So, we--

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] I was
6 going to say so do you have metrics that you use to
7 determine the effectiveness of the TEAs, or how does
8 that work?

9 VINCENT GRIPPO: Yeah, we do what we--I
10 mean we could share that with you in terms of going
11 over. We look at again prioritizing Vision Zero
12 safety related enforcement and prioritizing
13 congestion mitigation at points throughout the city
14 where we see, and that varies on a myriad of
15 different initiatives like Block the Box. They're
16 countless. So, we can--we can sort of share with you
17 how that--how that looks in terms of resource
18 allocation and cost.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, do you know now
20 what areas new hires would be stationed?

21 VINCENT GRIPPO: New--new hires?

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Like TEAs?

23 VINCENT GRIPPO: We're really maintaining
24 headcount. Chief Chan, do you want to add? Chief,
25 to ahead.

2 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: Again, we—we take a
3 look at the—

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing]
5 State your name for the Record.

6 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: Chief Thomas Chan,
7 Chief of Transportation. We take a look at our
8 actual deployment of our personnel, and again, there
9 are many mayoral programs and safety initiatives to
10 clear lanes, bus lanes and things of that nature, and
11 there's a normal attrition, and there's about
12 approximately 10% of our personnel. We fulfill those
13 positions in terms of the attrition first, and we
14 take a look at the various programs that are going to
15 be Level 2s or Level 1s and things of that nature,
16 and then we will deploy them and replace them a
17 needed.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So about 70 vacancies
19 remain open, though, right?

20 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: And what happened is
21 that we are waiting for the next class, and so based
22 on that we'll take a look at them. We do have
23 traffic agents that transition to—to become police
24 officers and normal retirement and things of that
25 nature. So, we are working to fill those positions.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: What is the attrition
3 rate for the TEAs?

4 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: TEAs, approximately
5 300 per year.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, and when are
7 they eligible for promotion and raises?

8 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: The agents actually
9 of the new hires previously they were hired as Level
10 1. They now have the option to be hired as a Level
11 2, which actually increased their pay. I believe it
12 was previously around \$34,000 a year. They're up to
13 about \$38,000 at present.(sic)

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And do you have an
15 idea about when you'll hire those 70 new TEAs?

16 VINCENT GRIPPO: We have a—we have a,
17 yeah, a June class where we're actually hiring 170
18 because we're dealing with attrition combined with
19 the—the adjusted headcount.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay thank you. Five
21 uniformed positions were cut from the Juvenile Crime
22 leave the unit with only four headcount. What is the
23 primary role of the Juvenile Crime Desk, and is it
24 able to fully function with only four positions?

25 [pause]

2 DERMOT SHEA: Dermot Shea, Chief of
3 Detectives. We routine—within the Juvenile Crime
4 Desk falls under real time crime. There's a number
5 of units within that. One of them deals with
6 primarily intake of calls from members in the field
7 with the passage of the Raise the Age a couple of
8 years ago, that was their primary assignment. We're
9 making sure and funneling new arrests of individuals
10 that are juveniles that are involved in incidents in
11 New York City and how they're processed in the
12 Criminal Justice System. We categorize any—any
13 maneuvering of manpower within that as routine and
14 they have more than enough adequate people come in.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. So,
16 Raise the Age is going to have somewhat of an impact
17 on that.

18 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: Absolutely, but one
19 interesting side note when you look at the decline in
20 arrests overall in New York City the impact has not
21 been as significant as you would have imagined.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.
23 With the—in regard to attrition rates overall there's
24 a—an addition for personnel service costs in Fiscal
25 2019 for \$48.2 million, which is due to lower than

2 expected attrition rates. To what do you attribute
3 the lower than expected attrition rates and is it
4 because of any changes in policy or promotion
5 practices?

6 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Well, I think in
7 previous testimony we've—we've been asked about the
8 rate of people leaving the New York City Police
9 Department, and where our morale stands. I think that
10 has a lot to do with the attrition rate going down.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, morale is up?
12 Uh-hm. Okay, in regard to maintenance costs. A need
13 for IT maintenance was baselined for \$11.3 million.
14 This continues the funding for the IT projects at
15 PSAC2 and a data center. What is the specific
16 maintenance that is being performed there, and is it
17 related to the same ongoing project or are you
18 funding new IT projects?

19 VINCENT GRIPPO: Just to—I mean just to—I
20 mean just you can add if you want, but this is—to be
21 clear, this is a baseline adjustment for capitally
22 funded programs that were funding in prior years
23 where we didn't have sufficient maintenance and
24 expense costs. So, when you talk about data, this is
25 maintaining our Data Center. It maintains the PSAC2.

1 It's stuff that we would have to do, we're obligated
2 to do for again our capital investments and it's-it's
3 simply the adjustment we needed to make the IT
4 Expense Budget more whole.
5

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, does the fact
7 that the funding is baselined indicate that there's
8 no anticipated completion date for these projects?

9 VINCENT GRIPPO: It's not-it-when you-if
10 you design a new data center you then have to
11 maintain it as long as that data center exists. So
12 this is maintenance and costs that have to be paid
13 year in and year out, and we're now funded for them.
14 We weren't-we weren't funded in the out-years for
15 these when we got the capital funding to-to do the
16 actual work.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, the department
18 has other IT capital projects that you funded
19 including I think \$85 million for its Sustain-
20 Sustainability Technology Initiative? Can you talk a
21 little bit about that program? [pause]

22 FEMALE SPEAKER: Sure. So the-that
23 capital program it was to build out new data centers
24 to support all NYPD technology programs. So, for
25 example an upgrade to our network to support the

1 transmission of 25,000 body—sorry, video from 25,000
2 body cameras are transmitting 110,000 videos a day.
3 So, our network required a massive upgrade, massive
4 upgrades to our storage capacities to be able to
5 store all the different types of data that we're
6 collecting. Basically, it's the guts, what exists in
7 the data centers that make the technology
8 transformation that we've seen at the NYPD possible.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And can you just
11 state your name for the record?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: Oh, sorry.
13 I'm Jessica Tisch, Deputy Commissioner of Information
14 Technology.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you,
16 Deputy Commissioner. That's—okay, good. Thank you.
17 Despite all the funding that the NYPD has for complex
18 and advanced technology projects, I think the
19 department still uses typewriters for certain things
20 including accident reports and sound permits. To
21 receive these documents a person must physically go
22 to the precinct. Is there any discussion about
23 eliminating those typewriters and—and putting these
24 applications online or an application process by
25 which people can—can do it with modern technology?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: So, I only
3 heard the accident reports. I didn't hear the
4 second.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Sound permits.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: Okay. I
7 can't speak to sound permits, but for accident
8 reports they are generally taken on department Smart
9 Phone or on a Tablet. So, not pen and paper in our
10 new Records Management System called FORMS, and so
11 there is no typewriter required for those at all, and
12 members of the public who wish to get a copy of their
13 accident reports can get it on our website. We have--
14 we've built a portal that they've been using I think
15 for the past two years that Councilman Deutsch worked
16 with us on and so yeah, there should be no
17 typewriters involved in accident reports.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. What about
19 sound permits?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: I'm going to
21 have to get back to you on sound permits.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, and is there
23 anyway that you could apply online for sound permits
24 or even any type of a parade permit let's say?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: I'm going to
3 look into that for you, and we're going to get back
4 to you on that--

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: --but to me
7 as the head of IT hearing about typewriters is
8 horrifying.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, me, too. School
10 Crossing Guards. The Budget includes \$969,000 in
11 baselined funding for 64 part-time school crossing
12 guards. Where would these guards be assigned?

13 [background comments]

14 CHIEF HARRISON: Good morning. Rodney
15 Harrison, Chief of Patrol. Just--if I could just
16 touch on the numbers real quickly. We're budgeted
17 for 2,638. Right now we have 151 vacancies. We try
18 to put most of our school crossing guards at the
19 post, the priority post to make sure that the--that
20 the youth get to their destination safely. I
21 apologize. I don't have the locations or the vacancy
22 posts on me at this time, but I'll definitely get
23 back to you regarding those.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And I know
3 recruitment in the past was an issue. Has
4 recruitment for school crossing guards gotten better?

5 CHIEF HARRISON: Absolutely. We're doing
6 as much as we can. We're putting it on social media.
7 We're passing them out at all the different community
8 meetings especially the Build a Block meetings at
9 each Neighborhood Coordination officer has. So,
10 we're using all the resources to make sure we get the
11 information out to the public.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, that was 70
13 vacancies are less than what you had in the past?

14 CHIEF HARRISON: I apologize for this.
15 The number was 151 in-in--

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I'm sorry.

17 CHIEF HARRISON: Yeah, yes, yes, it is.

18 VINCENT GRIPPO: Yeah, it was a headcount
19 increase that was reflected in the Budget. So, that
20 will take us above that big number.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Right. Okay.
22 Alright, thank you. There's another issue that I
23 wanted to address specific to some issues that I'm
24 seeing even in my own district. So, this is a little
25 bit of chair privilege here, but according to the

1 Mayor's Management Report, in Fiscal 2018, there were
2 1,772 graffiti arrests, but no-no graffiti summonses.
3 What determines whether someone would get arrested of
4 get a summons for graffiti, and why are summonses
5 used less often?
6

7 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Criminal Mischief
8 is a crime. It's a misdemeanor within the Penal Law.
9 It can actually be a felony within the Penal Law
10 depending on the amount of damage that's done. It's
11 not eligible for a summons.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, and
13 commissioner in the 110th and the 115th Precinct we've
14 seen a huge increase—I shouldn't say a huge increase,
15 but an increase, but we've seen an increase in gang
16 activity. You know, there was that killing on the
17 subway platform, and then there was a subsequent
18 killing maybe a week or so after that. I think that
19 they were gang related, but what we've also seen is
20 tagging. It's all over Jackson Heights and in-in the
21 Elmhurst Area. The 110th has been responding, but
22 often times in the 115th often times they say that
23 they don't have the budget to cover up the graffiti,
24 and it's 18th Street. I haven't even said the gang
25 names, but I'm sure you're familiar with them. Is

2 that in your budget, or how is that dealt with within
3 the department. [background comments/pause] I know
4 some of the NCO officers have gone out and actually
5 done some of the removal of the graffiti?

6 CHIEF HARRISON: So, if you don't mind if
7 I could just touch on it. So, we're doing a lot of
8 work with the explorers to make sure we covered up-
9 cover up some of these graffiti concerns. We do a
10 lot of networking with the community residents
11 [coughs] to ask them to help us out. Where we're
12 using our auxiliary, our cadets so we—we do a lot of
13 work with our interns and our volunteers to make sure
14 that we get the graffiti concerns covered up with-
15 with the—in the—in the inappropriate locations.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Is there any type of
17 faster process if it's like gang related graffiti?
18 Because, you know, what happens is that they take it
19 down and then it goes right back up, and it's like
20 they're making the areas as their own.

21 CHIEF HARRISON: Well, these are the
22 things that—

23 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Go ahead—go ahead
24 Rodney.

2 CHIEF HARRISON: These are things that we
3 need to continue to have discussions with the
4 Neighborhood Coordination Officers. If it's
5 something that the—that is brought to their
6 attention, they'll—they'll continue to work on, and
7 addressing that if they even have to put some type of
8 observation posts in place and make sure we identify
9 the people that are continuing to do it, and then
10 we'll address it that way, but yeah, we—we have
11 things in place to make sure that it's—it's not—
12 continues as an event.

13 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: It also depends on
14 where the graffiti is. If it's private property then
15 we work with the owners, but if it's a city or state
16 agency, we work with those agencies to get it removed
17 as quickly as possible. Chief Shea will talk about
18 what we do about gang activity.

19 CHIEF SHEA: Yeah, just specifically to
20 gang activity graffiti, Chief Harrison was absolutely
21 on point. One of the things we do before we clean it
22 is and before we work with the precincts and any
23 community groups, we want to capture that for
24 intelligence purposes. We have seen some gang
25 activity in that Corona, Jackson Heights. You

2 mentioned a couple of the incidents, but it's very
3 important for us to capture, and try to learn, you
4 know, who was operating in a particular area, and
5 this all comes back to the precision piece of how
6 we've been policing, dropping, dropping the arrests
7 from the peak over 40% that's specifically targeting.
8 We've done a number of cases in the 110, 115 in the
9 last couple of years centered around gang activity,
10 selling of guns, selling of narcotics outside of
11 those individual incidents. I can tell you that
12 recently we had somebody sending me a Tweet, believe
13 it or not, on graffiti, but we also have our Transit-
14 Transit Vandal Squad do excellent work in connecting
15 these tags. So, the Intelligence for us is paramount
16 to connect them where else in the city are we seeing
17 this? Is it gang related, localized in one area or
18 is it somebody that's just throwing up tags
19 throughout the city and trying to build a
20 prosecutable case? So, we've had a lot of success in
21 that.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, do you feel that
23 like there's enough money in the budget to deal with
24 this-with these tags.

25 CHIEF SHEA: For the removal of the tags?

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.

3 CHIEF SHEA: We don't have money
4 specifically for removal of tags yet.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, how does that
6 happen?

7 CHIEF SHEA: [interposing] You've got—if
8 you have to go to private concerns, then we have to
9 go to the agencies involved.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, does it--I've
11 heard that EDC is willing to help. I know Queens EDC
12 is willing to help. That's how the one-tenth, we've
13 gotten some of it removed, but, you know, it does
14 pose a problem and it also poses a problem with—with
15 public sentiment about—because they recognize that
16 tags and what's happening, and that's why I'm—I'm—I'm
17 pressing on this.

18 CHIEF SHEA: Well, we also work with—I
19 mean with the officers that at a patrol level are
20 going after it. If is on a store, they're working
21 with the store owners. They're working with the
22 building owners. If it's on MTA property we're
23 working with the MTA. So, there's a myriad of ways
24 that we take a look at this, and—and it's also, quite
25

2 frankly it's done at the community grassroots level
3 without PD involvement sometimes.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yeah, we have a—as
5 beautification group that works on it, but I have
6 gotten some requests from both precincts for money
7 for graffiti removal. So, that's why I was pressing
8 on that, but okay, alright. So, let's talk more
9 about that as we move on. Argus cameras. Each year
10 many of my colleagues provide capital funding to the
11 department for Argus cameras in their districts.
12 What is the total number of cameras now, and how many
13 cameras are being planned for installation in 2020?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: Can I add to
15 my answer on the parade permits and the sound
16 permits? Parade permits are fully available and
17 submitted online, and sound permits you can get the
18 actual form that you have to fill out online. It's a
19 pdf available online, and then you generally bring it
20 into the precinct because they like to have a face-
21 to-face meeting to discuss different parameters. So,
22 no typewriters.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, great. Thank
24 you.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: Argus
3 cameras. We have about over 2,000 Argus cameras now
4 citywide. For us it's not just about putting the
5 actual box up on the light pole. We want to network
6 that camera so that the video data doesn't just live
7 on the pole so that it can be seen in real time by
8 the officers who work in the precinct that they
9 cover. We have completed a massive upgrade of all of
10 our old Argus cameras. So, they're all like new,
11 modern and working. We are up to date meaning for
12 the last Fiscal Year. We've put up all of the boxes
13 that we committed to, and now with the new funding
14 that we've recently been given we've already started
15 surveys of all of the different locations for Argus
16 cameras, and our goal that we're holding ourselves to
17 is to fully commit all of the Argus funding that the
18 Council gives us in the Fiscal Year that it's given
19 to us.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And what is the
21 policy regarding accessing footage both internally
22 and for the public?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: So, we
24 generally give access to our-to Argus cameras to
25 officers in the precinct where the Argus camera

2 exists. In terms of accessing video from the public,
3 that's usually done through a FOIL request.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Through—oh a FOIL.
5 Okay. Alright, thank you. Rodman's Neck Facility.
6 The budget includes \$274 million in funding for the
7 Rodman's Neck Firearms Training Facility. Can you
8 share with the committee the progress of the
9 renovations of the—at the facility?

10 VINCENT GRIPPO: Yes. So, we started our
11 formal design for the facility in September of 2018.
12 We are going to be working through different phases
13 of the design--this is a very complex project—through
14 April of 2021, and we anticipate based on, you know,
15 we're still early enough in design to that it's very
16 difficult to put construction schedules out—out in
17 place, but that's—the project itself right now is
18 projecting to come in the summer of 2025. Now,
19 again, understand the biggest complication here and
20 the reason this construction schedule is so long is
21 we need to keep the—a certain number of ranges active
22 throughout the project. So, we are going to try to
23 engineer solutions that can be creative and bring
24 down that timeline, but at this point based on what
25 our initial design consultants are saying, in order

2 to allow us to continue to use the range to qualify,
3 which is critical for our officers, you know, that we
4 add the full completion of the project will take
5 until 2025. Another key thing to note is we will be
6 prioritizing the sound mitigation components of the
7 construction, and we are looking at interim or
8 temporary sound mitigation measures that we could put
9 in place at the beginning of the construction phase.
10 So, even though you won't see full completion of the
11 project for many, many years, unfortunately, you will
12 see improvements to the sound issues sooner than
13 that.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Is this the only
15 firearms training site or are there other ones?

16 VINCENT GRIPPO: Essentially, it's where
17 all of our cops go to qualify. We have a couple of
18 indoor ranges in our facilities, in a number of
19 facilities, but they would not be sufficient by any
20 means to over qualifications. We have also increased
21 the number of firearm tactics simulator training
22 centers by opening one in each patrol borough, but
23 again, the—the cops need a place to actually shoot
24 and Rodman's Neck is that place.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you, and
3 last and then I'll turn it over to my Co-Chair, can
4 you highlight the major capital improvement projects
5 that have been completed recently as well as the main
6 priorities for the next Fiscal Year?

7 VINCENT GRIPPO: So, one second. Sorry.
8 Our Capital Priorities—sorry. So, for Fiscal Year
9 20, it would be—essentially, the priorities we have
10 the large projects, which are Rodman's Neck, the
11 116th Precinct, which is a new precinct in Queens,
12 Property Clerk Warehouse Consolidation Project where
13 we're still in site selection. That's going to be a
14 central evidence and warehouse—central property and
15 evidence warehouse that replaces some facilities that
16 were badly damaged during Sandy. We also have—I'm
17 just going to try to move quickly through this—our
18 headquarters security barriers are being replaced.
19 We have the ADA compliance projects, which now that
20 we have the capital funding will be prioritized next
21 Fiscal Year, and then we have a number of IT
22 projects, encrypted radios, radio infrastructure and
23 systems upgrades, some additional work with Argus,
24 and some work in our Crime Lab.

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. Alright,
3 thank you. I'm going to turn it over now to Chair
4 Richards. Oh, I'm sorry. Just before do, we've been
5 joined by Council Member-- Council Member Deutsch,
6 Vallone, and Cabrera.

7 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you, Chair
8 and great questions. Always good to see you,
9 Commissioner and first up I want to thank you for
10 coming out to Southeast Queens last week. It really
11 showed a lot of progress that the department has made
12 with the local community, and always good to see you
13 here. I know you're always so enthused to come and
14 testify before this committee. So, first off, let's
15 get into the nitty-gritty budget question. The
16 NYPD's Budget is divided into units of appropriation
17 into eight program areas. Over 60% is in the
18 Operations Program area so it does not provide
19 detail, as you can see up there. However, the
20 budget Function Analysis does go further by using 18
21 program areas of which Patrol is the largest area,
22 and is 30% of the Budget. So, it is more specific,
23 but the Council has asked for several years to
24 increase the unit of appropriations to the 18 program
25 areas, but we have not received the request. Only a

1 bunch of TBDs. Do you see that? We're TBD'd out.
2
3 Can you commit to providing a timeline for updating
4 us on the—the U of A's?

5 VINCENT GRIPPO: So, I committed on the
6 record if you remember in March that we would sit
7 down and have some conversations then. We are having
8 those conversations. As far—as far as I—I know,
9 we've had some conversations internally with the
10 Mayor's Office about how to approach this. Again, I
11 testified in March that the—the plan that you guys
12 set forth there are some challenges if you create
13 that many U of A's, the biggest issue being the way
14 that we move our personnel resources around to deal
15 with the priorities we have that, you know, crime
16 fighting, counterterrorism, the amount of changes,
17 the volume of changes could become a concern. We
18 think we—we're making progress on a solution that
19 gets more transparency in the U of A's and what I—I
20 checked in with OMB last night. I believe we're
21 engaging your staff, City Council staff in this
22 conversation with a hope to resolve it over the
23 summer and then have a new list of U of A's that
24 would increase the number going into next Fiscal
25 Year.

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: So the next time
3 we sit down next year we're not going to see all
4 these TBDs.

5 VINCENT GRIPPO: I-I-don't-I'd have to
6 look. We'll have a new list of--I think we are
7 committing to--to increase the number of U of A's. It
8 may not look exactly like that, but I think that's
9 what our conversation--

10 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And when can we
11 expect it? I'm looking. Is it June? Is it July?

12 VINCENT GRIPPO: I don't have an exact
13 date, but I-I was told that--

14 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing] Is
15 it before the end of the year?

16 VINCENT GRIPPO: I was told we're having
17 these conversations with an attempt to resolve this
18 during the summer.

19 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, great.
20 Alright, so summer we've heard. Okay, you heard
21 that.

22 VINCENT GRIPPO: Didn't--didn't say what
23 year.

24 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [laughter] We're
25 going to go into Traffic Enforcement. I want to talk

2 a little bit about the safety of our roads and
3 highways. There has been nearly 19,000 injuries this
4 year alone, which is roughly the same as last year.
5 Unfortunately, there was also 67 fatal collisions a
6 20% increase over the same period last year. In
7 March alone, ten pedestrians were killed in motor
8 vehicle collisions, hit and run perpetrators should
9 be punished for causing a death or critical injury,
10 but in 2018 there were 46 incidents involving
11 critical injuries where the driver left the scene of
12 the accident and only 35% of these drivers were found
13 and arrested. So, you know, I think we've talked
14 about this is Prelim a little bit. The Council has
15 asked for more robust investigations on collisions by
16 increasing the number of detectives at the Collision
17 Investigation Squad. Does the Collision
18 Investigation Squad investigate every traffic
19 fatality, and do you believe they need more resources
20 based on these numbers we're seeing?

21 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: Currently, in terms
22 of the personnel that are assigned to our Collision
23 Investigation Squad we have one lieutenant, four
24 sergeants and 24 detectives. What happened is that
25 as you indicated, the number of collisions actually

1 this year to actually going to May the 12th, the
2 collisions actually have decreased by 6%. We have
3 74,263 collisions that occurred through May the 12th
4 and a 6% decrease. Collisions with injuries:
5 14,665, a decrease of .8%. The total number of
6 injuries actually increased slightly a half a
7 percent, 19,967 plus .5%. When we take a look at the
8 injuries, we're looking at occupant injuries,
9 pedestrian injuries and now bicycle injuries. In the
10 category of pedestrian injuries, where certainly
11 pedestrians are more vulnerable since it's a vehicle
12 versus a car, the injuries actually decreased 5.6%.
13 That's 3,779. We continue and after five years of
14 consecutive reductions in traffic fatalities through
15 Vision Zero. Again, one fatality is one too many.
16 Last year we had 202 traffic fatalities. Our traffic
17 records only go back to 1910-1910. 202 is the lowest
18 in our history of NYPD recordkeeping, and to put it
19 into perspective, the Model T Ford came out in 1908,
20 two years prior to that. So, our reductions in
21 traffic fatalities in New York City with a population
22 of 8.6 million people, over 2 million vehicles
23 registered is phenomenal, and this a collective
24 effort with our agencies through education,
25

1 enforcement and engineering and all our partners in
2 city agencies and our elected officials. We are
3 continuing to work on these issues. Our strategies
4 this year. One of our main strategies you will see
5 this year is about our left turn. I think that
6 through our programs and our strategies that we've
7 implemented over the years we continue to change the
8 culture of our drivers, but nevertheless, we do have
9 collisions, we do have injuries that are occurring.
10 What happened is as you mentioned before and our
11 fatalities this year as of the 12th or on Sunday,
12 pedestrians we have a slight increase in pedestrian
13 fatalities, 41 versus 37. Motor vehicle operators, 9
14 versus 12, and actually a decrease of 25%. Motor
15 cycle operators, which we saw a dramatic increase
16 last year of 42 versus an increase last year. So, we
17 are also targeting that area. Left turns, motor
18 vehicle operators and again, through the hazardous
19 violations we think that we can get a reduction and
20 again we don't want any fatality. We don't want any
21 injuries, but we are heading in that direction.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Right and I—I know
24 we were out rallying just this Sat—this Saturday on
25 safety and off of Northern Boulevard. So, this is a

1
2 major concern for communities and we still are seeing
3 fatalities go up, correct?

4 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: Right now we are up
5 on fatalities year to day, but nevertheless as the
6 programs that we've implemented the--the enforcement
7 that's being done out there and, again, we're
8 utilizing our officers, our Traffic Safety Team, and
9 the precinct personnel to target the violations that
10 we think are going to reduce the number of injuries
11 out there, and through the education we continue to
12 work on our seniors. So, seniors represent close to
13 13% of our population, but anybody over 60
14 unfortunately, they represent close to almost 58% of
15 our fatalities in terms of pedestrians. So, our
16 Community Affairs, our Traffic Safety Teams are going
17 out to our senior centers and locations where we have
18 seniors to target that. You'll see our auxiliaries
19 out there assisting our--our children and also our
20 seniors crossing streets, and we--the auxiliaries have
21 been phenomenal with that and working on that
22 program.

23 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And I know last
24 year we did a briefing on drones. Have drones been

2 used to map accident shift as well? Have the drone
3 technology.

4 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: [interposing] I
5 believe that is something that we are taking a look
6 at, and you mentioned Norther Boulevard. I was out
7 there on Northern Boulevard with—at the 115, IS 115,
8 the Martin Luther King Middle School and we did a
9 traffic program, and we had a great response. We had
10 young children and high school students from that
11 area. So again, it's a work in progress.

12 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, okay, I'm
13 going to move from this, but I certainly implore the
14 department to make sure that we are taking a serious
15 look at this. Let's go into DMA quick. So we did
16 notice there is supposed to be a climate controlled
17 DNA Storage facility at the new Property Storage
18 Clerk Facility that—that is the department's largest
19 capital project at \$420 million. How is DNA stored
20 there and for how long?

21 VINCENT GRIPPO: The project is a new—
22 that would be a new facility so we're still in site
23 selection. We're currently storing evidence in a
24 leased warehouse right now at Second Avenue, but
25

1 that's temporary until we get the--the new facility
2 open.
3

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: So you're in--
5 you're not in acquisition? You're looking for a new
6 facility?

7 VINCENT GRIPPO: We're--we're still in
8 site acquisition--

9 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay.

10 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: --so, we are looking
11 for a--a property.

12 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And when does
13 design and when does phases again?

14 VINCENT GRIPPO: Until we have a property
15 we really can't make that--you know, we can't put a
16 schedule in place.

17 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay. Which
18 division is available with the collection source and
19 access of DNA?

20 CHIEF SHEA: Support Services Division.

21 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Support Services
22 Division and how many people are staffed to the
23 Division that holds the database for DNA?

24 CHIEF SHEA: So, I don't have the exact
25 number now.

2 CHIEF SHEA: So, so DNA obviously has
3 been in the news very much recently. The Custodian
4 of the DNA Database is the Office of the Chief
5 Medical Examiner. So, from the NYPD the answer would
6 be zero.

7 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And let me—I'm
8 going to ask a little off budget questions as I'm
9 sure you've anticipated on DNA. Does the department
10 engage in DNA dragnets where they sweep up a bunch of
11 people based on their race in order to take their
12 DNA?

13 CHIEF SHEA: No.

14 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And, you know,
15 obviously I want to steer clear of the case that
16 just-that just happened, but there are reports out
17 there that , you know, obviously there were 300 black
18 and brown people from East New York whose DNA was
19 taken. You are aware that based on the Fourth
20 Amendment it would be illegal to just walk up to
21 someone and force them to spit into a cup so that you
22 could take their DNA, right?

23 CHIEF SHEA: As I said, we do not
24 participate in dragnets. Is it true that the NYPD
25 allows its detectives to hold them until they are

1
2 desperate for water or a smoke specifically to get
3 around the fact that you're not allowed to take DNA
4 without consent or search people without probable
5 cause?

6 CHIEF SHEA: Yeah, that's patently false.

7 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, alrighty.

8 So, you bet my gist on DNA. So, we—we definitely
9 want to see a lot more transparency around the
10 practices on DNA, and right now there's clearly no
11 transparency or accountability when it comes to this.
12 Those--

13 CHIEF SHEA: [interposing] I can give you
14 and overview if you'd like.

15 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Sure and those 300
16 individuals' DNAs who were stored, is it permanently
17 stored or can you speak to just that entire process?

18 CHIEF SHEA: As I said, the Custodian of
19 the DNA Database or the local database, which is the
20 subject of much debate lately is the Office of the
21 Chief Medical Examiner, but the collection of DNA
22 certainly is within the purview of the NYPD, and most
23 frequently the Detective Bureau. Just to give you a
24 broad overview of to dispel some of the
25

1
2 misinformation that's in the media, there's currently
3 about 80,000 profiles in the local database.

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Uh-hm.

5 CHIEF SHEA: More than half of those
6 profiles we do not know those individuals are. Those
7 are profiles of crime scene DNA that is collected
8 that we are attempting to identify. When you look at
9 who the remainder are, there are missing persons in
10 that database. There are some police officers that
11 work in the lab and other units that out of necessity
12 have their DNA in that system. What you are left
13 with, which is about 29,000 samples that were
14 collected from individuals, 29,000. When you look at
15 the average contacts that the NYPD has, you are in
16 the millions however you slice the data. We-we would
17 make historically 400,000 arrests a year going back
18 many years. We are not collecting randomly anyone's
19 DNA. If we did, we--there would be a database of
20 millions and millions of people. It is 29,000
21 people. Almost 90% last year were collected at the
22 time of arrest to strengthen the arrest that is in
23 front of them. It would be negligent on our part of
24 our detectives to not be collecting the DNA--

25 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Right.

2 CHIEF SHEA: --for cases such as that in
3 a sex crime, in a burglary, in a gun prosecution. We
4 were actually asked by the district attorneys of New
5 York City to change our policy several years ago to
6 strengthen those gun prosecutions. So, I'm very
7 comfortable where we are in terms of the size. It's
8 a small number, and it's uniquely tied to individual
9 crimes that are being investigated.

10 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And how long is
11 that DNA stored?

12 CHIEF SHEA: That would be a question for
13 the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. There are
14 processes in place that they have for individuals to
15 request to have it expunged, et cetera. I defer to
16 the-

17 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing] So
18 they have the process to have it expunged, and how
19 would- So, these alleged-I am going to just say
20 alleged although, you know, the Daily News reported
21 on this, those alleged 300 individuals, over 300
22 individuals who were swabbed so their DNA is still
23 there. How long would their DNA--?

24 CHIEF SHEA: Yeah, again, I would defer
25 to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and I

2 will not speak to the Crono (sp?) case with ongoing
3 litigation.

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And do you—the-so
5 you're saying you don't have information on these
6 profiles of the—of the individuals whose DNAs are
7 stored?

8 CHIEF SHEA: The—the Office of the Chief
9 Medical Examiner is the entity that maintains that
10 database. We collect the evidence. We process it,
11 and we ship it and if a profile can be developed,
12 they are the custodians of that.

13 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: So, if we
14 requested the data, we would go through them, and
15 would we be able to get that broken down by geography
16 and race?

17 CHIEF SHEA: That's a question that would
18 be best suited for the ME.

19 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, alrighty,
20 you get my gist where we're going with this.
21 Alright, we're going to move—

22 CHIEF SHEA: Chair, Chair—

23 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Yes.
24
25

2 CHIEF SHEA: --and we are taking a look
3 at the along with the OCME at our policies and
4 procedures.

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.

6 CHIEF SHEA: And then be reminded that it
7 does help prosecution, but it also exonerates people.

8 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Right, but, you
9 know, just based on the alleged articles that are out
10 there, you know, I don't think we have 300 suspects
11 in that specific case, and-and I know, you know, we
12 were looking to--I'm going to move away from the case,
13 but I just want to say black and brown people in
14 certain geographies should not just be tested based
15 on their geography and race.

16 CHIEF SHEA: And they aren't.

17 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay. Alrighty,
18 we're going to move to dispatch times for a second.
19 According to analysis by the Independent Budget
20 Office, dispatch times vary widely by precinct and by
21 borough. In 2018, the Bronx had an average dispatch
22 time of 5.6 minutes, roughly two minutes more than
23 the city average. Do you take dispatch times into
24 account when allocating resources?

2 CHIEF SHEA: Yes, we do, and upon
3 instituting Neighborhood Policing those times have
4 come down significantly. Jess, you want to talk
5 about it a little bit? [pause]

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: The--the I
7 don't have the numbers broken out by precinct or by
8 borough, but citywide since 2014 year over year our
9 dispatch times for crimes in progress and critical
10 crimes in progress have gone down. So, I'm not sure
11 exactly what numbers you're referring to, and we can
12 do further analysis if there's a specific precinct
13 that you're interested in.

14 CHIEF HARRISON: Yeah, I have the
15 numbers.

16 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing]
17 Yeah, in the Bronx the--the average dispatch times
18 were 5.6 minutes roughly two minutes more than the
19 city average. Is that true or--?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: So, I need to
21 run the numbers. I'm run the numbers--

22 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing]
23 Okay.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: --
25 specifically for the Borough of the Bronx and we can

2 break it down also by precinct and then go over it
3 with you.

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And how many
5 dispatchers are assigned to a precinct?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: Well,
7 there's--there's one dispatcher per zone on duty at
8 each--at every--at all times. Usually there's two
9 precincts per zone. So, one dispatcher would cover
10 two precincts.

11 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And do you have
12 any kind of internal review that you hold if and when
13 a patrol unit is dispatched particularly slow and
14 this is an important radio call?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TISCH: Yes, we work
16 with the Chief of Patrol's Office to make sure and
17 the Housing Bureau to make sure that every job that
18 is dispatched gets followed up on for sure.

19 CHIEF HARRISON: Mr. Chair I have the
20 answers that you are looking for. So, you just look
21 at the year to date from January 1st to May 12th.
22 Citywide we're down seven minutes to 7 minutes and
23 seven seconds. Manhattan South is down 10%.
24 Manhattan North is up .5. The Bronx is actually down
25 3%. Brooklyn South is down 2%. The one borough that

1 we are seeing a little bit of a struggle is the
2 Brooklyn North. They're up 12%. Queens South is
3 down 1%. Queens North is down 3% and Staten Island
4 is doing very good at 10%. These jobs that we
5 identify as how we determine our response times are
6 pretty much jobs—jobs or calls that are in progress.
7 So, overall, I'm very happy with the 1.6% numbers
8 that we're—that we're down with. If there is a
9 precinct or a borough that had—seems to be struggling,
10 we ask the borough commander as well as the executive
11 officers in that borough to take a closer look to see
12 what they're doing and make sure that they have a
13 policy or some type of protocol in place to make sure
14 that there's better oversight in regarding the steady
15 sectors or the response autosue (sic) put over there
16 84 times, which is letting the dispatcher know that
17 these arrived to the—to the location, and they are
18 going to conduct and investigation.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: So, you feel
21 comfortable where you're at and I know—I think it was
22 the city I think had an article on dispatch times in
23 the Bronx.

24

25

2 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: I think the numbers
3 are inaccurate. Like I said, and the Bronx it's
4 actually down 3.2% this time.

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay.

6 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: And Chair if there's
7 an individual 9/11 job that we're concerned about,
8 we can track the movement of the responding police
9 vehicle by-through AVL automatic-Automatic Vehicle
10 Locator, which we have on every car.

11 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay.

12 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Great. Let's go
14 into civilianization for a second. The department
15 has recognized approximately 360 positions that could
16 be civilianized. Are you developing a plan to
17 civilianize these positions, and if not, why not.

18 VINCENT GRIPPO: Well sot there's again
19 part of this in terms of civilianization funding new
20 civilian positions in a-in a time where we were
21 looking at pegs was really not feasible. So, in the
22 past we were fortunate enough to get 600, about 615
23 positions funded through the Mayor's Office to
24 Initiate civilianization, but separately as we've
25 testified in the past, we have been doing internal

1
2 civilianization to increase the headcount on patrol
3 beyond what was funded in terms of new cops and—and
4 new civilian positions. The 300 and some odd
5 positions that we've identified in the next phase,
6 you know, absent getting funding because these are
7 really critical functions, absent getting new
8 civilian lines, it's unlikely that we're going to be
9 able to recognize civilianization for those
10 positions, but we're still constantly re-evaluating
11 what were, you know, what are resources look like,
12 and if we have opportunities to civilianize through
13 self funding—funded initiatives, we're taking
14 advantage of that.

15 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Uh-hm, and in
16 Fiscal 2016 you—the department instituted a plan to
17 civilianize 415 positions, which is not complete, and
18 I want to give you kudos on that. Do you have
19 estimates for how much this civilianization plan
20 saved the department?

21 VINCENT GRIPPO: I apologize. I don't
22 have that with me today, but we can share that with
23 your office.

24 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: If you can get
25 that back to us.

2 VINCENT GRIPPO: Yep.

3 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: I want to hop on
4 the Crisis Intervention Training quickly. So, it's
5 \$5.3 million for Crisis Intervention Training, which
6 was added in the Preliminary Budget. Do you have an
7 update on the number of officers trained since the
8 Preliminary Budget hearing? I think we had a goal,
9 you had a goal of training roughly 80 officers per
10 week. Where are we at?

11 CHIEF SHORTELL: Good afternoon. Theresa
12 Shortell, Chief of Training. It's presently 90
13 officers per week.

14 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: 90 per week. Yeah?

15 CHIEF SHORTELL: Yes, 90 per week. We
16 have 12,686 active MLS's trained.

17 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alrighty, and the
18 Council called on the Administration to include DHA's
19 peace officers for CR training. Do you agree and
20 will you work with them to prioritize the IT for NYPD
21 working in shelters as well as DHS peace officers.

22 CHIEF SHORTELL: Yes, we've been in touch
23 with Chief Thompson. He's doing New York DHS.

24 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: So, they are--

25 CHIEF SHORTELL: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: --and you agree
3 with that, and in the Exec there is an additional
4 \$790,000 for CIT overtime. Is overtime funding not
5 included in the money that was provided to CIT in the
6 Preliminary Budget?

7 VINCENT GRIPPO: So, I think that was in
8 the Preliminary Budget for--yeah, I think the CIT that
9 was funded was a combination of overtime and our
10 obligation to pay the contractor that's doing the
11 training. So, it was \$1.4 million in overtime to
12 cover the time the officers are in training and then
13 the OTPS, which is the contractor's \$1.3 million.

14 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay. Hate crime
15 is up over 60% this year. Are you planning on adding
16 any additional staff to the Hate Crimes Unit, and how
17 many staff are currently assigned? [pause]

18 CHIEF SHEA: Fortunately the--the number
19 that you quoted I think it's slightly higher.
20 Currently through May 12th, we've recorded 168 and
21 these numbers could change as the investigations are
22 fluid, but currently, we're categorizing 168
23 incidents. That's up from 94, an increase of 74 or
24 79% increase. In terms of the staffing at Hate
25

2 Crimes, it's something we certainly look at. We are
3 comfortable where we are now.

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Just where you're
5 at?

6 CHIEF SHEA: I'm sorry?

7 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: What are your
8 numbers there?

9 CHIEF SHEA: It's roughly 25
10 investigators in the Hate Crimes Unit. What's
11 important to note here is the distinction that these
12 investigations have gone often parallel with local
13 detective squads and investigations. So, they will
14 at times supplement the investigation that's all--
15 already going on, but once we deem it that it is a
16 possible hate crime, hate crimes members will take it
17 over. We have a number of patterns here. The nature
18 of the crimes I could break through them, but for--
19 for brevity I'll leave--leave it out. There is a
20 number of graffiti stickers, things of that nature
21 where these cases often turn into the strongest lead
22 we have is building patterns, identifying who it is
23 and retrieving--the retrieval of video, but I will
24 tell you that our arrests for hate crimes
25 investigated in New York City is up substantially.

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, just a few
3 more questions.

4 CHIEF SHEA: A 50% increase.

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: A 50% increase.
6 Okay, and you're comfortable with where your staffing
7 levels are, though.

8 CHIEF SHEA: I am right now. I do
9 appreciate the question, but if-if we need to shift
10 resources, we can certainly do that, but I am
11 comfortable where it is right now.

12 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: And any report of
13 any hate crime is taken very seriously. There is zero
14 tolerance for any hate crime. As a matter of fact,
15 it's so important we dispatch a Police Executive
16 Captain or higher to every-every reported hate crime.

17 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you. I'm
18 going to-before it turn it over to my colleagues, I
19 have two off-budget questions. One in regard-
20 revolving around 50-A. You said before you support
21 the amendment, but not the repeal of 50-A, and one of
22 the reasons you cite-cited in your op-ed in the Post
23 is 154 threats against officers last year. Is there
24 any reason to believe that those threats have
25 anything to do with disciplinary records?

2 CHIEF SHEA: At this time it doesn't, but
3 there, but there is always the potential for that.
4 This is--this is something that we--we agree with, and
5 I've stated this on numerous occasions that 50-A does
6 need to be amended. We do need to when there is a
7 final disposition, we need to put the--the charge out
8 there, the police officer's--the police officer's
9 identity, of course, and then--and--and--a follow-up
10 with the--the documentation that goes along with that
11 case. That's important that we put that out there,
12 but do we--we also--policing is a dangerous job. I
13 think everybody in this room would agree with that,
14 and to put police officers more at risk by revealing
15 their identities in certain cases I think would be
16 irresponsible.

17 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: But isn't it true
18 that there are the laws on the book that prevent the
19 release of information that would compromise and
20 officer's safety?

21 CHIEF SHEA: And this is what we want to
22 amend 50-A.

23 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing] No,
24 problem with that Law Section. Okay.

25 CHIEF SHEA: That's why we're open.

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, so—and where
3 are we at with that? Where are we at with that in
4 Albany? Are there discussions going on? I know
5 they're out of session I think in June. Has there
6 been progress with the Governor's Office, our leaders
7 up there because we've been hearing that it's now
8 gone on—I feel like I've been chairing two years now
9 and we're still having the same conversation.

10 CHIEF SHEA: Yep, and the—I think the
11 conversation has evolved. We've stated our positions
12 very clearly where we are on 50-A.

13 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And is there any
14 movement you see in Albany right now? Are there any
15 discussions going on?

16 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] There have been
17 some preliminary--

18 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing] So
19 press your mic. Alright.

20 MALE SPEAKER: There are bills that are
21 pending and being considered, but other than that I
22 don't think there has been any further movement.

23 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And are you
24 supporting any—have you taken a stance on any of the
25 particular pieces of legislation?

2 MALE SPEAKER: The-the-we're taking-there
3 is a bill that is consistent with what the
4 Commissioner's Blue Panel Recommended, which is made
5 public and that's the one we're supporting.

6 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, thank you.
7 Alright, last question and this is regarding the Eric
8 Garner case, and I just want to be clear. I know-I
9 know these conversations are very uncomfortable, but
10 race and law enforcement I mean I could beat around
11 the bush, but it's just hard to-to really beat around
12 the bush when on these things. Did you ask the CCRB
13 to recommend immediate retirement with full benefits
14 for Officer Pantaleo?

15 CHIEF SHEA: Did we ask? No, we did not
16 ask that.

17 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay. Is it true
18 that the Internal Affairs Bureau determined this back
19 in 2015 that Officer Pantaleo did engage in a
20 chokehold?

21 MALE SPEAKER: I don't I'll have Kevin--

22 KEVIN RICHARDSON: Kevin Richardson.
23 The IAB investigation was concluded in 2015, and the
24 IAB investigation recommended substantiation that

Officer Pantaleo used a chokehold in the Eric Garner matter.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: So, he did use a chokehold?

KEVIN RICHARDSON: That's what the IAB investigation recommended.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, the NYPD has maintained that it had to wait for the Feds to decide about whether to bring charges, but isn't it true that there are other cases in which the NYPD didn't wait. It fired its officers while the feds were still deciding?

KEVIN RICHARDSON: There are. Yes, it is true. There are a number of cases in the past and currently that the department does not wait for a criminal investigation to complete before we commence our departmental investigation, and prosecution. However, this case was an incredibly serious case, and the federal request came from the Department of Justice asking us to wait, and the department in a spirit of cooperation with the federal government did wait until such time it was apparent that we weren't getting information from the federal government. So, in July of 2018 the department—the Police Department

2 notified the Justice Department that if we didn't get
3 some immediate word from them we would begin
4 prosecution. Thereafter the prosecution began.

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, I mean I
6 started off my testimony talking about this case, and
7 you know, I want you to know the public is watching.
8 This is a defining moment in terms of where we're
9 going with community police relations. So, we're
10 going to be able to see clearly from this case, Mr.
11 Commissioner how serious we really are about holding
12 officers who break the law accountable. With that
13 being said, I want to thank you. I'm going to turn
14 it over to my colleagues now for questions.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much,
16 and we've been joined by Council Member—excuse me,
17 Minority Leader Matteo, Council Member Powers, Cohen,
18 and Cornegy and Gjonaj, and we have questions from
19 Council Member Lancman followed by Council Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Good afternoon—
21 good morning. I want to ask you about Marijuana
22 policing and in particular the continued, in fact,
23 increasing racial disparity that exists and who is
24 getting arrested and who is getting summons. When
25 the city announced the new Marijuana policing

1 strategy, it made a number of exceptions for people I
2 would broadly just describe as with current or prior
3 Criminal Justice involvement, and at the time many of
4 us said that that almost guarantees that the racial
5 disparity the exists in Marijuana policing
6 extraordinary as it was, was actually going to get
7 worse because if you're excluding from the benefits
8 of new policy people who have Criminal Justice
9 involvement well, in this city because of decades of
10 our Criminal Justice System and—and policing
11 strategies overwhelmingly people who have Criminal
12 Justice System involvement are people of color. And
13 so lo and behold, in the last quarter where
14 information has come out about who was getting
15 arrested for and charged with Marijuana possession it
16 92% Black and Latino., which is actually up from 89%
17 in 2018 to 86% in 2017, et cetera. So, in light of
18 that, what is the department's strategy, and will you
19 consider eliminating the exemptions that exist to the
20 city's new Marijuana policing strategy?

22 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: So, the NYPD's new
23 Marijuana Enforcement Policy let me just go over some
24 of the disqualifying factors for a Criminal Court
25 summons, the person was burning Marijuana and on

1 parole or probation. The person was burning
2 Marijuana and is a violent offender. The person has
3 an active warrant or a probable cause to arrest. We
4 call them I-Cards. The person was burning Marijuana
5 in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle. The person
6 is charged with other fingerprintable offenses. The
7 person is not properly identified or a valid address
8 cannot be obtained, and the last is there is
9 legitimate law enforcement reason to arrest the
10 person for a criminal possess of Marijuana. Year to
11 date as of March 31st 2019, Criminal Possession of
12 Marijuana Fifth Degree arrests have decreased 88.9%
13 from the same period last year. That's 3,947 last
14 year, 436 this year, and then year-to-date as of
15 March 31st unlawful possession of Marijuana summonses
16 have decreased 8.42% from the same period last year
17 from 4,143 to 3,794. I'm just taking a look at the
18 top 15 precincts with the highest amount of 9/11
19 calls, and it's the 46, the 44 the 52, the 40, which
20 are in the Bronx, the 75 in East New York, the 47 in
21 the Bronx, the 32 in Harlem the 70 in Brooklyn the 42
22 and the 48 also in the Bronx, the 73 in Brownsville,
23 the 43 up in the Bronx, the 34 up in Upper Manhattan,
24 the 71 in Brooklyn [bell] and the 67 in Brooklyn. So
25

2 we are—we are doing the enforcement where the
3 complaints are.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Well, I mean—I
5 mean very--

6 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing] A
7 very big decrease in the amount of activity on
8 summonses--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: The question,
10 though was--

11 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing] -
12 and arrests.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: --the question
14 was we know the statistics. I cited you a statistic
15 and nothing in your answer is there any recognition
16 or awareness of the extraordinary disparity that
17 exists. I don't hear any plan or agenda for
18 addressing that disparity and instead I'm very
19 surprised that you are citing where 911 calls from--
20 come from because if you recall, it was the
21 production of the 911 and 311 call data, which
22 effectively destroyed the department's reliance on
23 that 911 and 311 call data to justify the racial
24 disparities, and it was the front page story in the
25 New York Times that within two days caused the Mayor

2 to announce that we are going to have a new Marijuana
3 enforcement strategy, which ended up being the one
4 that we're talking about here. So, my question to
5 you is again, in light of the fact that under the new
6 enforcement strategy the disparity in arrests based
7 on race has actually gone up, will you consider
8 changing the exceptions that exist to the policy?

9 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: I think the
10 exceptions that I outlined are an important component
11 of our overall enforcement effort and overall crime
12 strategy effort. So, at this time no.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Do you have any
14 strategy for addressing the extraordinary racial
15 disparity in who is getting arrested for Marijuana in
16 New York City?

17 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: It's just every
18 Thursday morning at Compstat

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN

20 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Every Thursday
21 morning at Compstat we take a look at summary
22 enforcement in every precinct that comes down to
23 Compstat and we look at why those arrests were made
24 and make sure that they are consistent with our
25 policy.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: One last
3 question for me. Are you concerned that the
4 Marijuana Enforcement Policy is resulting in arrests
5 being made that are 92% people of color when
6 innumerable studies have shown that white people and
7 people of color use and smoke Marijuana at the same
8 rates? Are you concerned at the 92% number.

9 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: As--as the Police
10 Commissioner I'm concerned and personally I'm
11 concerned about it. I'm looking to work with the
12 Council to find a way forward here to decrease that
13 disparity.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Uh-hm. Do you
15 have any suggestions for a way forward?

16 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Just to take a
17 look at our enforcement, and make sure it's
18 consistent with our policy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Uh-hm.

20 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Listen, we had
21 three shootings in New York City last week. I don't
22 know if everybody in this room really understands the
23 enormity of that. You go back 29 years and it would
24 have been 100 shoots. So, each time we take a piece
25 of our enforcement strategy we have to consider it

2 carefully to make sure it does not have an effect,
3 and the people I spoke about those disqualifications
4 for getting a summons those are important issues.
5 That's a part of our strategy. So, we'll work with
6 the Council to figure out a way forward here, but
7 every time we do something to reduce our
8 effectiveness it's a chance for that number to go up.
9 That's—that's three out of 8.6 million people. Take
10 a look around the United States at other metropolitan
11 areas, and look at their shooting rate. Nothing even
12 close.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: But there's
14 another metric that I think that you're not giving
15 any significance to, and I certainly haven't heard
16 any other significance in your—in your answer, which
17 is that while shootings and—and other crime
18 statistics are—are-over-overall down, the racial
19 disparities in the enforcement that remain whether
20 it's fare evasion, Marijuana enforcement have
21 persisted. So, I'm looking to see that you are going
22 to take that aspect of the Criminal Justice System
23 that is also damaging to many, many New Yorkers as
24 seriously as necessary, and I'm not hearing any
25 strategy or plan for addressing that issue.

2 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: We'll—as I said,
3 we'll continue to work with the Council to find a way
4 forward here.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Alright, thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, thank—thank
8 you very much. Council Member Deutsch followed by
9 Cornegy.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you. Good
11 morning, Commissioner. So, I—I just want to bring up
12 the NYPD is the best police force in the world, and
13 they do a remarkable job protecting our communities.
14 This last week I—I delivered a—a letter to Mayor de
15 Blasio, which is this letter here signed by 38 of my
16 colleagues requesting funding for security at houses
17 of worship. We all know that hate crimes arising and
18 houses of worship have been repeatedly targeted—
19 targeted in deadly attacks here in the U.S. and
20 across the globe. My request to Mayor de Blasio is
21 for security funds that could pay for dedicated
22 houses of worship patrols for expanding for example
23 the auxiliary program here in New York City. We have
24 4,300 auxiliaries, and to maybe have a dedicated
25 houses of worship auxiliary program where people

2 would be able to be in their houses of worship,
3 synagogues, churches and mosques and get the training
4 as an auxiliary officer, and this way they could have
5 better contact with NYPD through their radios, the
6 same means that auxiliary officers have, and this
7 wouldn't be too costly. There would basically be
8 about \$2,000 per house of worship in the city of New
9 York, and that request is also for other types of
10 meaningful measures to protect our faith leaders
11 throughout our city. In fact, last week also my
12 colleague and I and Justin Brannan as well introduced
13 a bill that would require the city to provide
14 reimbursement for houses of worship to hire armed
15 security guards, and I don't think it should come to
16 the point where—that we need to legislate something
17 as critical as important to protecting the houses of
18 worship throughout our city. You know, with a 68%
19 increase of hate crimes and more than 84% of anti-
20 Semitic hate crimes compared to last year, we just
21 can't sit back and wait for something like what
22 happened in Poway and Pittsburgh and New Zealand to
23 happen God forbid here in New York City. We need to
24 get in front of the issue, and be proactive about the
25 efforts to protect New Yorkers, and every time

1 something happens city leaders including myself are
2 quick to get on Twitter and to send out condolences
3 and condemn such violent acts that are happening and
4 I'm—I'm literally—I'm basically tired of the Tweeting
5 and—and sending out condolences and praise and
6 condemning acts that are happening not only across
7 the nation, but even here in New York City that's
8 been happening in houses of worship—in houses of
9 worship just most recently. My question, you did
10 mention, Police Commissioner in your statement that
11 we—the Police Department cannot do it alone. We need
12 everyone's help. So, do you agree that there is a
13 need for additional funds to be allocated to
14 supplement the work that the NYPD is already doing to
15 protect New Yorkers and faith leaders especially
16 considering the fact that police officers' overtime
17 is being cut, which reduces available manpower and
18 that's my first question. Secondly, I also want to
19 mention the just a few weeks ago something happened
20 with a traffic agent where there was an anti-Semitic
21 remark made to a motorist, and I sent an email to the
22 NYPD requesting like a briefing of what exactly
23 happened, and what was the outcome of that incident,
24 and how something like that would be prevented again,
25

2 and I just wanted to see if there is any update on
3 that?

4 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Alright, so just
5 to—as a general statement, the NYPD certainly does
6 not sit back when it comes to protecting our—all
7 houses of worship in New York City. Working with our
8 NCOs, working with our—in the times of Ramadan the
9 Passover, Easter, Christmas each police precinct puts
10 out house of worship cars. Our Community Affairs
11 police officers go out and check on each—on each
12 house of worship to make sure that that relationship
13 is there. As far as additional funding, I haven't
14 seen that letter yet. I can't answer you about that,
15 but anything we can do to make the city more safe
16 that I would be in agreement with, and as far as the
17 incident with the traffic agent, Tom, I don't know if
18 you know anything. That hasn't risen to my office
19 yet. I haven't seen that.

20 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: That video was
21 actually viewed by some of my personnel in my office.
22 That occurred—we believe occurred on a Tuesday. On
23 Wednesday when we saw the video, we directed our
24 Investigations Unit to open up an investigation in
25 reference to that particular incident. We've reached

2 out to the Yushiva world, which was the recipient of
3 it and which they posted it and, therefore, our
4 Investigation Unit has contact, spoke to them. We
5 are trying to ascertain the actual person who posted
6 that video. We're in the process of—to get hold of
7 that individual to interview him, and also we've
8 identified the traffic agents that's involved in this
9 matter. So, it's—it's still under investigation at
10 this time.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you,
12 Chief. I just want to—I just want to mention that I
13 did send an email out. So, I just—if I could get a
14 response not to wait at a hearing to ask to get a
15 response of—of what happened there. I sent an email
16 about a week ago. So, I just want to put it out.

17 CHIEF THOMAS CHAN: I apologize for you
18 not getting and answer on that. We'll follow up on
19 it.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: And finally,
21 Commissioner, I just want to ask you about the--
22 expanding the Auxiliary Program into houses of
23 worship. So, if we could do that. Is that something
24 that's feasible?
25

2 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: It's, you know,
3 the Auxiliary Program is volunteers so.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yeah, I-I
5 understand.

6 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Okay.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, is it
8 possible to expand that program to have--

9 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing] I
10 have to take a look at it. I can't give you an
11 answer right here.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Okay, great. So
13 that wouldn't cost—that wouldn't cost that much.
14 Alright so I will send a letter over to the Police
15 Commissioner. It's the same letter that I sent over
16 to—to Mayor de Blasio, which I hand delivered to him
17 last week, and they are supposed to be responding to
18 me to see what kind of plan they can implement
19 without, you know, that would protect all faith
20 leaders, and all New Yorkers that they're sitting
21 down to the table that would making everyone feel
22 that they are protected by having extra layers of
23 protection at their houses of worship.

24 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Okay.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, finally I
3 just want to say I do want to thank Chief Monahan for
4 coming out to Williamsburg last week. We had--there's
5 been several anti-Semitic assaults in the last couple
6 of weeks, and I know that the community feels
7 reassured knowing that the NYPD takes these cases
8 extremely seriously, and I want to thank the Hate
9 Crimes Task Force who does investigate hate crimes
10 after the fact. So, by having extra or additional
11 layers of security measures then we could be more
12 proactive than reactive and ensuring that together
13 with the Police Department and ensuring that there's
14 funding for other types of meaning resources of
15 protection that we will be able to allocate in this
16 coming Fiscal Year. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.

19 We've been joined by Council Members Van Bramer,
20 Council Member Gibson and Moya, and we have questions
21 from Council Member Cohen followed by Council Gjonaj.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you, Chairs.
23 Good morning, Commissioner. How are you?

24 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Don't go by that
25 clock.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [laughter] Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: It's been 5 to 12
4 for the last two hours.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I'm going to be
6 brief and I know I'm going to sound a bit like a
7 broken record because I brought these issues up to
8 you, but I-I just can't miss the opportunity to
9 advocate for my-for my own precinct. I know you
10 personally have served with the 52. I see many
11 people on your team have served in the 52 Precinct in
12 the Bronx. The condition of that facility has-it
13 hasn't gotten any better since the last time,
14 [laughs]. It is a really very old decrepit precinct
15 house. It really needs some money, and I'm
16 particularly proud of the Council and the leadership
17 here, the Speaker that in our Preliminary Response to
18 the Mayor's Budget we put in, you know, we advocated
19 for money for a rehab of the 52. So, I would really
20 like it that could somehow get to the-to the priority
21 list as really and sorely needed. It serves way many
22 more officers than it was-it was designed for, and I
23 know you know all of this, but it really-I-I think
24 the situation is really-is very serious at that
25 precinct, and we need to do something there. And

1
2 also, briefly and I know that we've gotten a couple
3 in the—I guess in the class in April, but at 50th
4 Precinct, you know, just doing the math between, you
5 know, the—the number of officers who are technically
6 assigned, you know, subtracting the number officers
7 who could be on vacation or on leave for a variety of
8 reasons, and then divided by the number of shifts,
9 there is a—a very small number of officers on duty at
10 any given time in the 50th Precinct, and I don't
11 think the number is minimally sufficient. So, again,
12 I know I brought these issues up to you, but I'm
13 going to continue to do it until I feel better about
14 it. [laughter] So, I don't any question in there.

15 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing] I'm
16 sorry. The Chief of Patrol is sitting right here
17 with me. So, we'll take that into consideration.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I appreciate that.
19 I don't know if there's any questions in there, but I
20 just wanted to go on the record. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, thank you.
22 Council Member Gjonaj.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm worry, Chair,
24 the safety yeah. (sic) Thank you, Chair. Good
25 morning. First of all, I just want to thank you for

1 the work that you're doing, and I want to thank every
2 man and woman that puts on that uniform and puts
3 their life on the line each and every day. I am
4 grateful to you for the tremendous work that you do
5 and the honor that you do it in. I've got only a few
6 minutes to do this in so I'm going to bombard you.
7 I'll begin first with the opioid epidemic. We have
8 more children dying from drug overdoses than
9 suicides, car accidents and gun shots. More must be
10 done to apprehend those that are destroying their
11 lives and the families of everyday New Yorkers. Day
12 in and day out we see the effect. I can't underscore
13 this enough as to how important it is and the
14 priority that's needed to properly staff those that
15 are going to be going after these drug dealers in
16 every fashion possible. Traffic agents: I can
17 attest fore the last several years the request that
18 we made in particular City Island as well as
19 construction sites. I'm not sure how they deployed
20 who makes the decision, where the priorities are, but
21 certainly City Island, for example, which is a
22 destination place on weekends, Fridays and Saturday.
23 Every year, year in and year out I go through the
24 same conversations. My predecessor did the same to
25

2 make sure that we have enough traffic agents out
3 there. It is warranted. It's for the best interest
4 of public safety. We have a major destination place
5 that—and I'll say it that majority, minority diners
6 and frequents of those restaurants are forced to stay
7 in traffic jeopardizing live because of the
8 congestion that's created for emergency vehicles. We
9 need more traffic agents out there. It's deserved and
10 City Islanders, the residents as well as those
11 frequenters deserve that service. Response time in
12 the Borough of the Bronx 6 out of the 9 highest
13 ranking not understanding why. We need more officers
14 out there. No one in my district says they feel
15 safer today than they did ten years ago despite the
16 crime stats. I can wait or the responses that I'm
17 getting from my constituents is if I double park,
18 within seconds and minutes I have a ticket. God
19 forbid I have a crime that I'm reporting, I can wait
20 hours. I also would suggest because of the limited
21 resources that we have that perhaps traffic agents
22 should be trained to handle accident reports and take
23 in our men and women in blue that can be actually
24 fighting crime to address accident reports. When it
25 comes to towing, something that we've introduced a

2 bill [bell] that cars that don't have registrations
3 or license plates can't be summoned or towed.

4 Traffic agents refuse to issue a ticket. NYPD
5 refuses to tow. It's a debacle. This is impacting
6 all of our neighborhoods citywide. It's an abuse
7 mainly by car mechanics and car dealers that has been
8 under-that has not received the proper attention by
9 law enforcement. I also just want to just for the
10 record, I represent a relatively safe community, and
11 I'm not going to compare the stats to other
12 districts, but my-my responsibility is to make my
13 community safer, make it better, and it's just not
14 about the status quo, and I think that's what we all
15 should be striving for. Thank you, Commissioner.

16 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: So, as far as the
17 opioid epidemic, we do have a comprehensive approach
18 and it goes well beyond just policing, which with
19 that opioid epidemic it can't just be--we're not
20 going to arrest our way out of-of-out of that issue,
21 but we do have on the international, national and
22 regional approach we do have a great partnership with
23 the DEA, the Drug Enforcement Task Force at the local
24 level. Each borough has a narcotics squad and they
25 work with the-they work with the detective bureaus,

2 and each—each borough has an over—and overdose squad,
3 too, where they go out and they investigate every
4 overdose fatal and non-fatal. As far as traffic
5 enforcement agents on City Island---

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [interposing]
7 Commissioner, I'm sorry. I just want to deal with
8 that. (sic) I understand there's a revolving door,
9 and each time I do this, NYPD says it the DA. The DA
10 says it's the judge. The judge says it's NYPD.

11 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: I didn't say that.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: But I'm just--

13 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Yeah.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: --with the
15 revolving door how although arrests are being made,
16 they're not being prosecuted.

17 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Okay, so with the--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: So, I don't
19 whether the--

20 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing] So,
21 with the—I don't know if you were here at my opening
22 statement where I spoke about bail reform, and one of
23 the issues with bail reform is high level drug
24 offenses, A-1 and A-2 felonies. They're going to be
25 released with DATs and with no regard for their prior

1 criminal history and the damage that they're doing to
2 the city. So, that's something that's—that as the
3 local City Council you might want to take up with the
4 State legislators because I think we only have to the
5 end of June to get that fixed. As far as traffic
6 enforcement agents, I'll have—I'll talk to Tom about
7 the City Island, but in the interest of time, we
8 won't go into that right now. As far as response
9 times, since the introduction of neighborhood
10 policing, I don't even—I can't even give you the
11 number of people we put back into sector cars to
12 reduce the amount of response time. If it's a
13 specific precinct, then you're talking about, I'll be
14 glad to continue that conversation with you, but our
15 response times have gone down tremendously over the
16 last five years.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And Commissioner—
19 Chair, with your permission I just have last point I
20 want to bring up. The utter chaos that is caused by
21 these illegal dirt bikes and 4-wheelers that have
22 taken over our streets endangering pedestrians,
23 motorists and creating chaos. I first—I witnessed it
24 first hand: Two dozen officers, a dozen cars complete
25

2 and utter disrespect and endangerment, and all our
3 officers could is just sit there and look.

4 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: They're not--
5 they're not just sitting there and look. Chief
6 Harrison will talk about our plan as far as dirt
7 bikes and ATVs.

8 CHIEF HARRISON: Good morning. Once
9 again, Rodney Harrison, Chief of Patrol. So, every
10 Friday we have a--pretty much a task force put
11 together between the Bronx and Manhattan, North
12 Manhattan South and we take a look at what we call
13 predictive policing to see what's going on with some
14 of these ride-outs, be it bicycles, be it these ATVs,
15 these dirt bikes that are causing problems throughout
16 the city, and we try to find out a couple of things.
17 Number one is where they're mustering up at so we
18 could address them before they--right before they get
19 on the road. Once they get on the road, it's pretty
20 hard for us to kind of do any type of enforcement
21 because one thing we don't want to do is cause an
22 accident to happen and somebody get injured, an
23 innocent person get injured in the process. So, what
24 we're trying to do is make sure we're--we're getting
25 ahead of it before they start rolling. The second

2 thing is we're asking the community residents to give
3 information where they're storing these dirt bikes.
4 A lot of them are in storage facilities and things of
5 that nature. So, we're doing a campaign on a regular
6 basis for the community to give us the information so
7 we could kind of recover some of these dirt bikes
8 before they start rolling out and--rolling out and
9 causing some havoc.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you. Can I
11 suggest a reward? Just see how fast New Yorkers
12 respond to that information leading to the
13 apprehension of illegal dirt bikes. You'll see how
14 fast New Yorkers will provide you with that
15 information.

16 CHIEF HARRISON: Right. So, maybe we can
17 do that in conjunction with the Council.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I like it.

19 CHIEF HARRISON: Alright.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Alright, thank.

22 Let's go to Council Member Moya followed by Vallone.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you, Chair
24 Dromm and Chair Richards. Commissioner, thank you
25 very much. I-I want to just say that I'm truly proud

1 of the work of the members of the 110 and the 115
2 Precinct who have been doing a tremendous job with
3 very difficult circumstances, and I know that of all
4 the men and women in blue that are out there
5 patrolling our streets are really doing a tremendous
6 job to keep this city safe, but we also do have to
7 come to terms with some of the realizations that have
8 been going on. I think Chair Dromm brought this up
9 before I was able to get here, but it's about gang
10 violence. The uptake—the uptick in that we've seen
11 in my district where there was the murder that took
12 place over on 90th Street Train Station that made
13 national news with-with that. Even had my own office
14 that got tagged up with them as being on it. I have
15 funded through my discretionary funds to bring in
16 paint to do the graffiti removal for both of the two
17 precincts, but when we saw that there was a lot of
18 the gang attacks (sic) coming up, I had to coordinate
19 with EDC and bring four trucks that do the power
20 washing and paint. We did 49 removals in one
21 afternoon with the 110 and the 115. My question is
22 if we know that there are certain areas that are
23 prone to sort of the graffiti and gang violence that
24 is happening here, we should be baselining the
25

2 funding so that these precincts can have the
3 appropriate equipment to take down the graffiti that
4 we see as opposed to us having to take from our
5 discretionary fund to fund this. I think that it's
6 critical for us because we also want to send a
7 message that there is coordination with-with the
8 community and the NYPD who are doing a tremendous job
9 with dealing with this. I just think that the
10 funding stream to bring the adequate equipment to
11 these precincts is essential, and so my concern is
12 how are we dealing with this, and I'm sorry Council
13 Member.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: It's okay because I-I
15 asked a similar question, and I promise that I didn't
16 set this up, Commissioner, but it's becoming and
17 issue, as you can hear.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Right. So, my
19 question is how-how-how can we better deal with that
20 in communities like the ones that myself and Council
21 Member Dromm have dealing with sort of this uptick in
22 gang violence and the gang graffiti that we're seeing
23 in our communities?

24 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Yeah, as far as
25 dedicating funds from the NYPD for graffiti removal,

2 we'd have to have a discussion about that. I think I
3 would rather use our resources or those resources to
4 combat the--the violence associated with gang activity
5 in the first place.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: So, I--I don't think
7 we're going to--as you've been saying, we're not
8 arresting our way out of gang violence--

9 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing] We
10 have--with gang violence I think we can arrest our way
11 out of it.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Well, I think--I
13 think there's things that we can do that create more
14 of opportunities in our communities for some youth
15 that we see have not had after school programs, job
16 opportunities that get them off the streets. We've
17 seen major cuts to a lot of the Summer Youth Programs
18 in our communities. So, I feel that yes, while law
19 enforcement plays a--a big role in that, we also have
20 to utilize other resources to--to get these off the
21 street.

22 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing] I
23 couldn't agree with you more. As a matter of fact,
24 we looked at the top six precincts in the city who
25 have--their violence rate is doubled the citywide

1 average, and we've been conducting a number of
2 meetings throughout the city, and that is the number
3 one topic that comes up, activities for youth
4 specifically after school and--and that time between
5 and when they go to sleep.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Right, and--

8 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing]

9 Agree with you a 100%

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: But I've put in
11 money. I met with--with Chief Morales from
12 Queensborough North to do a sports program soccer
13 with the PLA especially in our community where that's
14 big, and sort of unite the community with the police
15 as well, get these kids into some really good
16 programs. I just really feel that the--the gang issue
17 is--is not going away and we just have to figure out
18 how we can better deal with it especially in
19 communities like mine have the immigrant communities
20 where we're seeing this more and more. I just feel
21 that we should be looking at this a little bit more
22 holistically of how we better fund those programs.

23 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: [interposing] As--

24 as we do--as we do. The arrest activities people that
25 have shown themselves to commit violent acts the mere

1 fact of belonging to a gang is not going to get you
2 arrested, but if you engage in crime and specifically
3 in violence, you're going to end up being arrested,
4 and we work very closely with the DA's Office all
5 over the city to make sure that we minimize that-that
6 amount of violence. I don't know if you were here
7 when I did state that there were three shooting in
8 New York City last week as opposed to 100 maybe 29
9 years ago. So, this is something that we do look
10 holistically at, and with our Community Affairs
11 Bureau, we have a number of youth programs, but there
12 is a capacity issue there, too if you look at PAL,
13 and give a-look at the youth, Summer Youth Academy
14 there's a capacity issue. It's got to be more than
15 just the Police Department. So any-any ideas that-
16 that-that you have that could help us with this, we'd
17 all be more than happy to sit down with you and talk
18 about it.

19
20 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank-thank you,
21 Commissioner. Thank you, Chair for the opportunity
22 to--

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much.
24 Council Member Vallone followed by Gibson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you to
3 both of our Chairs. Let me first say good afternoon,
4 Commissioner. Thank you for coming out to the
5 district. We're very thankful to always have your
6 presence out there especially in Northeast Queens.
7 I'm looking at the overall budget, and I'm always one
8 that wants to fight to make sure we have enough
9 resources for the demands of a city such as New York
10 City and an NYPD as diverse as you are. Have you
11 ever seen a time other than today where there's been
12 more demands and changes placed upon the NYPD?

13 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: In my capacity as
14 Chief of the Department, and my capacity as the
15 commissioner it's been about five years now, and it
16 does get more demanding year after year.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: And that results
18 in new training and new--

19 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Training is a high
20 priority and I think training is the big part of that
21 expanding the Neighborhood Policing Program, which is
22 a key—a key to keeping city safe, and continuing to
23 build trust with all communities throughout all five
24 boroughs. So, it's—the—the—any—you ask any police
25 chief, superintendent, commissioner if they'd—if

2 they'd want more cops, they'd probably most likely
3 say yes, but we have to make sure that we have a
4 chance to fully implement Neighborhood Policing, and
5 I think that's what's going to push crime down and
6 continue to make the city even safer.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: And I agree. I
8 agree that the demands placed upon our Police
9 Department today are more than ever and we have risen
10 to that task. My concern is does the Budget reflect
11 the need to provide the resources for additional
12 officers if needed especially school safety agents
13 because as we push to expand school safety agent more
14 and more and to compensate the officers where they
15 should be compensated based on surrounding
16 jurisdictions.

17 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: I'm not going to
18 argue with any of that especially the last point. I
19 think New York City police officers need to be paid
20 fairly as do all members of the NYPD. As far as
21 expanding it, that's something that we look at, we
22 look at constantly. Right now, I think we're in a
23 good place. As-as the—as time moves on that might
24 possibly change, but right now I think we're in a
25 pretty good position.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: The two last
3 points I have are within school safety, places of
4 worship and expansions of those areas as we either
5 legislate or come up to new ideas to provide that
6 safety. We have a package of bills regarding school
7 safety especially the new Memorandum of Understanding
8 that's recently been released, but that was since
9 1998. My focus will always be our children and to
10 make sure that there's equality in all of our schools
11 that they have the tools that they need, not so much
12 the practices within the school. But to make sure
13 that principals of schools are universally the same
14 protection, and I want to provide in this budget so
15 that if a school is missing an surveillance camera or
16 they're missing any need for their school to keep the
17 parents feeling safe, and I want to be able to
18 provide that, one. And two, as we reduce possibly
19 the levels of private schools and places of worship
20 to provide the safety agents, where we have the
21 ability to provide the new safety agents that will be
22 required if that legislation is passed.

23 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: And again, that's
24 something that we look at every day. Vin, I don't
25 know if you want to talk about the level of school

2 safety officers over the last few years and where we
3 are. I mean we're constantly looking at this with the
4 Department of Ed and the Mayor's Office. Ultimately,
5 while we have reviewed some requests to increase
6 staffing largely what we've been doing is increasing
7 overtime to cover after school expansion. Where you
8 have programs now extending the hours in which
9 student are in school, you have school safety agents
10 essentially making overtime to cover those shifts.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: So then my last
12 point would be then I—I think that's not the road we
13 should be preparing. I think we should prepare for
14 the amount of school safety agents especially since
15 we're already overburdened as they are, and I can
16 tell you that this Council is united in getting those
17 bills passed. So, we're going to have a—a new demand
18 for that as we expand the schools that will need a
19 school safety agent, and as more schools come online
20 and we broaden the scope of safety, there's just not
21 going to be enough. So, let's—I want to work with
22 you to provide that in this budget. Thank you to
23 both of our Chairs.

24 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Thank you.
25

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Council Member
3 Gibson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, thank
5 you Chair Dromm and Chair Richards. Good afternoon
6 Commissioner to you and your team here. Thank you
7 for being here. Thank you for your partnership, and
8 certainly as a Bronx Council Member on behalf of my
9 precincts of the 42 the 44 the 46, PSA7 and the
10 Transit District 11 who I work very closely with, I
11 thank you for your work and for the work that we're
12 doing together. So, I know earlier in the
13 conversation we talked a little bit about
14 civilianization, and we've had success in the past of
15 200 positions and then an additional 416 and so I
16 would love to see if there is a possibility of
17 looking at another number. A figure that we could
18 come up with understanding that the agency is dealing
19 with the peg and additional savings, but in light of
20 recognizing that there are civilians that should be
21 doing civilian work in the precincts, and not
22 uniformed staff, I would love for us to have another
23 conversation about that before we get to adoption.

24
25

2 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Any--so any--any
3 opportunity to release full duty police officers back
4 to patrol, I take advantage of.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, great, and
6 school crossing guards, I'd love to talk about school
7 crossing guards, and I know the Executive Budget adds
8 64 new positions. Overall, we have about 2,800. Can
9 you tell me what the vacancy rate looks like and what
10 the coordination is with DOE and SC as it relates to
11 new schools that are coming on the pipeline each
12 Septembers, and you talked about after school
13 programs and other things where school safety agents
14 are also working, but I wanted to make sure that
15 school crossing guards were also a part of that
16 conversation as well.

17 RODNEY HARRISON: So, I can just speak to
18 the headcount for school crossing guards. The
19 current vacancy rate citywide is 151, and I would
20 remind the Council that the initiative we put in
21 place two years ago provided us with an additional
22 200 school crossing guards that cover above the
23 number of posts that we have. So, that--that number
24 as long as that vacancy rate remains, excuse me,
25 below 200, we're using these part--these additional

2 school crossing guards to supplement and cover those
3 vacant posts. We also have actually another 100
4 school crossing guard supervisors, and when
5 necessary, they can be mobilized to a post. So, you
6 have your vacancy rate and you may have people who
7 are out sick, but that 200 additional and headcount
8 plus the 100 supervisors gives a buffer of 300 posts
9 on any given day that we can cover--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

11 RODNEY HARRISON: --above and beyond what
12 we have people for.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, and I
14 wanted to ask about the summertime as we prepare for
15 the hot season. I know every year we add officers on
16 the streets in precincts where the need is the
17 greatest, these summer all-outs. So, I wanted to ask
18 about that number and the rollout date, and then I
19 believe it was you, Commissioner talked about a lot
20 of the efforts that we are doing here in terms of
21 budget priorities, Summer Youth and COMPASS and SONYC
22 which are middle-school summer camp slots for middle
23 school students and the meetings that we have started
24 have been really focused on precincts like mine in
25 the Bronx. We had a meeting with the 42, with the 44

1 of which you were at, and the general question always
2 falls to the Council in terms of resources and
3 programs that we have in place, but I'd also like to
4 mention that in addition to Summer Youth, COMPASS,
5 SONYC and other summer camp programs, the NYPD has a
6 number of options as well like the Youth Academy. I
7 just don't feel that many New Yorkers know about it,
8 and intern programs, internship opportunities, and so
9 are those opportunities available this summer, and if
10 so, how can the Council be helpful to make sure that
11 young people are applying, and in addition the
12 Neighborhood MAP program that we have that's focused
13 specifically on housing, and Chief Secreto knows
14 that. I have one of those developments, Butler
15 Houses. We get Summer Youth slots for Butler. We
16 get additional resources just because it's in the MAP
17 program, but the developments that are around Butler
18 also are equally as much in need, and so my question
19 is: Coupled with what we are doing and will do in
20 this budget, what other programs does the Police
21 Department provide that we could be helpful for in
22 terms of promotion? That's a Community Affairs
23 question.
24
25

2 NILDA HOFFMAN: Yes, I'm Nilda Hoffman,
3 Chief of Community Affairs. Well, thank you for
4 asking that. One of the things is as you said, we
5 have the youth—the Youth Police Academy, and this
6 year in the Bronx we have in the 40 for 244. It's
7 advertised on our—on our website, but we've had a
8 very low interest in it especially the 42, and we're
9 doing heavy outreach out there, and your help would
10 definitely be helpful to that. In addition, we have
11 the Explorer Program. Over the summer we have a
12 three-week camp that we do with them, and that's all
13 we have right now.

14 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: And we have—no,
15 Nilda, you want to talk about the Internship Program?

16 NILDA HOFFMAN: Absolutely. Yes. So we
17 also have the 125 spots in the Internship Program
18 inside the Police Department, and we've gotten a lot
19 of interest in that, and we continue to do a lot of
20 outreach so, that would also help on—if you could
21 help us do outreach on that, too.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, definitely.
23 If you could share that information with the Council,
24 we're more than happy to help.

25 NILDA HOFFMAN: Absolutely.

2 RODNEY HARRISON: And the—and the start
3 date for All Out is I think it's May 23rd with over
4 300 police officers come back to patrol for 90 days.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: How many
6 officers?

7 RODNEY HARRISON: Over—over 300.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And we identify
9 the precincts--

10 RODNEY HARRISON: Yes, just going to.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --they're going
12 to?

13 RODNEY HARRISON: Yeah, yeah.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Yes.

15 RODNEY HARRISON: It's going to be the
16 40, 42, 44. We have the 67, 73, 75, 79 and the 113
17 of the commands.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And what about
19 housing?

20 RODNEY HARRISON: I believe it's PSA--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: PSA5?

22 RODNEY HARRISON: PSA5 and PSA3

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And PSA4?

24 RODNEY HARRISON: 3.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: PSA3

2 RODNEY HARRISON: And 5.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, thank you.

4 Thank you, Chair.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. We
6 have questions from Council Member Adams and then
7 we're going to go to Chair Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you, Chair
9 Dromm and Chair Richards. Thank you very much
10 Commissioner. It's a pleasure to see you today, and
11 thank you so much for the great town hall that we had
12 a couple weeks ago as my colleague referenced earlier
13 this morning. A shout-out to Southeast Queens. We
14 see you out there watching, and glad to have you here
15 today in the hearing. We've spoken about a lot of
16 different this morning. I just want to explore
17 something that we haven't really touched on and
18 that's the issue of sex crimes. I'm a daily commuter
19 on the MTA every single day. That's how I get to and
20 from Queens to here. So, the city has definitely
21 gone down in crime statistics overall, but we have
22 seen an increase in sex crimes. We continue to see
23 that sex crimes going up, rapes, felonies, sex crimes
24 and misdemeanor sex crimes all went up on 2018. Year
25 to date many categories of sex crime as we see here

2 on the slide are even higher this year in 2019 than
3 they were last year and the previous year. So, at
4 the end of last year an NYPD report said that the
5 Special Victims Division that said 226 personnel were
6 assigned to the unit, how many work in the SVD
7 currently.

8 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Right, Chief Shea
9 will speak about that.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you.

11 CHIEF SHEA: Good afternoon. So the most
12 current statistics in terms of personnel for the
13 Special Victims Unit are a total of roughly 290.
14 That includes supervisors, 170 detectives, 83 police
15 officers and so that's roughly 253 investigators, and
16 the remaining of the--the bosses, and I'd like to just
17 clear the record because earlier I was asked a
18 question about hate crimes, and gave the answer of
19 25. That included bosses, too.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Okay, thank you.

21 CHIEF SHEA: We've made a series of
22 additions to the Special Victims Unit most recently
23 about--probably about two months ago where we added
24 roughly 34 investigators into Special Victims, and
25 we'll continue to do that as we see fit in terms of

2 the—the case level and the quality of new
3 investigations that we're providing, but it remains
4 the utmost importance to us.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Okay, can you tell
6 us how the Sex Offender Monitoring Unit works? Do
7 they prevent past offenders from committing crimes or
8 do they respond to crimes that are committed by
9 repeat offenders?

10 CHIEF SHEA: Yeah, they'll do a little of
11 both, but their primary mission is to account for
12 people that are placed into the Sex—fall under the
13 Sex Offender Monitoring Act. So, people that are
14 pleading guilty to certain sex offenses are getting
15 out of prison and being counted now as sex offender.
16 They have the main responsibility to intake those in
17 terms of where do they live, who's coming to New York
18 City from potentially out of New York City making
19 sure depending on the level of the sex offender that
20 they are that we have current photos of them, and
21 then making sure as we go forward that they abide by
22 all responsibilities that they're supposed to. They
23 are not generally going out and investigating live
24 crimes, but they will be conferred with when sex
25 offenders come up in investigations.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Okay, and—and my
3 final question again going back to myself and making
4 this personal being a commuter. Do you have
5 statistics on sex crimes handled by the Transit Unit?

6 CHIEF SHEA: I don't have them readily
7 available to give you, but it is something we've done
8 a number of press conferences recently on it. I'm
9 sure some of you have seen it. It's a, you know,
10 Eddie Delatorre is here as well and the Transit
11 Bureau. Eddie and myself have done press conferences
12 on individuals, and I implore the Council to—to take
13 up this fight. Individuals that we are coming across
14 that are continuously victimizing women and young
15 children on our buses and subways, and we see it all
16 too often and, you know, the—the truth of the matter
17 as we sit here is that we are making arrests of
18 individuals sometimes people victimizing 8 and 10-
19 year-old girls on the train, and we need [coughs]
20 more tools in our toolbox, if you will, in terms of
21 being potentially able to keep people off the train.
22 We do not want to be in a situation where we know who
23 sex offenders are, and are following them around,
24 surveilling them, if you will, on the train and
25 having to wait for them to victimize another person.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I agree a 100%,
3 too. Thank you so much for your testimony today.

4 CHIEF SHEA: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. Chair
6 Richards.

7 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Just a few last
8 questions. Let's go back to DNA for a second. You
9 did mention 29,000 people. Can you just speak to
10 what does the process look--what does consent look
11 like in obtaining DNA from those individuals. Do you
12 offer them water bottles, cigarettes? I don't know,
13 but can you just speak a little bit?

14 CHIEF SHEA: We--we will collect. So, we
15 have multiple different categories. We will collect
16 individual from individuals through consent in which
17 case we have a form that they will sign. We do
18 collect abandoned property. Under existing law, that
19 is permissible so we will also do that. We also--

20 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: That's okay. What
21 would abandoned property look like?

22 CHIEF SHEA: It could be a cigarette
23 butt. It could be a water bottle. It could be other
24 things, but those are--those are generally.

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: But you would ask
3 for a consent first in that case?

4 CHIEF SHEA: There is consent, there is
5 abandoned property. So, those are two distinct and
6 separate issues. We will also collect from victims
7 and that will not go into any database or the OCME.
8 Our perfect example is that--of the is a--a woman that
9 is sexually assaulted. We may ask for consent in a
10 burglary case where people that live there to
11 eliminate them. So, victim and eliminations are
12 collected, but those would not wind up in any OCME
13 database to my knowledge.

14 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, just a quick
15 update on the 116th Precinct as well and the date for
16 Rosedale.

17 VINCENT GRIPPO: So the 116th Precinct is
18 actually I would say it's on schedule a little bit
19 ahead of schedule all things considered. So, we are
20 complete with design literally in the last week or
21 so, and we are now looking at moving to procure
22 construction services. So, the anticipated
23 registration date of Construction Services is in
24 November of 2019. Because of the method that we're
25 procuring, it's actually going to be quicker than the

1 more typical full procurement, and then we're
2 expected to complete construction right now in the
3 spring of 2022.
4

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay. It's a 2019
6 groundbreaking?

7 VINCENT GRIPPO: 2019 is when we would
8 begin construction so yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing]
10 Begin construction. Great, great, great. Good news
11 to hear. Commissioner, this is a question for you.
12 Are you happy with the Nix getting a third draft
13 round today? (sic) [laughter] Are you a Nix fan? I
14 want to know.

15 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: I'm more of a
16 Ranger fan, and I'm being patient with our rebuilding
17 years. So, it's tough being a New York sports fan.

18 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [laughter]

19 Alright, what--

20 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: I'll just stop with
21 this one.

22 Discrepancy Report [laughs] I wanted to
23 thank you just as we close out, I wanted to thank you
24 for the work that, you know, the NYPD is doing with
25 our community. It's very evident last week that we

2 are making progress. We still have a ways to go in
3 terms of accountability I believe, and still some-
4 some ways to go on transparency, and I understand you
5 didn't start all of this, but I think you, you know,
6 we hold—we have to hold you accountable in terms of
7 moving the department even further, pushing you a
8 little further even when it's rough and tough, but I
9 want to thank you for your partnership, and
10 friendship, and I look forward to continuing to work
11 with you as we move forward this year.

12 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, and just
15 before we let you go just one last follow-up
16 question.

17 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Well, you have
18 Columbo.

19 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Actually, we were
20 looking at that clock right there--

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [interposing] Yeah,
22 and why we felt--

23 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: --oh, it's 12:00
24 and then I realized it was broke.

25 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Yeah, sure.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Commissioner, in
3 response to the letter from Chair Richards regarding
4 the NCO Program for the cost and the headcount for
5 '19 you gave us stats for '16 but not for '19. Do you
6 have stats for '19?

7 VINCENT GRIPPO: I mean I—I think it
8 would be—we can provide that to you after the
9 hearing—I—I have numbers, but it's better I think if
10 we send the official headcount because mine are not
11 completely up to date.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: The headcount and
13 total cost okay.

14 VINCENT GRIPPO: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Alright, thank you
16 very much. I also want to agree with what Chair
17 Richards said. We thank you for coming in and for
18 spending time with us and for the job that you do
19 protecting all of New York City. Thank you very
20 much.

21 COMMISSIONER O'NEILL: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, this concludes
23 our hearing for today. This Finance Committee will
24 resume Executive budget hearings for Fiscal 2020
25 tomorrow, Thursday, May 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the—in

2 this room. Tomorrow the Finance Committee will hear
3 from the Department of Youth and Community
4 Development, the Department of Small Business
5 Services, and the Department of Health and Mental
6 Hygiene. As a reminder, the public will be invited
7 to testify on Thursday, May 23rd, the last day of
8 Budget hearings at approximately 2:00 p.m. in this
9 room. For any member of the public who wishes to
10 testify but cannot make it to the hearing, you can
11 email your testimony to the Finance Division at
12 financetestimony@councilnyc.gov and the staff will
13 make this a part of the official record. Thank you
14 and this meeting is now adjourned. [gavel]

15 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: This is how
16 excited the NYPD is to stick around. Thank you,
17 Commissioner.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date June 8, 2019