

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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March 30, 2022
Start: 10:17 a.m.
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HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: Kamillah Hanks,
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
Joann Ariola
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Tiffany Cabán
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Robert F. Holden
Rita C. Joseph
Darlene Mealy
Althea V. Stevens

A P P E A R A N C E S

Keechant Sewell
Police Commissioner

Kenneth Corey
Chief of Department

Michael LiPetri
Chief of Crime Control Strategies

James Essig
Chief of Detectives

Thomas Galati
Chief of Intelligence

Chauncey Parker
Deputy Commissioner of Community Partnerships

Oleg Chernyavsky
Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Kristine Ryan
Deputy Commissioner of Management and Budget

Danielle Pemberton
Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives

Mark Iocco
Inspector

Deanna Logan
Director of MOCJ

Jessica Mofield
Executive Director of the Office of Neighborhood
Safety

Renita Francois
Office of Neighborhood Safety

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

Dana Kaplan
Deputy Director of MOCJ for Justice Initiatives

Nadine Maleh
Executive Director of Capital Projects

Philip Banks
Deputy Mayor

Tiffany Raspberry
Senior Advisor for External Affairs

Justin Meyers
Chief of Staff

Ama Dwimoh
Special Counsel to the Mayor

Shawn Williams
Father of Antonio Williams

Iris Baez
Mother of Anthony Baez

Tina Luongo
Chief Public Defender at the Legal Aid Society

Rakeish Doolan

Michael Sisitzky
Senior Policy Counsel with the NYCLU

Alli Finn
Senior Researcher for Immigrant Defense Project

Carlos Rosario
Fierce NYC

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

Pilar De Jesus
Senior Advocacy Coordinator from Take Root
Justice

Darian X
Lead Campaign Organizer at the Brooklyn Movement
Center

Ileana Mendez-Penate
Communities United for Police Reform

Keli Young
Brownsville Native and the Civil Rights Campaign
Coordinator for Vocal New York

Liv
Justice Committee

Oresa L. Napper-Williams
Founder and Executive Director of Not Another
Child

Erica Ford

Scott Levy
Managing Director of Policy at the Bronx
Defenders

Elizabeth Vasquez
Director of the Science and Surveillance Project
at Brooklyn Defender Services

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

Danielle Jackson
Interim Managing Attorney of the Criminal Defense
Practice at Neighborhood Defender Services of
Harlem

Stan German
Executive Director of New York County Defender
Services

Hailey Nolasco
Director of Community-Based Violence Prevention
at the Center for Court Innovation

Darren M. Mack
Co-Director at Freedom Agenda

Nina Loshkajian
Legal Fellow at the Surveillance Technology
Oversight Project

Shanduke McPhatter

Jullian Harris-Calvin
Director of the Vera Institute of Justice's
Greater Justice New York program

Aaliyah Gulliory Nickens
Youth Represent and a Native of Harlem

Meena Oberdick
Legal Fellow at Latino Justice

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

Darlene Murray

Founding member of the Gangs Advocates for
Neighborhood Groups and Solutions known as the
Gang Coalition

Eileen Maher

Civil Rights Union Leader and Activist from Vocal
New York

Luis Bolanos Ordonez

Community Organizer with Vocal New York

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2 SERGEANT BRADLEY: PC recording is up.

3 SERGEANT SADOWSKY: Cloud is started. Sergeant
4 can you give the opening?

5 SERGEANT POLITE: Thank you. Good morning and
6 welcome to the Remote Hearing on Public Safety. Will
7 Council Members and Staff please turn on their video
8 at this time. Thank you. To minimize disruption,
9 please place all cellphones and electronics to
10 vibrate. To send testimony, please send it to
11 testimony@council.nyc.gov. Once again, that's
12 testimony@council.nyc.gov. Chair, we are ready to
13 begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Sorry, [GAVEL] Good morning,
15 I am Council Member Kamillah Hanks and I am Chair of
16 the Committee on Public Safety. Thank you for
17 joining our virtual hearing today held by the
18 Committee on Public Safety. I am joined by Committee
19 Members Council Member Bottcher, Council Member De La
20 Rosa, Council Member Stevens, Council Member Cabán,
21 Council Member Holden, Council Member Ariola, Council
22 Member Rita Joseph, Darlene Mealy, Council Member
23 Brannan, Council Member Williams, Council Member
24 Yeger, Council Member and we are also joined by
25 Public Advocate Jumaane Williams.

1
2 Today's hearing will be an opportunity for this
3 Committee to conduct oversight of Mayor Eric Adams
4 blueprint to end gun violence. We would like to
5 welcome NYPD Commissioner Keechant Sewell, Deputy
6 Mayor Philip Banks and MOCJ Director Deanna Logan and
7 their respective teams for testifying today.

8 Following nearly a decade of relatively low rates
9 of gun violence, New York City has experienced a rise
10 in shooting incidents in the recent years.

11 Generally, this increase mirrors nationwide trends
12 which may indicate causes not unique to New York
13 City. Such as massive societal and economic
14 disruptions from COVID-19 pandemic.

15 Nevertheless, high rates of gun violence persist
16 in certain areas of the city and this Council and the
17 Mayoral Administration have an obligation to
18 collaboratively to reverse these trends to improve
19 public safety for all New Yorkers. To that end, the
20 Mayor's blueprint on gun violence represents the
21 Administrations vision for achieving improved public
22 safety and reducing gun violence. These proposals
23 aim to strike a balance between the effort of to
24 enforce gun possession laws, seize illegal firearms
25 and incarcerate gun offenders and expand community-

1
2 based solutions to crime as well as increasing access
3 to social services and resources for the city's most
4 vulnerable communities.

5 It is the Council's responsibility to closely
6 exam this proposal, monitor the implementation of any
7 policy changes and ensure the proper balance is
8 struck between targeted law enforcement and
9 preventative measures to address the root causes of
10 violence. We must ensure that this approach protects
11 the constitutional rights of all New Yorkers while
12 keeping them safe.

13 At today's hearing we will explore how the
14 administration plans to achieve a safer city without
15 returning to prior police practices that have been
16 detrimental to our communities. Now, I'd like to
17 invite Public Advocate Jumaane Williams to make an
18 opening statement. Thank you. Public Advocate.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE WILLIAMS: Can everybody
20 hear me? Awesome. Thank you so much, peace and
21 blessings to everyone. As mentioned, my name is
22 Jumaane Williams, I'm the Public Advocate for the
23 City of New York. I want to thank Chair Kamillah
24 Hanks for holding today's hearing and for allowing me
25 some opportunities to speak on the Mayor's blueprint

1
2 to end gun violence and thankful to see Commissioner
3 Sewell here as well.

4 The devastating rise in gun violence is alarming
5 and it's a tragedy. The 28 people shot over a
6 weekend this month alone. I know the pain that these
7 shootings can cause in communities that know too well
8 the shocking trauma from this epidemic. We cannot
9 accept this as normal and we cannot go numb to the
10 violence in our streets. I do appreciate that Mayor
11 Adams's Administration acknowledges gun violence as a
12 public health crisis. I appreciate the work that
13 both of us have done together over the years on these
14 issues and I agree that this issue is a public health
15 issue.

16 At the same time, I do not believe this blueprint
17 and the parts that have been most focused on goes far
18 enough to provide the immediate relief and long-term
19 transformation of change that is needed. There are
20 very great spaces of agreement in this blueprint and
21 expanded Summer Youth Employment program is a step in
22 the right, an overlong due direction to get resources
23 to young people. In addition, the Administrations
24 desire to invest in mental health programs that offer
25 direct need to people is a welcome announcement. The

1 fact that we will be trying to structuralize some of
2 the crisis to management system into other agencies.
3 The fact that there was an agreement in trying to get
4 other agencies to be looking at the CompStat numbers
5 instead of just the NYPD. I'm not sure if those have
6 moved along yet but those are some areas that our
7 agreement need to be built out much more. The issue
8 is that this blueprint does not go far enough on some
9 of the other areas and the emphasis on change doesn't
10 seem to be in the area that we need the most
11 transformation.
12

13 In some areas, it takes a step back by using
14 false narratives that drive in violence. Focus on
15 bail reform as we know is not the reason for the rise
16 in gun violence in New York State nor across the
17 nation. Raise the Age is not the reason for the rise
18 in gun violence and I would love to see not just the
19 age change of people who are shooting but people not
20 to shoot to begin with. We need an honest
21 conversation to make meaningful change. Stop
22 violence to save lives. We can't use excuses of the
23 past that resulted in the over policing of
24 communities of more color and mass incarceration as
25 we know it is unproductive and dishonest. We can and

1 should do better to stop the violence in our
2 communities. The Mayor's blueprint should not result
3 in something that appears, like broken windows. The
4 type of policing has not, does not, will not work to
5 curb violence in our city and what we've learned in
6 the past years is that officers are not needed to fix
7 a broken window. A broken window doesn't always take
8 police to fix it. The Mayor's subway safety plan is
9 an example of sending police to eject or arrest
10 people in the transit system. Addressing the problem
11 seen across communities in the city or in our transit
12 system should not solely depend on police and should
13 not have police going there first.

14 I recommend my office's newly updated redefining
15 public safety platform released in January. The
16 platforms recommendations alone do not solve the
17 epidemic of violence. The platform is designed to
18 create a base to redefine, protect and promote public
19 safety in our city. The city should invest more in
20 the Mayor's Office of Gun Violence Prevention to
21 target young people directly impacted by gun
22 violence. The crisis management system program
23 should be embedded with the city agencies that the
24 Mayor said back in January this year.
25

1
2 Law Enforcements role in the public safety is
3 also important. It should involve community
4 stakeholders in CompStat meetings and police
5 strategies for transparency purposes and so other
6 posts can provide the services that they know they
7 can in the same areas that is being post on.

8 We have said for so many years that we know that
9 the concentration of gun violence and where it is
10 occurring. The neighborhoods that see the highest
11 rates of shootings of the same neighborhoods with the
12 highest rates of unemployment. They are the same
13 neighborhoods that had the highest COVID-19 cases
14 during the height of the pandemic. They are the same
15 neighborhoods facing a housing crisis and without
16 access to education facilities that are properly
17 funded and resourced. It's all going to be in the
18 same community. I understand that there has to be
19 accountability for violence in our communities. None
20 of these things are about excuses. The problem is
21 that we spend more on getting accountability than
22 actually addressing the structural issues in the
23 first place. If we want to get this right, we need
24 to address these issues.

1
2 lower arrests, lower incarceration, lower shootings,
3 lower use of force and police, lower people actually
4 accusing police of use of force. In 2018-2019 when
5 people were saying the same things, we actually
6 showed that the city was the safest its ever been.
7 If you are a victim of crime, that means absolutely
8 nothing to you. But many of us also said that the
9 crime would go up as we saw the pandemic impact.

10 So, we should focus on what we know is working
11 and works and understand that our police are law
12 enforcement partners. We have to stop asking them to
13 do the work of so many others. It's unfair to them
14 because they don't have the tools. It's unfair to
15 the community and I hope we can get together and get
16 this right because we have to.

17 Thank you so much. Peace and blessings.

18 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. Thank you Public
19 Advocate Williams. Now, I will turn it over to our
20 Moderator, Committee Counsel Josh Kingsley to go over
21 some procedural items.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Great, thank you so much
23 Chair. Good morning everyone. I'm Josh Kingsley,
24 Counsel to the Public Safety Committee. Before we
25 begin testimony, I want to remind everyone that you

1 will be on mute until you are called on testify.

2 Afterwards you will be unmuted by the host. I will
3 be calling on panelists to testify, please listen to
4 your name to be called. I will periodically be
5 announcing the next panelist who will be called.

6
7 During the hearing, if Council Members would like
8 to ask any questions of the Administration over
9 specific panelists, please use the Zoom raise hand
10 function and I will call on you in order. All
11 hearing participants should submit written testimony
12 to testimony@council.nyc.gov.

13 The first panelist to give testimony today will
14 be representative from the Administration. You will
15 be hearing from the New York Police Department, the
16 Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the Deputy
17 Mayor's Office.

18 Testifying for NYPD will be the Police
19 Commissioner Keechant Sewell, Kenneth Corey who is
20 the Chief of Department, Michael LiPetri who is the
21 Chief of Crime Control Strategies, James Essig who is
22 the Chief of Detectives, Thomas Galati who is the
23 Chief of Intelligence, Chauncey Parker who is the
24 Deputy Commissioner of Community Partnerships, Oleg
25 Chernyavsky, who is the Assistant Deputy

1
2 Commissioner, Kristine Ryan who is the Deputy
3 Commissioner of Management and Budget, Danielle
4 Pemberton who's the Deputy Commissioner of Strategic
5 Initiatives and Inspector Mark Iocco.

6 Testifying for MOCJ will be Deanna Logan who is
7 the Director of MOCJ, Jessica Mofield who is the
8 Executive Director of the Office of Neighborhood
9 Safety, Renita Francois who is also from the Office
10 of Neighborhood Safety, Dana Kaplan who is the Deputy
11 Director of MOCJ for Justice Initiatives and Nadine
12 Maleh who is the Executive Director of Capital
13 Projects.

14 Finally, we will also be hearing from Deputy
15 Mayor Philip Banks as well as Tiffany Raspberry who
16 is the Senior Advisor for External Affairs, Justin
17 Meyers who is the Chief of Staff and Ama Dwimoh, who
18 is the Special Counsel to the Mayor. Apologies if I
19 mispronounced any names in that process. I will now
20 be calling on representatives in the administration
21 to testify. Before we begin, I will administer the
22 oath. Some members of the administration, I'm going
23 to unmute you all at once and we will call on you
24 collectively to affirm the following statement. So,

1
2 please raise your right hands and repeat I do after I
3 kind of say the following.

4 Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth
5 and nothing but the truth before this Committee and
6 to respond honestly to Council Member questions.

7 PANEL: I do.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Excellent, thank you all.
9 You may begin.

10 PHILIP BANKS: Good morning, Chair Hanks and
11 members of the Committee on Public Safety, my name is
12 Philip Banks. I am the Deputy Mayor for Public
13 Safety and I'm joined here today by Police
14 Commissioner Keechant Sewell and Deanna Logan, who is
15 the Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal
16 Justice.

17 Together, we are here as the Adams
18 Administration's Public Safety Team. We are here
19 before you and we're grateful for this opportunity to
20 come before you to discuss the Mayor's vision for
21 public safety and justice for New Yorkers. Mayor
22 Adams' commitment to dedicated public safety
23 resources is demonstrated by the creation of the
24 leadership team that sits before you today. We are
25

1
2 working together collaboratively to execute the
3 Mayor's comprehensive vision for safety in our city.

4 Our Blueprint to End Gun Violence is a critical
5 component of the Mayor's vision for a multi-agency
6 roadmap acknowledging that public safety requires the
7 collective action of all the city resources, all of
8 the resources to prevent and end gun violence. As
9 Mayor Adams made clear, our Blueprint demonstrates
10 that the path to true safety traverses accountability
11 united with innovative solutions that support healthy
12 communities by tackling mental health challenges,
13 providing quality education and creating economic
14 opportunity. Interrupting these cycles of violence,
15 enhancing quality of life, and ensuring that the
16 criminal justice system delivers fair and equitable
17 treatment.

18 What we are asking for are practical measures
19 that the vast majority of New Yorkers support. Two-
20 third of New Yorkers want action on crime and that's
21 what we would like to achieve. We are doing this
22 with robust and sustained coordination across city
23 agencies, elected officials, law enforcement
24 partners, and community organizations. We all,
25 everyone, want a safe New York, and we all have a

1
2 role to play in accomplishing it. We are employing
3 both intervention and prevention. We are committed to
4 addressing the root causes of our challenges as a
5 city and helping our young people on a better path
6 long before they pick up a gun.

7 During our first two months, we deepened our
8 efforts to get guns off the streets, which Police
9 Commissioner will discuss in more detail. We further
10 reinforced our commitment to a public health approach
11 to safety, which Director Logan will discuss for you
12 as well. I personally have met with multiple
13 stakeholders, many people on this call today, on the
14 slide today, to understand our challenges and used
15 those conversations to advise Mayor Adams on how to
16 leverage the city's many resources to not only meet
17 our challenges but to overcome them. I will now turn
18 it over to Police Commissioner.

19 KEECHANT SEWELL: Good morning Public Advocate
20 Williams, Chair Hanks and Members of the Council.
21 Let me start by thanking the Council for the
22 opportunity to discuss this vital issue and the steps
23 the NYPD has taken, and will be taking, in
24 furtherance of Mayor Adams' Blueprint to combat the
25 gun violence in our city. I am joined today by

1
2 members of my executive staff who will assist me in
3 answering your questions.

4 As New York City fights its way back to normalcy
5 from a world-wide pandemic, we are faced with many
6 challenges. I would argue that first among them is
7 restoring the public's sense of safety. To that end,
8 the NYPD is doing its part to ensure that those who
9 victimize our communities, particularly with the use
10 of illegal firearms, are quickly identified and
11 arrested. Whether it be through strategic
12 deployments of our officers; the focused daily
13 efforts of our Neighborhood Safety Teams, Public
14 Safety Teams and Field Intelligence Officers;
15 combined with meticulous, long-term investigations by
16 our Gun Suppression Division; coordination with our
17 local, state and federal law enforcement partners, or
18 local and federal prosecutors, we are identifying,
19 targeting, arresting and building strong prosecutions
20 against gun carriers and trigger pullers in our city.
21 But the NYPD's commitment to keeping this city safe
22 is not built simply on arrests and incarceration.

23 In fact, considerable focus and significant
24 resources are dedicated to preemption and prevention,
25 as an alternative to enforcement. A strategy aimed

1
2 at avoiding violence, victimization and exposing
3 individuals, who are willing to accept intervention,
4 from ever having to be subjected to the criminal
5 justice system. This is accomplished through the
6 Intelligence Bureau's Predictive Violence Report,
7 which leverages real-time intelligence about where
8 violence is occurring and anticipates where
9 retaliatory violence will occur, and shares this
10 information with our non-law-enforcement partners who
11 are empowered to effectively interrupt the cycle of
12 violence.

13 It is accomplished through our Ceasefire
14 Initiative, which connects us, members of the clergy
15 and other partners with at-risk individuals and
16 offers them alternatives to crime and violence before
17 the cycle of violence even begins. It is through
18 programs like our Kids First Initiative, which
19 comprises education, employment, activities,
20 workshops, sports, and mentoring, as part of an
21 unwavering effort to connect kids far in advance of
22 them engaging in any behavior that may expose them to
23 the criminal justice system.

24 But we need to acknowledge a reality, there are
25 individuals in our society, those few that have shown

1
2 their commitment to violence and the victimization of
3 children, families, and communities, that must not be
4 free to walk among us and allowed to continue to
5 terrorize this city. These crimes and conditions are
6 distressing and we must work together to stop the
7 violence and criminality. We must do everything in
8 our power to ensure a criminal justice system that is
9 fair and just for everyone, but that also establishes
10 and delivers clear consequences for those who would
11 do us harm.

12 I commit to working with all our partners,
13 including our sister agencies and the communities we
14 all swore to serve. To combat the outbreak of gun
15 violence in our city, Mayor Adams has put forth a
16 comprehensive agenda. The Mayor's Blueprint to End
17 Gun Violence is a holistic and multi-dimensional
18 approach to what is, at its core, a crisis which
19 threatens the safety of every neighborhood, if we do
20 not all together embrace much needed change to thwart
21 the feeders of criminality.

22 The NYPD's role in carrying out the Blueprint is
23 significant but not exclusive and the success of the
24 plan and our collective safety will hinge on every
25 stakeholder executing and building upon the Mayor's

1 vision. It will hinge upon information sharing
2 between agencies to get help and intervention for
3 juveniles starting on the wrong path. It will
4 involve crisis managers interrupting emerging
5 disputes before they metasthesize into violence. It
6 will rely upon seamless coordination between local,
7 state and federal law enforcement to interdict guns
8 being funneled into our city. It will hinge on the
9 NYPD arresting those carrying guns and those who use
10 them. And it will depend on violent criminals being
11 prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
12

13 As the Mayor has said on a number of occasions,
14 there is no one solution that will resolve this
15 crisis. I am here today to voice my agency's
16 commitment to prioritize our part. Consistent with
17 the Blueprint, we have deployed Neighborhood Safety
18 Teams to 27 precincts and four housing police service
19 areas so far. Over the last 13 months, these
20 precincts have accounted for 80 percent of New York
21 City's shooting incidents.

22 The Neighborhood Safety Teams are primarily
23 tasked with addressing violence, seizing illegal guns
24 and apprehending the offenders who use them. To be
25 clear, these are not the anti-crime units of old.

1
2 Officers, detectives and supervisors serving on
3 Neighborhood Safety Teams are individually selected
4 and thoroughly vetted; received enhanced training
5 prior to deployment; wear a hybrid uniform that
6 clearly identifies them as police; wear body cameras
7 and have their camera footage and activity routinely
8 audited by designated supervisors and the Risk
9 Management Bureau.

10 As part of standing up these teams, we wanted to
11 assuage concerns borne out of past practices. That
12 is why we have conducted community briefings, briefed
13 this Council, answered questions, and addressed
14 concerns, and will continue to do so going forward.
15 We have also begun a citywide strategic deployment of
16 officers assigned to various non-patrol commands,
17 while at the same time conducting a top-to-bottom
18 review of all uniformed officers assigned to
19 administrative duty in order to identify efficiencies
20 and civilianize certain positions, with the goal of
21 bolstering our patrol strength.

22 We are leveraging our local, state and federal
23 partnerships in innovative ways, whether through
24 cooperation with the state police to secure our
25 city's entry points to thwart the influx of out-of-

1 state illegal firearms or bringing over 20 federal,
2 state and city law enforcement agencies and
3 prosecutors together daily, as part of the Gun
4 Violence Strategic Partnership, to track the origin
5 and history of firearms, to identify trigger-pullers
6 and to ensure every lever of justice and system is
7 engaged in their cases, from arrest to arraignment,
8 through trial and while on supervised release.

9
10 For long-term gun and violence investigations, we
11 leverage our Gun Suppression Division, which builds
12 complex cases against those trafficking and using
13 firearms, and works with our local and federal
14 prosecutors on complex prosecutions, and is
15 responsible for many of our gang takedowns that have
16 immediate and significant impacts on reducing gun
17 violence in affected communities. We will continue
18 to use science and the most cutting edge technology
19 to ensure proper identification of suspects and to
20 build iron-clad cases to secure successful
21 prosecutions.

22 We will continue working diligently in support of
23 the Mayor's vision of preemption. This includes
24 supporting crisis managers in the prevention of
25 violence, identifying additional employment,

1
2 extracurricular activities and programs for our
3 youth, working with our sister agencies to intervene
4 with at-risk youth, and those supporting those
5 suffering from mental illness with co-response
6 strategies and cooperation with the B-HEARD
7 initiative.

8 No tactic or strategy will go unexplored in our
9 forward-facing approach to crime and gun violence.
10 Council members, we know how to take guns off the
11 streets and out of the hands of violent criminals.
12 But, as we and everyone who lives in this city has
13 sadly witnessed, there is much more that needs to be
14 done, and I firmly believe that if we all do our part
15 in operationalizing the Blueprint, we will save
16 lives. Not only the lives of the victims, but the
17 lives of those whose course in life we are still able
18 to correct.

19 Together, we will stem the tide and emerge a
20 stronger, safer, fairer and more united city. Thank
21 you and we look forward to being able to answer your
22 questions.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Police
24 Commissioner, is there other individuals from the
25 Administration who are delivering a statement now?

1
2 DEANNA LOGAN: Yes, good morning.

3 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Go ahead.

4 DEANNA LOGAN: Good morning Chair Hanks, Public
5 Advocate Williams and members of the Committee on
6 Public Safety. I am Deanna Logan and I am the
7 Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice,
8 affectionately referred to as MOCJ. With me here in
9 the room today are members of MOCJ who are boots on
10 the ground for delivering a lot of the services that
11 I will talk about this morning.

12 Thank you for inviting us here today and as you
13 have heard, Deputy Mayor Banks and Police
14 Commissioner Sewell shared our vision of public
15 safety as a communal responsibility. We are
16 committed to strengthening and building healthy
17 communities defined by the residents that live in
18 those communities, to produce sustainable safety.
19 MOCJ's Office of Neighborhood Safety, referred to as
20 ONS, is central to the city's public health approach
21 to safety. We partner with community-based
22 organizations on various anti-gun violence
23 initiatives.

24 Prioritizing community engagement with the people
25 and organizations that are most affected by gun

1 violence remains at the center of our approach to
2 address the root causes of gun violence. Our Crisis
3 Management System model deploys teams of credible
4 messengers, community members whose backgrounds allow
5 them to connect with and motivate at-risk individuals
6 to 31 sites where they implement the Cure Violence
7 model of mediating conflicts on the street and
8 directing New Yorkers to services that create peace
9 and support healing.

11 These services include year-round employment
12 programs, mental health services, trauma counseling
13 and other opportunity-centered resources. This
14 initiative has brought measurable benefits to
15 communities citywide. Research found that across CMS
16 sites, shooting victimizations fell by 28 percent
17 over the first 24 months following a site launch,
18 compared to the 24 months prior to the launch, with
19 gun injuries down 33 percent.

20 Researchers also found that the CMS or Crisis
21 Management System increased trust in police and
22 decreased residents' reliance on violence to settle
23 disputes. Additionally, our work includes preventive
24 upstream community-based interventions employing
25 internationally recognized models of community

1
2 engagement centered in community residents' ability
3 to co-create safety where they live through
4 innovative problem-solving.

5 The signature initiative of Neighborhood Stat
6 brings together residents, community stakeholders,
7 and city agency representatives to identify, solve
8 public safety and quality of life issues. Residents
9 take the lead in safety realization efforts through
10 partnerships with community organizations and various
11 city agencies, including NYPD Parks Department, the
12 Department for Aging, NYCHA, and the Department of
13 Sanitation.

14 ONS's work is a shining example of the
15 administration's commitment to supporting and
16 enhancing all pathways to safety. MOCJ continues its
17 coordination with criminal justice stakeholders to
18 identify and alleviate challenges to the efficient
19 operation of the criminal justice system. In the
20 wake of COVID-19, our criminal justice stakeholders
21 worked together to meet the significant operational
22 challenges posed by the pandemic. While criminal
23 justice stakeholders have returned to full operation
24 in-person, coordination and cooperation is required
25

1
2 to address the new challenges that are the result of
3 the last two years.

4 We are reviewing pre-trial services and the
5 tools that we provide the court to determine ways to
6 strengthen and enhance those tools. The Office of
7 Court Administration committed additional resources
8 and staffed up dedicated court rooms for gun cases
9 and is continuing its work and our work with the
10 District Attorneys and the Defense Bar to address the
11 current backlog of over three thousand cases in the
12 New York State courts. All of the criminal justice
13 stakeholders have reaffirmed their commitment to
14 working collaboratively to address the entire backlog
15 of cases that we face as a result of the pandemic.
16 Collectively, I am confident we will meet those
17 challenges. Thank you again for having us here and I
18 turn it back to DM Banks to close out our remarks.

19 DEANNA BANKS: So Chair and members of the
20 Council, so this is just a glimpse into the
21 importance of how the Mayor feels about this hearing
22 and his blueprint as illustrated by who is here and
23 we are willing now to answer questions.
24
25

1
2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much. We will
3 turn to Chair Hanks for opening questions followed by
4 Council Members. Chair Hanks, you may go ahead.

5 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. Thank you Police
6 Commissioner Sewell, Deputy Mayor Banks and Direct
7 MOCJ's Director Logan. I just want to acknowledge my
8 colleagues that have joined, Council Member Barron,
9 Council Member Osse, Council Member Nurse and
10 Majority Whip Brooks-Powers have joined.

11 The first questions that I have are going to
12 surround around the selection of officers. Uhm, how
13 were the officers selected to be a part of the
14 neighborhood safety teams? And what additional
15 training would be provided to the officers who are
16 selected? And when we talk about training, please
17 give us a glimpse of what types of training is being
18 done with the neighborhood safety teams.

19 KEECHANT SEWELL: Good morning Chair Hanks.

20 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Good morning.

21 KEECHANT SEWELL: So, really three big things
22 that differentiate the neighborhood safety teams from
23 the anti-crime teams of old can be summed up as
24 selection training and oversight. So, when we speak
25 about selection and how the officers are selected, to

1
2 begin with they've all volunteered to even be
3 considered for the assignment. They're then
4 recommended by their Commanding Officer based on that
5 Commanding Officer's review of the individuals past
6 performance. And then that recommendation is
7 forwarded to the borough commander in that particular
8 where they'll be working for approval. Ultimately
9 those list of recommendations found its way to our
10 Risk Management Bureau. And our Risk Management
11 Bureau did an extensive dive into each of these
12 individuals and they looked at certain things like
13 past complaints, any prior disciplinary action, their
14 performance evaluation, any civilian complaints, any
15 civilian accommodations for that matter. And then
16 perhaps most importantly using a tool that wasn't
17 even available to us. Just a few years ago, they
18 reviewed body camera footage of these officers
19 encounters with individuals that were taking place in
20 the present, to try to determine whether or not they
21 approach their duties properly. Whether they treated
22 people with dignity and respect, whether they applied
23 the law correctly.

24 So, then after that approval process took place
25 and the individuals that were ultimately selected

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2 proceeded on to training, a seven day, a
3 comprehensive seven day training module was created
4 just for these neighborhood safety teams; of course
5 focused heavily on de-escalation tactics,
6 constitutional policing. Risk identification and
7 mitigation, active bystandership for law enforcement,
8 that science of intervention.

9 A heavy emphasis placed on law and risk
10 management to make sure that the members assigned to
11 these teams know what they can legally do within the
12 scope of their employment and within the purview of
13 the United States Constitution and the New York State
14 Penal Law. So, that curriculum includes two days of
15 courtroom testimony, three days of tactics training,
16 including the use of minimal force techniques and
17 then two days of risk management training. I would
18 also like to point out at this point that some of the
19 officers that were initially selected and vetted were
20 subsequently removed from training and the decision
21 was made that they would not be assigned to these
22 teams because of their performance in training.
23 Because the instructors saw things as they went
24 through the real world scenarios that they were
25 tasked with completing that made me raise alarm bells

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2 and said, maybe this person is not a good fit for
3 this assignment and so, we did not assign them to
4 that.

5 And then the final piece I mentioned was the
6 oversight. And the oversight here is really
7 critical. So, to begin with, that starts at the
8 lowest level. A team consists of five officers and
9 one sergeant. That sergeant has no other
10 responsibilities other than the supervision of those
11 five officers assigned to the public safety team.
12 There are similar levels of oversight that take place
13 then at the precinct commander level, at the patrol
14 borough level, at the Chief of Patrols office, my own
15 office and then our Risk Management Bureau as a team
16 of personnel, solely dedicated to reviewing and
17 analyzing the performance of officers assigned to
18 these neighborhood safety teams. That would include
19 a review certainly of their body camera videos. It's
20 going to include a review of their paperwork. It's
21 going to look at the outcomes if there is arrests and
22 other situations that they are involved in.

23 And ultimately then all of that also falls under
24 the purview of the court appointed federal monitor,
25 who also has complete access to all of that same

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2 information so that they can assist us in reviewing
3 their performance.

4 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. So, what about
5 the demographics of the Neighborhood Safety Teams?
6 Many of my constituents and I would imagine my
7 colleagues also got these questions. Do they reflect
8 the communities in which they are going to be
9 serving?

10 KEECHANT SEWELL: Well, they largely reflect the
11 demographics of the department. So, the current
12 demographics of the neighborhood safety teams and
13 I'll contrast that the demographics of the Police
14 Department, 3.5 percent Asian, the Department as a
15 whole is 9.9 percent Asian. The Neighborhood Safety
16 Teams 16.6 percent Black. The Department 15.3
17 percent Black. 38.2 percent Hispanic for the
18 Neighborhood Safety Teams versus 30.2 percent for the
19 Police Department as a whole. Native American zero
20 and then one-tenth of one percent of the department
21 and then White 41.7 percent of Neighborhood Safety
22 Team members are White versus 44.5 percent of the
23 Department as a whole.

24 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. So, uhm, when we
25 talk about oversight and transparency, what

1 additional oversight or safeguards will be
2 implemented to ensure the Neighborhood Safety teams
3 are not engaging in over aggressive policing
4 practices?
5

6 KEECHANT SEWELL: And so uhm, as I mentioned
7 starting at the Sergeant level and then up to the
8 precinct commander level that review will continually
9 take place of incidents that the officers are
10 involved in. So, that body camera review, there are
11 certain body camera videos that must be reviewed by
12 the supervisor, by the precinct commander and again,
13 ultimately by the Chief of Patrols office, my own
14 office and our Risk Management Bureau. Those would
15 certainly include any incidents in which force was
16 used, all incidents that result in an arrest, those
17 would be mandatory that supervisors review those
18 videos and critique there performance and make sure
19 the everything was appropriate. And then there's a
20 sampling of videos that are also going to take place
21 of other encounters that don't lead to those outcomes
22 to ensure that the officers are performing their
23 duties in accordance with the Constitution. That
24 everyone's right are being protected and that quite
25 frankly that they are using sound tactics and

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2 engaging with people the way that we want them to
3 engage.

4 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. In our
5 Preliminary Budget hearing, many of my colleagues
6 raised questions and concerns regarding the
7 Neighborhood Safety team rollout and many were not
8 contacted or made aware. How will NYPD address this
9 and what measures will you take to ensure that this
10 is a working partnership and the lines of
11 communication are open?

12 KEECHANT SEWELL: So, Chair Hanks, I will
13 apologize for that because that was done through my
14 office and we thought that we had contacted everyone.
15 When I posted the borough-based listening sessions,
16 we invited a wide range of community leaders, clergy
17 members, members of our crisis management system and
18 a number of elected officials participated both from
19 the city, state and congressional level were present
20 for those calls. We also did a call working in
21 conjunction with the Council Speaker. We did a
22 presentation to members of the Council, so if there
23 are members that were not included in those, I
24 apologize for that. It was never our intension to
25 exclude anyone.

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2 At the local level, meetings are ongoing before
3 these teams rollout, so the local precinct commander
4 convenes a community roundtable again with community
5 leaders with members of the crisis management system
6 and others so that they can have conversations with
7 those neighborhood safety team members so that the
8 team members can hear from the community what their
9 concerns are, what their expectations are and then at
10 a precinct community council meeting the, very next
11 scheduled precinct community council meeting, those
12 neighborhood safety team members are introduced to
13 the larger community as a whole and we want them to
14 continue that level of community engagement and to
15 continue to build and deepen those relationships
16 within the community.

17 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. In regard to
18 increased resources for Gun Violence Suppression
19 Division, what does – what resources does the Gun
20 Violence Suppression Division currently have and what
21 makes up the Gun Violence Suppression Unit?

22 JAMES ESSIG: Chief Essig, Chief of Detectives.
23 Currently, the Gun Violence Suppression Division has
24 201 total uniformed members of the service. That's
25 from the Deputy Chief all the way down, 50 police

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2 officers, 120 detectives. What the Gun Violence
3 Suppression Division does, is they do focus targeted
4 cases on the most violent offenders, which is crews
5 and gangs in New York City.

6 We also, one of the new things we do now is
7 tracing the guns, which we're doing cases on guns
8 that have multiple uses throughout different
9 boroughs, holistic kits if you will. So, that's one
10 of the new functions of the Gun Violence Suppression
11 Division but they mostly work on historical violent
12 cases against the gangs and crews who are doing the
13 violence. And then we have a subset of that who
14 works on individuals who are involved in violence but
15 they are fully staffed right now at 201 total or a
16 little less.

17 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. Regarding the use
18 of technology to identify suspects who carry guns,
19 what technologies does the Department intend to use,
20 facial recognition, body scan technology? How will
21 the department ensure that facial recognition is
22 accurate and how will the department identify
23 potential suspects?

24 PHILIP BANKS: Before we go into that, I would
25 just like to say Chair is that the Mayor is very big

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2 on looking and exploring at technology as a way to
3 fight crime. So, as members of his leader staff, we
4 are looking and exploring very significant issues
5 when it comes to technology. And no decision has
6 been made at all on what we're going to use. He has
7 just asked us to explore and to look collectively and
8 technically into what can make New York City as we
9 possibly can. Of course, constitutionally and being
10 fair and being open, which would mean that members
11 who are on this call from the City Council will be
12 very much aware of any of the intentional technology
13 that we are looking to utilize. So, he has tasked me
14 with looking at that and I'm doing that in
15 coordination with all of the public safety agencies.
16 As of now, no decision has been made to do anything
17 other than what is being currently used now. And
18 Jimmy you can take it from here. If you have unless
19 any other questions on that specific topic Madam
20 Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: No, thank you. Thank you.

22 OLEG CHERNYAVSKY: Thank you for the question
23 Council Member. So, I'll just add to what the Deputy
24 Mayor just said. The current use of technology is
25 you know you mentioned facial recognition for

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2 example. That's something that we use. Our policy
3 is posted on our website as part of the Post Act
4 disclosure, creating our policy, we put it - before
5 we finalized it, we put it out for public comment.
6 We received those comments. We made adjustments
7 based on those comments before we finalized the
8 policy but the important thing you know when you talk
9 about in particular facial recognition is - or any
10 other technology are the legal safeguards and the
11 fairness safeguards that are put in place.

12 So, legally speaking, we examine every use of our
13 technology to ensure that it comports with
14 constitutional legal standards. At the end of the
15 day and this is the important thing to recognize is,
16 whatever evidence we collect through the use of
17 technology ultimately must be introduced in court in
18 support of the prosecution.

19 So, if we are using a particular technology or
20 collecting evidence in any kind of illegal or
21 unconstitutional way, that doesn't benefit us or
22 doesn't benefit the prosecution or the victim. So
23 this evidence will not make it into court if it
24 doesn't pass constitutional muster. So, that's point
25

1
2 one, is that it is done constitutionally and in
3 accordance with the law.

4 With respect to facial recognition, there are
5 multiple layers overlayed on top of the software and
6 I understand that some of the criticisms of the
7 software is that it has mishits and what we did here
8 in the NYPD is that we overlayed a human component,
9 so we have a hybrid system. So, one, the software
10 only hits again certain photos in the arrest photo
11 database.

12 Two, once, if there is a hit, it then has to be
13 reviewed by trained individuals in the Detective
14 Bureau and they must agree with the software hit and
15 once that is corroborated by the human element, it
16 still comes as - the lead is given to the case
17 detective with a big banner across the top say, this
18 is not probable cause to make an arrest.

19 So, just the fact that the software hit plus the
20 detective in the facial recognition unit agreed with
21 that software, that still is not sufficient to
22 establish probable cause for an arrest. The case
23 detective can use that as a lead and investigate and
24 if the determination is made that the result of
25 facial rec, the individual was out of the country at

1
2 the time of the crime, then that lead is not pursued
3 and the case takes a different path.

4 So, we overlaid multiple layers on top of the
5 software to ensure that any mistakes or
6 misidentifications by the software is avoided.

7 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. Thank you so
8 much. Before I get into questions for MOCJ, my final
9 question is, how will the department evaluate the
10 success of the neighborhood safety teams and what
11 metrics will be used to define success?

12 KENNETH COREY: So, how do we measure the
13 success? Well, I mean, the ultimate measurement of
14 success would be a reduction in crime with more
15 successful prosecutions which are going to be prime
16 factor engaging the effectiveness of the teams.

17 The metrics that we are use are not so much based
18 on the quantity of arrests that the officers make but
19 really on the quality of arrests. We want them
20 focused on the people who are driving violence in the
21 community. Who are carrying guns in the community
22 and that's where we want their enforcement efforts
23 focused. So, it goes beyond just the number of
24 arrests. It's who's being arrested? What are they
25 being arrested for? And then ultimately, what is the

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2 prosecution outcome of that case? Because if we are
3 not building successful cases, if we are not ensuring
4 the everyone's rights are violated and we're getting
5 - we're bringing the prosecutor the best possible
6 case for prosecution, then quite frankly, we aren't
7 doing our job very well.

8 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you very much. So, I'm
9 going to move over to some question for MOCJ. The
10 empowering violence interrupters citywide. What is
11 the current funding allocated for the crisis
12 management system CMS? And how has that amount
13 changed in recent years?

14 JESSICA MOFIELD: Good morning.

15 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Morning.

16 DEANNA LOGAN: Morning. Yes, you're unmuted.
17 I'm going to give it to Jessica Mofield to give you
18 the full numbers but I can tell you for FY22, the
19 total budget was \$135 million essentially.

20 JESSICA MOFIELD: Good morning all. I hope you
21 all are well. This investment has grown since the
22 initial advocacy from Public Advocate Williams and
23 others that are still currently a part of the
24 Council. From about \$14 million in 2014 we've been

1
2 able to triple that to \$135 million that we now see
3 in FY22.

4 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. Does the
5 Administration plan to commit additional budget
6 resources to funding CMS in subsequent years, expand
7 catchment areas of exiting or new providers?

8 JESSICA MOFIELD: Yes, we do. In the ways that
9 we would go about you know looking at expansion in
10 existing precincts or new precinct areas that rank
11 within the top ten for the city, is through looking
12 at quantitative data that will come from our partners
13 at NYPD to kind of look at the spots that have the
14 highest propensity of violence and also qualitative
15 and anecdotal information from community members to
16 kind of guide the programmatic boundaries of where
17 those investments should go.

18 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. So, what
19 obstacles does the Administration anticipate in
20 expanding the scope of operations of CMS and how does
21 MOCJ evaluate the effectiveness of programming in
22 which it funds? What metrics will MOCJ use to
23 determine the effectiveness of organizations that are
24 funded?

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2 JESSICA MOFIELD: So, we currently partner with
3 John Jay and also NORC to evaluate the NORC to
4 evaluate the effectiveness of the Crisis Management
5 System. What we're currently looking to do now is
6 identify racial equity metrics that do not heavily
7 rely on CompStat data to evaluate the quality of life
8 that's within the particular precincts. The number
9 of interruptions and community activities. The
10 number of referrals and connections to resources that
11 we're able to make for community members and also the
12 number of participants, in addition to looking at the
13 trends of how homicide shootings and also shots fired
14 have decreased in a particular area. Laid on top of
15 the ways that we're able to meet the social
16 determinates of health through the programs that we
17 implement.

18 There is a report that John Jay is currently
19 working on now that's directly connected to SIPBRA
20 funding. That's connected to the cost per
21 implementation through SIPBRA. That's connected to
22 the federal government to actually continuing and
23 expanding the evaluation of new sites that have come
24 on board to do Medicaid cost analysis to see how we
25

1
2 can continue to put money back into community-based
3 off of Medicaid cost savings.

4 DDEANNA LOGAN: And just to be clear, when we're
5 talking about SIPBRA, we're talking about the
6 partnership with Treasury. The federal government
7 has a program to pay for performance, so research
8 going into the measurements of the impacts of the
9 Crisis Management System.

10 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much. I have no
11 further questions. Josh, you can move it over to my
12 colleagues who have questions. Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much Chair.
14 We'll now turn to Council Member questions. Council
15 Members will have five minutes of questions for each
16 member. We'll be hearing from Council Member Barron
17 followed by Council Member Ossé followed by Council
18 Member Cabán followed by Council Member Nurse.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well thank you very much.
21 First of all, you know been a veteran in this
22 business for a long time and we hear all the same
23 rhetoric year after year. But the rhetoric doesn't
24 usually match the reality. So, let's take a few
25 things. First of all, a three-year-old was shot in

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2 my district and I just want all of you to know I met
3 with the mother and met with her beautiful young
4 girl. They're doing fine and we're going to provide
5 them with counseling and other services.

6 But here's some factual stuff. Every time we
7 talk about crime because crime is a very emotional
8 issue. So, politicians manipulate the emotions of
9 people and the minute you want to stop crime, more
10 cops, more policing. Let's look at the facts. When
11 I came into the City Council in 2001, the budget for
12 the Police Department was \$3 billion, the headcount
13 was 25,000. Now, it's \$11 billion, not \$5.4 billion
14 because when you add fringe benefits and when you add
15 pension and when you add other pieces to it, it's an
16 \$11 billion budget with a \$50,000 headcount and this
17 year, crime went up. When the Mayor put the street
18 crime unit, that he's changing the name to
19 neighborhood safety and giving them vests and giving
20 them you know cameras, the bottom line, that street
21 crime unit came with Giuliani and they were horrific
22 in our communities.

23 But let's say he made change in personnel in
24 that. Well, when they came out that Monday, the
25 Monday before they were deployed, 13 people were

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2 shot. The Monday after they were deployed, 28 people
3 were shot, including the three-year-old in my
4 district.

5 That is not working and when you look at the
6 crime stats in the 75th Precinct, in my Precinct area
7 from 2001 when Man Up Inc and myself and others, we
8 got into other aspects of making the community safe.
9 Crime went down in every area. When de Blasio
10 disbanded the street crime unit in 2020, crime went
11 down. Crime is up now, pandemic, whatever the
12 reason, it's up high and we got more money for the
13 Police Department than it ever had before. And by
14 the way, the Police Department pays \$513 million in
15 overtime pay. That's one-third of the \$1.4 billion
16 that's paid to all agencies and they increased this
17 budget by \$76 million for more overtime. More
18 overtime means more arrests, more time in courts,
19 more filling out paper in our communities.

20 This particular blueprint is against no cash
21 bail. He wants them to put the word dangerous in
22 there, giving the judges more discretion. That's why
23 we had no cash bail in the first place. 98 percent
24 of the people that were out for no cash bail, minor
25 crimes, not violent crimes did not commit another

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2 crime. You all need to stop that. Stop using that
3 as a rational for doing this over policing. And then
4 when you look at the raise the age, he wants them to
5 go into adult court instead of the youth court.
6 Ridiculous, and when you look at solitary
7 confinement, solitary confinement it's oh, it's going
8 to be different. We're going to have more out of
9 cell time. You know where that out of cell is? It's
10 a little cell right in front of the cell. They're
11 still isolated instead of segregated and given the
12 social services that they need to stop violence in
13 prison.

14 Bottomline, poverty is the root causes to crime.
15 Unemployment is the root causes to crime and I think
16 the most valuable thing we can do is the CMS, is the
17 Cure Violence, is the violence interrupters. Man Up
18 Inc is doing an awesome job in our community. Life
19 Cap on the Erica Ford is doing a great job in Queens.
20 So, we need to not do a hundred and some odd million.
21 We need \$1 billion in this program, so that at least
22 every community, every borough should have \$100
23 million toward violence interruption.

24 So, when you come at this and you say you're
25 going to do jobs for the youth over summer, 100,000

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2 jobs, 150-200,000 youth are applying for them, that
3 is not enough. So, finally, I say that the best way
4 to cure crime is to battle it with poverty, deal with
5 the youth entrepreneurship program. They should be
6 funded. We should have more trade schools.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: More trade schools. I'll
9 be finished in a minute. Trade schools in our
10 communities. We should have much more of that so
11 that we're dealing with the real root causes to
12 crime. That three-year-old was shot in an area where
13 we didn't have no violence interrupters in that
14 particular area but we did have police and it did not
15 stop. The violence interrupters, they know our
16 community and I think that's the way to go.

17 This blueprint, 75 percent of it is policing, 25
18 percent of it is lip service for mental health and
19 youth entrepreneurship. The dollars don't match.
20 The dollars simply don't match. Mayor, we cannot
21 police our way out of this. You can't turn our
22 communities into a police state. We have to have
23 poverty, unemployment, mental health, education,
24 cultural, don't build more precincts, build more
25 youth centers. I think those things when they

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2 adequately address, not with lip service and chump
3 change but really address with putting your money
4 where your mouth is and at this state, it is not
5 there. The money is in the Police Department and
6 policing more than the social services. Thank you.

7 KEECHANT SEWELL: Council Member Barron, I
8 wholeheartedly understand the need for other programs
9 and I think the New York City Police Department and
10 the Mayor has shown a commitment to working with our
11 partners and we are continuing to do that going
12 forward. These anti-crime teams are not the anti-
13 crime teams of all. They are neighborhood safety
14 teams. They look different. They are vetted
15 different. They are a significant oversight to these
16 teams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: In all due respect
18 Commissioner, in all due respect -

19 KEECHANT SEWELL: Please, excuse me, I'm sorry.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: In all due respect, you
21 just changed the name. You changed some personnel
22 but the policy and you even want to bring back broken
23 windows, which is a racist policy. Whether a Black
24 officer does it or a White officer does it. So, it
25 doesn't matter if the personnel changes if the policy

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2 doesn't change. We don't want a change in
3 complexion, we want a change in the direction. And
4 I'm sorry for interrupting you but I heard so much
5 rhetoric for 30-years, it is hard to keep hearing the
6 same old same old and not seeing any different
7 results.

8 KEECHANT SEWELL: I respectfully disagree.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member
10 Barron and Police Commissioner. We'll move on to
11 Council Member Ossé followed by Council Member Cabán
12 followed by Council Member Nurse followed by Council
13 Member Williams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: Good morning everyone and
15 thank you Chairwoman Hanks for having this
16 discussion. This past weekend or on Friday
17 afternoon, a 19-year-old Black woman hopped over a
18 turn style in my district and was faced with
19 aggression by NYPD officers. She was physically
20 attacked by them after she went over the turn styles
21 on the other side when listening to their demands.
22 Over the footage, while they were holding her and
23 slamming her head into a wall, one of your officers
24 said and excuse my language, "I'll pop you in your
25 fucking mouth."

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2 So, the question that I have for you, especially
3 since some of the vetting that you are doing for this
4 Neighborhood Safety Team is that you're implementing,
5 reviewing of body cam footage. I do want to ask if
6 you have all of these standards? Like, with human
7 body camera footage to see if cops treat people with
8 dignity and respect in order to get into the
9 community safety job? What happens to the officers
10 who don't get in? Do they fail that test but stay on
11 the streets and continue to slam my constituents
12 heads into walls while threatening them over footage
13 of body cam?

14 KENNETH COREY: Council Member for starters I
15 would like to invite you to come in and look at the
16 body camera footage -

17 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I did. I saw it. I saw
18 it.

19 KENNETH COREY: You saw it in its entirety sir,
20 than you did not -

21 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Yes, I did. I did yes.
22 So, in the footage, for the record in the footage so
23 people can know, the officers are asking her to go
24 back over the turn style after she hopped. She went
25 over and the officers continued to put her hands on

1
2 her. Of course she was agitated and did respond in
3 that and that's when the violence continued. But she
4 did go back over the turn style and was continuing to
5 be agressed by the police officers. I saw the
6 footage. I would love for you to publicize the
7 footage, so we could all see it together but I know
8 that that's something you probably wouldn't do. So,
9 continue.

10 KENNETH COREY: So, the violence there begins
11 when she punches the officer in the face.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: The violence there begins
13 when she goes over the turn style and the police
14 officers continue to put their hands on her.

15 KENNETH COREY: I'm trying to answer your
16 question. So, she punches one officer in the face.
17 She bites a second officer; she kicks a third officer
18 in the groin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: After the officers
20 continues to put their hands on her when she goes
21 over the turn styles. When she does what they ask
22 her to do, they continue to put her hands on her.

23 KENNETH COREY: So, incidents like this are
24 subject to review, not only inside the department but
25 also by the Civilian Complaint Review Board. And if

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2 the Review Board determines that the officers actions
3 were inappropriate than disciplinary action would be
4 instituted against them.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSĚ: Okay, so answer the later
6 part of the question. You said that when you are
7 vetting people for the Community Safety Team, you
8 don't accept people that do not show dignity and
9 respect over body cam footage. So, those are the
10 officers that do not pass that test. They get to
11 stay on our street still?

12 KENNETH COREY: Officers who have an issues with
13 the way that they interact with members of the
14 community are retrained as necessary. They are
15 disciplined when discipline is appropriate.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSĚ: We've heard that year after
17 year after year and then we hear over body cam
18 footage, I'll pop you in your fucking mouth. I'll
19 continue on and say that I've talked to many of the
20 commanding officers in my community and many of them
21 have even described themselves as these neighborhood
22 safety teams as performative.

23 To me, when I hear of initiatives like this as
24 performative, to me it's a waste of taxpayer dollars.
25 Meanwhile numerous agencies in the city are extremely

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2 underfunded. Agencies that actually keep our
3 communities safe. So, what would you respond to
4 those commanding officers that label this initiative
5 as performative?

6 PHILIP BANKS: And Ken, let me answer the
7 question. Ken, let me just answer. Council Member,
8 I certainly understand your frustration. I know how
9 long you've been a Council member but you seem to be
10 very concerned about your constituents as I am about
11 your constituents. I should be the Chief of the
12 department. I take it very, very seriously as does
13 the Mayor who has a history, I mean history of not
14 just talking right of going to court, of pushing
15 legislations to make sure that we identify those
16 officers who are conducting the matters like that and
17 for anyone to think that this administration will
18 tolerate that. Now, is that to say that we're not
19 going to have an officer whose going to do that?
20 Absolutely. You tell me a Police Department that's
21 not.

22 But I am telling you, once we identify those
23 particular officers and we find out in fact, that
24 they are conducting their behavior in a manner that's
25 infringed upon their community, swift and appropriate

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2 action will take place. Is that to say a month from
3 now or a year from now, we're not going to be able to
4 find that officer? Of course we're going to be able
5 to find that officer.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Respectfully, respectfully
7 Deputy Mayor, I do not want to hear the rest of this
8 rhetoric.

9 PHILIP BANKS: Well, that's fine, you don't have
10 to respectfully have to hear – of course I'm going to
11 ask that question. So, of course we're going to have
12 those problems but we are taking swift action to do
13 it. Now, Eric Adams as the Mayor, [INAUDIBLE
14 1:05:49]. This is not intentional. You get anything
15 that you say that you say that needs to be
16 implemented that we will take into consideration. We
17 want to identify those cops as well and I have a
18 track record of identifying those particular officers
19 who in fact are implementing that type of behavior on
20 our particular streets here.

21 So, no judge is going to, individual cop judges
22 on us not taking action to correct –

23 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: It's not an individual cop.
24 This is a historic, systemic blueprint for how you've
25 been running this agency for decades. This is not

1 something that I'm making up out of one incident that
2 happened on Friday. This happens year after year
3 after year after year and we hear the same rhetoric
4 and now that we want to put more money into another
5 unit that again is labeled as performative by people
6 in your agency is ridiculous while multiple agencies
7 within our city are extremely underfunded, while our
8 city needs the help the most.

9
10 So, do you want to answer my question? What
11 would you respond to the Commanding Officers that
12 have labeled this initiative as performative? Which
13 to me seems like a waste of our taxpayer dollars of
14 hardworking New Yorkers.

15 PHILIP BANKS: To clarify that question -

16 KENNETH COREY: I would say that -

17 PHILIP BANKS: Yeah Ken.

18 KENNETH COREY: Thank you sir. I would say that
19 the seizing of 20-guns in two weeks' time is not
20 performative.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Okay.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.

23 Next, we'll hear from Council Member Cabán followed
24 by Council Member Nurse, Council Member Williams and
25 Council Member Stevens.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you and thank you
Chair. I want to direct the first questions that I
have for the Commissioner.

You testified that "you will continue to use
science. So, yes or no, are you familiar with the
National Academy of Sciences?

KEECHANT SEWELL: I'm sorry, I am actually uh,
yes, I am familiar with that. I'm sorry your
question, yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay, so the National
Academy of Sciences was established by an act of
congress. For those who don't know in 1863, it was
charged with providing independent objective advice
to the nation on matters related to science and
technology. Scientists are elected by their peers to
membership in the NAS for outstanding contributions
to research. The NAS is committed to furthering
science in America and the National Academy of
Science has reviewed almost four decades of research
on broken windows policing and concluded that
policing tactics focused on low-level arrests,
"generate small to no impacts on crime."

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2 The Center for Evidence-Based Crime policy also
3 issued a report finding that "aggressive order
4 maintenance strategies" did not reduce crime. So,
5 why are you adopting a strategy that decades of
6 experience and research shows doesn't work?

7 KEECHANT SEWELL: So, I'm going to disagree
8 because I have to tell you, these are not aggressive
9 enforcement tactics that we are instituting. This is
10 an initiative that will initially stress warnings for
11 this -

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Policing tactics focused
13 on low-level arrests.

14 KEECHANT SEWELL: Sorry, I'm trying to answer
15 your question. So, we recognize that a significant
16 number of low level offenses ultimately may lead to
17 more serious crimes and our effort in this initiative
18 is to stop the precursors of violence and criminal
19 activity. Once again, we will begin with a warning.
20 These are not aggressive enforcement tactics. We
21 have a significant amount of data through the 311
22 system and the 911 system that shows that these
23 initial complaints need to be answered. They should
24 not be ignored. We are trying to stop the precursors
25 for violence in criminal activity.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: But you are not answering
3 those problems. So, yes or no, do you disagree with
4 the National Academy of Sciences?

5 KEECHANT SEWELL: I am focusing on the data that
6 we have that shows that these -

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Do you disagree with the
8 National Academy of Sciences?

9 KEECHANT SEWELL: I can tell you what happens and
10 what works in the City of New York -

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Commissioner, yes or no.
12 Do you disagree with their four decades of research?
13 Do you agree with it or do you disagree with it?

14 KEECHANT SEWELL: You are asking me to disagree
15 with an entire body. I am telling you what works for
16 this city and what we are focused on in this police
17 department and in the Mayor's -

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay, I'm going to move on
19 because there's a complete refusal to answer a very
20 simple question as to whether or not you disagree
21 with the scientific bodies for results.

22 KEECHANT SEWELL: To request a yes or a no answer
23 to that question takes it out of context and it does
24 not understand what is happening in this city. Your
25 yes or no answer would not give the full answer that

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2 is required to answer this question for the purposes
3 of this conversation.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I disagree but before
5 launching this initiative, did you or others involved
6 in the planning process consider the impact that this
7 style of broken windows policing might have on the
8 communities being policed this way?

9 KEECHANT SEWELL: We take into account the impact
10 any initiative we have in this city will have on its
11 residents every single time. This is an ongoing
12 initiative that will be evaluated step by step. We
13 recognize that a disproportionate number of
14 communities are affected by violence. We certainly
15 will be looking forward to reviewing what we have
16 done and what we will do in the future for this
17 initiative.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, yes or no did you
19 consult any of the research on negative mental health
20 impacts including increased anxiety and trauma that
21 this style of policing has on young Black men in New
22 York City?

23 KEECHANT SEWELL: We take a look at the impact of
24 every initiative that we employ in this police
25 department.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: No, did you consult any of
3 the research on the – did you consult to any of the
4 research?

5 KEECHANT SEWELL: Let me answer your question.
6 We take a look at impacts, studies and results for
7 every initiative we implement in this police
8 department. You are asking me a yes or no question
9 that the answer will not give a valid and informed
10 answer that relates to what the conditions are in
11 this city now.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, can you commit to in
13 the next two weeks providing us with copies of all of
14 the studies that you reviewed before dispatching this
15 approach?

16 KEECHANT SEWELL: I want you to understand and
17 please I don't want to get this lost here. We must
18 address the community complaints that we are
19 receiving. We certainly will not tolerate anyone who
20 is abusing the civil rights of anyone.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Commissioner, that's not
22 my question. My question is about what you are
23 consulting science, research and data. Not
24 addressing community concerns. Whether you
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1
2 consulted, you said you did and whether you will then
3 provide -

4 KEECHANT SEWELL: No, not consulted. I said we
5 review. I said we review.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay, so the research that
8 you reviewed, can you commit to sending it to the
9 City Council within the next two weeks, so that we
10 know what research you reviewed to base your approach
11 on?

12 KEECHANT SEWELL: I will commit to you that you
13 and I will have a conversation and we can discuss
14 what we review and we can discuss the impacts that
15 this policy and initiative has had going forward.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, YOU WON'T SEND US WHAT
17 you looked at?

18 KEECHANT SEWELL: I can discuss with you what we
19 looked at, yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: No, no, no. I'm not
21 saying -

22 KEECHANT SEWELL: I know what you're saying. I
23 will let you know exactly what we looked at and what
24 I reviewed. How is that?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Why can't we have a copy?

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2 KEECHANT SEWELL: You actually already have a
3 copy because you just went over the entire statistics
4 for that study for the Science Institute, so I will
5 let you know exactly what we looked at.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: No, I want to know what
7 you all looked at and my last question had to do with
8 not studies related to the actual efficacy of the
9 policing tactic but my final question was
10 specifically around research on the negative mental
11 health impacts, including increased anxiety and
12 trauma of the styled policing. Those are two
13 separate things. You said you did look at or read
14 that, I'm asking you to provide that.

15 PHILIP BANKS: Council Member, can I try to
16 answer your question?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: It is a simple question of
18 will you provide what you looked at?

19 PHILIP BANKS: Well, I mean, I understand it's a
20 simplicity question. So, here's the answer, here is
21 that. Whatever data of the National Science that you
22 are referring to, I cannot speak on the validity or
23 any validity of that. Because I do know that you can
24 have this type of policing with no oversight and it
25 is a different data with oversight. We're having

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2 oversight on the style of policing that is going to
3 take place under Adams Administration unlike it has
4 taken place before.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Okay, very good, with all
6 due respect I'm trying to move on.

7 PHILIP BANKS: Right, let's move on.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: You are absolutely
9 ignoring my second question.

10 PHILIP BANKS: I'm not ignoring it. I'm not
11 ignoring it. You want the answer to come how you
12 want the answer to come.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: No, I'm asking you, will
14 you simply provide the research. Tell the public
15 what you're relying on to make these really impactful
16 important decisions that affect predominantly Black
17 and Brown low-income New Yorkers. I'm asking you to
18 pass along the information you use to make these
19 really consequential decisions. You said you looked
20 at research on these negative mental health impacts,
21 increased anxiety and trauma and I'm asking that you
22 provide them to us, so that we can share it with our
23 colleagues and our constituents and I have not gotten
24 an answer as to whether or not you will do that and a

1
2 lack of willingness for transparency is deeply,
3 deeply concerning. Thank you.

4 KEECHANT SEWELL: We have been transparent since
5 the beginning.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.
7 Next, we'll hear from Council Member Nurse followed
8 by Council Member Williams, followed by Council
9 Member Stevens. Council Member Nurse, you may begin.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you. Good morning
12 Chair Hanks and thank you Commissioner Sewell. I
13 just wanted to note I got a text about the
14 Neighborhood Safety Team being implemented March 15th
15 and our community meeting isn't until April 6th. So,
16 I just wanted to add that timeline as really drastic.
17 So, in your opening remarks Commissioner, you
18 mentioned that you seek to have criminals or those
19 who have done wrong prosecuted to the full extent of
20 the law and my question relates to how that same
21 standard you seek is being held to members of your
22 department when things go wrong.

23 So, as you may be aware, on July 4, 2016, unarmed
24 Delrawn Small was killed by NYPD Officer Wayne Isaacs
25 on Atlantic Avenue which is in my district. This

1
2 happened in front of Mr. Smalls four-month-old baby.
3 His teen step daughter and his girlfriend and after
4 shooting Mr. Small three times, Officer Isaacs made
5 no attempt to check on him or provide assistance. He
6 called 911 for himself. He never mentioned that he
7 had to stop someone who was bleeding out and needed
8 immediate medical attention.

9 At the time, NYPD and Isaacs put out a false
10 account in the media that was disproven days later
11 after the footage was leaked. The Smalls family
12 recently learned and hopefully you can confirm that
13 Officer Isaacs PBA attorney's, have requested that
14 you remove the CCRB from their disciplinary
15 investigation and prosecution. Even though the
16 family has waited five and a half years.

17 So, given your opening statement, are you
18 committed to declining the PBA request and allowing
19 the CCRB to continue their disciplinary prosecution
20 of Officer Isaacs to the full extent?

21 KEECHANT SEWELL: So, while this case happened
22 obviously some time ago, there was a jury trial in
23 this case and then there was an internal
24 investigation. We are cooperating with the CCRB in
25 that case but I want to make that this is clear. I

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2 certainly intend to hold every officer who does not
3 follow the rules and regulations of this police
4 department accountable.

5 So, while that case has its own outcome and is
6 still going through the process, I want to make it
7 very clear and I think Deputy Mayor Banks said it as
8 well, that I will not and the Mayor will now allow
9 malfeasance or misfeasance on the part of any number
10 of this police department to go unanswered.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay, so is that a yes you
12 will decline the request to remove the CCRB or no?

13 KEECHANT SEWELL: I'm sorry. I missed that part
14 of the question. I apologize.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Oh, my question was, the
16 PBA requested to have the CCRB removed from this
17 process. So, will you decline the request to
18 continue with the disciplinary action?

19 KEECHANT SEWELL: So I have to take a look at
20 that. I don't want to give you an answer without the
21 entire - with all the information, so I can't answer
22 yes or no to that. Upon review, I can provide that
23 answer for you.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Do you have a sense of
3 timeline when you would be ready to make your
4 decision?

5 KEECHANT SEWELL: As soon as that comes before me
6 and I'm able to review it, I'll be able to make a
7 decision. I certainly want to have all the facts. I
8 don't like to have partial information but I do try
9 to make my decision very quickly because I understand
10 how important these decisions are.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Yeah and you know, because
12 one of the concerns with the PBA request is that it
13 would completely circumvent this process. And this
14 is just an example of one of the things that
15 undermines the public's trust and the governments
16 willingness to hold officers accountable for wrong
17 doing. So, given that you're not sure when the
18 timeline is, it's just when you say things like, we
19 want to make sure people are prosecuted to the full
20 extent, it just seems like it doesn't apply to
21 wrongdoing that happens also within your department.

22 So, we would really appreciate as soon as
23 possible when you make that - when you're ready to
24 make that decision or just an understanding of when
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2 we can expect and the family can expect that
3 decision.

4 KEECHANT SEWELL: I completely understand that
5 and we certainly need to have that answer and I'll
6 make sure I get that for you but I do want you to
7 understand, there is no difference here. An officer
8 who engages in inappropriate behavior malfeasance or
9 misfeasance, will be held accountable to this
10 department and to this city.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Right and so, does that
12 mean that you agree with using the CCRB as an
13 effective tool of accountability?

14 KEECHANT SEWELL: The CCRB is a tool, we try to
15 be partnerships - in a partnership to hold this
16 department accountable and we certainly believe they
17 have a valuable role in the city as well.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member
20 Nurse. Next, we'll hear from Council Member -

21 KEECHANT SEWELL: I just want to say one thing,
22 I'm sorry. May I just say one thing, I apologize. I
23 do have another engagement that I have to get to that
24 is immovable. I apologize to this body but I will
25 have my staff here to continue to answer questions

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2 for your as well and my apologies and thank you for
3 your time.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay, next we'll hear from
5 Council Member Williams followed by Council Member
6 Stevens followed by Majority Whip Brooks-Powers.
7 Council Member Williams go ahead.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you so much.

10 Thank you so much Chair, Deputy Mayor and
11 Commissioner. As part of the blueprint is to explore
12 the reasonable use of new technologies to identify
13 suspects and those carrying guns, the American Civil
14 Liberties Union has previously stated that facial
15 recognition technology can be racially bias and large
16 companies like Amazon and Microsoft have cost sales
17 of facial recognition technology to police. What are
18 these new technologies mentioned in the blueprint and
19 how will you ensure that there are checks for biases
20 in the technology?

21 PHILIP BANKS: Hey Council Member, I answered
22 that question. The Mayor has made it a point that he
23 wants me specifically across all other public safety
24 agencies to explore any technology that can be
25 beneficial to keeping New York safe. Any technology

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2 that would even be considered would be done
3 constitutionally. It will done open. It will be
4 done fair. There's not technology now that's
5 pending, he just wants us to make sure that we're
6 looking at it and we're keeping current. Facial
7 technology is a very controversial technology. It is
8 like many things very unfair to Black and Brown
9 people. I would say here and the Council can accept
10 it. We have a Mayor that has fought his whole
11 professional life right to creating these, there's
12 injustices to describe financial justices in the
13 criminal justice system.

14 I as a Deputy Mayor would not be a part of
15 anything that would be harm to my community and my
16 sons. So, one, there is no specific technology now
17 that we're looking at. I just left a conference last
18 week; we're looking at all types of technology and
19 the manner of keeping New York safe but it will be
20 done openly. It will be done constitutionally; it
21 will be done fair and I don't think we've even had
22 any concerns when a decision is made to use any
23 technology to keep New York safe.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you Deputy Mayor.
25 In February Captain St. Fort was featured in the New

1
2 York Times for his innovative crime strategy that
3 addresses gun violence successfully. What steps have
4 been taken to learn from what he is doing to bring it
5 to other precincts that are experiencing crew
6 violence? So, I know that this administration has
7 been so eloquent to talk about really looking at best
8 practices but I know there are some best practices
9 right in our backyard.

10 PHILIP BANKS: Can you repeat the specific best
11 uh -

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Hmm, hmm. Captain St.
13 Fort. It was a New York Times article, so just
14 wanted to know if the department has reached out to
15 him to ascertain whether or not his methods can be
16 duplicated in other precincts.

17 PHILIP BANKS: Ken, you want to answer that?

18 KENNETH COREY: Hi, sure, so Captain St. Fort in
19 the 61st Precinct, there's a mentorship program where
20 any mentors, about 15 young people in the community
21 to steer them away from crime and violence.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I'm sorry Captain. I
23 know the program, I just yeah, I just wanted to know
24 like you know yes or no, if you guys are like looking
25 into uh -

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2 KENNETH COREY: Yes, so we are looking at it very
3 closely. We are looking to see if it will be
4 appropriate to expand to other parts of the city and
5 what other parts it might be appropriate to expand to
6 and we look at a variety of programs like that that
7 take place across the city.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you so much
9 Captain. Uhm, I have a quick question about the Grip
10 list and I do want to get to CMS organizations. Can
11 you explain exactly what the Grip List is? As many
12 folks know, there were other lists that were
13 dismantled but there has been talked of the Gun
14 Recidivists Investigation program. And so, I just
15 wanted to know if you can tell us a little more about
16 the Grip list.

17 MICHAEL LIPETRI: Good morning. Chief Michael
18 LiPetri, Chief of Crime Patrol Strategies. So, we
19 identified individuals that have been involved in
20 multiple shooting incidents over the past two years.
21 One of those shooting incidents, this individual must
22 actually pull the trigger.

23 That population is less than .009 percent of the
24 population in New York City and when we look at that
25 list, the majority of these individuals also have

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2 previous felony convictions, prior gun convictions,
3 open gun arrests. These are the individuals that are
4 driving gun violence in New York City and these are
5 the very individuals that our Gun Violence
6 Suppression Division is focused on.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Chief, is this
8 different than a Gang Database?

9 MICHAEL LIPETRI: Yes it is.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, uhm, okay thank
11 you so much. The last question that I have and
12 Deputy Mayor Banks, you know you would understand
13 this. You and I served on the Board of Life Camp in
14 Queens and we know I'm very passionate, lot of my
15 colleagues are passionate about the Crisis Management
16 System. We know that it works but we also know that
17 often times they don't have the capacity. It's
18 rather a hodgepodge. You have awesome organizations
19 like Erica Ford or AT Mitchell across our city. How
20 is the Administration working to one, ensure that
21 there is funds, resources allocated to the program
22 but being intentional and strategic in making sure
23 that they had the capacity and that we are really
24 duplicating best practices across the system?

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: And yeah, that's my
3 question.

4 PHILIP BANKS: Well yes, I am relatively familiar
5 right with CMS, right. I've served on the board.
6 I've worked under Erica Ford which was no easy task I
7 will add.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Agreed.

9 PHILIP BANKS: I don't think that I am out of
10 line by stating that the CMS model works. It's
11 effective. I think all statistics indicate that and
12 anybody who has dealt with it. Personally, I would
13 like to say is that when this was first started when
14 I was a member of the Department, I was very, very
15 supportive and I saw almost from day one the effect
16 of people getting involved with their community.

17 So, I have been a number one cheerleader for CMS
18 model. Now, what does that mean? The Mayor and his
19 administration is very supportive of CMS and we are
20 in active talks of looking to bring people on in the
21 administration with capacity that can help us
22 streamline, support and give the necessary resources
23 which make these organizations because CMS will be a
24 part of the Adams Administration. And it's something
25 that is a priority for him and he has subsequently

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2 made it a priority under the Deputy Mayor of Public
3 Safety.

4 So, we are actively looking at ways in which we
5 can help support, strengthen and give as much
6 resource as we possibly can to effectuate the model
7 and the area and the strength in the CMS. So, we
8 will not as a city get ahead on gun violence unless
9 CMS is front and center at the table. And that's
10 what the plan is to take place.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

12 DEANNA LOGAN: Council Member Williams, I just do
13 want to add that we are working immediately with all
14 of our sister agencies as well with the Mayor's
15 Office of Contracts, with the Comptroller's Office,
16 which is an elected office to figure out how we are
17 in the immediate being able to get the necessary
18 funding to the agencies within the confines of the
19 procurement roles. And each one of those agencies
20 has been working collaboratively to assist us in that
21 process.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you and I know my
23 colleague Council Member Stevens will definitely
24 follow up with more questions because as you all
25 know; the Caucus is very focused on this issue and we

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2 look forward to continuing to work with the
3 Administration to really strengthen the program and
4 make sure that they have the capacity that they need
5 to do the work and that they are able to work with
6 the various agencies across the administration to
7 have positive change in our communities. Thank you
8 so much.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member
10 Williams. Next, we'll hear from Council Member
11 Stevens followed by Majority Whip Brooks, followed by
12 Council Member De La Rosa followed by Council Member
13 Holden.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good morning. Yes, I
16 have a number of questions and I am definitely going
17 to follow-up from Council Member Williams because I
18 know we talked a little bit about the CMS sites about
19 the money. However, being a nonprofit leader and
20 knowing that I am an expert, understanding that a lot
21 of CMS sites don't have the infrastructure.

22 And so, it's great that we give organizations
23 money but if we're not helping them build that
24 infrastructure and capacity, it's kind of a waste, so
25 I would love to hear more about what that really

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2 looks like around the infrastructure, capacity,
3 evaluation of the program. Because if we're not
4 putting emphasis on the work than I believe that it's
5 a waste and we're setting them up to fail. I, myself
6 ran our Cure Violence. I believe in these programs
7 and we think that this is the way for us to be moving
8 into but if we're not supporting them and to build
9 the capacity. It really vilifies the whole program.
10 So, I would love to hear you talk a little bit about
11 more of that and really distinctly because I have a
12 number of questions that I want to be able to get
13 through.

14 PHILIP BANKS: Well you know-

15 DEANNA LOGAN: So, in- Go ahead DM Banks.

16 PHILIP BANKS: No, no.

17 DEANNA LOGAN: So, in the short-term, we set up a
18 prime, sub-prime model so that we have a prime vendor
19 that has the infrastructure capacity to help and
20 assist with all of the back office work that is not a
21 function of the crisis management system. We want to
22 support those entities to be able to focus on the
23 resources that they provide to community and not
24 working on the administrative and procurement
25 processes that are part of the system that ultimately

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2 pose a challenge to some of our smaller grassroots
3 organizations. And we are looking to see other
4 models as to how we can provide and build in that
5 infrastructure going forward.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Yeah, I just think that
7 it's really important that we're focused on that
8 infrastructure and whatever I can do to support that,
9 I'm here and willing and able because like I said, I
10 believe in these programs. It's something that I ran
11 on but I do, understanding and having a background in
12 nonprofit management, it is not just saying, here is
13 the money. It is about making sure that we are
14 making sure they are fiscally responsible. There is
15 strategic planning. There is a lot that goes into
16 running a nonprofit and I think sometimes we miss
17 that.

18 But I'm just going to go through a number of
19 questions and I'm going to ask my questions and then
20 focusing answers after. The first question being,
21 the blueprint alludes to increasing investments in
22 nonpolice antiviolenace programs and workforce
23 development, yet you cannot find either reflective in
24 the Preliminary Budget proposal. What are your
25 actual plans to workforce development and expanding

1 support for nonpolice antiviolenent programs and where
2 those reflect in the budget proposal?
3

4 And then my next question is around, earlier in
5 the testimony the Chair asked about the
6 representation of the new task that's coming out and
7 you know it was like 40 percent, the force of 40
8 percent White and 30 percent African American and so
9 forth, so forth. What is the department doing to
10 make the actual police department more reflective of
11 the communities that they serve? And although it
12 might be reflected of the department, those units are
13 in Black and Brown communities, so I am not really -
14 I'm concerned that it's not more reflective of the
15 community that actually know those experiences, so I
16 would love to hear what is being done around that.

17 And then my last question is around SYEP is a
18 part of the blueprint, however that is really the
19 only investment that we see in young people in the
20 blueprint, which makes no sense at all. Why are we
21 not investing in things like Beacon Programs,
22 Community Centers that actually do the work long-term
23 instead of a six-week program that really does not
24 produce results that we're really looking for. So, I
25 would love to hear the answers to those questions.

1
2 PHILIP BANKS: Can we take that question one by
3 one? I appreciate you Council Member, I really do
4 because going one, two, three, but you did lose me,
5 so I just want to make sure the proper person –

6 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Alright, so the first
7 question was around, we talk about workforce
8 development but it's not in the budget. So, how is
9 that really going to work? That's not reflective in
10 the budget.

11 I asked the next question was around the task,
12 the units are reflective of the department but those
13 units are in Black and Brown communities, so why is
14 it not more reflective of the community? And then
15 the last question was, SYEP is part of the blueprint,
16 why were not more investments invested into programs
17 like Beacons, Cornerstones and Community Centers
18 because that's what our young people need and that
19 will be more long-term solutions.

20 PHILIP BANKS: The first one on workforce
21 development, I think that the Mayor and the
22 Administration has been very I guess clear and very
23 descriptive as far as creating job opportunities for
24 the youth. I will have to get back to you on
25 specifics on why youth feel and why it's possibly so

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2 that it not more alienated into this particular plan
3 but I think the Mayor has been clear even on the
4 campaign trail and even on while he's been in
5 administration.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

7 PHILIP BANKS: But we did release right, a
8 blueprint on economic development and that was
9 released by a different Deputy Mayor and it kind of
10 explains totally what he plans to do, what the Mayor
11 plans to do as far as workforce development. So, it
12 may not be in this specific blueprint plan but it has
13 been released under a different Deputy Mayor. We'll
14 get that to you right away.

15 DEANNA LOGAN: And additionally Council Member
16 Stevens, part of the work that we are doing, we have
17 a precision hiring program. As a matter of fact
18 tomorrow evening there is a graduation of a cohort of
19 20 women that have been going through various job
20 training and expansion of their entrepreneurial
21 programming that was started at the end of - started
22 in the middle of last summer.

23 All of the crisis management systems employ
24 individuals within the neighborhood youth that they
25 identify at risk and that's year around employment.

1
2 So, maybe the specifics of the budget don't show you
3 the activities of the systems because a lot of the
4 employment activity is built into the infrastructure
5 of the programming itself.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Okay and then the other
7 question that I had around reflective of the
8 department, not reflecting the communities and the
9 units and just the SYEP. That was the only real
10 piece around young people in the blueprint. Why are
11 not investing in things like Community Centers,
12 Beacon programs and have long-term solutions on young
13 people.

14 PHILIP BANKS: So, your second question is a very
15 interesting question. I believe the Chief of
16 Department, he laid out the ethnicity of who are
17 going into the Neighborhood Safety Team as it
18 compares to the ethnicity in the New York City Police
19 Department as a whole.

20 Your question very specifically was, what's the
21 ethnicity of the 30 precincts I believe that we are
22 assigning it to correct?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Yeah, he said that it's
24 not reflective of the communities. It's reflective

1
2 of the department. And so, that to me was a little
3 bit alarming because they're not -

4 PHILIP BANKS: No, no, no, I think - well, let me
5 just... you may have misinterpreted wrong or I may have
6 misinterpreted wrong. The statistics that he gave
7 was, the statistics percentage wise of who was going
8 to be assigned to Neighborhood Safety Teams as
9 compared to the percentages ethnicity on the
10 department as a whole. And so, for example, with
11 African Americans, I believe he said the 16.6 percent
12 were going to be assigned to the Neighborhood Safety
13 team and the department is 15.3. percent African
14 Americans.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Yeah, but even if you
16 were assigned to those numbers because it's a larger,
17 it's going to be more White people, White officers in
18 the community than it would be Black and Latino's
19 because just off shared numbers.

20 PHILIP BANKS: Well, it may or may not be but
21 let's -

22 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I will say this for a
23 fact. I actually have seen some of the teams and I
24 even have people hit me up because some teams are 100
25 percent White. And that was an issue for some of

1
2 them and that's a problem. So, we have to talk about
3 what that looks like and then, how are we going to
4 make up that diff- that's a problem you know?

5 PHILIP BANKS: So, if we just add up these
6 numbers here right. We have 40, 54 percent of the
7 anticrime. 54 percent of the anticrime, it looks
8 like it's going to be African - Black and Brown
9 individuals.

10 If you put agents in there, now you look at
11 another 3.5 percent. So, we're looking at 57 percent
12 but let's be very clear about this right. The law
13 enforcement is predominantly for years and years and
14 years, has been a Caucasian driven industry.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Agreed.

16 PHILIP BANKS: Right and these problems did not
17 start yesterday, today right and for a rightfully
18 reason. It has been a very - I mean, let's call it
19 for what it is. The Law Enforcement Industry has
20 been with racism, intentionally and unintentional and
21 those consequences we see as far as having difficulty
22 recruiting individuals.

23 Now, that does not mean that changes are not
24 being made for the better. And if they are not being
25 changed for the better because Council Member Barron,

1
2 who I have the ultimate respect for. I've dealt with
3 him for many, many years. I agree with so much of
4 what he says. This problem didn't start yesterday.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: No, absolutely and I
6 agree. We're on the same page.

7 PHILIP BANKS: So, we will. We will see -

8 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Right, that's why I'm
9 asking the questions.

10 PHILIP BANKS: Right no, you're right and we will
11 see a change when one, the greatest, you know the
12 greatest recruitment in law enforcement is the change
13 that ails a high retreat, our young men and women.
14 Right, because we take billions of them and we
15 basically tell them through our actions day by day,
16 we don't want you to be a part of us.

17 So, those are some of the things that we're
18 changing. So, we're looking to see, I think 54
19 percent but I'd like to see it higher. I would like
20 to see it completely reflective of those community
21 neighborhoods, absolutely. But I also want to have
22 it where someone who is not from the community or
23 Caucasian from Long Island does the same effective
24 job as someone who lives on a corner and that's what
25 we're striving for.

1
2 So, are we going to turn this around one, two,
3 three? No, but I'll tell you this, Mayor Adams makes
4 it very, very clear. Listen here, that if you get
5 caught acting in a manner that is not indictive of
6 good training, that you will suffer the consequences.
7 Chief Corey makes that very explicitly clear, as I
8 have always throughout my career. So, it's a very
9 good point and we are trying and we display to you
10 that we been doing the best we possibly can and
11 working in partnership, I know that we can overcome
12 that particular issue here.

13 Now, your third part dealt with SYEP and the
14 Beacons. I just want to be clear since this is not
15 specifically under the public safety umbrella, I want
16 to be very clear so I can give you the best answer
17 and if I don't have it now, I promise I will get back
18 to you on it. You had made mention that there were
19 not enough resources put into the SYEP program?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: No, I was saying so, in
21 the blueprint, we added the SYEP and we increased the
22 slots, which we love and I'm here for it right but I
23 was saying well, why didn't we not also think about
24 long-term affects like Community Centers, Beacons and
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2 those things that are year long and have much longer
3 affects to our community and our young people.

4 And so, the only real part of the blueprint when
5 we're talking about it for young people, we're
6 talking about SYEP and that's only a drop in the
7 bucket because that's a six week program. So, why do
8 we not look at the blueprint and having more
9 substantial resources put into young people as part
10 of this plan.

11 PHILIP BANKS: Council Member, I will have to get
12 back to you and I'd like to be able to speak to you
13 today, tomorrow, as soon as possible, so I can drill
14 down on this and I promise you that I will get you an
15 answer and in fact, if there is a gap here to work
16 with you to ensure that we close that gap.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Absolutely, so we'll be
18 in touch soon and thank you guys.

19 PHILIP BANKS: Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.
21 Next, we'll hear from Majority Whip Brooks Powers
22 followed by Council Member De La Rosa followed by
23 Council Member Holden, Brannan and Brewer.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.
25

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2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Majority Whip Powers are you
3 present?

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

5 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Can you hear me?
6 Thank you, okay. So, good morning everyone. Thank
7 you so much to Madam Chair Hanks and the Committee
8 Staff for today's meeting on the Public Safety
9 Committee to discuss the Mayor's blueprint to end gun
10 violence. Many districts including mine have seen
11 shocking upticks in gun violence over the course of
12 the last year or recent years. Last June, my
13 Committee had to grapple with the loss of Justin
14 Wallace who was tragically shot outside his aunt's
15 home, just shy of his 11th birthday.

16 The issue is deeply personal for me and I look
17 forward to working with all of our colleagues to work
18 to bring an end to gun violence in our city once and
19 for all. I just have a few questions to ask of the
20 police department regarding the new proposals in the
21 Mayor's blueprint and I have some questions focused
22 with MOCJ.

23 So, I would like to know how much federal funding
24 does the department expect to receive to support
25 putting more officers on patrol? I see the

1
2 department plans to reallocate staff and resources to
3 support expanding patrol groups. Has the department
4 identified any administrative inefficiencies they
5 plan to address in this way. And then in terms of
6 MOCJ, I want to touch on the effectiveness of the
7 programs like the crisis management system and cure
8 violence.

9 I'm proud to partner with a number of
10 organizations in South East Queens like 100 suits,
11 Rock Safe Streets, Life Camp and Camp Kings
12 Foundation and the organizations have been extremely
13 instrumental and as well as working hard to connect
14 with our local communities and deter honorable people
15 from participating in the gun violence epidemic.

16 What are the departments current evaluation of
17 the efficacy of these programs, efficiency of these
18 programs rather? Have these interventions reduced
19 gun violence in key area? Are there areas where the
20 programs can receive additional support? Have the
21 departments identified new neighborhoods that may
22 benefit from the program expansion? I know last year
23 the program increased their budget I believe like
24 double the amount and it was supposed to triple but
25 looking more down the line, how can we invest more

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2 money because I do find that they are responding in a
3 lot of cases even well beyond their territory and
4 it's critical for them to be able to do so but we
5 want to make sure that they have the sufficient
6 resources to do that as well.

7 So, I look forward to hearing from the
8 administration. Thank you.

9 KRISTINE RYAN: Good morning Council Member or
10 good afternoon Council Member. With regard to
11 funding from our federal and state partners, we don't
12 at this point know exactly how much grant funding
13 we'll get. We're continuously monitoring all of the
14 funding opportunities as they are made available from
15 the federal government and the state. For example,
16 about two weeks ago, the federal government released
17 a notice of funding opportunity for a local law
18 enforcement crime gun intelligence center integration
19 initiative to help localities work more closely with
20 their ATF partners to identify unlawfully used
21 firearms and to effectively prosecute perpetrators.

22 So, it's grants like that we're looking at to
23 determine what our federal partners and state
24 partners can do to assist us in making sure we have
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1
2 the appropriate resources to move forward in
3 addressing the current circumstances.

4 KENNETH COREY: Good afternoon. As far as the
5 efficiency review and officers being redeployed so,
6 currently we move 658 officers every day from
7 nonoperational assignments, nonoperational meaning
8 that they don't normally respond to 911 calls and
9 they are deployed out to patrol functions every day,
10 seven days a week.

11 So, the actual impact of that goes well beyond
12 658 officers because of the seven day a week
13 coverage. In order to achieve that, you would have
14 to have a pool of 1,084 officers to be able to
15 actually put 658 people out on patrol every single
16 day, which is what we are doing.

17 As far as the efficiency review goes, it has
18 begun. It's a work in progress and as we hit
19 particular periodic milestones, resources will be
20 redeployed. So, it's kind of a bureau by bureau look
21 through the department and as we complete an
22 efficiency review of one bureau, any efficiencies
23 that are identified, officers that can be redeployed,
24 they are then immediately redeployed. We're not
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1
2 waiting for the entire review to be completed before
3 we do that.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.

6 Next, we'll hear from Council Member De La Rosa
7 followed by Council Member Holden.

8 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: I'm sorry.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Oh yeah, go ahead. Go ahead,
10 sorry.

11 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: In terms of just,
12 in terms of the CMS piece.

13 DEANNA LOGAN: So, quickly Council Member Powers,
14 thank you, Majority Whip Powers. The expansion that
15 is slated for FY23, as many of you know there was an
16 RFP for the CMS system. That expansion will include
17 in FY23 the 40th and the 44th precincts. It will also
18 add in some more conflict mediation and therapeutic
19 services. We are hopeful that those awards will be
20 processed United Way and supporting us in that RFP
21 process. Additionally, the Mayor's Action Plan that
22 focuses in on our NYCHA housing has also an
23 expansion, removing from 15 NYCHA developments into
24 30 and those will also include Gowanus and the Far
25 Rockaway.

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2 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: What part of Far
3 Rockaway will it include in 100 Precinct the Hamels?

4 DEANNA LOGAN: It will confirm what is the actual
5 neighborhood breakdown for you in Far Rockaway as to
6 where that will be.

7 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: And also,
8 Washington, well, DC rather is supposed to be giving
9 New York City additional funds. Will this be
10 supplemented or be an add on to what MOCJ is looking
11 to provide. And also, can you just explain the
12 process for the money to be pulled down, because my
13 understanding is that you know we're in March and
14 April right now and you know no one's contracts are
15 necessarily registered and they are having a hard
16 time getting the money. And these are you know;
17 these are the resources that are needed to keep these
18 programs effective.

19 DEANNA LOGAN: So, base contracts had been
20 registered and funding was advanced to organizations.
21 We rely on the organizations to submit their invoices
22 in order to pay out on those contracts. You are
23 correct that we are in the process of completing a
24 registration for amendments to the process but we
25 work with all of the organizations as well as the

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2 Mayor's Office of Contracts to use a mix of funding
3 from advances as well as the loan fund in order to
4 make sure that the entities have the funds to
5 operate. And we continue to work with them on a very
6 one on one basis where the contracts team, the legal
7 team and our partner organizations review what cash
8 flow concerns and challenges are and we do what we
9 can within the procurement rules to meet those
10 challenges to ensure that they can continue to do the
11 good work we partner for them to give us and the
12 city.

13 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: So, my
14 understanding is that you can't invoice for a
15 contract that's not registered. For those who have
16 not been able to register the contracts they are
17 still going through the process with. My
18 understanding is they can't invoice you to get
19 reimbursed, so how does that work?

20 DEANNA LOGAN: And that would be somebody that we
21 would be working with the Loan Fund to make sure that
22 they could get funding.

23 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: And do you know how
24 many of the CMS organizations are in this position?

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2 Like, what's the percentage? Because my
3 understanding is that it may be a significant amount.

4 DEANNA LOGAN: Of the CMS contracts, the base
5 ones are registered, however, when we're looking at
6 the amendments for expansions, those still are
7 predominantly I'd say the majority of them still are
8 looking to go through registration on the expansions.
9 The amendments to those contracts.

10 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Hmm, hmm.

11 DEANNA LOGAN: But we have accelerated and have
12 weekly meetings with MOCs as well as reviews
13 internally to figure out how we move those quicker.

14 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: And I just will
15 close on this and I thank you Madam Chair for the
16 extended time. I will just conclude with saying that
17 these organizations, these CMS organizations in Cure
18 Violence programs are our community based
19 organizations that are literally putting their lives
20 on the line each day to go out there and interrupt
21 violence and to have them bleeding for reimbursements
22 limits their effectiveness when they're not getting
23 the support from the city that they need.

24 So, I would love to see an expedited process put
25 into place. I would love to have a commitment from

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2 that today, that MOCJ will explore how they expedite
3 registering these organizations and ensuring they get
4 this, the reimbursements that they need
5 expeditiously.

6 DEANNA LOGAN: We are committed to expediting
7 this process. As I said, we are doing weekly,
8 Tuesdays and Thursday meetings with the Mayor's
9 Office of Contracts. We have opened a line with the
10 Comptroller, so that they know in advance what the
11 contracts consist of, to hopefully reduce questions
12 when the contracts actually get to them to truncate
13 the 30-day period of Comptroller review.

14 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.
16 Next, we'll hear from Council Member De La Rosa
17 followed by Holden, Brannan, Brewer, Mealy, Avilés
18 and Hanif. Council Member De La Rosa, you may go
19 ahead.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Okay, I was muted.
22 Thank you so much Chair Hanks for the opportunity and
23 to Deputy Mayor and the Executive Team over at the
24 Department for taking our questions.
25

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2 My first question is, could you walk us through
3 the differences between the regular training that
4 happens for officers who are working in our
5 communities and the training for the Neighborhood
6 Safety Team Officers? What are the differences?

7 KENNETH COREY: So, all officers receive basic
8 recruit training in the academy. What we call the
9 recruit school. What New York State refers to as the
10 basic course for police officers. So, an important
11 thing to note about the NYPD's training versus what's
12 required by the state is that the state requires
13 about 506 hours of training for officers. We provide
14 913 so nearly double what the state requires.

15 Our training centers heavily around de-
16 escalation. It's a thread that runs through the
17 entire training curriculum and officers receive
18 training in a variety of different disciplines. Law,
19 police science, the social science, obviously self-
20 defense, physical tactics, physical fitness, health
21 and wellness, dealing with people in crisis, mental
22 health and I could go on and on but I'll try to be
23 brief in the essence of time.

24 So all of the Neighborhood Safety Team Officers
25 have received that training but as experienced

1 officers and they are all experienced officers, they
2 then go back to the academy for seven additional days
3 of training, which I kind of laid out before but I
4 can go through what that training looks like once
5 again. And that is also heavily focused on de-
6 escalation tactics, constitutional policing, risk
7 identification and mitigation, active bystandership
8 for law enforcement, the science of intervention. A
9 heavy emphasis on law and risk management to ensure
10 that the officers know what they can and cannot
11 legally do within the scope of their employment and
12 keeping within the constitution of the United States
13 and the New York State Penal Law. The curriculum
14 includes two days of court room testimony, three days
15 of tactics which include training and minimal force
16 techniques, two days of risk management. So, that's
17 the synopsis of what this advanced training with the
18 Neighborhood Safety Teams go through and also
19 important to note that this is not a one time
20 training. That Officers assigned to the Neighborhood
21 Safety Teams will be brought back in for retraining
22 every six months to ensure that those skills remain
23 fresh. To ensure that they are most knowledgeable
24 and most current on the issues that impact their
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2 ability to perform their duties safely, fairly,
3 constitutionally and to treat everyone with dignity
4 and respect.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you for walking
6 us through that. My next question is interrelated.
7 It also is related and piggybacking on some of the
8 comments made by Council Member Nurse earlier today.
9 But when Mayor Adams was on the campaign trail, there
10 was a promise made to have swift action and fire any
11 NYPD officers that would abuse the public's trust or
12 mistreat our communities and it seems to me that
13 Commissioner Sewell today also reemphasized that
14 commitment to our communities.

15 My question is, there are a number of officers;
16 we heard Council Member Nurse eloquently speak about
17 the killing of Delrawn Smalls in her community, Allan
18 Feliz in my community. We have Antonio Williams,
19 Eric Gardner, Kawaski Trawick, all of these people
20 and their families have been demanding accountability
21 from the department for years. How can we trust one,
22 that that accountability will come to fruition for
23 these families? And two, related to the Neighborhood
24 Safety Officers, how can we make sure that if there
25 are abuses within this new pilot project that is

1
2 being rolled out in our city. That there is going to
3 be accountability for these officers to make sure
4 that no more killings happen in our communities.

5 KENNETH COREY: So, when speaking about the
6 accountability for past incidents, I think that - and
7 incidents going forward. I think at this point, we
8 have to take the Commissioner at her word. She spoke
9 of her conviction. She spoke very deliberately and
10 very passionately right that misconduct malfeasance
11 would not be tolerated and that officers would be
12 dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

13 There is a process in place. Due process that's
14 covered by state law. Quite frankly, that frustrates
15 us sometimes as well that we cannot act as swiftly as
16 we would like. But the Commissioner is committed to
17 doing just that. As far as the oversight of the
18 teams and again, I mentioned what the layers of
19 oversight are on these Neighborhood Safety Teams that
20 didn't exist before didn't exist before from the
21 Supervisor to the Precinct Commander, to the Patrol
22 Bureau to my office, to the Risk Management Bureau,
23 to the Federal Monitor. The use of body worn
24 cameras; we are piloting the use of dashboard cameras
25 on those cars as well to capture an even wider view

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2 of the scene. So, we gather an even further
3 understanding of incidents that occurred.

4 I mentioned in my – in addressing it before that
5 we actually removed officers from training and didn't
6 deploy them as part of the team because we didn't
7 believe that they had the right temperament for this
8 very dangerous or very difficult and potentially
9 dangerous assignment. And I have committed before
10 and I have no problem committing now, that officers
11 who are deemed to be unsuitable to continue in this
12 assignment will be removed from the assignment and if
13 discipline is warranted, they will be disciplined
14 appropriately.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you for
17 answering that question. I will just say that you
18 know all of us want gun violence to be reduced in our
19 communities. I think the colleagues have honed in on
20 the need to make sure that our violence interrupters
21 are properly funded and I know that we're going
22 through the budget process and we will be
23 prioritizing that.

24 But also inherit trust that has been broken in
25 certain communities has to be repaired and in order

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2 for communities to feel safe, everyone in communities
3 must feel safe and that includes the people who have
4 been traumatized by previous practices of the
5 department. I think there needs to be a recognition
6 of that. I think the work needs to reflect that
7 trust building exercise that is needed in our
8 communities. I think the CCRB has a critical role to
9 play. I would like to just say on the record that it
10 is important for the CCRB to continue to be an
11 independent agency and for the department to also
12 respect the decisions made by the CCRB in order to
13 make sure that we are elaborating on the decisions
14 made and creating that trust factor.

15 So, I thank you for answer your questions and I
16 look forward to obviously working with you to make
17 sure that one, our communities are safe but also that
18 there is accountability across the board.

19 KENNETH COREY: Thank you Council Member.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.

21 Next, we'll hear from Council Member Holden followed
22 by Brannan, Brewer, Mealy, Avilés and Hanif. Council
23 Member Holden you may go ahead.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you Chair and thank
3 you Deputy Mayor Banks and Commissioner Sewell and
4 the NYPD Executive Staff for your testimony and
5 responses. I'd just like to talk about the
6 Neighborhood Safety teams, just go back to that. Can
7 you give us a look and I guess the Commissioner could
8 answer this or obviously the chiefs. What does the
9 day to day you know look like for an NST Officer?
10 You know, how many arrests have been made since it's
11 been implemented? And I know you mentioned over 20
12 guns were taken off the street I think right?

13 KENNETH COREY: Yes Council Member, thank you.
14 So, you know a daily look I mean, their day starts
15 reviewing intelligence information provided by Field
16 Intelligence Officers and crime reports in the
17 precinct. Their hours and the areas where they're
18 going to focus their efforts are dictated by their
19 Commanding Officer regarding crime trends.

20 As far as their activity for the last two weeks
21 right because we started them on March 14th, so we
22 have two full weeks under our belt here. 84 arrests,
23 20 of those for the possession of firearms with 20
24 firearms recovered. We see that 56 percent of those
25 people arrested have prior arrests for major

1 felonies. 68 percent total have prior arrests.
2 About 15 percent are either on parole or probation.
3 If we look further at the gun arrests, subjects in
4 particular, 30 percent of those are previously
5 convicted felons. 25 of those have an open pending
6 felony case somewhere in New York City and those
7 crime trends mirror really on the gun arrests, really
8 kind of mirror what we see in the rest of the city.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: So, it seems to be
10 working at least for two weeks. We have the
11 information and you know, do you know exactly how
12 many were previously the one's arrested, convicted on
13 gun crimes?
14

15 KENNETH COREY: I don't have that. Just well, 30
16 percent of the people arrested for gun crimes I have
17 are previously convicted felons. I don't have it
18 broken down into what those prior convictions were
19 for.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: And what about the gang
21 members? Do you have any stats on that? Are you
22 investigating like some of the gangs and following
23 leads on that and arresting some of the gang members?
24 Because a lot of the crime that we see in the city
25 seems to be committed by members of gangs.

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KENNETH COREY: So, on the -

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: So, just has the NST's, are they focusing on gangs too? That's really the basis of my question.

KENNETH COREY: The NST's focus on driver's of violence.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Okay.

KENNETH COREY: So, those are you know some of the people that Chief LiPetri referred to before is the trigger pullers, the people carrying guns in the city. Some are gang members; some are not gang members. So, they are going where the intelligence takes them. The direct answer to your question I think, 24 percent of the people arrested with guns were previously identified as gang or crew members.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Alright, so we're investigating you know the trigger pullers and we're focusing on that a lot, which you know seems to be obviously, the violence is out of control. So, I think you know this is a good model. It seems like it can work. We have to do something and this is a good start. I would say that in two weeks, 20 guns off the street and then certainly so many arrested.

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2 Uhm, finally, you know I'd like to thank Deputy
3 Mayor Banks and Chief Kim Royster and Deputy
4 Inspector Brian O'Sullivan for the NYPD
5 transportation tow operation and in around my
6 district. I've had nine pedestrians killed within
7 the last two years simply crossing the street and you
8 know we reached out to the Deputy Mayor and certainly
9 to the Chief and in one week, we had nearly 700
10 moving violations, 3,248 parking summonses issued,
11 112 vehicles towed that posed a risk to the public
12 safety and 108 truck violations issued and three
13 arrests were made.

14 So, it's working and we have one more week to go
15 and I'd love to get more of these operations in my
16 district and I think around the city we should have
17 them. And in my district, I'd love for this to cover
18 the 102 and the 108. We're already doing the 104, so
19 thank you Commissioner. Thank you Deputy Mayor and
20 certainly the Executive Staff, what a great
21 operation.

22 KENNETH COREY: You're welcome.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member
24 Holden. Next, we'll hear from Council Member Brannan
25 and then Brewer.

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Thank you Chair Hanks.
4 Thank you Council. Chief Corey, it's great to see
5 you. Commissioner Banks, it's great to see you and
6 everyone else that's on the call. So, you know while
7 overall, the crime rates in this city remain far
8 lower than they did in the "bad old days back in the
9 80's and 90's, the perception of an increased level
10 of violence and you know "out of control" crime and
11 violence is real. Especially with so many New
12 Yorkers already on edge navigating through this
13 surreal and extended pandemic life. And you know,
14 people feeling safe is really the crucks of public
15 safety. No victim of a crime wants to hear about
16 statistics and historic lows. I get that but we
17 can't be complaisant. We have to remain vigilant. I
18 think my colleagues and I are all on the same page in
19 that no one can accept the city that allows senseless
20 violence to be a regular part of our lives. And I
21 think we also acknowledge that there's no magic fix.
22 But making our city safer is certainly a shared
23 responsibility and we got to do the work together.
24 We may not all agree on the way to get there but I

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2 think we can all agree that – we can all agree with
3 where we want to arrive.

4 So, the Mayor started what I feel is an overdue
5 and serious conversation around public safety by
6 releasing his blueprint to fight gun violence on all
7 fronts. In the blueprint, the Mayor emphasizes the
8 role of the NYPD but clearly also addresses the need
9 significant investments in anti-violence programs,
10 mental healthcare, early intervention youth programs.
11 As Finance Chair, I am focused most of all on the
12 cost and concerned with any unfunded mandates.

13 So, would you be able to give a better sense of
14 the cost associated with the Mayor's blueprint. So,
15 specifically, will this require new funds or does it
16 leverage existing funds?

17 PHILIP BANKS: Council Member, thank you for that
18 question. One, I'll start off by saying this here is
19 that we are – ever since I have been dealing with
20 Mayor throughout the transition and his
21 administration, cost effectiveness. I mean one of
22 his favorite terms is just remember these are
23 taxpayer dollars. He starts with this is taxpayer
24 dollars and he states that as far as just personal
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2 hiring, personal responsibility and of course the
3 just the overall waste in city government.

4 One, I don't have an exact number for you how
5 much this is going to cost. I will say and I'm not
6 trying to be smart in any form or fashion. With all
7 due respect, it's going to be a lot cheaper than
8 violence as it continues to happen. So, and I think
9 you understand that and certainly everybody here
10 understands that.

11 Uhm, fiscal responsible is something that this
12 administration is going to pride themselves on. I
13 will get you these exact numbers. I will get you
14 exactly what part of it is unfunded. I think the
15 Mayor is looking at it is that he is going to save
16 costs in one way and be able to ship to the other.
17 So, he's not looking for an overall, going into
18 action for x, y, z dollars to fund a lot of the stuff
19 here. He thinks that a good deal of it can be self-
20 funded by just cutting out the cost there but I would
21 have to follow-up with you on specifics on how much
22 this is going to cost.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Okay, yeah look, I think
24 certainly we both agree, there's no price on keeping
25 our city safe but it's just important to figure out

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2 how we're going to pay for it. Where it's going to
3 come from. So, okay, thank you Deputy Mayor. Give
4 me a buzz, I appreciate it.

5 PHILIP BANKS: Thank you, will do.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member
7 Brannan. Next, we'll hear from Council Member
8 Brewer, Mealy, Avilés, Hanif followed by Ariola.
9 Council Member Brewer, you may go ahead.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.
12 Thank you Madam Chair and thank you to the Police
13 Department and Deputy Mayor. So, I think you know
14 that I've been doing this work for a long time, like
15 20-years in elected office and I've spent a huge
16 amount of time with NYCHA. I have great respect for
17 the residents and I've been working as Borough
18 President with Street Corner Resources, with the
19 GOSO, the Save, the Osborne, Cure Violence groups
20 etc.. And I know in the blueprint you talk about
21 SYEP, the CMS fair futures, community hiring, mental
22 health as ways to try to address the other than the
23 Police Department.

24 But my question is at NYCHA because with all due
25 respect, we all hear about the mold and the leaks and

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2 the elevators but the real issue is the residents
3 need more support period. So, in addition, I want to
4 know how much of this effort that you're making is
5 going into NYCHA. How many hours, police, etc., or
6 how many arrests? And then just things like, why are
7 we not supporting keeping the community centers open
8 many more hours. They are not open on the weekends.
9 They are not open in the evenings. And why are we
10 not working seriously on getting people jobs at NYCHA
11 and why are we not - is there coordination between
12 MAP and the other organizations? I'm a big supporter
13 of MAP.

14 I really know that this is not happening, with
15 all due respect and so, the question is door to door
16 getting jobs with SBS, EDC, I don't care. There are
17 21 agencies working our workforce, some of them
18 should be doing that. Exactly, are we going to be
19 focused on young people in NYCHA for SYEP and focus
20 on good jobs, not just hanging up. You get my point.

21 So, who's working on NYCHA? It's not just
22 coordination. It's literally retail and the City
23 Council, I tried, it's not going to pay for keeping
24 those Community Centers open to 11:00 at night and on
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1
2 the weekends. Is the Mayor going to do that? You
3 get my point.

4 PHILIP BANKS: Council Member, I get your point
5 very clear and if there are some written lapses as
6 far as NYCHA, it is certainly not indicative of the
7 commitment that has forth. I'm in talks with -
8 constant talk with another Deputy Mayor. All thought
9 to transition, are looking at NYCHA and I looked at
10 it from a public safety perspective. For the amount
11 of people who are victims of crimes. For the amount
12 of people who commit crimes and with the crimes are
13 committed, it far, far out paces the percentages in
14 New York City as a whole.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I know that.

16 PHILIP BANKS: I know you know it and you've
17 known that for a very long time and you've been
18 speaking about it for a very, very long time. It is
19 something that is not lost on this Administration.
20 This blueprint is not the Administrations entire
21 portfolio right. There are other deputy mayor's and
22 there are other initiatives that is currently in
23 progress with taking place and NYCHA is a big part of
24 that. I will continue to have this conversation, I
25 just would like for you, you know out of respect for

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2 you, that your voice on NYCHA has been around a long
3 time and it is not lost on this administration
4 because what you're saying is accurate about the need
5 to put additional sustained resources in NYCHA and I
6 will certainly follow back up with you on that.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, but is there
8 some way that we could work together to get - uhm,
9 just something simple at the community centers open
10 on the weekends and in the evenings. They are not.

11 PHILIP BANKS: Absolutely.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And could we do door to
13 door to get jobs for people who absolutely deserve
14 these jobs and want them?

15 PHILIP BANKS: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: That's not happening and
17 can we make sure that you know, the ways in which
18 human services could work are funded to do so? You
19 can't do it any other way. There is no other way to
20 do that.

21 PHILIP BANKS: No, you're right and we can make a
22 commitment. I will follow up with you specifically
23 and if this is not specifically under the "___" and
24 we're going to look at it, this is the Deputy Mayor
25 of Public Safety and this is Deputy Mayor of the

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2 Health and Hospital. This is a coordinated team, as
3 the mayor is trying to bring together.

4 So, you have a commitment from me that today,
5 tomorrow, whenever you are available to speak, we can
6 sit down and discuss how we take step one, two, three
7 to start to move towards that because this is all
8 interrelated or interconnected.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much sir.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member
11 Brewer. Next, we'll hear from Council Member Mealy
12 followed by Council Member Avilés, Council Member
13 Hanif and Council Member Ariola. Council Member
14 Mealy, you may go ahead.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Good afternoon. Thank you
17 Chair Hanks. Good seeing you again Deputy Mayor
18 Banks.

19 PHILIPS BANKS: And you as well.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just want to talk about
21 the cure - CMS. In which I have been working with
22 Brownsville Think Tank, Man Up, has this
23 Administration thought about doing a pilot in one
24 specific area to see if the Cure Violence Programs
25 work or not and I feel that a pilot should be the

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2 first start for us to really see if these programs
3 are good. We can't just talk about it. We got to
4 start doing it and I feel you could use my area,
5 Brownsville, the first one to start that program.

6 And two, is the Mayor considering putting all
7 these Cure Violence programs as a baseline that we
8 can't keep going through these same programs and
9 having these important programs not getting paid on
10 time and then may fold.

11 And my third, I head the MOCJ department talk
12 about they had a women's program, 20-young women. I
13 think our young men are being left out of this whole
14 city really. I thought about in my district 444
15 Thomas Bollen, Mayor Bloomberg wanted a jail. Mayor
16 de Blasio wanted a jail and now this Mayor is coming
17 in and they just want to do an all-girls program.
18 Where is our young men in this whole scenario?

19 I thought about with Brownsville Think Tank, they
20 could come in, mentor the young men. Have you
21 thought about - I'm trying to see if we could get
22 the African American pilots that teach our young men
23 how to drive airplanes. Is that not a program that
24 we could put our young people into entrepreneurship,
25 good paying jobs, benefits? That's the main thing

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2 what we should be thinking about our young men and I
3 really feel MOCJ, we should have a men's program just
4 as well. If you do the women, do the men. We can't
5 uplift the women and keep the men stagnant. We have
6 to build them up together.

7 And my last one, is this Administration - why is
8 this Administration thinking about using drones?
9 Could you elaborate on that Deputy Mayor?

10 PHILIP BANKS: Yes, okay. So, I'll go to the
11 last one for using drones. The Mayor, he made it
12 very clear that he wants to look at - he wants to
13 look at all technology. All technology that can be
14 utilized to create this ecosystem of safety. Does
15 that mean he is going to use drones? Uh, no. Does
16 it mean that he is not going to use drones? No, it
17 means he is going to set up all technology. And I
18 think sometimes we may get into just a little bit of
19 a technicality. If there is something out there that
20 can keep New Yorkers safe, the Mayor wants to take a
21 look at it, right. So, we are exploring with a drone
22 company that works kind of side to side, which the
23 hotspot at which you use consistently. Has a
24 decision been made? Absolutely not. We're in the
25 preliminary stages.

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2 I just got back from a conference last week.
3 I've met with hundreds of individuals who have
4 existing technology that's taking place that is
5 designed to keep city's safe and we're looking at
6 them and we will make the decision whether or not
7 these are something that's appropriate for New York.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Will our privacy be
9 included in this? Because wouldn't it be an invasion
10 of our privacy with the drone, if they're not going
11 to have they say guns. They're not going to have any
12 way you can stop a crime if you do see a crime in
13 progress. That's what I read.

14 So, what's the sense? But I want to get over
15 that.

16 PHILIP BANKS: Okay.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: You said he just - could
18 you answer some of the other questions? Like, Man
19 Up, Brownsville Think Tank, why the Mayor's not
20 thinking about baselining these programs and thinking
21 about a pilot that we can really see if these
22 programs in which I know they are working. We could
23 get a specific area and put all these or some of
24 these programs and see the significance of it. To
25 see how crime will drop. So, why are we not thinking

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2 on baselining it and using a pilot program with the
3 CMS?

4 DEANNA LOGAN: well, so thank you so much for all
5 of that Council Member Mealy and you know we are open
6 to all of the suggestions. I just want to be clear
7 though that administrative funding is baselined and
8 that with regards to reporting and the research that
9 John Jay has been working on this. That John Jay had
10 issued a report that I talked about a little bit in
11 testimony which starts to show about the fact that
12 you have the reduction in violence, within that 24-
13 month period and we'd be happy to send you the link
14 to that report so that you can read that.

15 Absolutely. And I didn't want to imply by one of my
16 answers that we were only focused on women.

17 So, to be very clear, the majority of the
18 participants in the CMS program are men. What I was
19 highlighting is that we have additional employment
20 opportunities that are even outside of the CMS
21 because the program that I was highlighting is part
22 of the precision hiring program that has block power
23 resources that is having different cohorts. And one
24 of the cohorts that is going to have a graduation
25 tomorrow in Queens is for young women who have

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2 figured out entrepreneurial skills. And what we have
3 heard from the Council and from community is the need
4 to have very good paying jobs that not only are for
5 the fixed moment in time but give individuals the
6 fundamental skills so that they can go on within
7 industries to get better jobs long term.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Have you considered
10 airline? The training for young men to become
11 airline pilots? It's in the neighborhood, the 81st
12 Precinct. Have you all considered using this
13 program?

14 DEANNA LOGAN: Happy to partner with anybody that
15 is interested in setting up cohorts. We have also
16 talked to our sister agencies at SBS to think about
17 how we engage young people to tell us the industries
18 that they want to be involved in because what I have
19 acknowledged is you know on some levels; I am not
20 cool. And so, I need to know -

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes you are.

22 DEANNA LOGAN: I know that but having young
23 people use their own, paying them for cohorts where
24 they come in, we pay them for their time which
25 already starts to let them know that their time is

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2 valuable. And then once you have their ideas of what
3 industries they are interested in pursuing than we
4 can work collectively with partners to establish
5 cohorts and trainings and internships in those
6 industries.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: So, we're actually paying
8 young men's program, you have.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: That is really going?

11 DEANNA LOGAN: Internships with the CMS is the
12 majority of the work that we have that is year round
13 for young men and women.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay, we have to do a
15 little better. Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.
17 Next, we will hear from Council Member Avilés,
18 followed by Council Member Hanif and Ariola.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Hello, thank you. Thank
21 you Madam Chair and colleagues for being here today.
22 I had a question; I had several questions back to the
23 issue of technology. In particular to the policing
24 part of this plan. The Police Commissioner had
25 stated that NST officers will have body worn cameras

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2 routinely audited. We know that all patrol officers
3 are supposed to have a sample of their body worn
4 cameras routinely audited. But NYPD is doing a
5 pretty bad job of this as was stated in the most
6 recent Monitors Report. That supervisors routinely
7 fail to do this work and when they do, they often
8 miss or overlook illegal actions.

9 So, I'd like to know what concretely is the
10 department doing to address and fix this problem that
11 was noted in the monitors report? Have any
12 supervisors or officers have been held to account for
13 poor performance or legal actions and how can we
14 trust that with the NST's, with a higher level of
15 review, when basic reviews are not done properly that
16 the higher level of review will in fact happen.

17 KENNETH COREY: So, thank you for the questions
18 Council Member. So, as far as overall, the agency
19 reviews about 30 percent of all of the body worn
20 camera videos that are created by our officers.
21 Again, there are certain incidents that must be
22 reviewed, so any use of force must be reviewed by a
23 supervisor. Felony arrests must be reviewed by a
24 supervisor. All of those take place and then there's
25 a random sampling that occurs as well.

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2 As far as the Neighborhood Safety Teams go, so in
3 the two week period to date, we have reviewed 969
4 body camera videos of those 199 officers. So, a
5 significant sample of videos have been reviewed.
6 What we see when we look at those videos is we see a
7 lot of really good police work. We see a lot of
8 minor issues that need to be addressed. Typically
9 tactical concerns but some of administrative issues -

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you. Thank you.

11 How are you practically addressing the Federal
12 Monitor, the Monitors findings of failure of review?

13 KENNETH COREY: So, we have worked with the
14 Monitor for a number of years and we look at all of
15 their recommendations and all of their findings and
16 sometimes we agree and sometimes we don't agree. In
17 the cases that were pointed out here in the report
18 and I don't have specific examples to provide you
19 today but we can certainly circle back with you. If
20 officers were in fact found to have knowingly
21 violated policy and discipline was warranted, than
22 they are in the disciplinary process.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Do you have any
24 sensibility of how much of that is actually done?

25 KENNETH COREY: How much-

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: You disagree sometimes.
3 You agree sometimes but the Federal Monitor finds
4 that in fact, the work is not being done effectively.
5 Like, what are the thresholds that you use to
6 properly assess and hold officers to account if the
7 work is not getting done and it's found by the
8 Monitor do you just say, we don't agree and we move
9 forward?

10 KENNETH COREY: No, not at all. So, if by the
11 work not getting done, you mean supervisors aren't
12 reviewing videos when they should? Then those
13 supervisors are absolutely held accountable and will
14 be held accountable.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: That they miss or
16 overlook illegal actions.

17 KENNETH COREY: So, I don't think anybody's
18 overlooking illegal actions. If you're talking about
19 officers making a mistake in a very complex area of
20 law that occurs, officers are then sent for
21 retraining and that is consistent with the direction
22 of the monitor. If you're talking about illegal
23 actions, when you say officers are overlooking
24 illegal actions, I see officers committing crimes on
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2 video that aren't being addressed and I don't believe
3 that that's what we're referring to.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Okay, okay, I'm talking
5 about what the Federal Monitor stated in their report
6 and looking for concrete actions around how that gets
7 addressed but let me quickly shift to another area.
8 In terms of again, under the guides of technology, we
9 know at the Mayor's press conference that with these
10 revamped anticrime units, the Mayor has criticized
11 New Yorkers who document police activity to deter
12 abuse, right. This is often known as cop watch,
13 which is constitutionally protected and without it,
14 we wouldn't have seen some of the most egregious
15 police killings, such as Eric Garner and George
16 Floyd.

17 Can you tell us, we have known that on several
18 occasions and what PB Commissioner have had to remind
19 officers that Cop Watch is a legal practice. How has
20 the Commissioner of the department instructed
21 officers to interact with New Yorkers who are
22 documenting them and what is the plan for holding
23 officers to – to holding officers to account who
24 interfere with or abuse cop watch, cop watchers?

25 PHILIP BANKS: Can I just before Ken.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you.

3 PHILIP BANKS: You just speak just specifically
4 about the Police Commissioner. I just want to just
5 clarify the point because when the Mayor made the
6 statement, I just want to be clear for the record. I
7 don't think the Mayor and I believe he encouraged New
8 Yorkers, if you felt the need to be able to "cop
9 watch" to be - that was fine. Actually, I think it
10 makes for a healthy department.

11 I think he was very clear about that there's a
12 certain area that you can be mistakenly or you can be
13 intentionally obstructing the physical action that is
14 taking place.

15 So, I want to be very fair to the Mayor here
16 because I heard when he made the comment and I have
17 spoken with him numerous times. Is that you can have
18 that same view from a safe distance where you are not
19 impeding and obstructing a live situation that's very
20 dangerous as compared to you putting yourself in the
21 mix of action.

22 So, for clarity purposes, we just want to be
23 clear for the record, that's exactly what the Mayor
24 intended. Now Ken, you can explain exactly the

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2 message that Commissioner and you have to the staff,
3 to your members of the department.

4 KENNETH COREY: So, we reaffirm to our officers
5 the rights of the public to record the officers
6 actions in a number of different ways. There's a
7 legal bureau bulletin that was sent out to all
8 officers. We routinely send out administrative
9 messages reminding them it is a frequent topic of in-
10 service training and command level training that
11 officers attend and finally in our police academy
12 when officers attend training there. There are a
13 number of scenarios that are put through that involve
14 just that very thing about people filming their
15 actions, shouting at them and so on.

16 Officers who violate our policy on that, who
17 violate quite frankly the law around that are again,
18 held up for discipline and the penalties for that are
19 prescribed in the Disciplinary Matrix which is public
20 and we are very transparent around that.

21 But again, to the Deputy Mayor's point and my
22 understanding of the Mayor's comments at that press
23 conference and I was standing next to him when he
24 said it. He was asking New Yorkers to remain a safe
25 distance away and not physically interfere with the

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2 officers actions and that is a different threshold
3 than simply filming.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILĚS: I muted myself by
5 accident, apologies. Thank you for the response. I
6 also heard the Mayor's statements and while perhaps
7 that was the intent, certainly what we heard more to
8 civilian cop watchers was a threat. And not see very
9 much of how officers are held to account when they in
10 fact interfere with cop watching activities which we
11 have seen in very aggressive ways. And so, this is
12 an area you know I think we will continue to support
13 and we want some real clarity and held to account on
14 both ends. So, thank you for the response.

15 KENNETH COREY: Thank you Council Member.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.
17 Next, we'll hear from Council Member Hanif followed
18 by Council Member Ariola.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Good afternoon. Thank you
21 Chair Hanks and it's good to see you again Deputy
22 Mayor Philip Banks. At this Committee's Preliminary
23 Budget hearing last week, I ask the department to
24 apologize for its discriminatory and damaging
25 surveillance program that targeted Muslim communities

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2 in the decade after 911. It is a verifiable fact
3 that the department ran this program. The associated
4 press won a Pulitzer prize for its reporting on the
5 Muslim surveillance program. NYPD materials
6 detailing its operations including an instruction to
7 deploy officers in civilian clothes through the
8 ethnic communities are publicly available and Mayor
9 Adams a former Police Captain has repeatedly stated
10 the program occurred and that it was wrong, yet at
11 the hearing, Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and
12 Counter Terrorism John Miller, told this Committee
13 under oath that the NYPD did not spy on Muslim New
14 Yorkers.

15 This was a blatant lie that demonstrated the
16 departments complete disregard for basic transparency
17 to the public. The civil rights of all New Yorkers
18 are entitled to and the pain it has created for
19 marginalized communities. Now, the NYPD is following
20 the same playbook at it did after 911. It's using a
21 very real issue. In this case, the increase in gun
22 violence to justify expanding its costly and invasive
23 surveillance network in a way that will negatively
24 impact Black and Brown New Yorkers.

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2 Under a new rebranding, we are seeing the return
3 of the plain clothes anti-crime unit that killed Eric
4 Gardner, Sean Bell, Saheed Vassell, and Amadou
5 Diallo. When former Commissioner Shea disbanded this
6 unit in 2020, he said he was closing one of the last
7 chapters of stop, question and frisk. We are also
8 seeing the Mayor call for the expanded use of facial
9 recognition technology despite studies showing that
10 even the most accurate software's - sorry about that.
11 Which puts them - uhm, studies that even the most
12 accurate software's have high error rates for women
13 and people with darker skin, which puts them at risk
14 for wrongful conviction. These developments and many
15 others suggested in the blueprint have massive
16 potential impacts for discrimination, privacy
17 violations and over policing, especially for
18 communities of color.

19 My question for you is, if the NYPD is unwilling
20 to even acknowledge the civil rights violations it
21 has clearly made in the recent past, why should this
22 Committee and the public at large believe the
23 department when it says that the plans included in
24 the blueprint will not violate civil rights when they
25 are implemented.

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2 PHILIP BANKS: Council Member, I answered that,
3 is that you brought this point when we had a meeting
4 at City Hall eloquently and as you are now. It's a
5 very point I certainly am very sensitive and
6 understand your point. I'm going to try to
7 paraphrase as much as I possibly can what the Mayor's
8 response was. The Mayor's response, I think he said
9 in the meeting and quote me if I'm incorrect. He
10 said that he understood the pain and he actually was
11 the victim of unlawful spine by the NYPD himself. He
12 said, here is the difference. The difference is that
13 the buck stops with him and he is running the show.
14 And I believe, right, that the attendees clapped when
15 he said that.

16 Also, when we say that this is a same playbook, I
17 will respectfully differ from two things. One is
18 that I don't believe it's the same playbook but I
19 won't Hager with you. There's a different author to
20 the book. And a different author is Eric Adams who
21 has a history, who has a history of not allowing
22 these type of abuses.

23 So, I would not work for a Mayor who I even
24 thought would tolerate such abuse. And he has the
25 history for it and his history is not a new history.

1
2 He has been talking about this since 1984 that I'm
3 aware of. So, there's a different author and it's
4 going to make all the difference -

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I appreciate that and I
6 recognize - respectfully Deputy Mayor, I recognize
7 it's a new author. Thank you for saying that and I
8 appreciated the Mayor for very candidly sharing about
9 his own personal story by the impacts of surveillance
10 as a police officer.

11 So, but my question is I mean it doesn't just
12 stop at a new author. We are enacting new
13 modalities, increasing budgets to double down on
14 Black and Brown New Yorkers. These technologies, the
15 facial recognition technologies, the plain clothes
16 officers unit. These will continue to harm our
17 communities and you and both know it.

18 PHILIP BANKS: No, we both don't know it because
19 I would not be part of a system that would allow
20 that. And with all due respect to everyone here, we
21 can all have differences of opinions and we learn if
22 we are willing to take that pivoting is a sign of
23 strength, not a sign of weakness and learning, as you
24 are a fellow Council Member. I wrote a bunch of
25 notes, I'm going to drill back down on the part that

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2 the federal monitor talked about. I have a bunch of
3 notes here because I'm learning from this particular
4 process here. But no, I don't know that and I would
5 not be part of a system. This is not new and what
6 the Mayor says, this is not new. He's not new to
7 this. So, to just think that he would even be
8 remotely part of a system because he is now the Mayor
9 to allow a police department that he is very much
10 aware of what they can do if they are unchecked.

11 I used to be the Chief of the Department. I
12 understand a Police Department that is unchecked.
13 What they can do intentionally or other. It's not
14 going to happen. It is not going to happen because
15 there's one person who says, he is not going to have,
16 he is putting together a team with check and balances
17 on his team. He has said it to everyone around him.
18 We're all on probation because you all will be going
19 tomorrow if you do not follow the script of what the
20 taxpayers or the citizens. So, I understand your
21 pain very much so as I understand the pain of raising
22 two African American men in the city and being aware
23 of the consequences. But we do have a different
24 author and you may say, well, I've heard that before
25

1
2 and you probably have but the author wasn't Mayor
3 Adams and a team that he has assembled.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 PHILIP BANKS: And I'm just going to say there's
6 nothing I can say now that may prove it to you but if
7 you give us time, you're not going to see those type
8 of abuses and any little slip that you do see, you
9 will see swift action and I think the Mayor has been
10 very clear on this and he has a history to back this
11 up.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you for that and in
13 my tenure, I'll be making sure that you know I do my
14 job and I hold the admin to account. Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.
16 Next, we'll hear from Council Member Ariola followed
17 by Council Member Hanks for a second round of
18 questionings and then Council Member Cabán for a
19 second round. So, Council Member Ariola go ahead.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you Chair Hanks and
22 thank you Deputy Mayor Banks and your entire team for
23 being so accessible. Not just to me because I'm a
24 Council Member but to our commanding officers
25 throughout the borough and to our community

1
2 stakeholders. I want to thank you for that level of
3 access, concern and care.

4 I want to share two instances that happened
5 within a district that I share with Majority Whip
6 Brooks-Powers and then in my district solely. In
7 early February, a rookie officer was on his way to
8 work and there was an attempted car jack and he was
9 shot. He was shot and the perpetrators fled.

10 Another car, a patrol car hearing the shots just a
11 couple of blocks down responded to where the shots
12 came from, saw the rookie officer, got the necessary
13 you know treatment for him, called EMS and then upon
14 a description, gotten by that shotten officer, went
15 out and found two people who fit the description that
16 the officer gave.

17 The two individuals then opened fire on a police
18 cruiser. At that point, officers got out of their
19 cruiser and apprehended the perpetrators. Never
20 unholstering their guns, never and brought them into
21 custody.

22 Just a couple of weeks ago in March, there was
23 almost a nearly fa- and those perpetrators were 18
24 and 19-years-old by the way. Two weeks ago, there
25 was almost two students from John Adams High School

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2 adolescents, juveniles who were almost fatally
3 stabbed by a 16-year-old juvenile. That person and
4 the other person who was with the juvenile, who was
5 an adult were apprehended safely and arrested.

6 We're talking now about a city that's in trouble.
7 Our colleagues, we have to work to help this Mayor
8 realize this vision. Yes, we can work and have
9 differences of opinion but when you're talking about
10 neighborhood safety teams and more officers and
11 mental health and homeless help and youth programs
12 and incorporating Cure Violence programs and
13 providing funding for them.

14 Then how can we not at least give the Mayor a
15 chance? Now, we talk about Neighborhood Safety
16 Teams. Commissioner Banks, there is a question in
17 here. I'm sorry, Deputy Mayor Banks.

18 These teams in a very short period of time have
19 shown that they are working. So, how are you
20 identifying where these Neighborhood Safety Teams are
21 going and with the success, how long before there
22 will be an expansion. And like Council Member Holden
23 said, how can I get them in the three precincts that
24 I cover the 100th, the 102 and the 106?

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2 PHILIP BANKS: I'm going to let the Chief of
3 Department answer that but hopefully you will never
4 have any increase Council Member. But I'm going to
5 let Ken Corey answer that particular question. I
6 believe he is going to talk about the you know the
7 top 30 precincts subsequently now are violence and if
8 you don't have it, you know that's a great thing.
9 Hopefully at one point we can get down to eliminating
10 it totally okay.

11 KENNETH COREY: Thank you. Thank you Council
12 Member and let me start by thanking you for
13 acknowledging the really tremendous restraint that
14 the officers showed out in the 100th precinct. You
15 know and holding their fire despite being fired upon
16 by someone who - you know by two individuals who had
17 already shot a person.

18 As far as how the precincts were selected, we
19 selected 30 precincts and four police service areas
20 that obviously fall within those larger precincts and
21 those precincts were selected because in 2021 they
22 accounted for 80 percent of the shootings in the
23 city. And given the focus of these teams on
24 combating violent crime going after the drivers of
25 violence, the trigger pullers, the people who are

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2 causing great harm in the communities, our decision
3 was to deploy one team in each of those 34 commands,
4 30 precincts, four PSA's.

5 As we sit here today, they are active in 31 of
6 those. The remaining three will be begin on Monday
7 April 4th. They are just completing training now and
8 at this time, we are very closely monitoring it. We
9 are very closely evaluating it but we have no plans
10 to expand it beyond these 34 commands right now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I appreciate that. Thank
12 you very much and I just think that after eight years
13 of disastrous policies and perhaps more than that of
14 no accountability, I applaud the Mayor for this
15 blueprint and the fact that he sees what's wrong with
16 the department and he sees what's right with the
17 department and he is willing to make strides to make
18 a better NYPD. So, thank you. Thank you for your
19 efforts.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member. We
22 will now turn back to Council Member Chair Hanks for
23 a second round of questions followed by Council
24 Members Cabán and Holden, so Chair Hanks, you may
25 begin.

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2 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much. I want to
3 thank all of my colleagues and the folks who
4 testified. This is you know we are all here to
5 strike that balance as my opening statement implied.
6 This question is for Deputy Mayor Banks surrounding
7 the expansion of Summer Youth Employment Programs.

8 Can you give us a breakdown of industry and of
9 the positions that will be available and how many, if
10 any, SYEP is NYPD and MOCJ accepting?

11 PHILIP BANKS: Chair Hanks, unfortunately I'll
12 have to get back to you with that. We're still in
13 the development of that, so that stuff has not been
14 finalized as well as -

15 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Okay, so one more quick
16 question. Uhm, can you talk about the expansion of
17 the Fair Futures Initiative and how the
18 Administration will expand that and does the
19 Administration measure how they are going to measure
20 the success of the program?

21 PHILIP BANKS: I cannot, I'm going to have to get
22 back to you.

23 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Okay, alright. So, I am
24 going to give my time away to my colleagues who want
25 to also do a second round. I think a lot of the

1
2 questions have been answered. Thank you very much.
3 Josh.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Well, thank you so much
5 Chair. Council Member Cabán, you got a second round
6 of questions followed by Council Member Holden.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Yes, yes, thank you. So I
9 want to continue some of the questioning that we've
10 heard on the training for these new units. Obviously
11 the Mayor has touted that these officers would get
12 special training, enhanced training. I met with the
13 unit that is being dispatched in my neighborhood, in
14 my precinct yesterday including the officers that
15 make them up and their superior officers. When I
16 asked them to walk me through the seven day training,
17 they shared with me that the seven days consisted of
18 two days at the range, two days of tactical and
19 qualifications and two days of constitutional
20 policing. Which again, for folks who don't know has
21 to do with the breaking down with the different
22 suspicion levels and what kinds of actions can be
23 taken constitutionally. And then one day a courtroom
24 presentation.

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2 Basically, teaching and coaching officers how to
3 testify on the stand at trials. When I asked, this
4 sounded right, from I'm very familiar with both the
5 patrol guide as a former public defender as well as a
6 lot of the different training modules that get used.
7 I asked, like this sounds really familiar to some of
8 the training that happens at the police academy.
9 They actually affirmed that and then added that some
10 of the training was simply the training that the
11 officers get twice a year as part of their
12 recertification process.

13 When I asked about what were the special enhanced
14 components that made them above and beyond or better
15 equipped to carry out this particular function that
16 they have been given, the answer that I was given was
17 that instead of sitting and watching power points
18 that the trainings were more "interactive."

19 So, you know if you could get into some details
20 about how this training is something different than
21 what we have seen before or not just simply a rehash
22 of the court ordered training from the Floyd case,
23 you know that would be super helpful.

24 And then the second thing is that obviously
25 dozens of these teams have been deployed and it feels

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2 like there's still not transparency about who they
3 are, their misconduct records, their mandates or
4 protocol. Nor is there transparency about you know
5 like, I would love to see or will you make available
6 the training materials. Will you name the members
7 and release their disciplinary records to make them
8 public?

9 KENNETH COREY: So, let me start with the
10 training component Council Member and where the
11 investigative encounters component training that
12 you're talking about, that is the training curriculum
13 that was indeed approved by the federal court and the
14 court appointed federal monitor. Any changes to that
15 curriculum would require us to go back to court to go
16 back in front of the federal judge and have that
17 amended as part of the settlement process.

18 So, that would involve not only the Federal
19 Monitor but also bringing back all plaintiff's
20 attorney's as well. The curriculum is sound and as I
21 said it has been reviewed and approved by the federal
22 court.

23 So, much of -

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So to be clear, the
25 Mayor's assertion that these teams were getting new

1
2 different specialized training that would make it so
3 that the mistakes of the past wouldn't be made. So,
4 you're saying that that's not true.

5 KENNETH COREY: I did not say that at all. You
6 didn't let me finish. So, much of the other training
7 was designed while I was the Chief of Training. It
8 is new. It has not existed before. These officers,
9 something that has never been done before is that we
10 bring the entire team in and we train them as a team,
11 so that they learn to work together. So, that they
12 learn to communicate better. That enhances their
13 ability to de-escalate a particular situation. To
14 resolve it without the use of force and that when
15 force does need to be used, that we ensure that only
16 the minimal amount of force needed gets applied
17 because they are able to do that as a team.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, are these teams the
19 only teams in the NYPD that have received this
20 training?

21 KENNETH COREY: At this moment, yes. Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, the mandate has been
23 out for how long and these are the first officers
24 that are receiving the mandated training?

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2 KENNETH COREY: These Neighborhood Safety Teams
3 that have received this seven-day training course
4 that was created specifically for the Neighborhood
5 Safety Teams. Yes, these are the only people that
6 have received it.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, I do want to note that
8 the court certainly does not preclude you from adding
9 additional training. Now, there are questions around
10 the efficacy of it but -

11 KENNETH COREY: I think you're confusing what I
12 said Council Member. Every member in the department
13 has received the investigative encounters training
14 and continues to receive the investigative encounters
15 training. That is a small portion of the seven-day
16 training that Neighborhood Safety teams undergo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: That's two out of the
18 seven days.

19 KENNETH COREY: It is not two out of the seven
20 days.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Well, that's what your
23 officers told me that they went through. The
24 officers that are on the team, the NY precinct said
25 two days, two days, two days and one and broke down

1 those training components. So, there appears to be a
2 disconnect between what your directive is and what's
3 actually happening. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member
5 Cabán. We will finish off with Council Member
6 Holden.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Again, thank you
9 everyone. Thank you Chair for the second round.
10 Deputy Mayor Banks, uhm, it seems to me and just
11 talking to police officers and I've known you know
12 I've been working with police officers for almost 40
13 years. It's probably the most difficult time to be
14 aa police officer in New York City for a host of
15 reason. Some of the anti-police rhetoric that we've
16 heard. Some of the you know again, my neighborhood
17 wants more police and any neighborhoods any Council
18 Member doesn't want police, I'll take them.

19 But Mayor Adams previously called the Council's
20 so called diaphragm bill that was placed I believe
21 last year, a big mistake and confirmed that you know
22 it was a good decision by the State Supreme Court to
23 declare it unconstitutional. And I spoke to you
24 about this because I would be confused you know if a
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2 perp is resisting arrest, I don't know how with this
3 diaphragm law, how would you grab the person because
4 Deputy Mayor Banks, there's always a gun involved,
5 the police officers gun.

6 So, it's very difficult in a life and death
7 situation to know how to even touch you know let's
8 say a suspect who is resisting arrest. So, I know
9 that the Mayor is not a fan of the diaphragm law that
10 was passed and I don't think you are. I'll let you
11 speak for yourself but do you think the City Council
12 or the Law Department should be appealing this
13 ruling?

14 PHILIP BANKS: I don't want to be in a position;
15 with all due respect Council Member to tell or advise
16 or suggest what the Council should do. I think that
17 they are embodied enough to make that decision on
18 their own. I do know that I believe that if you're
19 looking at the essence of it and there's no one that
20 I've spoke to, certainly the one who matters the
21 most, this is Mayor Adams that mistake the fact if
22 someone keeps implied an intent and over pressure
23 over one's windpipe is different from someone that he
24 is wrestling with a felony and his arm happens to
25 cross the individuals neck. It's very difficult to

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2 take that individual. It's not. Is it that
3 difficult when you keep it there for a minute extra
4 or two minutes or three minutes or four minutes?
5 Absolutely not. You do cross the line of criminality
6 and I think that the confusion or misinterprets with
7 the bill was that if you make any type of contact.
8 But as far as the Council, listen here, I respect
9 these Council Members. I know most of them and the
10 one's I don't know I will get to know. I can't
11 advise or suggest what they should or should not do,
12 I can only give what we believe or on the Mayor's
13 Administration on it and I think sometimes we are
14 looking to achieve the same objective. If we sit
15 down and discuss certain things.

16 As an example, there was a Council Member, former
17 Council Member and I think I'm at liberty to say her
18 name Helen Rosenthal. She was putting together a
19 bill and when I was serving on the transition, I
20 asked her, did she sit down and speak with the NYPD
21 prior to this? And she said, no. And I arranged a
22 meeting and then they realized that they had agreed
23 upon 95 percent of the bill and she altered the part
24 of the bill and the bill was either in motion or had
25 passed.

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2 So, I'd just like to say is that sometimes we
3 don't want on the Adams Administration side, take a
4 position to say, here is the opposition, we know
5 what's best. It's when we talk and we come to the
6 table with no preconclusions. I'm listening and this
7 is what I'm doing now. I have a host of notes. I'm
8 going to go back, I'm going to check because these
9 city agencies aren't 100 percent right, right? They
10 make mistakes and there may be some mistakes in the
11 blueprint that we need to adapt and we need to
12 modify. So, we're not standing still on anything
13 here, we just come with an open mind and we certainly
14 hope. In fact, I've had these similar conversations
15 with the Speaker of the House, who I've known for a
16 very, very long time. We're not standing and taking
17 these positions. As far as that particular bill, I
18 do think there were some fallacies with that bill.

19 I think the essence of the bill is fine. We do
20 not want officers out there implying you know
21 somebody's windpipe where they can't breathe. I
22 mean, obviously no body wants that. So, we just want
23 to make sure that we can get it right and I think
24 that if we keep an open mind and we don't come to any
25 of these discussions that we know what's best or our

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2 position that we've adopted is the best position and
3 there's room for discussion and negotiation and
4 changing your mind and pivoting is a sign of
5 strength. It is not a sign of weakness. I think
6 these next four years that we can all look back and
7 say that we have and will move the needle to a very
8 positive and much more safer city. And I appreciate
9 the support Council Member, to all the Council
10 Members.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Yeah but just again, I
12 look at the officers on the street who are trying to
13 do their job in a very stressful situation. They're
14 seeing the worst of society every day. They are
15 going from 911 call to 911 call seeing all different
16 types of you know activities and facing very, very
17 dangerous situations and we also ended qualified
18 immunity, which also makes it more difficult. So,
19 you know it's not a surprise that we're seeing a rise
20 in crime because of the added pressures. That's what
21 I'm saying here and you as a former Police Officer
22 and the Mayor also, I think understand. You
23 understand this, that there are human beings involved
24 and those are the officers that we have to – they're
25 human beings. They're on the street and they're

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2 under a lot of stress and we're making it tougher.
3 That's what I'm saying.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: With some of these
6 regulations on them and so forth. But I appreciate
7 your comments and certainly, I think as a Council
8 though, we have to understand that these are human
9 beings that are on the street and trying to protect
10 us and that are in harms way every second of the day.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member.
12 I'll turn back to Chair Hanks now.

13 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you very much. Thank
14 you so much for Deputy Mayor Banks for staying and
15 answering everybody's questions. I'm going to now
16 turn it over to Mr. Kingsley to open up our public
17 testimony.

18 PHILIP BANKS: Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you everyone. We'll
20 now be turning to the public testimony section of
21 this hearing. I'd like to remind everyone that
22 unlike our typical Council hearings, we'll be calling
23 individuals one by one to testify.

24 Council Members who have questions for a
25 particular panelist, use the Zoom raise hand

1 function. I will call on you after the panelist has
2 completed their testimony.

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4 For panelists, once your name is called, a member
5 of our staff will unmute you and you will be able to
6 begin delivering testimony. I will be calling on a
7 number of people just to get you queued up, so you're
8 prepared. So, to begin public testimony, today we
9 will hear from Shawn Williams followed by Iris Baez
10 followed by Tina Luongo.

11 SHAWN WILLIAMS: Hi, hello?

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes, you may go ahead sir.

13 SHAWN WILLIAMS: Yes, my name is Shawn Williams,
14 the father of Antonio Williams. Uhm, who was
15 murdered 2019 by NYPD, plain clothes officers. I
16 just have an issue with that. I heard of - I
17 understand they say it's - still to me, it's still
18 the plain clothes unit. You just changing the name.

19 [LOST AUDIO 2:57:05 2:57:12]

20 Chased my son down, did an unconstitutional stop.
21 Chased him down, beat him and then killed him. So,
22 my issue with this is, I understand they say it's
23 going to be different, street crimes unit is going to
24 be different. It's going to be different from the
25 same unit that killed my son. Eric Gardner, Saheed

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2 Vassell, Kamoni Gray, Carlos Lopez and so many
3 others.

4 I understand what I would love to see is the
5 Committee stand with the families and look for
6 accountability from these officers because what my
7 family is looking for, we would love to see these
8 officers fired. I sat here, I was listening to the -
9 through the whole Council and at one point they said
10 it was an encounter with people and they had a gun
11 and they -

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

13 SHAWN WILLIAMS: Yes. They arrested the man with
14 no shots fired. And with these plain clothes units,
15 I'm not so sure, I'm not buying in on it yet and I'm
16 pretty sure I'm not going to buy in on it because
17 it's just a change the name and put the same cops on
18 the street and it just makes me wonder what kind of
19 program. And I was listening to everyone's argument
20 about the program and to me it doesn't sound like a
21 real successful program. I understand they say
22 they're doing - they have a couple of arrests and I
23 just want to know, what happens to the officers when
24 it's showing that their cameras not on. When it
25 showing that they are wrong.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

SHAWN WILLIAMS: What is going to happen to them? What accountability are they going to have when something happens to these officers? Are they going to get fired? Are they going to get – what is the accountability for it?

What I see is a flooding of hyperaggressive officers. Flooding of Black and Brown neighborhoods and using their own ideas of you get trained but once you on the street, you're going to use your own ideas of okay, racial profiling and that's what's going to happen. You're going to profile people and you're going to make arrests. To me it seems like it's a lot of illegal. It's like the same old thing but we change the name of it and we're going to put it back on the street. I want to see what the – because Mayor Adams got, when he was on the – before he was hired as Mayor, he was making a lot of promises on holding cops accountable and everything and I'm still waiting to see this. I am still waiting to see this because the same thing, the only thing I saw was, so far was Mayor Adams put plain clothes officers who murdered my son and many others back on the street.

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2 And then he said okay, now we're going to bring back
3 stop and frisk, even though that was illegal.

4 So, by doing that, I'm trying to understand what
5 is he looking to prove by doing that? Because what
6 is going to end up in my eyes, what it's going to end
7 up turning into is a bunch of hyperaggressive cops
8 going out, racially profiling people in Black and
9 Brown neighborhoods and just a whole lot of things
10 going wrong. So, I ask the Committee to please stand
11 with the families of the victims of the cops who
12 murdered their loved ones.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony
14 sir.

15 SHAWN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

16 COMITTE COUNSEL: Council Member Cabán, do you
17 have a question Council Member Cabán? You may go
18 ahead.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Thank you for
21 your testimony Mr. Williams. Also, thank you Chair
22 for giving Mr. Williams the space to take some extra
23 time to testify here today. Obviously he has
24 experienced unspeakable pain and harm. And so, I
25 heard in your testimony that you know the justice

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2 your family is seeking is that the officers that
3 killed your son Antonio are fired.

4 SHAWN WILLIAMS: Yeah.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: And you know the follow-up
6 question I want to ask you is what can we, the City
7 Council be doing to support you and your family?

8 SHAWN WILLIAMS: Well, just to stand by the
9 families and understand that we've lost loved ones
10 and we're looking for accountability. Because a lot
11 of Council Members, if they sat in our shoes as
12 families who have lost loved ones, it's like a club
13 you don't want to be in. That you lost your loved
14 one and no one's giving you answers. No one is being
15 accountable even though the NYPD is saying they are
16 being transparent but they are still not being
17 transparent.

18 There is no transparency and it leaves you
19 wondering okay, so is Mayor Adams going to stay true
20 to the promise he was holding of abusive officers
21 accountability? Are you going to stay true to being
22 transparent with everyone because right now, so far
23 the Neighborhood Safety Team only seems like it's
24 just the same cops, just a different title. That's
25 all it seems to me and that's why I was asking for

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2 the Council, as accountability, me and my family is
3 fire the officers who murdered my son.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Thank you Mr.
5 Williams.

6 SHAWN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Thank you Council
8 Member Cabán and Mr. Williams. Next, we'll hear from
9 Iris Baez followed by Tina Luongo and Liliana Matine.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

11 IRIS BAEZ: My name is Iris Baez and I'm sorry,
12 good afternoon to everybody. My name is Iris Baez, I
13 am the mother of Anthony Baez. I've been fighting
14 for justice for four mayors since my son was murdered
15 in 1994 by Francis Livoti 46th Precinct in the Bronx.
16 And for nearly three decades, I have joined with
17 other NYPD - I'm sorry. With other New York City's
18 parents, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and the
19 administration to stop the police violent, heavy-
20 handed approach to public safety, especially in Black
21 and Latinx communities.

22 We don't want any family to join this club
23 anymore. None of us wanted to be in it. And yet
24 again, here we go. We're tired. SPEAKING IN SPANISH
25 3:06:36-3:06:39]. We know that define insanity, it's

1
2 when you recycle the same abusive, ineffectiveness,
3 to try to promote them as new solutions. That's what
4 Mayor Adams is doing with his Neighborhood Safety
5 Teams. Guilani, Bloomberg, de Blasio all said they
6 could end gun violence and more policing, more
7 locking up the people. Instead, they just continued
8 a long history and culture of NYPD brutality.

9 Now Mayor Adams is going the same route. It
10 doesn't matter what a unit wear. The clothes don't
11 change the officers. They come out of this history
12 and all but one are going back to Black and Latino
13 community.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

15 IRIS BAEZ: We get the same results.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ms. Baes, are you finished
17 wrapping up your testimony ma'am?

18 IRIS BAES: No, I just need a little bit more,
19 two minutes. Adams says these officers were all
20 retired, but families are tired of hearing the same.
21 My son was murdered with an illegal chokehold, was
22 banned in the city and two decades after, Eric Garner
23 was murdered with the same chokehold. Adams recently
24 tried to deter New York from filming police and had
25

1 failed to show he will hold abusive police officers
2 accountable.
3

4 Where is his blueprint for policing and violence?
5 Retraining failed police officers track and killed
6 our loved ones. Families are asking the City Council
7 to stand with us and oppose Mayor Adams' version of
8 the plain clothes units. The families want to put
9 this club out of business. So, I'm asking the City
10 Council to join us and defunding the police and put
11 that money back into the communities that they are
12 being abused. Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
14 testimony.

15 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Next, we'll hear from Tina
17 Luongo followed by Yafa Diaz and Rakeish Doolan. Ms.
18 Luongo, you may go ahead.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

20 TINA LUONGO: I'm sorry, good afternoon everybody
21 and I want to thank the City Council for holding this
22 hearing. Chair Hanks as well as thank CPR for
23 inviting me on to this very important panel of
24 families most impacted by what we are talking about
25 today.

1
2 I'm the Chief Public Defender at the Legal Aid
3 Society which is this city's Public Defender but I am
4 also someone who supports our Cure Violence partners
5 in every single borough and see the dramatic work in
6 true partnership and change that that program has
7 done over the course of the many years. We started
8 as a partner in that movement when it was merely six
9 sites and now we're close to 30 citywide.

10 We're at a pivotal moment in our city, there is
11 no denying that. We've heard from everybody. We've
12 seen the statistics. We watch the news and we feel
13 the pain. We feel the pain of people in communities
14 where families, children are being injured and we
15 hear the pain and suffering of the families that just
16 actually testified that have lost loved ones to the
17 other violence. That at the hands of law
18 enforcement. We're also at a pivotal time in our
19 state where the cost of movements and attitudes of
20 this city's administration, this Mayor and this
21 Police Commissioner. We are now looking at rollbacks
22 to bail discovery and Raise the Age. That were
23 reforms that were working and later in the panels,
24 you will hear from public defenders, my sister
25 organizations talking about that.

1
2 Today, we released a report at the Legal Aid
3 Society showing data on failed broken window policing
4 and I ask you to turn and look at those statistics as
5 you think about the future of our city and the
6 policies.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

8 TINA LUONGO: The fact of the matter is that we
9 do need action, action to invest. But what we also
10 see are regressive policies being implemented.
11 Neighborhood Safety Teams that are very reminiscent
12 of anticrime units. Broken windows policing under
13 the guise of targeted policing. We heard our
14 commissioner today talk about science and data and
15 yet when cross examined and asked by members of this
16 Committee to show the data, there was resistance to
17 providing that data in an open and transparency. And
18 yet, what we hear is trust us. We hear our law
19 enforcement leaders trust us. We hear our Mayor say
20 trust us. We saw a Mayor go into the shelter system
21 and call out for more shelter resources but hours
22 before had city workers wreck housing encampments,
23 throwing away peoples valuable, only items.

24 That is the reality of what we are facing. A
25 true plan will be an investment plan. A true plan

1 will be an accountability plan. A true plan will
2 mean that accountability equals discipline.
3 Accountability equals culture change. Accountability
4 is inviting these family members who have lost loved
5 ones into talking about how never to have it happen
6 again.
7

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

9 TINA LUONGO: And a true plan will have funding
10 and be based on data. Lots more to say this
11 afternoon, I'm sure from people who were very
12 impacted but I thank you for the time and the space
13 you provided me.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
15 testimony. I see Council Member Cabán has a
16 question.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Yes, thank you and thank
19 you for testifying Tina, really appreciate it. I
20 just also want to thank you because the Legal Aid
21 Society released a report last night confirming
22 alarming racial disparities in the NYPD's approach to
23 broken windows policing. And you all found that in
24 2021, 91 percent of the broken windows arrests that
25 they reviewed were Black, Latinx and other New

1
2 Yorkers of color. And so, I'd be curious to hear how
3 the NYPD explains it stark racial disparities and
4 their policing strategies.

5 But my question for you is, is just do you think
6 that the disparities like the ones pointed out in
7 that report are a sign of lawful constitutional
8 policing?

9 I believe Tina is still muted.

10 TINA LUONGO: Thank you. Alright, yes sometimes
11 muting a Public Defender is sometimes a good thing I
12 suppose. I don't know. Thank you for that question
13 and thank you for talking about the data.

14 Of course it's unconstitutional. Look, I heard
15 earlier today about precision policing. You know
16 precision policing for the folks we represent often
17 is an unconstitutional stop. You know, it is always
18 the escalation of an approach right. Which is why
19 the Cure Violence partners right, are the way in
20 which to deal with things that are raised as
21 complaints in communities by community members. So
22 that the response is by the community. So, that the
23 response doesn't engage the power of law enforcement
24 to go and perhaps work in a community to address a
25

1
2 concern, whether that be loud music. A group of kids
3 sitting on a stool in the summer time.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 TINA LUONGO: Because the end result always is
6 that the enforcement escalates right, escalates in
7 that moment and winds up being very much the videos
8 we see over and over again on social media of
9 aggressive sort of responses to what are things that
10 community can handle on their own without police.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much Tina.
13 Next, we will hear from Rakeish Doolan followed by
14 Michael Sisitzky followed by Alli Finn followed by
15 Carlos Rosario.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

17 RAKEISH DOOLAN: He everybody. My name is
18 Rakeish [LOST AUDIO 3:16:48].

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Rakeish, you might have to
20 shut off your other device.

21 RAKEISH DOOLAN: There we go. So sorry about
22 that. Hello, my name is Rakeish Doolan. I am the
23 Lead Organizer of Education for the Liberation Power
24 Project here at Grace NYC. I am a first generation
25 Jamaican American and a long time New Yorker who

1 identifies as a gender nonconforming person of color
2 and this is my testimony.

3
4 In the summer of 2013, I was walking behind a
5 hotel that I was looking at the time. I was stopped
6 by Jamaica Avenues 103rd Precinct. They made it
7 clear to me that my turquoise coat was very similar
8 to the coat that was identified to be the coat of the
9 shooter that was involved in a shooting recently the
10 day before.

11 I then asked the officer to show me a picture of
12 this suspect. When the photo was provided via
13 iPhone, I simply pointed out that the coat didn't
14 match, simply because mine had a Ralph Lawrence
15 symbol. After that, backup was called immediately.
16 I was then brought to the 103rd Precinct where I
17 stayed for five hours. Within those five hours, I
18 was subjected to aggressive questioning and threats
19 of incarceration. The last two hours of the ordeal
20 was spent in a lineup with a yellow paged textbook
21 placed under me, clearly to boost my height.

22 I was later released after spending the entirety
23 of the day being cuffed, provoked and threatened. It
24 is evident with resources in tech and government
25 funds that stories like mine will continue to plague

1
2 our community. My story doesn't stand alone. A
3 number of youth here at Fierce NYC have experienced
4 such harmful behaviors due to the over surveillance
5 of violent beating. That's all.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
7 testimony.

8 RAKEISH DOOLAN: Thank you sir.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Next, we'll hear from Michael
10 Sisitzky followed by Alli Finn followed Carlos
11 Rosario and Pilar De Jesus. Michael.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

13 MICHAEL SISITZKY: Thank you Chair Hanks and
14 members of the Committee. My name is Michael
15 Sisitzky, Senior Policy Counsel with the NYCLU. The
16 flaw with the Mayor's blueprint is its very premise.
17 Mainly that there is a way for us to police our way
18 to community safety. The safest communities are not
19 the ones with the most police or the highest jail
20 populations or the most surveillance. They are the
21 communities with the most resources. The strongest
22 social safety accessible and nonpunitive clinical
23 supports for people in crisis and none of that is
24 possible unless and until the City Council reduces
25 the size, scope and power of the NYPD.

1
2 The over resourcing of the police department has
3 meant the defunding of New York's public health
4 infrastructure and social safety net and that makes
5 it all the more challenging for city officials to
6 tackle the root causes of gun violence, homelessness
7 and a myriad of other challenges. You've heard a lot
8 about the history of violence, misconduct associated
9 with the anticrime unit. It's now being revived.
10 You want to briefly address a few points there.

11 One, the precincts where these new units are
12 being deployed are also many of the same precincts
13 with the highest number of reported CCRB complaints.
14 That makes it all the more essential for CCRB to be
15 able to do their jobs and investigate. It also
16 underscores the importance of NYPD being more
17 transparent around discipline.

18 The personal dashboard from the department still
19 doesn't include the vast majority of information on
20 this conduct, complaints and outcomes. These new
21 units then show us the full discipline and misconduct
22 records of every officer assigned to these new teams.

23 Second, every New Yorker should be concerned
24 about the Administrations recent comments doubling
25 down on broken windows policing has the right to film

1
2 the police. The hospital rhetoric and these broken
3 windows policies including the recent and incredibly
4 cruel sweeps targeting unsheltered New Yorkers should
5 motivate this Council to be more proactive in scaling
6 back the harmful scope of policing and investing in
7 real alternatives.

8 Lastly, the Council must reject the Mayor's calls
9 for the expansion of face recognition and other forms
10 of biometric surveillance. The NYPD's use of face
11 recognition in particular has been reckless,
12 especially given the high error rates when it comes
13 to the technologies ability to identify people of
14 color and women and the misidentification leading to
15 a police encounter.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

17 MICHAEL SISITZKY: Is something that can have
18 life altering or life ending consequences. Those are
19 the stakes here and I will wrap up shortly. We know
20 that the department has already mislead the public on
21 their use of face recognition. They've claimed in
22 the eyes face recognition platform, when in fact they
23 had. They downplayed the risks of misidentification
24 that had been widely reported and their actual use of
25 body and unlawful practices, like running searches

1 based on celebrity lookalikes, prospect images, and
2 running searches against sealed records, including
3 sealed juvenile mugshots.
4

5 The NYPD has proven time and time again, it
6 cannot be trusted with the continued use of this
7 dangerous technology. So, instead of investing
8 further in flawed racist technologies as called for
9 in the blueprint – use all together.

10 We'll have much more to say in written testimony
11 that we'll file with the Committee but I thank you
12 for the opportunity to testify.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
14 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Alli Finn followed
15 by Carlos Rosario.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

17 ALLI FINN: Thank you. I'm testifying today on
18 behalf of the Immigrant Defense Project, where I'm
19 the Senior Researcher focusing on surveillance tech
20 and immigration policing.

21 We cannot overstate how concerned we are about
22 the Mayor's blueprint. We know that this will
23 further criminalize Black, Brown and immigrant
24 communities. One of the reasons for that is the
25

1
2 expansion of invasive surveillance and violent over
3 policing practices.

4 I want to focus on two of these in this testimony
5 that we have not focused on enough today. The first
6 is the proposed expansion of NYPD cooperation with
7 state police and with federal agencies including the
8 ATF, FBI and unnamed federal partners. This could
9 bypass New York City's principals and policies as a
10 sanctuary city. This is because state agencies are
11 already known to cooperate with ICE and other federal
12 agencies and can easily pass along data on immigrant
13 New Yorkers from the NYPD.

14 Coordination with federal agencies is also a
15 slippery slope that could funnel New Yorkers into ICE
16 custody and increase surveillance, raids and
17 deportation. It is imperative that New York City
18 uphold its existing policies and the Mayor's own
19 commitments to limit ICE and police collaboration and
20 to safeguard all of its residents.

21 We encourage the Council to provide continued
22 oversight to any further cooperation that the Mayor's
23 office or the NYPD will have with state and federal
24 agencies and we encourage the Council to move forward
25 to pass Intro. 2473. A bill that would eliminate the

1
2 gang database known as the criminal group data base
3 which I'm happy to follow-up about.

4 The second point is the expansion of policing
5 technologies. We have repeatedly seen tech tools
6 fuel invasive surveillance and data collection
7 without consent and in any ways that violate our
8 communities civil liberties and rights. This is not
9 only an issue of accuracy. It's not about fixing
10 error rates, as much of the administrations testimony
11 today has implied.

12 The Mayor's plan and the Admin today refuse to
13 say what these technologies are. We need oversight,
14 not only for these -

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

16 ALLI FINN: These technologies; I'm almost done,
17 including facial recognition. But what is being used
18 now and historically and what could be expanded.
19 This is facial recognition, critic to policing
20 software, Shot Spotter, rampant data collection and
21 sharing surveillance vans and beyond. This is not
22 only what is new and these technologies rely on
23 algorithms that as we know have been proved over and
24 over and over to reinforce racist and other
25 structural biases targeting Black, immigrant and

1
2 other over policed communities. We ask the Council
3 to provide oversight and regulation for these
4 technologies that threaten New Yorkers privacies and
5 civil liberties and to adopt, any adoption of
6 technology, excuse me designed for policing and
7 surveillance should undergo a rigorous process of
8 full disclosure by the city agency. Thank you.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
10 testimony. Council Member Cabán.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you for your
13 testimony and the work that you do. I know that you
14 outlined a number of the risks of cooperation and
15 database sharing between NYPD and state and federal
16 agencies and that was really clearly laid out, so
17 thank you. But could you expand a little bit on how
18 exactly these things play out in impacting our
19 communities right here in the city. I think you've
20 got to be unmuted. There you go.

21 ALLI FINN: Yeah, yeah, just got the Zoom magic
22 just came through. Uhm, thank you for the question.
23 So, we at IBP, we have been monitoring ICE policing
24 and arrest transfer close to a decade. As part of
25 this, we have documented ICE policing tactics, which

1
2 include how ICE agents repeatedly use bruises
3 pretending to be NYPD officers and other law
4 enforcement agencies to track, target and detain
5 people.

6 The expanded cooperation that we're talking about
7 could not return us to these policies but they have
8 continued but could increase them significantly.
9 That is because state police officers are able to
10 share the sensitive information with federal
11 authorities. They are not bound to the same city
12 policies that limit our city agencies from
13 cooperating with federal immigration enforcement and
14 the outlining of this expanded cooperation has been
15 quite vague in the blueprint in the Mayor's
16 statements.

17 The other thing that I'll highlight based on
18 your question is uhm, ICS participated in joint
19 taskforces between local police and state and federal
20 agencies. These include gang taskforces that focus
21 on largely young boys and teens from Central America
22 and were largely Black and Latinx New Yorkers and
23 this helps ICE target people for deportation.
24 Through these taskforces, ICE and local and state
25

1
2 police regularly share information and coerce young
3 people into providing names of alleged gang members.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 ALLI FINN: Subjecting thousands and thousands of
6 young people to increase surveillance without any
7 evidence of criminal conduct.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you.

9 ALLI FINN: Thank you.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you both. Next, we'll
11 hear from Carlos Rosario followed by Pilar De Jesus
12 and Darian X.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

14 CARLOS ROSARIO: Hello everyone. Good afternoon.
15 My name is Carlos Rosario, I'm a lifelong Bronx
16 resident living in Fordham area of the North Bronx.
17 I'm also an Organizer with Fierce NYC, a nonprofit
18 dedicated to LGBTQ youth 14-26-years-old.

19 Fierce NYC is a membership based organization
20 building leadership and power of lesbian gay by
21 sexual transgender and queer youth of color in New
22 York City. I have resided at 56 East 184th Street.
23 Zip code 10468 for about 13 years. Right up the
24 block from Fierce NYC, which created the desire to
25 work with the youth in my neighborhood.

1
2 I have been and seen many challenges – many
3 changes in our community. From local stores, they
4 come and go. Some get facelifts, some go out of
5 business but the one constant thing that always
6 remains the same in our community, this community is
7 seeing an increase of officers and seeing less
8 interactions with community members. This has
9 created less community interactions from youth, more
10 youth being in the local parks to us seeing the local
11 youth in our resident neighborhoods in the buildings.
12 Even in my building as I sat in Community Board 5, I
13 got to engage more closely with our community members
14 and they don't want to send their children outside.
15 There's a lot of fear of violence and of course from
16 the increase of cops. A lot of our community members
17 have the perception that more cops means there's more
18 violence in the community.

19 So, innovation and creativity are what we're
20 calling for. It is needed now more than ever to
21 build relationships. Building pipelines to
22 resilience as opposed to building pipelines to
23 prisons should be the driving force when considering
24 surveillance programs and their expansion, which
25

1
2 always disproportionately impacted youth of color,
3 youth with disabilities and LGBTQ students.

4 Fierce NYC encourages -

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

6 CARLOS ROSARIO: Partners. I'm going to finish
7 my last line. Who are part of the blueprint to end
8 violence and to not arm more systems that take our
9 youth away from safe and brave spaces. Our youth are
10 radical in creating change, consider building
11 relationships with them and partnering with our gate
12 keepers.

13 Once again, our kids are scared. They are coming
14 up to us and telling us their experiences and you
15 know we want to highlight that. Our youth are scared
16 in this neighborhood. So, we've started tracking
17 surveillance of these experiences and we'd love to
18 partner with you to share some of that. Thank you
19 very much.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
21 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Pilar De Jesus
22 followed by Darian X and Ileana Mendez-Penate.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

24 PILAR DE JESUS: Hi, good afternoon everyone and
25 thank you for being patient and happy almost Friday,

1
2 half way there. My name is Pilar De Jesus, I am a
3 Senior Advocacy Coordinator from Take Root Justice.
4 At Take Root Justice we provide legal participatory
5 research and policy support to strengthen the work of
6 grassroots and community-based groups in New York
7 City to dismantle racial, economic and social
8 oppression.

9 We're almost like movement advocates and lawyers
10 and we're also members of CPR communities Unites for
11 Police Reform and I'm also a Latino who is born and
12 raised in East Harlem, so I speak on behalf of the
13 organizations I work with but I also speak as a
14 person you know who has been effected by many of
15 these racist outdated policies that existed.

16 And you know for decades, our communities have
17 been begging for a holistic resolution for public
18 health and safety that addresses the root of gun
19 violence and all other violence that exist in the
20 city. It's been in my experience both as a Latina
21 who has been born and raised in East Harlem and as an
22 advocate for my communities that the organized
23 abandonment of our community stems a lot from the
24 leaders and the city agencies that [INAUDIBLE
25 3:31:49] to these leaders.

1
2 We need to focus on the root of the problem and
3 its been in my experience in a lot of these cases,
4 there's always this talk of the cure. We keep
5 forgetting the cause. There are a lot of causes that
6 are creating the violence that is stemming you know
7 in this city and the state and actually across the
8 country and the evidence is really right there in
9 front of us. We have people who are testifying to
10 the evidence of how things didn't work and why we
11 need to be included. The community, the people who
12 have been the most affected -

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

14 PILAR DE JESUS: When you're making the decision
15 for us. And I'll be wrapping up in a few minutes.
16 Because the root and I want to address some of the
17 roots that I see the causes and we need to focus on
18 causes and cures. And I'll end with this, some of
19 the roots we have, if we want to end gun violence,
20 maybe we need to also focus, think about why is our
21 US budget, why do we spend 10.5 percent - spent on
22 defense, you know defense uhm, to pay for more guns,
23 for more military complex. We're spending trillions
24 of dollars to make more weapons and we're not putting
25 that money into the social services into housing. We

1
2 are creating – we're not helping the tenants by
3 cancelling the rent. The rent relief that was
4 supposed to be available to tenants is not real, so
5 now we have 200 plus thousand tenants who are about
6 to lose their housing. That is the root of the
7 problem. The root is that a lot of these harms are
8 psychological causing folks to become unstable. The
9 recent vaccine mandates has caused many city workers
10 to lose their job opportunities so that would mean
11 that they will have lost their home. They could be
12 jeopardized of losing their home and their
13 livelihood. There are a lot of causes –

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

15 PILAR DE JESUS: And I'm gonna – one more thing,
16 a lot of causes. Children are losing their places
17 like the Children's Aid and we need to address that
18 before we go into the cure. We're always going into
19 the cure without addressing the real cause and this
20 harm, we're just ignoring the harm that the culture
21 of the NYPD has done to our communities and to people
22 like me.

23 And so, there's just so much more to say but I
24 think we need to really, really, think about the
25 causes before we start jumping to these cures that

1
2 look just like the other cures that were violently
3 harmful towards us.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.
5 Next, we'll hear from Darian X followed by Ileana
6 Mendez-Penate followed by Keli Young.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 DARIAN X: Thank you. Peace Chair Hanks and
9 members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is
10 Darian X, I am the Lead Campaign Organizer at the
11 Brooklyn Movement Center and a lifelong New Yorker
12 born and raised in the heart of Central Brooklyn
13 neighborhoods.

14 My friends, my family and I have been personally
15 impacted by generations of structural dilapidation of
16 those communities. I'm here to testify today because
17 I want to see our city undo the structural violence
18 and racism that only breeds this Black death. All
19 while our government officials tell us that Black
20 lives matter.

21 I want New York City to become a place that
22 supports sustainable futures for all communities.
23 Unfortunately what the Mayor and the City Council
24 have offered people who come from neighborhoods and
25 communities like mine, is exactly the opposite. In

1
2 Mayor Adams blueprint, he suggests increased policing
3 in neighborhoods like Crown Heights, Bed Stuy and
4 Brownsville will create a better quality of life for
5 community members there.

6 What the Administration ignores is that these
7 same neighborhoods lack the most socioeconomic
8 resources and already see the highest criminalization
9 of low-income people. To address gun violence and
10 virtually ignore the systemic lack of resources that
11 make it possible, it's like ripping out a weed and
12 leaving the root to propagate in its future.

13 Where people live, the racism they encounter and
14 the resources they have access to, all shake their
15 proximity to and risk of gun violence before a shot
16 is ever fired. If we want radical transformation of
17 these conditions, we must provide radical funding to
18 solutions that undo the root causes of generational
19 systemic neglect.

20 We cannot continue to accept concentrated poverty
21 and decades of disinvestments and Black life as a
22 status quo for places like Central Brooklyn. We must
23 provide a radically new framework in the ways we
24 address the forms of structural, racial and spatial
25 violence that are the lifeline of gun violence.

1
2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

3 DARIAN X: Further, the blueprint proposes a
4 revival and rebranding of the recently disbanded
5 anticrime unit denounced for its abusive policing
6 practices that have led to the deaths of several New
7 Yorkers, many of whose families have never seen
8 officers held accountable. While the Mayor and NYPD
9 claim intensive and precision policing models reduce
10 violence in our communities, there is no communal,
11 anecdotal or empirical data to support this claim.

12 We do know however that these practices will in
13 fact further the intensive targeting of marginalized
14 communities who already disproportionately bared the
15 burden of criminalization, arrest and surveillance.
16 Black and Brown communities, trans and gender non-
17 conforming communities, queer communities, folks with
18 mental illnesses and folks struggling with addictions
19 and further plunge our city into violence and
20 suffering.

21 If this Council, if this body believes that Black
22 life matters, than it needs to improve the social
23 conditions of Black life. Black life must be
24 affirmed through access to critical resources. Some
25 of which we would like to see look like increasing

1
2 access to comprehensive community-based healthcare
3 and services.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

5 DARIAN X: Increasing, actually increasing and
6 fully funding violence prevention programs and
7 violence intervention programs and actually funding
8 job programs and other programs for young people that
9 are year around.

10 With this said, we need a Council that is willing
11 to go beyond knee jerk reactions and surface level
12 funding for isolated programs. At a moment in our
13 city where Black and Latinx New Yorkers continue to
14 die of COVID-19 at twice the rate of other
15 communities. Where the unemployment rate for Black
16 New Yorkers goes more than twice the unemployment
17 rate for White residents and Black and Latinx New
18 Yorkers are five times as likely to suffer severe
19 food hardships compared to their White residents.

20 The Mayor suggests that flooding under resourced
21 communities with police will remove guns and stop
22 violence and we know that this simply is not true.
23 To wrap up, I'd like to leave the members of this
24 hearing with a quote from Dr. King. In which he says
25 violence is anything that denies human integrity and

1
2 leads to hopelessness and helplessness. Our
3 communities experience violence every budget cycle in
4 which critical resources are not funded. We want
5 safer communities. We want to transform the
6 conditions our folks live in and we need you to make
7 sure that the solutions that actually work, that
8 actually solve the root causes of problems get
9 funded. Thank you.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.

11 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Next, we'll hear from Ileana
13 Mendez-Penate followed by Keli Young, Liv and then
14 Oresa Napper-Williams.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

16 ILEANA MENDEZ-PENATE: Thank you Chair Hanks for
17 organizing this hearing and for inviting us to
18 testify and thank you for the entire Public Safety
19 Committee and thank you Darian for that testimony.

20 My name is Ileana Mendez-Penate and I am
21 testifying on behalf of Communities United for Police
22 Reform. The blueprint claims that the city is taking
23 a multifaceted approach to addressing gun violence
24 and claims to be mobilizing resources towards
25 nonpolice community-based solutions to violence.

1 Solutions that we've been fighting for and we know
2 will work. However, we are deeply concerned that in
3 the Fiscal '23 Preliminary Budget, it's very clear
4 that there are no significant increases in Cure
5 Violence, Crisis Management programs, youth programs,
6 affordable housing and mental health programs in
7 Black, Latinx and other communities of color.
8

9 In fact, the Fiscal '23 Preliminary Budget tells
10 a very different story. It shows clearly that there
11 are massive resources being put towards increasing
12 policing tactics such as broken windows policing,
13 quality of life policing and increased investments in
14 [INAUDIBLE 3:40:39].

15 These policing strategies are notorious for
16 racial profiling violence, unconstitutional stops and
17 the suppression of New Yorkers rights but they are
18 also costly. The NYPD testified on March 18th that
19 there will soon be over 500 uniform officers assigned
20 to the newly branded neighborhood safety teams, which
21 means that it is costing the city at least \$50
22 million a year, simply to staff these teams.

23 The NYPD also testified that they had increased
24 the number of uniform officers in our transit system
25 to 9,600, which means it's costing the city at least

1
2 \$800 million a year to have more police in our train
3 system instead of investing this money in public
4 health solutions.

5 They testified about their continuation of the
6 Youth Coordination Officers, which cost the city at
7 least \$35 million a year to target and surveil Black,
8 Latinx and other young people of color in this city.
9 These monies are just some of the resources being
10 mobilized to increase the policing of our communities
11 and doesn't include several of the cost of the
12 expensive technology that the NYPD procures as well
13 as other resources the NYPD is putting towards this
14 blueprint.

15 In comparison, we're not seeing even close to the
16 same amount of resources being mobilized to
17 meaningfully increase crisis management systems,
18 mental health services, youth programs -

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

20 ILEANA MENDEZ-PENATE: Or hate violence
21 prevention programs. In the Fiscal Year '23 budget,
22 the SYEP program increases, however, it still fails
23 to meet the need of the employment for young people
24 in this city and 33 percent of young people who apply
25 will still be left without a job and it doesn't come

1
2 close to increasing the number of slots that are
3 needed for all the young people in the city.

4 Nor does this budget include increased
5 investments in restorative justice programs,
6 leadership programs or other investments in young
7 people. The Fiscal Year '23 budget also doesn't
8 increase the budget for the Department of Health and
9 Mental Health, the Department of Homeless Services
10 and the Human Resource Administration. All of which
11 provide vital services to New Yorkers who are still
12 in need, especially Black, Latinx and other New
13 Yorkers of color who have not recovered from the
14 economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This
15 blueprint and the accompanying budget tell a clear
16 story. The Administration is saying that they are
17 taking a balance and multifaceted approach to
18 addressing gun violence, when in fact, the only
19 significant financial resources being vocalized are
20 for failed policing tactics that have a proven track
21 record of being violent and abusive to Black, Latinx
22 and other New Yorkers of color.

23 We demand the investments that we know our
24 communities need to survive and thrive. We need to
25 redirect the massive funds being mobilized towards

1
2 policing and instead invest this money in programs
3 that we know will work and will make a difference
4 both in the short term and in the long term.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
6 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Keli Young followed
7 by Liv followed by Oresa Napper-Williams.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

9 KELI YOUNG: Thank you. My name is Keli Young.
10 I am a Brownsville Native and the Civil Rights
11 Campaign Coordinator for Vocal New York. Across our
12 organization, we implore elected officials to truly
13 appreciate the scope of the intersecting crisis that
14 we are facing and reorient government systems and
15 resources in a way that addresses and solves root
16 causes.

17 Mayor Adams blueprint not only fails to do that
18 but drives the violence it claims to address. We
19 cannot have an honest conversation about gun violence
20 without acknowledging the violence that is
21 perpetuated by the NYPD. We cannot have an honest
22 conversation about gun violence without acknowledging
23 the structural and systemic violence that fuels
24 interpersonal violence.
25

1
2 Poverty is violence, homelessness is violence,
3 job insecurity, food insecurity is violence, a
4 minimum wage that is outpaced by the cost of living
5 is violence. A city budget that brings billions into
6 criminalization and incarceration while cutting
7 billions from lifesaving agencies and resources is
8 violence.

9 Our communities have suffered centuries of
10 divestment and have been further destabilized by a
11 global pandemic and government failure to protect its
12 most marginalized communities. Our communities do
13 not need allusions of safety. We don't need to just
14 feel safe; we need to actually be safe. The
15 expansion of policing in our communities have never
16 made us safe. Positioning this as a solution ignores
17 the reality of violence in our communities and it
18 ignores the fact that the safest communities aren't
19 the ones with the most police but the one's with the
20 most resources.

21 Mayor Adams plays lip service to public health
22 crisis we are facing. Sorry, Mayor Adams pays lip
23 service to the public health crisis we are facing
24 while adopting a criminalization of policing first
25

1
2 model in its preliminary budget. And we've seen this
3 most with homeless New Yorkers.

4 The mayor's policies and dangerous rhetoric have
5 fueled and empowered a growing violent anti-homeless
6 culture in our city that resulted in the tragic
7 killing of two homeless New Yorkers just two weeks
8 ago.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

10 KELI YOUNG: The stabilization of our communities
11 must be our first priority. We need permanent, safe
12 and humane housing and care and to be clear,
13 congregate settings are not safe havens. We need
14 investments in non-police community-based violence
15 interruption, violence intervention programs as well
16 as investments in accessible resources and the care
17 for community members who are victims of violence.

18 We need jobs with wages that are aligned with the
19 cost of living. Harm reduction services, wrap around
20 services for people living with mental health
21 complexities and disordered drug use. We need high
22 quality education and healthcare. If this
23 administration and this Council is truly committed to
24 our safety it will move away from the violence of
25 policing and incarceration and invest in lifesaving

1
2 resources that will allow our communities to survive
3 and thrive. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
5 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Liv followed by
6 Oresa Napper-Williams following by Erica Ford.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 LIV: Hi, my name is Liv Odetchi(SP?). I
9 represent the Justice Committee. A grassroots
10 organization with an almost 40-year history of
11 organizing and supporting families who have lost
12 loved ones to NYPD and survivors of police violence.
13 I'm a resident of Flatbush and I grew up in the
14 Bronx.

15 Mayor Adams Gun Violence Blueprint is taking New
16 York City backwards to an archaic, abusive approach
17 to public safety. In spite of naming gun violence as
18 a public health crisis it focuses on criminalizing
19 poverty, homelessness and mental illness while giving
20 lip service to community investments as a solution.
21 The Mayor's Preliminary Budget makes it clear he has
22 no intention to invest in services for the
23 communities in to which he is flooding officers. In
24 the blueprint the Mayor promises unprecedented
25 increases in youth employment, yet the increase for

1 SYEP in his preliminary budget is woefully inadequate
2 and other needed programs are underfunded or cut.

3 The blueprint so-called expanded healthcare section
4 is an illusion to the expanded use of Kinder's Law to
5 force New Yorkers into treatment against their will.
6

7 Disappearing those who are suffering is not the
8 answer. I recently supported a friend through a
9 mental health crisis. I refused to call 911 because
10 it's not a safe option. I couldn't find affordable
11 services that would treat my friend with dignity and
12 care. Navigating the system if I was unhoused or
13 under resourced would have been impossible.

14 A truly transformative approach to public safety
15 would end New York City's reliance on over policing
16 and criminalization and include historic levels of
17 investment in a never before seen mental healthcare
18 system that is community-based, culturally competent,
19 non-coercive. Non law enforcement antiviolence
20 programs. SYEP and year round job opportunities for
21 young people and adults, guidance counselor and
22 restorative justice programs in schools and truly
23 affordable housing for all New Yorkers. If New York
24 City pushes Adams blueprint and preliminary budget,
25

1
2 it will only enhance a system of poverty that has
3 already been amplified.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 LIV: The Justice Committee calls on the City
6 Council to turn away from this failed undeniably
7 abusive approach. Instead, work with us and other
8 groups to develop a new strategy based on principals
9 of equity and ensuring we all have the infrastructure
10 and services we need to thrive. Thank you all.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
12 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Oresa Napper-
13 Williams, Erica Ford and then Scott Levy.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 ORESA NAPPER-WILLIAMS: Good afternoon Josh.
16 Thank you. It is Oresa Napper-Williams, I am the
17 Founder and Executive Director of Not Another Child.
18 I would first like to thank Chair Hanks, Councilwoman
19 Mealy and others that are still present. As usual,
20 we see the lack of those that are making these
21 decisions and making these rules and convenings not
22 present when the public and when community is
23 speaking and giving their thoughts.

24 And so today, I am here as the Founder of Not
25 Another Child where I innocently lost my son on

1
2 Ondrel Davon Napper(SP?) on the streets of Brooklyn
3 New York but also as a mother still and as an aunt
4 and as just various roles that I play as a woman in
5 our society.

6 After listening to this blueprint all morning and
7 you know listening to the responses for it as well
8 and also reading through, the blueprint does not
9 erase the stigma, the biases or racial discrimination
10 that is embedded in the NYPD. It has been said over
11 and over today and I will say it again. We can
12 change the name. The name can be changed. They can
13 go through the trainings and not make it through the
14 trainings and still put on our streets but it is a
15 fear tactic that comes along when just seeing NYPD.
16 I even walking down streets have stopped to assure
17 that our Black and Brown young men because most of
18 the time that is who is stopped, are being treated
19 fairly.

20 And so, on today, I ask that we just review or
21 revise or renew whatever it takes to get a blueprint
22 that is conducive to the work and to the community
23 and is what we need and also, thank everyone for your
24 push for the crisis management system. The thing
25 that is lacking is the support and the financial

1 obligation to therapeutic support in the crisis
2 management system.

3
4 That is one of the lowest paid contracts that is
5 there but it is needed in every aspect of the work.
6 The therapeutic support, the wellness support. It is
7 not just needed for survivors on the side of the gun
8 such as I but for those that are on the other side of
9 the gun. It is needed for the workers that was once
10 part of the problem but is now a part of the
11 solution. And so, that therapeutic aspect but I want
12 to include being led by survivor led organizations.
13 We address things from an empathetic approach because
14 we have been there and we still are there. And so,
15 those are just my requests. Those are the things
16 that I wanted to identify and amplify on today and I
17 look forward to working with all of you in the
18 future. Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
20 testimony. Next, we'd like to invite Erica Ford.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 ERICA FORD: Greetings. When we address violence
23 as a public health issue, as a disease, we have to
24 understand that it's urgency. I would love to appeal
25 upon you guys to understand the urgency. We made

1
2 great statements this morning but the rubber hits the
3 road when the money is not there to do the work that
4 you're calling for. This new unit that they are
5 putting out, I'm sure that they're not asking the
6 unit to go out and do their work and then get paid
7 later, right. And so, and the CMS budget is zero -
8 is .0003 percent of what NYPD gets and the level of
9 work that we are asked to do should be equivalent to
10 the amount of money that you are paying us to do it.
11 We have to often go beyond our catchment areas to
12 deal with situations that might roll off into our
13 area.

14 You must expand the budget for the city - the New
15 York City crisis management system but it must be
16 expanded and funded in real time. We can no longer
17 wait to get paid right. We can no longer talk about
18 expansion and then talk about delay in funding. It
19 doesn't allow us to fulfill the obligations and then
20 you get something that "doesn't work." Same thing
21 like bail reform. When you talk about bail reform
22 and letting folks out of prison and then not putting
23 the resources there to support them when they are
24 out. The process and the law didn't work. It works
25 but you got to put the resources behind it to make it

1
2 work. And so, let's stop just putting things out and
3 not funding it in the same capacity in which you see
4 funding criminalization and incarceration right.

5 If you look at the dollar comparison, it is
6 unbelievable and everybody spoke on it. I think that
7 we really need to look. If this safety and co-
8 partnership is real, then let's invest in it and
9 let's invest in the people on the ground with some
10 real money in real time and just like you do
11 everybody else.

12 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: I have a question for Ms.
13 Ford. How are you?

14 ERICA FORD: Peace, I'm good.

15 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: How much — so what agencies
16 fund your organization?

17 ERICA FORD: It all comes through — the majority
18 of it comes through the Mayor's Office of Criminal
19 Justice.

20 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Okay, and how long does it
21 take to have your contracts registered through the
22 Comptrollers Office and payment?

23 ERICA FORD: It takes a long time. They have
24 done tremendous in changing the process but as — So,
25 Brooks was talking about earlier, they expanded our

1 work right. They gave us expanded money. We can't
2 not do the expansion work but we can't get the money.
3 It's not registered you know, so we - it's March, we
4 haven't gotten it yet. Our contracts are not
5 registered today and that's across the board.

6 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: For 2022?

7 ERICA FORD: Correct, 2022 for the expansion.

8 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: I know that feeling. Right,
9 I know exactly how you feel about that. That is a
10 common issue. Okay, let's uh, we'll have a further
11 conversation but we want to definitely understand
12 what that process is, how long it's taking and how we
13 can work to get that settled because you cannot ask
14 for the work to be done and then not pay our
15 organizations who are on the ground to do it. So,
16 thank you so much for your testimony.

17 ERICA FORD: Alright and we're ready to do a
18 pilot in South East Queens as well. We're fully
19 ready.

20 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Okay, Council Member Mealy.
21 You're on mute love.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

23 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Council Member Mealy needs to
24 be unmuted.
25

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay, thank you, they just
3 did it. I just would like to ask Ms. Erika Ford,
4 with your organizations not getting paid on time,
5 have you lost any workers? How are they surviving
6 when they are doing the work but not getting paid?
7 Can you elaborate a little bit on that? Have you
8 lost any good staff in regards to that measure with
9 not getting paid? Maybe she has left.

10 ERICA FORD: No, I was muted. I didn't leave.
11 Uhm, uhm, we have not lost good staff. We are you
12 know life care but there might be other organizations
13 that have not been able to hire new staff because
14 we're supposed to expand into other areas and expand
15 the work beyond our original catchment areas or do
16 24/7. We're only an eight hour shift. So, we have
17 you know common challenges of the ability to expand
18 in the manner and I'm not speaking just for Life Care
19 but all of the organizations who is particularly the
20 small Black ran organizations right. Because you
21 know we're the catalyst to a lot of the stuff and so,
22 those organizations have not been able to really hire
23 new people in the manner in which we need to hire new
24 people to deal with the issues that are happening in
25 the magnitude that they are happening.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay, because I know I'm
3 doing browse with Think Tank. I did it years ago in
4 my previous Administration and I have to do full
5 speed ahead with that. What kind of pilot program
6 are you talking about, you ready to go? Wouldn't
7 that be a great opportunity for this administration
8 to see how effective all our organizations are? So,
9 you have a pilot program ready to go?

10 ERICA FORD: Yes, we are ready to go because they
11 never really tested CMS, so that's why you keep
12 hearing people talk about Cure Violence, Cure
13 Violence, Cure Violence. We are not Cure Violence.
14 We are the New York City Crisis Management System and
15 this system Oresa said, therapeutic service is our
16 key attribute right? We have to make people heal
17 from this stuff and so, we are ready to have - we
18 partner with the crime lab in Chicago, Harvard
19 University to test our work and we are partnering
20 with other CMS sites in our area and ready to go with
21 a pilot in South East Queens, so we can really say
22 that in New York City we're different, we have CMS.
23 It works and let's expand that throughout the city
24 and throughout the nation.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much Ms. Ford.

2 ERICA FORD: Thank you all for having me.

3 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you everyone. Next,
4 we'll hear from Scott Levy followed by Elizabeth
5 Vasquez followed by Danielle Jackson.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 SCOTT LEVY: Thank you so much. My name is Scott
8 Levy. I use the he, him pronouns. I am the Managing
9 Director of Policy at the Bronx Defenders. The
10 Public Defenders across the city are submitting joint
11 written testimony. I'm going to be talking today
12 about the bail proposal in the Mayor's blueprint.
13 Right now, there are 46, over 4,600 New Yorkers
14 sitting on Rikers Island detained pretrial because
15 they can't pay for the price of their freedom.
16 That's 4,600 people at risk of losing a job, losing
17 access to education, stable housing, healthcare and
18 treatment networks. That's 4,600 families risking
19 separation.
20

21 The blueprint proposal to allow judges to
22 consider a person's dangerousness when setting bail
23 would inevitably send more people disproportionately
24 and overwhelmingly Black and Brown young men into our
25 city jails. Compounding generational harms of mass

1
2 incarceration and undermining community health and
3 safety.

4 The key to addressing gun violence in the city
5 lies not in New York's Bail Law, which is working but
6 in massive investments in our neighborhoods and
7 communities. The 2019 bail reforms were the result
8 of a years long campaign led by people impacted by
9 the criminal legal system and advocates across the
10 state to begin to undo the harms of mass
11 incarceration and address the crisis of pretrial
12 detention in New York.

13 Bail reforms stem from a recognition that the
14 same structural racism that impacts every level of
15 the criminal legal system from street encounters, car
16 stops, arrests and prosecutions to the rate of
17 convictions, the length of prison sentences and the
18 imposition of community supervision and surveillance
19 permeates and defines the bail and pretrial detention
20 system as well.

21 And we know that even short stays and short
22 periods of incarceration and pretrial detention have
23 devastating consequences. People held pretrial are
24 more likely to plead guilty.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

1
2 SCOTT LEVY: More likely to plead guilty to
3 higher charges, get sentenced to higher sentences.
4 And the imperative to decarcerate right now is even
5 more urgent. Conditions on Rikers Island constitute
6 a humanitarian catastrophe. People in custody are
7 dying. There were 16 deaths reported last year and
8 three deaths on Rikers already this year. We're the
9 state to adopt the dangerous standard proposed by the
10 Mayor, untold numbers of people would be consigned to
11 lengthy pretrial detention on Rikers where every new
12 admission is a potential death sentence. The
13 proposal is particular problematic in light of the
14 fact that bail reform is working.

15 Since implementation, tens of thousands of people
16 across the state have gone home to their families, to
17 their beds, to their jobs, to their schools and been
18 able to live their lives successfully and fight their
19 cases outside of incarceration. As one of our
20 clients said, "bail reform brought me back to my
21 family and actually changed my life. I almost lost
22 my wife. I almost lost my child and it showed me
23 that life is too short to sit there and wait."

24 We also know that bail reform is not in any way
25 responsible for the perceived or real rise in

1 violence in the city. Various reports recently have
2 shown that there is no correlation between bail
3 reform and gun violence. This has been confirmed by
4 the city itself, which found that the majority of the
5 pretrial population is not rearrested. Pretrial
6 arrests have remained consistent over time and have
7 not changed the bail reform. Even Governor Hochul in
8 her recent op ed, said that the data does not suggest
9 that bail reform is the main cause of gun violence
10 and the NYPD's own data shows the same thing.

12 The New York Post examined 528 shootings over the
13 first six months of 2020 and only in one of those
14 cases was the person charged. A person who had been
15 released on pretrial detention.

16 Before I finish out, I just want to address the
17 actual proposal of adding dangerousness to our bail
18 statute. Given to the fear mongering that is lead
19 for the call for judges to be able to consider a
20 persons dangerousness when they first go before a
21 court, would be to reverse the critical and hard
22 progress that we have seen from bail reform.

23 Without a crystal ball, it is simply impossible
24 to predict a persons future behavior and when we ask
25 judges to do this impossible task, what we are really

1 asking them to do is indulge in their worst implicit
2 and explicit biases to rely on racial stereotypes
3 about who is dangerous and who is not.
4

5 We have to reject the scapegoating of bail reform
6 as a solution to problems that have its roots in
7 divestment from our communities and we have to direct
8 our resources, our time, and our efforts towards
9 investing massively in our communities rather than
10 relying on tools of punishment, incarceration that
11 have proven not to work. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much Scott.

13 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much Scott.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Next, we'll hear from
15 Elizabeth Vasquez followed by Danielle Jackson
16 followed by Stan German.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

18 ELIZABETH VASQUEZ: Thank you. My name is
19 Elizabeth Danielle Vasquez and I am the Director of
20 the Science and Surveillance Project at Brooklyn
21 Defender Services.

22 As Scott mentioned, the defenders who come
23 together to submit joint testimony from my brief two
24 minutes today, I want to focus specifically on the
25

1
2 proposed surveillance blueprint in the Mayor's
3 Proposed blueprint.

4 If we look at the reality of New York City today,
5 the Mayor's Surveillance blueprint describes a
6 panopticon that New York already built and should
7 dismantle. The city has invested billions in a 20-
8 year surveillance infrastructure building program.
9 NYPD already owns and deploys a vast plethora of
10 technology use including every kind of camera
11 imaginable. Vast analytical and databasing systems
12 like the Domain Awareness System, about 70-square
13 miles of Shot Spotter coverage across the city, a
14 fleet of drones, multiple facial recognition
15 algorithms, social media analysis and scraping tools
16 and on and on. It would take well more than two
17 minutes to catalogue of them all.

18 We've provided more detail on a selection of
19 these technology in Appendix A of our written
20 testimony and I'd be happy to talk with anyone here
21 about those technologies in the future. But despite
22 these investments in deployments, the tools that the
23 NYPD has purchased did nothing to stop or ameliorate
24 this claim spike in violence that we're talking about
25 today in the first place.

1
2 In fact, the department today referenced a new
3 investment and reliance on firearms toolmarks
4 examination, otherwise known as ballistics analysis.
5 Currently within our criminal legal system here and
6 throughout the country, courts are examining and
7 rejecting the scientific basis for this very
8 technology. Sending good money after bad will do
9 nothing to enhance public safety. Instead, all the
10 surveillance infrastructure has accomplished is to
11 expand the burgeoning surveillance state. Repeatedly
12 infringe on New Yorkers dignity, privacy and first
13 amendment freedoms and further intrench the systemic
14 racism inherent in our criminal legal system.

15 This reality has nothing to do with accuracy –

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

17 ELIZABETH VASQUEZ: Or the need for improvement.

18 There is no way to construct a surveillance state in
19 a way that honors our fundamental right to dignity or
20 build real justice. Historically and presently, the
21 NYPD uses these existing technologies,
22 disproportionately within and targeted against
23 communities of color. Though the NYPD has refused to
24 be transparent about the desperate impact of its
25 surveillance regime, the few examples for which some

1 data exists reveals our truth. The gang database is
2 more than 98 percent composed of people of color.
3 Shot Spotter sensors are deployed overwhelmingly in
4 predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods. More
5 than 90 percent of those having their phone calls
6 recorded in our city's jails are Black and Brown.
7 And these systems are deployed unilaterally,
8 arbitrarily and without oversight.
9

10 The NYPD's post app disclosures reveal that the
11 department does not believe a warrant is required
12 before using over 85 percent of the technologies they
13 identify. Blanket promises like those made today
14 with the NYPD is in compliance with the constitution
15 as it deploys these technologies are more than
16 hallow.

17 The department has even failed to comply with the
18 limited disclosure requirements imposed by this
19 Council through the public oversight of Surveillance
20 Technology Act in 2020. Issuing policies that rely
21 on boilerplate and platitudes while failing to
22 include actual substance on mandated critical issues
23 like disparate impact. New Yorkers are already
24 living in a house built by the runaway surveillance
25 state. More floors in that house are both

1 unnecessary and dangerous. A better blueprint for
2 the future of this city and its people relies on true
3 investment in its people, in housing, education and
4 medical and mental healthcare and in improving
5 solutions. Not the failed technocratic policing
6 visions of the mass incarceration error. Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
9 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Danielle Jackson
10 followed by Stan German, Hailey Nolasco, and Darren
11 Mack.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

13 DANIELLE JACKSON: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Danielle Jackson and I am the Interim Managing
15 Attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice at
16 Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem. As
17 mentioned before NDS has submitted joint written
18 testimony with the other defenders.

19 I will focus my oral testimony today on discovery
20 and Raise the Age. The blueprint appears to suggest
21 that a large number of gun cases are being dismissed
22 or delayed due to discovery. That is far from the
23 truth. To be clear, the majority of gun cases in New
24 York City are charged as felonies and prosecutors
25 have six months to get the case ready for trial. The

1
2 discovery statute already takes into account
3 materials that are voluminous or not in the actual
4 possession of prosecutors and it also gives
5 prosecutors a wide variety of options to stop the
6 speedy trial while they gather for their evidence.
7 Very few gun cases have ended in flat out dismissals.
8 And those dismissals in large part are not due to
9 discovery. A legal search in seizures, false
10 testimony by officers or lack of evidence including
11 DNA results not matching the person accused are some
12 of the reasons why these cases are being dismissed.

13 The blueprint fails to address the real issue
14 with discovery reform in New York City. That is the
15 NYPD's continued resistance and a lack of compliance
16 with providing discovery materials to prosecutors.
17 In countless courtrooms throughout the city,
18 prosecutors are informing judges and defense council
19 a very request discoverable materials from the NYPD
20 to no avail.

21 Now, this is especially problematic in light of
22 the \$39.2 million that NYPD received to specifically
23 comply with the new discovery laws. And that
24 includes the legal document platform project that was
25

1
2 completed at a cost of \$11.3 million and that was
3 supposed to aid the -

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 DANIELLE JACKSON: The department in electronic
6 file sharing and transferring. So, perhaps better
7 training on that \$11.3 million project and real
8 oversight on the NYPD's failures to provide
9 prosecutors with the documents they need will address
10 the issues raised in the blueprint.

11 Now, I would like to address Raise the Age.

12 Raise the Age is not responsible for the gun violence
13 issue in New York City. In the first 18-months after
14 Raise the Age went into effect, shootings in New York
15 City remained at the lowest they had been in decades.
16 The blueprints first proposed amendment to Raise the
17 Age, which will mandate that 16 and 17-year-old's who
18 are arrested for gun charges, waive their right to
19 remain silent or be charged as adults, is
20 unconstitutional. This proposal violates young
21 people's rights against self-incrimination and their
22 right to remain silent during police interrogations.

23 Now, besides being unconstitutional and illegal,
24 this change will incentivize false confessions and
25 false information being provided to law enforcement

1
2 and it thrives in the face of decades of science,
3 policy and legal opinions recognizing that children
4 are particularly vulnerable to pressure inherited and
5 any interaction or interrogation with police and it
6 will only prone to false confessions.

7 This will expose children to harsher penalties in
8 the adult court system and it puts more pressure on
9 them to weigh their constitutional rights and
10 actually puts them at a higher risk in their
11 communities for cooperating with the NYPD. Now, if
12 the Mayor is interested in protecting -

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

14 DANIELLE JACKSON: Children of this city, he
15 should uphold Raise the Age, invest in housing,
16 education and supportive programming for the city's
17 youth. Finally, the blueprint's second proposal of
18 changing the removal factors on the Raise the Age is
19 unnecessary and it does nothing to make communities
20 safer.

21 Prosecutors already have the ability to prevent
22 removal of those cases. Again, discovery form and
23 change the age are not contributors to gun violence
24 and the blueprints proposal on these topics does not
25 make our community safer.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. I have a
3 question. Thank you Danielle. What is the name of
4 the platform, the \$11 million platform which was
5 supposed to uhm, be there to assist the district
6 attorney's with discovery? And do you know what
7 budget it was paid in? If you don't, that's okay.

8 DANIELLE JACKSON: Yeah, so the project is
9 called, The Legal Document Platform Project and I
10 received that information from the City Council's
11 Fiscal's 2022 Executive Budget Report for the New
12 York City Police Department that was issued on May
13 11, 2021.

14 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Okay, May 11, 2021. So, it's
15 the legal document? I'm sorry.

16 DANIELLE JACKSON: The title of it is the Report
17 to the Committee's on Finance and Public Safety on
18 the Fiscal 2022 Executive Budget for the New York
19 City Police Department.

20 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. That's good to
21 know. I appreciate that information. Thank you.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
23 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Stan German. There
24 you are Stan. After Stan, we'll hear from Hailey
25 Nolasco, Darren Mack, Nina Loshkajian.

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

3 STAN GERMAN: Yes, hi, good afternoon. My name
4 is Stan German, I'm the Executive Director of New
5 York County Defender Services, Public Defender
6 operating here in Manhattan. And I want to focus on
7 two parts of the blueprint Chair Member Hanks, which
8 is the mental illness portion of it as well as the
9 broken windows policing.

10 And I think the debate that we've seen play out
11 this morning with so many Council Members and the
12 Administration, is really a lack of reimagining
13 police response in New York City and the problem with
14 the Governor's - I'm sorry, with the Mayor's
15 blueprint is that it's backward looking. It's taking
16 Giuliani era policing strategies. It's dusting it
17 off. It's rebranding it; it's giving a new look and
18 a new name and somehow trying to convince everyone
19 that this is the way forward.

20 And I want to particularly talk about the
21 exchange between Council Member Cabán and the
22 Commissioner on the issue of broken windows policing,
23 and whether the conclusion of the National Academy of
24 Science is somehow is applicable to New York City.

25

1
2 And I'm going to read, "there is scant if any
3 evidence that broken windows policing, arresting and
4 prosecuting minor offenders in order to prevent major
5 crimes reduces violent crime. In fact, a 2016 City
6 Department of Investigation Report, which reviewed
7 six years of arrest data, showed broken windows
8 policing yielded no reduction in violent crime, nor
9 does empirical evidence suggest the idea, support the
10 idea that actual low-level disorder in a community
11 creates a sense of lawlessness that imbued this
12 criminal action.

13 This wasn't said by Tiffany Cabán, this was said
14 by Cy Vance. The former prosecutor and district
15 attorney for New York County and he said it in the op
16 ed two years ago. So, let's not kid ourselves. This
17 idea that targeting low-level crimes and broken
18 windows policing is going to get violent criminals
19 off the streets -

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

21 STAN GERMAN: Or make us safer is not the answer.
22 So, what is the answer? What does it look like Chair
23 Member Hanks to look forward? And I want to draw
24 your attention to the STAR Program that's in
25 effecting Denver Colorado. So the STAR Program

1
2 stands for Supported Team Assisted Response and what
3 they have is no police involvement in the unit. They
4 are social workers, EMT's, mental health folks and it
5 is similar to Be Heard, which is operational in just
6 a few precincts here in New York City. But the
7 difference is and this is crucial, is that they're
8 not just focused on low-level mental illness crisis
9 but they're also dealing with trespass calls,
10 intoxicated persons, welfare checks, loitering. And
11 so, what I would say is, we shouldn't ignore when
12 your constituents are calling about a quality of life
13 issue but what we need to do is change the response.
14 Be Heard needs to be invested in and it needs to be
15 expanded. In Denver, they responded to 2,600 calls
16 in a short period and they had to involve the police
17 zero percent of the time. That means no escalation,
18 that means no tension between the distrust of police
19 officers in certain communities in minor offenses.

20 It means that if somebody is selling Lucy
21 cigarettes in front of a deli, that you would have
22 one more constituent alive in Staten Island in Eric
23 Garner. Because these folks, without police present,
24 could deescalate and resolve the matter.

1
2 And the last thing I'll say is resources and I
3 want to give a shout out here to Council Member
4 Barron, right. It's chump change what we're
5 investing in these programs. For every dollar we
6 spend on arrest and incarceration, we're spending ten
7 cents in these programs. If you're really going to
8 be serious, we have to reallocate resources and
9 really invest in these programs. NYPD is asking for
10 \$417 million just for overtime. Let's take away
11 these responses. Let's give it to community based
12 reaction teams and shift the resources. Thank you
13 Chairperson.

14 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you Mr. German. Can
15 you just talk a little about the STSR program?

16 STAN GERMAN: Uh, the STAR program, right.

17 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: STAR.

18 STAN GERMAN: So, STAR program. It's based in
19 Denver. When New York City reached out to Denver, we
20 have a program called Behavioral Health Emergency
21 Assistance Response. It started up in Northern
22 Manhattan. It is expanding to a couple of other
23 precincts but they just focus on low-level mental
24 health crisis and what I'm suggesting is, why don't
25 they respond to quality of life calls? Why don't

1
2 they respond to somebody who is maybe urinating in
3 public that maybe that person is homeless or mentally
4 ill, right. Why do we have to have the Police
5 Department react to these issues?

6 And so, I think if we just shift the reaction,
7 you could still serve the needs of your constituency
8 but we're going in it with just a different mindset
9 and we're removing NYPD from the equation. And so, I
10 just think we need to invest heavily and be heard and
11 we need to expand and we need to get away from this
12 idea that, you know well, we're going to study it for
13 two years. When the Mayor wants to initiate a new
14 policing strategy, they go all in. This has not been
15 operational for nine months and we need to really
16 invest and expand in this type of emergency response.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Great, thank you so much for
18 your testimony.

19 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Okay, please send that to me.

20 STAN GERMAN: I will.

21 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: At khanks@council.nyc.gov.

22 Thank you very much.

23 STAN GERMAN: Alright Chairperson. Bye, bye.
24
25

1
2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Stan. Next, we'll
3 hear from Hailey Nolasco, Darren Mack, Nina
4 Loshkajian and then Shanduke McPhatter.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

6 HAILEY NOLASCO: Good afternoon Chair Hanks and
7 esteemed members of the Public Safety Committee. My
8 name is Hailey Nolasco and I'm the Director of
9 Community-Based Violence Prevention at the Center for
10 Court Innovation. We support the city's steps to
11 reduce gun violence by building on existing community
12 programming and commend the administration for
13 further supporting the courageous crisis management
14 system and for creating more opportunities for young
15 people. However, we must continue to further build
16 upon the approaches that invest in community led
17 activation of public spaces, increase access to more
18 economic development opportunities so people don't
19 feel the need to rely on the legal means to support
20 themselves, and further invest in meaningful trauma
21 informed mental health interventions to allow
22 individuals to address underlying feelings of safety.

23 Moreover, during the time of increased shootings
24 across the city, we recognize that communities are
25 calling on their leaders to prioritize safety but

1
2 they also want equitable justice in an equitable
3 justice system, especially as research has already
4 shown that the harms of incarceration has a lasting
5 impact, not only on the individual but overall
6 community wellbeing.

7 Also, the impacts of the pandemic can go
8 underestimated. A price of the pandemic exposing
9 major systematic flaws, the past two decades
10 sustained declines in both violent crime and
11 incarceration showing that community driven safety
12 efforts have in fact been impactful. The goal of
13 reducing gun violence is attainable without returning
14 to harmful, inequitable policing and systemic
15 practices that the city and state have stopped
16 through bail reform, ending stop and frisk and Raise
17 the Age.

18 Now more than ever we need to continue to work
19 towards undoing structural harm and invest in
20 opportunities, supports and services for our most
21 vulnerable.

22 Really understanding the drivers of gun violence
23 is the first step in preventing gun violence. Our
24 report, You Got to Make Your Own Heaven, surveyed
25 over 300 young people in neighborhoods most impacted

1 to see why they were using guns in the first place.

2 And the findings show that these kids are using guns
3 because they're traumatized, they are afraid and they
4 are seeking safety. And over 80 percent of them had
5 either been shot themselves or had a family member
6 harmed by gun violence.
7

8 Our incredible messengers across the city and
9 across the centers programming, such as SOS Save our
10 Streets, the Brownsville Community Justice Center,
11 The Neighborhood Safety Initiatives and Youth Impact
12 understand this and as a result, we are able to offer
13 meaningful intervention and resource support.

14 For instance, I'll give a quick example.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

16 HAILEY NOLASCO: Really quickly, to address gun
17 violence, we need to also be intentional and look at
18 intersectional violence. In March alone, we had two
19 IPV related murder suicides, a DV stabbing of a
20 mother and a daughter in Edenwald and a murder of a
21 36-year-old mother in Bedford Stuyvesant.

22 So, the sun has scaled. Community based
23 interventions and at the intersection of gun violence
24 and intimate partner violence through our Rise
25 Project, where we offer education around intimate

1 partner violence and the intersection of gun
2 violence, healthy relationships trainings, offering
3 crisis management system partners and with
4 neighborhood trainings, crisis support and advocacy
5 for survivors and working with the people causing
6 harm to take accountability and change their behavior
7 through a non-carceral approach using restorative and
8 transformative methods.

9
10 In conclusion, let us not pedal back to practices
11 that will only further marginalize Black and Brown
12 communities. The city can go beyond transforming
13 systems to cultivate a vibrant and prosperous
14 community that centers public safety and security for
15 all its members.

16 So, we ask for that continued support throughout
17 the center and as well throughout the city, the
18 center and our midtown community court pilot program,
19 the youth diversion for gun possession initiative.
20 So, thank you so much and I'm happy to take any
21 questions you may have.

22 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Yeah, thank you Hailey. If
23 you could send me all that information also to my
24 email because we are doing tours to the community
25 courts. We're looking to do one in Staten Island. I

1 know the effectiveness of those community courts.

2 So, I would love to talk offline with you about that
3 more. Thank you so much for your testimony.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.
5 Next, we'll hear from Darren Mack followed by Nina
6 Loshkajian followed by Sanduke McPhatter followed by
7 Jullian Harris-Calvin and Aaliyah Gulliory Nickens.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

9 DARREN MACK: Good afternoon Chair Hanks and
10 Public Safety Committee Members. My name is Darren
11 Mack, I'm a Co-Director at Freedom Agenda, which is a
12 member led organization dedicated to organizing
13 directly impacted people and communities to achieve
14 decarceration and assist in transformation.

15 I want to begin by stating that you know everyone
16 wants to live in a safe community and we all want a
17 safe city. However, policies, a budget that do not
18 center the most vulnerable people and communities is
19 actual violence. You know the Mayor's blueprint to
20 end gun violence raised some serious concerns that
21 can harm people, especially in communities of color.

22 So, what we need is a major transformation. We
23 need a major transformation in our city in how we
24 distribute resources. You know the carceral system
25

1
2 with the police, district attorney, the Department of
3 Corrections, have been given a blank check in the
4 name of public safety. New York City Department of
5 Correction had the highest DOC budget in the country
6 and we're getting the worst results.

7 I want to share a personal story. In junior high
8 school, a friend of mine was assaulted and chased by
9 some other teenagers. You know I was scared and
10 angry. The next day, I brought a Mac 10 Uzi to
11 school. I've never saw those teenagers again but I
12 come from a community that don't trust the police and
13 the police could have arrested me and took the gun in
14 the street but the conflict would still have remained
15 and people who have been incarcerated before know
16 that conflicts in the streets carries into jail and
17 prison and vice a versa.

18 I would say that a credible messenger who is a
19 conflict mediator was probably the only thing that
20 would have deterred me from causing harm before it
21 occurred and resolved that issue. You know because I
22 believe that those closest to the pain are the
23 closest to the solution.

24 So, if we want safety in our city and especially
25 in the most vulnerable community, we must identify

1
2 what's working. I'm also a member of the Commission
3 on Community Reinvestment and the Closing of Rikers
4 Island.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

6 DARREN MACK: We released recommendations that
7 for strategic investments in the most vulnerable
8 communities which you can find on the Department of
9 Social Services website. We need a conclusion. We
10 need baseline funding for the New York City Crisis
11 Management System, Cure Violence Program, Credible
12 Messengers and Conflict Mediators. They also need to
13 earn good salaries. So, I urge this Committee and
14 City Council to review and implement the Commission
15 or community reinvestment recommendations. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much. We will.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Darren. Next,
19 we'll hear from Nina Loshkajian followed by Sanduke
20 McPhatter.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

22 NINA LOSHKAJIAN: Good afternoon Chair Hanks and
23 members of the Committee on Public Safety. My name
24 is Nina Loshkajian, and I am a Legal Fellow at the
25 Surveillance Technology Oversight Project and I

1
2 really appreciate the opportunity to testify today
3 and voices some of our concerns with the blueprint.

4 As we've heard powerfully, New York must address
5 gun violence, but the Mayor's plan replicates
6 dangerous and discredited strategies that will only
7 endanger our communities and protect them.

8 Today, I'm going to be focusing in particular on
9 facial recognition and gun detection technology.
10 First, when it comes to gun detection, spending
11 millions of dollars on the pseudoscience is only
12 going to accomplish one thing and that's wasting
13 taxpayer' money.

14 The Mayor has failed to identify what vendors and
15 technologies he's evaluating but we're particularly
16 concerned about the use of object or behavior
17 recognition. This untested technology risks
18 mistaking everyday items for a gun and it can be
19 blocked by something as simple as a coat pocket. It
20 will inundate NYPD officers with false reports of
21 guns and send them charging into potentially deadly
22 encounters.

23 Second, the blueprint touts facial recognition
24 technology as a solution to gun violence, but this in
25 reality will only harm New Yorkers and particularly

1
2 Black and Brown New Yorkers. This software is
3 biased, broken, and antithetical to a democratic
4 society. The AI it runs on is infected by human bias
5 and it is more likely to identify, misidentify, women
6 of color than White men. Numerous people
7 disproportionately Black, have been wrongly arrested
8 after being misidentified because of facial
9 recognition.

10 In their testimony earlier, the NYPD attempted to
11 assuage these types of concerns by reiterating their
12 formal policy, that facial recognition is never the
13 sole means to make an arrest but only part of larger
14 case building efforts. What this really means is
15 that facial recognition evades judicial scrutiny.
16 Judges are not able to assess the reliability of the
17 evidence.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

19 NINA LOSHKAJIAN: And never fully get their day
20 in court. I'll wrap up shortly. We've seen with
21 facial recognition technology that defendants are
22 rarely told when the technology leads to their
23 arrest. With both facial recognition and gun
24 detection, the Mayor is being sold a bill of goods
25

1
2 and these things will not make our city safer. Thank
3 you for the opportunity to testify today.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much Nina.

5 Next, we'll hear from Shanduke McPhatter.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

7 SHANDUKE MCPHATTER: Good day. Good day Madam
8 Chair Hanks. Good day Public Safety Committee and
9 everyone else on the call, especially my community
10 members. You know, so if the community members are
11 there to speak after all the voices have spoken and
12 left the building and so often the major issues that
13 we are talking about and fighting for are not heard
14 by the mass majority. And we've all been listening.
15 I've been on since ten o'clock and we have heard many
16 different issues in regards to the Mayor's blueprint.
17 I want to just focus on two points for my time.

18 One, would be when we look at a 16 or 17-year-old
19 possibly being charged with a weapon. If they do
20 have a weapon it states in the Mayor's blueprint plan
21 that the district attorney's office would have a
22 discretion. If that young person does not give up
23 who they had retrieved this weapon from, how they
24 obtained this weapon. Given the discretion to the
25 prosecution as to where to charge them in family

1
2 court or criminal court. And we know that there is
3 in that -I think that is something that we should
4 really look at before we charge someone just because
5 they don't want to give up how they obtained that
6 gun. Because the cycle of violence continues if it
7 puts my name in that arrest that the are solely with
8 them.

9 Next, I'd like to definitely focus on the Crisis
10 Management System. I am the CEO and Founder of G-
11 MACC Inc, which is Gangsters Making Astronomical
12 Community Changes. G-MACC is a follow 1C3 nonprofit
13 focused on gun violence prevention based on public
14 health issues.

15 I am a former incarcerated person at the age of
16 16. I joined the buzz on Rikers Island and when I
17 got older, I changed my mind and I started to just
18 work because these opportunities were not there for
19 me. There was no programs to prevent me from picking
20 up a gun and changing my lifestyle, which is why we
21 created this network in New York City, which we know
22 as the crisis management system.

23 I came up under the de Blasio administration, one
24 of the first grassroot organizations to receive
25 funding under what was only known as the Cure

1
2 Violence model which grew to become the Crisis
3 Management System. In this time, there's so many
4 different issues and when we look at the blueprint -

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

6 SHANDUKE MCPHATTER: The blueprint comes about
7 empowering; got you sir. The blueprint talks about
8 empowering the Crisis Management System but I believe
9 we are already empowered and we're not asking for
10 empowerment. When you look at enhancing and
11 resource, we have to really direct that. We had
12 meetings where we discussed what the needs are for
13 the Crisis Management System and we don't see none of
14 those details but we see so many other enhancements
15 detailed in this blueprint and that's important to
16 identify.

17 And to close out with an example, we have a team
18 of individuals who may work in the hottest hours but
19 at a certain period of time we have to stop working
20 because we don't have resources. Violence don't end
21 at two in the morning or three in morning. It is a
22 24 hour job and we need to have the resource to make
23 sure all of the Crisis Management System is funded to
24 work 24/7. Remember it is a Crisis Management System

1 and we all need four components to make this happen.
2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

3 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you Shanduke. I just
4 have a question. What are your thoughts on once a
5 young person; I ran a youth build program for six
6 years and I understand exactly what you're talking
7 about as far as resources.

8 Number one, if you could please send me that list
9 at khanks@council.nyc.gov, so we have it as we go
10 through the budgetary process but two, what do you
11 think are some of the things that are needed when a
12 young person actually gets arrested and you know, as
13 opposed to an alternative to incarceration or jail,
14 what do you think is needed?

15 SHANDUKE MCPHATTER: I think we really have to go
16 back to, we go back to the Central Park, right. We
17 know the Central Park story and those young people
18 who were in that precinct and had all types of
19 pressures on and that later down the line, we learned
20 that they didn't even do. We need interaction
21 immediately, not just for Law Enforcement when they
22 enter the system and arrests happen. We need to have
23 community members to meet them immediately. Social
24 workers, whoever at that place and point, so if
25

1
2 there's a gun and when they get to talking to that
3 detective who's looking to investigate, we need to
4 have other people there to support them.

5 I think it's important to remember we're spending
6 too much money on investigation and not prevention.
7 Investigation, crimes, prevention stops the crimes.

8 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Okay, I really appreciate
9 that. I look forward to hearing from you.

10 SHANDUKE MCPHATTER: Thank you Chair Hanks.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
12 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Jullian Harris-
13 Calvin followed by Aaliyah Gulliory Nickens followed
14 by Meena Oberdick.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

16 JULLIAN HARRIS-CALVIN: Thank you. My name is
17 Jullian Harris-Calvin, and I am Director of the Vera
18 Institute of Justice's Greater Justice New York
19 program. There is a clear rise in gun violence
20 across the country, as has been mentioned by Chair
21 Hanks and others today and New York City is no
22 exception. However, to suggest that the gun violence
23 in our city is a result of criminal justice reform is
24 simply false.

1
2 Cities across the country are experiencing
3 similar issues, including in cities that have passed
4 no criminal justice reform and cities that have past
5 criminal justice reform like New York City and New
6 York State. Nonetheless, violent crime trends in New
7 York City, remain substantially lower than in any
8 other major American city. Contrary to audacious
9 headlines and political rhetoric, New York's bail
10 kept serious offenses eligible for bail and pretrial
11 detention including gun offenses.

12 Data from the Office of Court Administration
13 analyzed by Vera, show that less than one percent of
14 people released pretrial in New York State were
15 rearrested on allegations involving firearms.
16 Advocating for changes to the bail law or pressuring
17 judges to detain more New Yorkers, as this blueprint
18 does, will merely serve to inflate our jail
19 populations with no public safety benefit.

20 Chipping away at the progress we've made on
21 decarcerating our jails will not make our communities
22 any safer; it will simply subject more New Yorkers to
23 the dangers of Rikers Island, where as you all know,
24 three people died within a single month this year and
25 the year has only started. And 16 people died in DOC

1
2 custody last year, which was the most deaths since
3 2013, when our jail population was nearly two and a
4 half times higher.

5 We applaud Mayor Adams's proposed investment in
6 hospital and community-based violence interrupters –

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

8 JULLIAN HARRIS-CALVIN: I'll wrap it up, thank
9 you. Summer youth employment, and mental health
10 services. But his Fiscal Year '23 Budget proposal
11 seeks to cut the Department of Health and Mental
12 Hygiene by 36 percent. The Department of Youth and
13 Community Developments Budget by 21 percent and the
14 Department of Homeless Services Budget by 20 percent,
15 which directly contravenes those stated goals in the
16 blueprint.

17 New York City must move beyond traditional
18 policing tactics and further invest in particularized
19 evidence based community violence intervention and
20 prevention programs, which we heard about today from
21 Ms. Ford and from others, which are proven to
22 effectively prevent and heal violence. These proven
23 solutions should be our city's primary and most
24 expansive strategies, leaving policing and
25 incarceration as a very limited, very last resort.

1
2 So, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you
3 all today and I hope you take a moment to review my
4 more detailed written testimony. Please do not
5 hesitate to contact me if Vera can be for the support
6 for any of you, especially Chair Hanks. Thank You.

7 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much. Please
8 email that to me as well.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
10 testimony. Next, we'll hear from Aaliyah Gulliory
11 Nickens followed by Meena Oberdick followed by
12 Darlene Murray and Eileen Maher.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

14 AALIYAH GULLIORY NICKENS: Hi, my name is Aaliyah
15 like the singer Aaliyah Gulliory Nickens. I am here
16 on behalf of Youth Represent and a Native of Harlem.
17 So, Mayor Adams put out a blueprint to end gun
18 violence which included over policing and rolling
19 back on raise the age, a key and important piece of
20 legislation that has helped young people in our
21 communities with the intentions to stop the gun
22 violence in our streets, which is what I'm going to
23 be talking about.

24 Raise the Age isn't the reason for the increase
25 in violence, that's number one. We have these

1
2 conversations all the time and scapegoating our
3 teenagers was never one of the solutions that we
4 brought to the discussion. Throwing them in jails
5 and then releasing them back into communities that
6 are worse than how they left them, then expecting
7 them to flourish was never part of the conversation.
8 That's only continuing the cycle of violence and the
9 poverty we're seeing. The solutions were given by
10 the people in the community at the grassroots level,
11 none of those solutions we said included locking
12 young people up. Solutions included better paying
13 jobs, affordable housing, quality healthcare, quality
14 mental health service, more mentors, better education
15 and we have gotten none of that.

16 So, now the question we have to ask is what is
17 really your motive? Gun violence is a public health
18 crisis and we need to treat it like that, not just
19 throwing more cops in the streets under a different
20 name. We can make as many names for it calling the
21 plain clothes unit, the antigun unit, the antigun
22 taskforce, whatever. These are still the same cops
23 with the same mindsets that were stopping and
24 frisking kids, throwing them on cars, gates, walls

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2 and all they did was give them a new name and a new
3 jacket.

4 It won't be helpful until the mindset of these
5 police officers they are putting in our streets
6 change. Until they see us as people and respect us
7 enough to stop coming into our communities violating
8 us. Mayor Adams promised us there would be
9 prevention and intervention but we have not seen
10 that. More police does not prevent crime and instead
11 of being a voice for the people like Manhattan D
12 Alvin Bragg who kept his word, we have seen Mayor
13 Adams blueprint embody the blue wall where he is
14 being only a Mayor for his boys in blue and he was
15 elected to be a Mayor for the people. There's no
16 quick fix for this. This isn't something we can slap
17 a band aid on.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

19 AALIYAH GULLIORY NICKENS: We need to be sure to
20 include communities and young people who are directly
21 being impacted by these issues and these discussions
22 and actually use their testimonies for long-lasting
23 solutions that will actually lead us to see a safer
24 and progressive city.

1
2 I'm asking Council Members to center and amplify
3 youth voice. If you aren't already to interact with
4 the young people in your communities, the ones in
5 schools, the one's outside of schools that might hang
6 out outside in basketball courts, wherever and ask
7 them what they need. Yes, we say that we need
8 resources but asking them what exactly those
9 resources are and fighting to get it for them.

10 In the blueprint, the only investment in young
11 people is SYEP, which is a six-week program, which we
12 love to see but how does that help a young person
13 struggling with housing? How does that help a young
14 person struggling with trauma or PTSD?

15 I'm asking the Mayor to stop thinking like a cop
16 and instead, like a person who has been impacted by
17 these same issues he's trying to fix and as a new
18 author, like Deputy Mayor Banks said, to get to the
19 root of the problem, without harming the community
20 he's claiming to protect. Which includes no
21 rollbacks on Raise the Age or any other justice
22 reforms, as well as no more over policing. Thank
23 you.

24

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much Ms.
3 Nickens. Well-articulated point. Thank you very
4 much.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.
6 Next, we'll hear from Meena Oberdick followed by
7 Darlene Murray.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

9 MEENA OBERDICK: Good afternoon and thank you for
10 this opportunity to testify. My name is Meena
11 Oberdick, I am a Legal Fellow at Latino Justice. We
12 are a national civil rights organization
13 headquartered in New York City that works to end all
14 forms of discrimination against Latino's and our
15 allies. I will focus my testimony today on three of
16 the plans. Very serious shortcomings but these are
17 by no means exhaustive.

18 First, the plan is based on the false premise
19 that gun violence is a primarily criminal problem.
20 Despite that fact that the widely accepted scientific
21 definition is much broader. The plan ignores the
22 fact that New York and nationwide gun violence
23 statistics are dominated by suicide as well as
24 unintentional shootings, not just crime.

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2 And it ignores the fact that Law Enforcement also
3 commits gun violence, as Shawn Williams, Iris Baez
4 and many other families who couldn't be here today
5 have so importantly highlighted.

6 Second, the plan is also based on the false
7 premise that gun violence is a problem that "does not
8 discriminate. That's from page three of the plan.
9 Unfortunately, this framing ignores the historic and
10 ongoing racial disparities and exposure to gun
11 violence, rather than cloaking the problem in
12 colorblind language, we must name and confront the
13 systems of oppression that make Black and Latinx
14 communities disproportionately vulnerable to gun
15 violence. Things like poverty, segregation and
16 redlining communities as high crime rather than
17 funding their futures.

18 Third, the plan is based on the false premise
19 that the solution to gun violence lies first and
20 foremost in policing, surveillance and incarceration.
21 The plan prioritizes expanding New York's already
22 bloated and racially bias surveillance infrastructure
23 at the expense of a genuine public health approach.
24 It's reliance on unspecified new technologies and
25 software to identify dangerous individuals is

1
2 wearingly broad and vague and it's proposals to
3 target known trigger pullers are not very precise at
4 all.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

6 MEENA OBERDICK: But rather lower legal standards
7 to criminalize youth and those who posses guns.
8 Thank you, I'm wrapping up.

9 A genuine public health approach would prioritize
10 long-term housing, employment, public health,
11 infrastructures and opportunities. It would also
12 prioritize investing in pilots and testing, as
13 Council Member Mealy has requested. It would also
14 prioritize robust data collection and research on the
15 drivers of gun violence, not just homicide and
16 assault but also suicide, unintentional shootings,
17 domestic violence, hate crimes, and police violence.
18 Thank you very much.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Meena, thank you so much for
20 your testimony. Next, we'll hear from Darlene Murray
21 followed by Eileen Maher and Luis Ordonez.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Darlene, I believe you have
24 to accept the unmute request please.

25 DARLENE MURRAY: Can you hear me now?

1
2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yup.

3 DARLENE MURRAY: Great. Good afternoon Chair
4 Hanks, members of the City Council, Josh Kingsley. I
5 thank you for the privilege to speak with you today.
6 My name is Darlene Murray and I am the Founding
7 member of the Gangs Advocates for Neighborhood Groups
8 and Solutions known as the Gang Coalition, whose
9 members include individuals who have been impacted by
10 practices of so-called gang policing enforcements and
11 their loved ones, community activists and advocates,
12 attorneys and experts.

13 The coalition works to raise awareness about the
14 harms of criminalized associations and bring an end
15 to these practices which are funded and empowered at
16 the expense of two public safety measures.

17 As a mom and a New Yorker, I witnesses firsthand
18 the way that the same so-called solutions presented
19 by this plan, which amounts to expansive police power
20 and scapegoating of young people have negatively hurt
21 young people about Black and Brown communities and
22 did make our city streets safer.

23 By adding on to the police force and opening more
24 jails, you are making sure that Black and Brown
25 people live in the constant fear of being racially

1
2 profiled as gang affiliations. These gang raids are
3 nothing more than a political show. My son Donnell
4 Murray is a living proof.

5 For the past several years, I have been
6 advocating for my son and others who were highly
7 targeted to the political empowered, often White and
8 wealthy who believe that the more jails mean more
9 safety in our communities of color. I'm here today
10 to testify on the record to share my belief,
11 highlights of my son story and how these harmful
12 racist plans are designed to send more Black and
13 Brown New Yorkers to deadly jails and trauma in order
14 to placate these interests. It's wrong and it's very
15 dangerous.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

17 DARLENE MURRAY: From the time my son was a child
18 grew up in the Bronx, the NYPD had been stopping and
19 harassing him, my family and his friends. Members of
20 the 47th Precinct were routinely stop and frisking
21 and issuing warnings about having plans in store for
22 him. After complaining to the CCRB and filing
23 lawsuits, the harassment only got worse. I was
24 certain my son had a target on his back and feared
25

1
2 for my son would be framed again or killed by the
3 NYPD.

4 And the first fear came to pass. One officer,
5 police officer Villa Bazaar had wrongfully accused my
6 son of gun possession. But once again, evidence
7 proved that he had been framed. In another case,
8 video clearly showed that Donnell was assaulted by
9 the police, but the NYPD charged him with assault.
10 He was exonerated. The city settled with Donnell but
11 the harassment was endless.

12 But despite these exonerations, NYPD has a
13 workaround to actually proving that a person
14 committed a crime and that's criminalized association
15 through gang labeling. While the federal government
16 ultimately prosecutes the case against my son, the
17 information supply by the NYPD including so-called
18 evidence of the charges for Donnell have been framed
19 - for Donnell has been framed and acquitted,
20 constitutes the basis of the indictment.

21 At trial, Donnell was acquitted of all charges
22 that included allegations that he was engaged in
23 actually a crime. However, he was convicted
24 [INAUDIBLE 4:48:02], a gift to prosecutors according
25 to former DA's because of the lack of required

1
2 evidence and he is currently serving 20-years in
3 prison.

4 I have been living in fear for my son's life
5 every day after. It's not right that my son has been
6 the victim of police harassment and have retaliation
7 for standing up for his rights, exposing bad cops in
8 our community. While these same officers got to keep
9 their jobs, earn an income and go home to their
10 families. Everyone deserves safety. Creating one
11 problem to solve another problem is never a solution.
12 We end up having a bigger mess than the previous one.
13 We can't incarcerate our way to safety though we have
14 tried. The same policing strategies proposed in the
15 Mayor's plans are the same ones that targeted, harass
16 and tore apart my family without making any of us,
17 our communities, our neighbors, my family any safer.

18 We need quality of life investments, not an ever
19 growing abuse police force that starves our
20 communities of needed resources. The Council should
21 do everything in its power to divert funds to true
22 solutions including violent interrupters. It should
23 pass a bill to eliminate the racist gang database and
24 it should expose the harmful proposals in favor of
25 real solutions.

1
2 I would ask the Council; the Mayor and the team
3 invite the Gangs Coalition to a meeting to learn more
4 about our recommendations for safer communities. I
5 thank you for your time and listening to us. We will
6 send a longer version of our testimony of the Gang's
7 Coalitions worker. We hope that you take a look at
8 it and we hope that we can lend a voice to real
9 changes in our community.

10 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much Ms. Murray.

11 DARLENE MURRAY: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Will do.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.
14 Next, we'll hear from Eileen Maher followed by Luis
15 Ordonez.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

17 EILEEN MAHER: Good afternoon, my name is Eileen
18 Maher, I'm a Civil Rights Union Leader and Activist
19 from Vocal New York. We are fighting tooth and nail
20 to end mass incarceration and the criminalization of
21 incidents such as mental illness and poverty. I am
22 also a woman who was incarcerated, formerly
23 incarcerated and a survivor of domestic violence and
24 I've been a social worker for over 25-years.

1
2 I've sat here and listened to you defend the
3 Mayor's Blueprint Plan but let's call it what it
4 really is. The 1994 crime bell bust multitude of
5 racists in class since Giuliani era policies with a
6 new name slapped on it. These policies and laws and
7 did not work then and they will not work now. Rather
8 than implement these redundant changes, what the
9 Mayor needs to do is go back to the drawing board and
10 create a new plan. What does curb violence and
11 crime, are violence interrupter services, educational
12 services and programs and programs in the working
13 class communities that mirror those in the wealthy
14 New York communities.

15 Affordable housing in New York is becoming an
16 endangered species. This must end. Increased mental
17 health services must be implemented as well. Rather
18 than the NYPD responding to mental health causes gun
19 drawn and badges shining, mental health professionals
20 must be sent on these calls as well first and
21 foremost.

22 The Mayor and his team must do their part and
23 attempt to destigmatize the negative narrative that
24 surrounds individuals, especially men seeking out and
25 receiving mental health services. Services and

1 community programs are a key in strengthening
2 communities and decreasing violence. The narrative
3 around addiction must also be changed from looking at
4 it as a crime to looking at it what it really is, a
5 health problem. You don't jail people for
6 experiencing a diabetic issue or a stomach flu.
7 Those suffering from addiction diagnosis must also
8 receive the same treatment and compassion.
9

10 What I and many of my colleagues and comrades are
11 proposing is not a new concept. Centuries ago,
12 Thomas Sequis (SP?) said that you need help to
13 rehabilitate the so-called wrong doer.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

15 EILEEN MAHER: Training them to live justly as a
16 member of the larger - a couple - I just need more
17 time.

18 Larger human community. In any case, it helps
19 secure the community freedom from injustice by
20 deterring subsequent incidences. In other words,
21 prevention not punishment. Filling up jail cells and
22 eventually prisons is antiquated and nothing less
23 than torture. The act of incarcerating a human being
24 is an act of violence. We need to increase domestic
25 violence services. We need police officers that

1
2 intervene during a domestic violence situation
3 appropriately and safely.

4 When I was experiencing physical domestic abuse,
5 the NYPD was called. They said two things to me that
6 day. One, to me, this is what you get for being
7 married to a Black guy. And two, to him, just take a
8 walk and calm down, then come home. Everything will
9 be okay.

10 In order to receive the appropriate intervention,
11 a dear friend had to call the state police on my
12 behalf. Though officers sworn to protect me in my
13 community had failed miserably and nearly got me
14 killed.

15 We do not need the plain clothes unit roaming
16 around and causing more harm than good. The
17 retraining you speak of for the NYPD officers in
18 order to curb their violence and their racism has
19 also been proven to be futile. Eric Garner was
20 murdered by an NYPD officer who was trained to not
21 use a chokehold but he chose to use it anyway. Like
22 [INAUDIBLE 4:53:30] just testified today, nothing's
23 changed. Retraining or simply saying don't do that,
24 does not work and will not work. This is not a new
25 problem. We visited a 1994 murder committed by the

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2 NYPD that goes years, decades before that. I recall
3 Michael Stewart was murdered by the NYPD in 1983
4 under similar circumstances and his family has yet to
5 get the appropriate justice. On the first day an
6 NYPD officer reports to duty after he or she has
7 graduated the academy, that person is told by
8 seasoned officers and superiors, all that stuff you
9 learned in the academy, forget about it. Now, you'll
10 see how it really is done.

11 And so goes the cycle of the NYPD abusing and
12 murdering those who they are sworn to protect,
13 especially those of color, LGBTQ citizens, the poor,
14 the mentally ill, those with addiction disorders and
15 the unhoused. Mayor Adams needs to advocate for the
16 implementation of the experiment for the NYPD, rather
17 than throwing out handouts and manuals that officers
18 who are not going to comply with these so-called
19 changes. I urge the Mayor to throw his blueprint
20 plan in the shredder where it belongs. I urge he and
21 the City Council to do a massive, huge community
22 financial domestic violence deployment, affordable
23 housing, education and health service in the most
24 vulnerable communities.

25

1
2 The Mayor swore to serve and protect, not to cage
3 and murder. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.
5 Next, we'll turn to Luis Ordonez. Luis, you may
6 begin.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 LUIS ORDONEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Luis
9 Bolanos Ordonez, I'm a Community Organizer with Vocal
10 New York. It's my testimony, their murderous plain
11 clothes anticrime unit was disbanded in 2020. And it
12 was disbanded, it didn't need a few tweaks, a new
13 name or it didn't need a pampering makeover or new
14 uniforms. It needed to stay disbanded. The idea of
15 having more officers patrolling on the train seems
16 like a bad idea. I've never seen - I ride the train
17 every day and never see them doing anything but
18 staring on the phones. Handing tickets to poor
19 people who can't pay for the train fare and harassing
20 homeless people who sometimes live in the train.

21 I have personal experience with being one of
22 them. The blueprint involves all kinds of
23 communication between New York States Law Enforcement
24 to zero in illegal guns in high intensity traffic
25 areas with something called a new gun intelligence

1 taskforce. I think there's a more intelligent idea
2 and it doesn't take a lot of thinking to realize that
3 the war on drugs has been a total failure.
4

5 Decreasing the use of substances has been very
6 successful at oppressing and criminalizing Black,
7 Brown and poor people.

8 And actually intelligent approach would be to
9 decriminalize and legalize all substances so that
10 people who sell and consume, who will never go away,
11 don't feel the need or don't gravitate towards
12 engaging in violence and in guns and things like
13 that. Also, in the way we can secure some safe
14 dispensaries for substances. Do away with all of
15 those. It's a big problem sales, especially during
16 the COVID pandemic and we can also get rid of that
17 especially a narcotics prosecutor. You smoke that
18 money for better solutions for our people and maybe
19 we can stop for threatening 16 and 17-year-olds whose
20 brains are still getting you know, it's still in
21 formation, with threatening them with prosecuting
22 them as adults.

23 The dangerousness standard racists, you want to
24 go away with small training because the racism is at
25 the core of our institutions. I am from Queens and

1
2 in my neighborhood, the people that I know, we brace
3 ourselves when a cop car, when a police car passes
4 by. I've seen police harassing Black transwomen.
5 One of them recording, one of them approached me,
6 engaging in a discussion where he defended the cops
7 who killed Tamiah Rass(SP?) and I've been in the
8 mental health hospital for my own personal struggles
9 and I've witnessed the officers continuously
10 tormenting a person undergoing a mental health
11 crisis.

12 I've also been, I happened to be a passenger in a
13 car when a person was able to show a PBA card from
14 you know NYPD to an officer who stopped the car and
15 just you know got a different kind of treatment and
16 got away. And my point is that NYPD's culture is
17 rotten to the core. It acts like it is more like a
18 click rather than public servants and we, as a
19 community, we monitor every single person, all of the
20 victims of gun violence, of systemic violence.
21 Obviously including law enforcement and we try to
22 honor everyone's lives not by throw them in the
23 streets and then go you know maskless on the subway.
24 You know display of force, going maskless on the
25 subway during the second year in a row where COVID is

1
2 the leading cause of death for police officers. We
3 actually honor the lives of people who lost them to
4 violence, gun violence, by trying to tackle the
5 issues and the causes of violence. And thank you for
6 listening to me and Chair Hanks, we'll be reaching
7 out to you from Vocal New York. Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
9 testimony. Chair Hanks, members of the public, I
10 think that we've covered everyone now. I will turn
11 back to Chair Hanks to close the hearing. Thank you
12 everyone for testifying.

13 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much. I want to
14 thank everyone that has testified today. Again, that
15 we are – the purpose of this oversight was to help
16 strike a balance. So, your testimonies are very
17 important to this process, so I want to thank you for
18 that. I want to thank you for NYPD. We want to
19 thank MOCJ and CCRB and everyone else who has
20 testified today. Thank you very much. I'd like to
21 thank the staff, Josh and all of the Council Staff
22 that's helped put this hearing together and thank you
23 so much and have a great one.

24

25

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 9, 2022