CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

------------------------X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

        of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

------------------------X

                        October 28, 2011
                        Start: 1:11 p.m.
                        Recess: 1:44 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
                   City Hall

B E F O R E:

                   GALE A. BREWER
                   FERNANDO CABRERA
                   Chairpersons

    COUNCIL MEMBERS:
                   Inez E. Dickens
                   Erik Martin Dilan
                   Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
                   Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
                   Letitia James
                   G. Oliver Koppell
                   Mark S. Weprin

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

Jason Nicolai
Senior Manager of Community Relations
CFY

Michael Capobianco
Director of Development
MOUSE

2   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Good morning.

3   I'm Gale Brewer, City Council Member for the west

4   side and head of Governmental Operations, and

5   we're here with an amazing individual who is head

6   of technology--Fernando Cabrera. We will be

7   sharing this hearing. So I am glad to be working

8   with the Technology Committee; it's a Committee

9   that I love and I love the work that they do. It

10   is my co-chairmen's important resolution, and it

11   concerns two issues that are important to all of

12   us--technology and our amazing not for profit

13   organizations. That's why I think particularly

14   this is an important issue. It's incredibly

15   important that the community's served by the not

16   for profit organizations. Those organizations

17   work with seniors, individuals with disabilities

18   and low-income families and individuals, and they

19   must have access to computers and to software, to

20   equipment. And in fact this morning I had a

21   hearing in the Aging Committee on just this issue-

22   -how to get software and equipment to the seniors,

23   but in these difficult economic times with budgets

24   being cut and private contributions harder to come

25   by, we have to think outside the box and come up

with new ways to provide organizations with

support and resources they require. And that's

why the resolution sponsored by Council Member

Cabrera is so important and it would authorize the

Department of City-Wide Administrative Services,

known as DCAS, which is overseen by the

Governmental Operations Committee, to donate

surplus city-owned computers, software and

equipment to the not for profit organizations. I

look forward to hearing from these organizations

about how they would benefit and I know one of

their questions might be, "how good is the

equipment?" Thank you very much, and now we'll

hear from the wonderful chair of Technology.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so

much, Co-Chair Brewer and I'm really honored to be

co-chairing this with you since you really have

done a lot of work in foundational work [phonetic]

in this Technology Committee, in which you're also

a part of. It's very comforting to know that - -

we have the historical background and expertise.

Good afternoon, and welcome to this hearing on

proposed Resolution 999--interesting number--which

authorizes the New York City Department of City-

Wide Administrative Services, DCAS, to donate

surplus city-owned computers, computer software

and computer equipment to public and private

institutions for secular educational use and to

not for profit institutions for use by individuals

with disabilities, senior citizens or low-income

individuals. Many educational programs and not

for profit institutions have insufficient supply

of computers or computers and computer equipment

of inadequate quality to keep up with the growing

demand for technology. DCAS does not currently

have the authority to create a policy for the

donation of surplus computer equipment to non-city

entities. Section 104-C of the New York State

General Municipal Law allows the governing board

of a municipality to adopt policies by resolution

authorizing the donation of computers to the types

of organizations previously mentioned. These

donations will be required to be based on a public

notification process and competitive proposals for

eligible organizations through which the

institutions requesting donations must demonstrate

need and specific plans for the use of such

equipment. Donations of computer equipment to

1

2   institutions operating educational programs and

3   those providing services for persons with

4   disabilities, senior citizens or low-income

5   individuals will assist in the disposal [phonetic]

6   of needed equipment is mutually beneficial for the

7   city and the recipients of the donations and is an

8   efficient use of government resources. So while

9   I'm at it, let me just recognize the staff of the

10   Committee on Technology, Jeffrey Baker, counsel;

11   and Crystal Goldpon [phonetic], policy analyst and

12   I see Council Member Koppell from the Technology

13   Committee, and I'll turn it back to Council Member

14   Gale Brewer to introduce her Committee.

15   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Councilman, we

16   have wonderful Council Member from the village of

17   Harlem, Inez Dickens. And now we also have the

18   amazing Seth Grossman, who is counsel to

19   Governmental Operations and Tym Matusov, who is

20   the policy analyst, so I think now we'll just call

21   the panel.

22   CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Let me just

23   point out it is the policy of the administration

24   not to come for resolutions, but this afternoon -

25   - privileged to have Michael Capobianco [phonetic]

2   from - - and Jason Nicolai from CFY. Could you

3   please come forward?

4   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Computers for

5   Youth--translate it.

6   CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Yes.

7   COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Mr.

8   Chairman, though I am sympathetic to the purpose

9   of the resolution, aren't you concerned that if

10   it's announced that we support Resolution 999, it

11   might be interpreted that we're getting involved

12   in a Republican primary?

13   CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: That's an

14   interesting suggestion. I didn't come up with the

15   numbers.

16   [background conversation]

17   JASON NICOLAI: The mic's on? Good

18   afternoon, Chair Cabrera, Chair Brewer and

19   honorable Council Members, my name is Jason

20   Nicolai. Thank you for the opportunity to speak

21   here today. I am the senior manager of community

22   relations for an education non-profit called CFY.

23   First, on behalf of the CFY team, I want to

24   personally thank the New York City Council for its

25   steadfast support of our program for the past six

years. CFY, formerly known as Computers for

Youth, partners with low-income students to help

students, families and teachers harness the power

of digital learning to improve educational

outcomes. Through our extraordinary partnership

with the Department of Information Technology and

Telecommunications and the Department of Education

on the connected learning initiative, we currently

serve over 70 high-poverty schools city-wide. We

served over 8700 families last year and are on

track to serving the same number again this year.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of DUIT and

DOE for the commitment to this program. Together

we're making a big difference for low-income

families throughout the city. When CFY learned

that a resolution was being proposed by the City

Council to urge the New York City Department of

City-Wide Administrative Services to donate

surplus city-owned computers, computer software

and computer equipment to public and private

institutions, our organization was eager to voice

our support by sharing with you how this

resolution could strengthen our ability to support

students, teachers and parents in New York City's

low-income communities.

I would like to tell you a little bit more about how CFY brings technology, tools, training and resources to New York City communities through our digital learning program. First, we establish a partnership with a New York City public middle school in a low-income community, enlisting the support of both the principal and teachers. We organize Saturday training sessions at the school--what we call family learning workshops. At these workshops, families are working together on a refurbished computer that we call a home learning center. The home learning center is preloaded with more than 50 high quality education software and titles. Families also learn about educational resources available on the Internet and learn how to gain access to hundreds of digital learning activities on CFY's free online learning platform, - - Learning dot com. After they complete the Saturday workshop with their families, students leave with the home learning center they were working on that day. It is theirs to keep. The educational software, both on the home learning

2   center and through - - learning is designed to not

3   only enhance a student's performance in the

4   classroom, but also to extend their learning

5   beyond the classroom. To maximize this expanded

6   learning opportunity, CFY also provides training

7   for teachers at the school, so they can take full

8   advantage of these educational tools and resources

9   the students now have. Lastly, qualifying

10   families are also given the opportunity to sign up

11   for discounted broadband services through Time

12   Warner Cable or Cablevision, making it easier for

13   them to access the online learning activities.

14   Our organization has been providing services to

15   New York City families for more than a decade, and

16   has served over 25,000 families to date. The

17   Council's approval of the donation of surplus city

18   computers, computer software and computer

19   equipment will help broaden CFY's resources for

20   helping students, teachers and parents across the

21   New York City Metro Area. On a personal note, I'd

22   like to share my favorite part of working for an

23   organization like CFY. There is nothing like the

24   feeling I get when I watch a student and parent

25   head home with their computers. Their smiles and

the gratitude we get from families is priceless.

As they walk out the door, it's obvious that they

already know the positive impact the computer and

the educational resources will have in their

child's future. Access to more computers,

computer software and computer equipment would

deepen CFY's impact on that educational future of

thousands of New York City students in low-income

communities, leading to more smiles from students

and families and more importantly, deeper

educational impact. Thank you for the opportunity

to speak on behalf of CFY.

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Thank you to

the Council for allowing me to make some brief

remarks. Thank you Co-Chair Brewer and Co-Chair

Council Member Cabrera. Good afternoon. My name

is Mike Capobianco, and I'm the director of

development at MOUSE [phonetic], a national non-

profit based here in New York City. As many of

you probably know, MOUSE is an innovative use

development organization that empowers underserved

students to provide technology support and

leadership in their schools, supporting their

academic and career success. We are the MOUSE

1

2   squad and we are currently in 127 New York City

3   Schools. MOUSE continues to pioneer innovate in

4   school programs in all five boroughs of New York

5   City in support of our mission, and we appreciate

6   all the members of the City Council who have

7   supported us over the almost 15 years that we have

8   dedicated ourselves to serving New York City

9   schools, students and the communities they live

10 in. MOUSE supports Resolution No. 999 because of

11 what it can mean for low-income families,

12 individuals, students and for the many

13 institutions with limited resources that provide

14 vital services to these populations. This

15 resolution will also have the added benefit of

16 delaying the added burden end of life electronics

17 place on our environment. Resolution No. 999 is

18 also an important step to ensuring that all

19 organizations assisting the city's most vulnerable

20 populations have access to computers and software,

21 allowing them to spend their vital unlimited

22 resources directly on serving their

23 constituencies. On a personal note, since moving

24 from the corporate sector to dedicate myself to

25 the non-profit sector, I have seen the impact of

providing access to technology to individuals,

families and institutions that normally would have

to do without. I have worked for - - in the

Bronx, whose focus is on breaking the cycle of

poverty by offering technology, career training,

education and low cost computers to individuals

and families in low income communities. After - -

, I was a member of the CFY team, - - say your

mission, a national non-profit whose focus is to

help students in low-income communities together

with their teachers and families harness the power

of digital learning to improve educational

outcomes. Over the course of many years and in

many circumstances, I have seen firsthand how

access to technology and in turn all the

opportunities it offers can literally turn a

person's life around and help organizations

deliver vital services to assist in that process.

I am now with MOUSE, an organization that utilizes

technology as a catalyst to transform the lives of

thousands of New York City's youth, preparing them

for college and career success. We must do

everything to ensure every person has access and

we should do everything in our power to ensure

that all technology is utilized effectively,

meaning when it has run its life cycle, it is

disposed of following all the city, state and

federal regulations that were enacted ensuring the

least amount of environmental impact. Let me end

by saying once again, we applaud you for taking

the lead on such an important initiative and to

thank you again for the opportunity to speak in

front of all of you today.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you

both. I know your organizations well. I feel

like I live with you 'cause I know them so well.

And - - extremely proud of and have the same high

regard. My question is how do you get your

equipment now? From donations or do you purchase

it 'cause obviously--I don't know about the CFY,

Computers for Youth obviously gets some that go

out the door in the shopping carts or whatever is

appropriate and MOUSE obviously works in the

schools. So how do you get it now? And then, if

it's not in top notch condition as might or might

not be from DCAS, how would you go about restoring

it so that it's useable for the individuals?

JASON NICOLAI: We currently get

most of our computer systems from a grant that we

received from the Department of Commerce called

the BTOP [phonetic] grant. That grant is actually

scheduled to terminate in 2013. We have still

been collecting donations from the city and are in

the process of refurbishing those computers. When

that grant ends, that process will continue when

we receive donations, we will refurbish those

computers and then we'll give them to families.

Whenever we get a computer, we do what we possibly

can to make sure that it can go out the door and

go to a family, so we're just going to restart the

process of refurbishing the computers going

forward.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: How many do

you get from the city now or do you not compile

that information? Obviously I know you get a lot

from corporate America.

JASON NICOLAI: We do--I don't have

the exact number, but we do get some computers

from HRA right now and we do refurbish those

computers, but we have been getting computers from

the city still.

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Currently we

do not receive any computers from the city and

MOUSE, although we are a technology non-profit, we

use refurbished computers in a limited way, but

from personal experience, I have definitely seen

many non-profits that go without technology that

are serving vital communities that obviously this

initiative would help--this resolution would help

greatly.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so

much. Just curious, what's the usual cost to

refurbish the computers?

JASON NICOLAI: I'm unfortunately

going to have to defer to - - response. Currently

since most of our technology comes through the

BTOP grant, and that's actually being purchased, I

can't give you the exact amount of what the

refurbish costs is. I, myself, am new to CFY and

I am--because of the BTOP grant I was actually

hired, so I haven't seen the cost associated

before the BTOP grant, so unfortunately, I can't

give you an exact response.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So what do

you foresee then would be the burden to your type

of non-profit, technology based non-profits, in

1

2   this process? What will be like the toughest piece

3   to this? Will it be the refurbishing? The storage?

4   The dissemination? Which part?

5   JASON NICOLAI: The refurbishing is

6   definitely a complicated process, especially if

7   we're loading the computer with our educational

8   software, and if we are going to serve the same

9   amount of families after the BTOP funding runs

10   outs, that will be a significant investment in our

11   staff to actually be able to refurbish those

12   computers and actually get those donations in.

13   MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: I was going to

14   say to Council Member Brewer's point; it's the

15   quality of the computer. CFY back when I was

16   there in 2005 and 2006, I think Pentium 3 was the

17   computer of choice or maybe Pentium 4 was cutting

18   edge. It depends on what you're working with

19   right now and what the city is working with.

20   Typically from what I've seen, the city tends to

21   use computers to their full life cycle and then

22   disposes, but they can be upgraded; they can be

23   utilized; they can be loaded with basic software

24   and organizations can absolutely make use of that

25   equipment. Most of the equipment coming out of

1

2   there is probably fully has the hard drive, has

3   the memory, has all the pieces that you would need

4   to use that equipment, and it should be utilized.

5   CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Do you have a

6   person that handles the criteria or do you just

7   take all the computers in? What do you foresee

8   doing here and then just disposing those you don't

9   need? How would you go about it?

10   JASON NICOLAI: We make every

11 effort possible to use the technology that we're

12 given whether it's breaking it down and taking

13 some of the pieces out, where there's a video card

14 and using it in a different system, so whatever

15 technology we get to the best of our ability we

16 try to use that technology to help families.

17 Although I'm new to CFY--I've only been there

18 about 15 months--I have had the opportunity to see

19 families come with a computer before the BTOP

20 grant, and I can tell you that no matter what, the

21 technology in the home makes a difference whatever

22 that technology is. Many of the schools--all the

23 schools are in low-income communities, title 1

24 schools, so some of these families don't have any

25 technology in the household, so the fact that we

2 can get a piece of hardware with educational

3 content on it will make a difference.

4 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: My other

5 question having seen this evolve for the last ten

6 years and having started thinking about technology

7 a long time ago, one of the challenges in the

8 school and you know this from MOUSE and from CFY

9 that you don't want to have incompatibility, so

10 sometimes when you bring in a new piece I know the

11 schools at one point started saying, "No, thank

12 you." I don't want that because a) I have to

13 refurbish it, but b) it's not going to be

14 compatible, so how--again, is incompatibility a

15 challenge in the schools or maybe in the senior

16 center, et cetera? I'm all for donations, but I

17 don't want to burden the running around computer

18 tech who's may or may not - - MOUSE or may or may

19 not have CFY in that school and they need to

20 refurbish and they need to make it compatible.

21 The teachers and the principals complain to me

22 that there's nobody to do that. Not everybody has

23 a MOUSE squad, so I'm just wondering if

24 compatibility is an issue?

25 JASON NICOLAI: At least from CFY

1

2   and of course if MOUSE squad is in school, it's a

3   huge benefit, but at CFY we have a 24 hour, 7 day

4   a week bilingual tech support line. One of the

5   things that we do as well is there any issue with

6   the computer that can't be resolved over the

7   phone, we allow the families to actually come in

8   to our New York City location, and we swap that

9   computer out, no questions asked. In terms of

10   compatibility, we're doing everything in our power

11   to make sure whatever equipment we're providing to

12   families is compatible to the needs of the schools

13   and to the families. If it's not, of course,

14   we're going to try not to place that hardware in

15   that family's hands.

16   MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: To answer your

17   question, Council Member Brewer, I think the

18   senior centers are probably going to be an easier

19   placement for this type of equipment, where

20   schools will be difficult only because of the

21   equipment itself, but the software has to be

22   compatible and I think DOE gets pretty strict

23   about what you place into the schools and what

24   they're willing to support, so I think the senior

25   centers would be a phenomenal receiver for this-=

1

2   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [Interposing]

3   I don't know how the senior centers would feel

4   about that.

5   MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Oh yeah.

6   [laughter]

7   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: They're not

8   too tech savvy, but I guess the issue then is to--

9   as we're thinking about this changing policy to

10   think about the software and the compatibility

11   'cause it's not something that people think about

12   unless they're engrained in it, and then they end

13   up with this hardware that sits on a shelf because

14   it's not compatible and there's no tech support

15   for it, so I just throw that out and I assume you

16   would agree that that has to be thought about

17   before it's donated.

18   MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Absolutely.

19   MALE VOICE: I'm curious to know,

20   do you receive hand held devices--can you use

21   handheld devices?

22   JASON NICOLAI: We don't use

23   handheld devices. Currently the systems that

24   we're providing to families is desktop computers,

25   but of course, we're always looking to the future

and handheld devices is of course something of the

future, so that is something that we will

obviously continue to monitor as the technology

changes.

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Handheld

meaning like a Blackberry or more an iPad?

MALE VOICE: Or both.

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Both. MOUSE

wouldn't be able to, but there are organizations

that absolutely would love to have that type of

mobility that they do not have at this time.

MALE VOICE: Some schools right

know I know that the state level, they just a few

months ago allow now for principals to purchase

tablets instead of textbook and inserting the

textbook inside the tablets and that's why I was

asking because when it comes to the tablets maybe

that's the way to go as we see that becoming more

of the norm. Any feedback regarding that?

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: If you look at

a school like Hudson High and schools like those--

those technology high schools that are all--there

are no textbooks. We have a MOUSE squad at Hudson

High and that is a school absolutely would be--if

they're having success, other schools are going to

want to model that success and have the access to

that type of technology, so yes.

MALE VOICE: Do you see that the

students are more engaged by the use of the

tablets than textbook?

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Yes. I think

the question is is what's the outcome of that.

They are more engaged. Are they learning better?

Are they having more success? Are they--I think

that question is still sort of out on the table,

but certainly more engaged.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: My other

question would be regarding this legislation.

Have you--you've obviously been working with HRA.

Do you know what HRA donates or do you know maybe

from your past experience at Per Scholas if other

city agencies have donated and if so, what? And if

so, was it helpful? Obviously, if you suggest

anything that's able to be rejuvenated and used is

helpful, but I also worry that you could end up

with a lot hardware that you don't want, and

that's not something that would be helpful on any

level. So I'm just wondering when you get from

HRA, what do you get? And if you've talked to

people at Per Scholas or other organizations that

do accept currently from the city or state or any

government entity, what is the experience in terms

of having to restore it?

JASON NICOLAI: I can't really

speak too much to the technology that we're

receiving from HRA. I can tell you that we do try

to refurbish those computers and we actually have

used them to swap them out to families that were

before the BTOP grant, so we are using that

technology when we receive it. If it's technology

that we can't use then we do recycle that way if

it's something that cannot be used by any family.

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: I'm not sure

if Per Scholas is still in the business of

recycling, but from what I remember I was there,

the organization was open to all types of

equipment and the stuff that we did receive from

the city a lot of times did lack parts and pieces

because it was sort of pulling from one to make

another work, but we were in that business, so we

would purchase hard drives at bulk, memory at

bulk--the things that computers needed--and then

we were able to refurbish and make it part of

their access programs, so in the end very

successful, but there were certainly challenges

and a little more expensive for us to refurbish to

get those ready to provide to families.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: It would be my

experience, Per Scholas is still in the business.

I was at their training site fairly recently and -

- , but I think one of the challenges with the

city is we tend to hold on to our hardware

software longer than perhaps a corporation or a

bank that's upgrading, and so you will find that

I'm sure as an ongoing challenge. I have no idea

what else might come from DCAS, but certainly it

will have seen its day.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Do you have

the staff--as you know this is going to be based

on competitive bids--do you have the staff to

handle the proposals that are going to be put

forth?

JASON NICOLAI: We have a dedicated

warehouse staff and that staff is dedicated to

refurbishing the computers, if need be, so we do

have the staff to refurbish the technology.

2   MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: MOUSE isn't--

3   as part of our mission--it does not refurbish

4   equipment.

5   CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Getting back

6   to this issue, do you have experienced staff--

7   JASON NICOLAI: [Interposing] Yes.

8   CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Okay.

9   Excellent. Excellent. Getting back to the school

10   'cause you just got me curious as to--and I know

11   computers is a tool, and I saw your expression, so

12   you just got me curious, do you think it's an

13   effective tool as far as you have seen? I know

14   it's anecdotal we don't have data on this yet that

15   I know of--maybe you do... Do you have data on

16   that? Okay, so tell me about the data. I have a

17   tablet. I have a laptop. I have all the toys,

18   but there is something about holding a book in

19   your hands--what have you seen so far? What's the

20   research on this area?

21   MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: To be purely--

22   -what's the right word? Opinion and anecdotal by

23   observation, definitely the students are to your

24   point more engaged and because the technology does

25   allow immediate access to the Internet and all the

1

2   information obviously that's out there, they can

3   support lesson plans and many many vendors out

4   there that provide curriculum to the schools are

5   providing as part of the curriculum Internet

6   access. So in that sense, I think there's a great

7   opportunity for kids to use technology, but at the

8   end of the day, you still have to have effective

9   teachers and effective leadership to really affect

10   outcomes for kids.

11   CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So your

12   concern is - - in the spectrum is not on the

13   technology side; it's really on the teaching side.

14   MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Yeah. I

15   should say before this I was a member of the New

16   Leaders for New Schools team and we often

17   struggled with technology in the classroom if that

18   was a catalyst to improve student outcomes, and I

19   mean you can look at a New York Times article that

20   came out last week where they said it is not, and

21   then you can look at another article that said

22   it's absolutely a necessary piece of a child's

23   education. So it depends what you're reading, I

24   guess. Right?

25   CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Let me

1

2   acknowledge Council Member Weprin. He has joined

3   us right now.

4   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: One other

5   question is when you see light beyond the BTOP, do

6   you have any sense of how many refurbished or even

7   new computers, you'll need? How many are you using

8   now that you're able to purchase with a federal

9   grant? What do you think your needs are going to

10   be into the future just for CFY I guess?

11   JASON NICOLAI: Obviously we would

12   love to continue to serve the amount of families

13   that we're currently serving. Without the BTOP

14   grant, it's going to make it highly difficult to

15   do that--

16   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [Interposing]

17   I'm sure you'll find a way. What generally is the

18   number that you need per year to keep the current

19   level, and also, what happens if people's homes as

20   we know--it lasts about 5 years, and then they're

21   going to need something new?

22   JASON NICOLAI: So we've served

23   8700 families per year due to the BTOP grant. If

24   we were able to maintain that obviously there are

25   a lot of families that could use the technology

tied in of course with the classroom instruction

on digital learning with parental engagement with

students owning their learning as well through

digital learning. We would want to maintain that

level if possible. Technology by far is our

biggest expense.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. And

MOUSE I think you're usually using the hardware

that's in the schools and then hoping that between

whomever is able in the school and your MOUSE

squad that you can keep that particular technology

going in that school and obviously the students

learn a lot.

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Do you find

that in the schools there's a need for upgrade?

Are you able to handle it with the MOUSE squads?

In other words, are there aspects of the

technology in the schools that even the MOUSE

squad can't handle?

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Never.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Oh please.

[laughter]

MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: It really

2   depends on the school 'cause we can go to a school

3   like Hudson High, and they have the latest

4   greatest--

5   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [Interposing]

6   Yeah, but that's not a good example.

7   MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: --and go to

8   another school and their lab is barely running and

9   they're using duct tape and wires and it seems

10   unfair, but it's how funding is distributed, and

11   those are the schools if this initiative could

12   help get better computers into the schools, it

13   would be such an incredible improvement. I spent

14   a lot of years in New York City schools, and you

15   definitely see the difference between school to

16   school.

17   CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. Well,

18   we want to thank you for your many years of

19   institutional support between the two

20   institutions, the two non-profits that have made a

21   huge difference in this city and both of you for

22   not only being here today, but I think the fact

23   that you shared your personal stories and how you

24   got to where you are. That added for me anyway a

25   lot to your testimony. It wasn't dry; it was

interesting, and obviously, I know I speak for myself, I feel very strongly about what you're doing and if Council Member Cabrera's resolution helps--and I think it will--that is a fantastic contribution that he's making. Thank you very much.
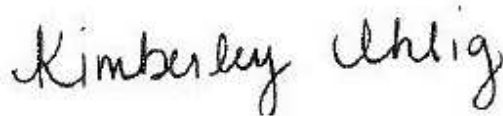
MICHAEL CAPOBIANCO: Thank you.

JASON NICOLAI: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: This hearing is adjourned.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Kimberley Uhlig

Signature

Date _____11/11/11_____