

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

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HELD AT: Breukelen Houses Community Center
715 East 105th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11236

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Chairperson

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Council

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Suffolk Houses

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Valerie Rosenberg
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[sound check and background conversation]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet please.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: [gavel] This hearing is coming to order. Good morning, and welcome everyone to this hearing of the Committee on Public Housing. I'm City Council Member Ritchie Torres, and I chair the Committee. And I'm proud to be joined today by Council Member Inez Barron, who is hosting us today in her district; and Council Member Vanessa Gibson who is the Chair of the Committee on Public Safety. I am also joined by my colleague Council Member Laurie Cumbo.

And this is the second public housing hearing that we are holding in a public housing development. A few months ago we held a hearing in Coney Island regarding Hurricane Sandy, and now we are here at the Brookline Houses or Bruekelen Houses to discuss public safety. As everyone knows, public safety is a persistent concern in public housing. Even though public housing houses about 5% of the city's population, it is the setting for almost 20% of the city's violent crime. And even though the city has seen a 3% increase in major crime between 2009 and 2013, public housing saw a 30% increase.

And so, we are reminded that the mission of public housing is to provide affordable, decent, and safe housing, and safe is key here. And the Mayor's plan is a recognition that we must do a better job of providing hundreds of thousands of residents with safe housing. And so, here are a few things that are worth pointing out about the Mayor's Housing Plan. It is large. It is \$200 million in new investments in public housing. It is comprehensive. It includes investment not only in policing, but in programming and infrastructure and community engagement.

But I have two questions about the Mayor's Housing Plan, two questions that will lie at the heart of today's hearing. And the first is, Is this plan simply a short-term response to the tragic stabbings at the Boulevard? Is it a one-shot deal, or is it a long-term investment that will be sustained well into the future beyond this current fiscal year. Is this a long-term investment in the safety of public housing residents.

And the second equally important question is, Is this plan working? Is it achieving the goal that it was set out to accomplish? Is it driving

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2 down violent crime? And so, those are the two
3 questions that will be at the core of today's
4 hearing. For the sake of time, I'm going to cut
5 short my comments, and allow my colleague Vanessa
6 Gibson, the Chair of Public Safety to offer a few
7 comments. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Chair
9 Torres, and good morning to each and every one of
10 you. It's a delight to be here. I am Council Member
11 Vanessa Gibson. I chair the Committee on Public
12 Safety. I also represent the 16th District in the
13 Bronx, and it's an honor to be back here in Brooklyn,
14 and I want to thank my colleagues and Government
15 Council Member Inez Barron, Council Member Laurie
16 Cumbo, and all of the City Council staff for really
17 putting this hearing together. I really want to give
18 a lot of credit to Council Member Torres because he
19 started with a vision in making sure the residents of
20 public housing throughout the City of New York have a
21 true voice.

22 And by coming to the people, coming to
23 the boroughs in this city making sure that all of our
24 residents have an opportunity to speak to their
25 council members. So I want to acknowledge and thank

him for the work that he has done. So, I, too, will keep my comments. [applause]. Thank you. Amen. I will keep comments very brief, and I know today is the beginning of a conversation that we'll talk about public housing, public safety, and long-term investment in the largest public housing infrastructure in the entire country. We have come a long way, right? And we know we have much further to go. I am extremely interested to hear from the New York City Housing Authority, from the New York Police Department; from Ms. Glazer our Criminal Justice Director for the Mayor. And all of the residents here at Bruekelen Houses about what we can offer as concrete solutions that give validity to the problem. Making sure that we focus on collaboration, including stakeholders, the residents that live here offering your suggested comments on what we can do as members of the City Council in moving this community forward, this infrastructure forward.

I also want to make sure that while Council Member Torres talked about a lot of the statistics within that core fabric of 15 developments, I represent Butler Houses in the Bronx. And so, I know that throughout our public housing

we've had many challenges. But I also want to be very clear that we also have a growing concern around domestic violence. And that is important that whatever conversation we have, we must make sure that we are talking about programs, resources, and services for all victims and families, children that are impacted by domestic violence.

So once again, I thank all of you for being here. Thank you to all of my colleagues, and it's a pleasure to be here at Bruekelen Houses and I look forward to this productive hearing this morning. Thank you again.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And now, I would like to give our host Council Member Inez Barron an opportunity to make a few comments.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Is it afternoon yet. Good morning. [laughter] It took us a while to get it set up, but I also want to acknowledge and commend the Chair Council Member Ritchie Torres, who understands that government is about the participation of people at all levels. And yes, most of our Council hearings are held in the chambers, and you're all welcome to come and attend. But her

understood, Council Member Torres understood the importance of going to the people, hearing directly from the people. And making it convenient for persons to be able to participate. So I also lend my voice in commendation, and as we know, we'll be talking today about public safety especially in NYCHA. And we know the horrific incident, which occurred earlier this year. So what I would ask is that in recognition of Tanaya Copeland, Prince Joshua Avitto, and thank you. We still have Mikalya Capers with us. But I would just ask that we have a moment of silence for those who have been maimed, and who have suffered such great tragedy.

[Pause for a moment of silence]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. As has been said, I'm the host of this district. This is my district. This is our district the 42nd Council District, and we're so glad to be here at Bruekelen or Brooklen, whichever your preference is, to be able to hear directly from you. I do sit as the Chair of Higher Education, but being that this is my district, I am glad to be here as the host and to address the topics that we're going to talk about. I've also been asked by the Democratic Designee to

Assembly Council Member, former Council Member
Charles Barron to extend his greetings to you as
well. He's unable to be here, but he does send his
greetings.

We've heard about the money, which the
Mayor has allocated, and we know that he has speeded
up the process for cameras that will be going into
Boulevard houses, one of the target NYCHA
developments. So we're glad for that. But in
addition to talking about cameras and security, and
the video cameras and improving the services that are
given, I feel that it's important, and I believe
we'll be hearing later on today from MANNA. We've
got to have organizations. We only have the Police
Department. And we know that they talk about
civilization to bring the police officers out of the
police state into our communities. But that's not
always a pleasant interaction. So we know that
there's a distinct advantage when we have community-
based organization that knows the residents that are
respected by the residents. And understand the
culture of the community that interrupt the violence
that is about to occur that can resolve some of the
problems or the ones who are on a very personal

basis. My piece to look to see that institutions, organizations such MANNA, Inc. is expanded with the support that the City gives them so that they can continue the work of Cure Violence, Cease Fire.

And they were recently visited by an outstanding actor--perhaps he'll share that with you--who understands the work, the significance and the effectiveness of what they do, and wants to replicate that model where he is. So, with that, I want to thank you once again for being here. We look forward to hearing from all of you. Maybe not all of you, but many of you and the representatives that you have. And if your question doesn't get answered, the Chair, I'm sure will be glad to entertain it, if you would like to submit your question, and give you answer to that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you Council Member Barron, and I want to thank not only you, but the residents of Breukelen Houses for allowing us to hold a hearing right here in the Community Center. Now, since we are in the Community Center, it has to be returned to the community at 2 o'clock. So I'm going to have to enforce time limits around questioning and testimony. So please bear with me

and understand. Normally, when you have a City Council hearing, you start with the Administration, with members of the Administration. In the Public Housing Committee, we do things differently. We believe in starting with the tenants so that the tenants have an opportunity to share their experiences. And that way the Administration has to listen to what the tenants have to say. So in that spirit, we're going to begin with the first panel, which consists of Resident Council leaders Inez Rodriguez, Beverly Corbin, and Dwayne Faisal?

DWAYNE FAISAL: That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And Cynthia Whittaker. So you each have three minutes.

INEZ RODRIGUEZ: Good morning everybody. I want to commend Ritchie Torres and Speaker of the House for calling this meeting. It is most appreciated. I'm going to speak on, you know, we lost P.J. and Mikayla has to live with this, and we all are living this, too. I want to speak on the cameras. De Blasio had made a meeting with us. We had a roundtable at Boulevard, and he set about getting the cameras. Thank God that Charles Barron, the new Assemblyman, I commend him because we waited

so long from 2009 to get cameras. We finally got nine, but now the rest of the development is in fear. There are still parents walking around with bats in their hands when they walk their kids in the morning. We have four buildings that need cameras in the front and the back, and we need front doors. The front doors could be yanked.

It doesn't make a difference if you put one camera on the front door, a little kid could yank it. So I'm asking the Mayor to please push the time limit because he hasn't said when, and I think we a long. We've been waiting before 2009, and enough is enough. I think we suffered enough. We just had another robbery. A young lady in a wheelchair had gotten robbed. If the camera was in there, they might have saw what went on, and maybe he wouldn't have robbed her. So that's one of my issues that I'm fighting for. Please, I'm begging to de Blasio to please push these cameras to come forward, and get our front doors done so we can at least have a little peace in our development.

And I have another issue, too. We have two pipelines. They've been there for five years. They've been throwing out smoke. They're surrounded

with wood, and that is not safe there in Boulevard.

I went over to Charles Barron's office, and Mr.

Placor [sp?] the manager, they had allocated \$1

million. Where did the \$1 million go? They said

because they didn't get the permit in time.

Meanwhile, the TA President was not telling my boy,

[sic] and they just yanked the money out. We still

have the two pipelines there. So this is a very big

concern, a dangerous situation. We have children,

and the pipelines against people's windows. That is

a safety issue.

Another thing I'm going to speak on, and

I'm sorry, but I've only got three minutes. I want

to use my minutes. I have a mold. People are having

mold situations in their apartments, and it's gotten

very bad. We have people that have to work and when

they come in, they want to break the pipe, break it,

make a wall there so... But we have kids who need

medication, and get devastated by seeing that whole

there whether you cover it. We need to do a little

better. They just make a hole in the wall, and

waiting whenever the plumbers come in, and the people

that work cannot stay home because if you don't pay

housing, you'll be in the street. [applause] So

the rents went up to \$1,300. There are people paying [bell] over \$1,300, and they have to be treated a little better. Okay, everybody cannot stay at home and wait on the check. [applause] So we have issues, and those are one of our main issues, my main issue. The next one is the contractors. The contractors--

MALE SPEAKER: [off mic]

INEZ RODRIGUEZ: We need to get the OSHA workers where I have given them given them OSHA names and they never called them in, and the young men and the young ladies are waiting. So we are tired of promises. Thank you.

MALE SPEAKER: Yeah. [applause]

DWAYNE FAISAL: Thank you, Ms. Rodriguez for the enthusiastic testimony here. So, good morning everyone. My name is Dwayne Faisal, and I am the Resident Association President at Cypress Hills Houses, and I would like to thank you all for holding this hearing this morning. Ritchie Torres, the Chair, and especially my Council Member Inez Barron, who works very well with us. My issue this morning again is security, and the lack of, or the sense of time on behalf of New York City Housing Authority

when it comes to providing those cameras. Our funding for those cameras was sitting around for almost five years before we got our cameras. We just recently got our permits in the last two months while waiting for five years to get them.

In the meantime, we had young people, young men especially in our community who were dying. And that might not have happened had those cameras been installed years and years ago. From the time we heard about the installation of those cameras until the installation, the actual installation, four members of our community, young men passed away. I had got so sick and tired of seeing young bodies on the bodies on the ground while New York City Housing Authority looked for cameras to get installed. To this day, I don't understand why it took so long being that the money was there. I think that's disgrace, and that needs to be changes. Now, there is money there again for camera installation and security improvements.

How long are we going to have to wait before those installations and those improvements are made? That's my concern. Is it going to be another four to five years? Do we have to see more young men

laying on the ground dead? Do more people have to be mugged and robbed in the elevators of their buildings before security is improved? Not only at Cypress Houses, but in each and every development here in this district and throughout the City of New York. We have to move along. We cannot wait. We need to make haste. The money is there. Let's use it immediately. Let's implement those developments that do not have cameras. Let's get them there as soon as possible, and those developments that need additional cameras, let's make sure that they get those additional cameras. I thank you for your time.

[applause]

CYNTHIA WHITTAKER: Good morning. Thank you, panel. It's good to see you. My name is Cynthia Whittaker [sp?] I'm a resident of the UT Plaza. It's an umbrella of Long Island Baptist and Florentine Plaza. Since 2009, we have been waiting for cameras also. Unfortunately, I lost two family members due to crime. Had it been for the cameras that we did not get, and have not even made it to the list as of yet, maybe this tragedy could have been prevented. Also, we don't see our name on the list

for the cameras, and I would like to know why. And when our name is on the list, will this be done?

We also have a problem with our maintenance stations as far as our plumbing is concerned in our development. It's a very bad problem that is going on at this time, and we would like to see something done about that. Thank you.
[applause]

CLARA WILSON: Hi, my name is Clara Wilson. I'm a Vice President to Boulevard House. My concern is the mental health issues that we're having in our neighborhoods, okay. We have a lot of people that are moving into our development with mental health issues, and they are not getting the care and the services that they need. Certain things they don't know how to ask for, for themselves. And as a result of this we're having a lot of fires from these tenants that are moving in. They don't know the rules and the regulations.

The second issue that I have is with our seniors. Our senior centers are in need, desperate need of repairs. They're in desperate need of funding. We need more help with our senior centers, for us to have a safe place. Our senior centers also

need cameras. Not only that, we're having issues in our community where we've been bombarded with shelter issues. And no one is taking the time to find out where these people are roaming around the neighborhood all time of nights. If they are supposed to be in shelters and have no place to live, why is it that they are always through the community and nobody is monitoring where they go, and what is happening. And we have a lot of people that are coming out of prison, and they are not being monitored correctly. Half the persons that came out of prison if they're monitored to correctly the two children, three people in our community that were killed and one that is still alive would not have been put in the situation that they're in. But the prison system did not do what they were supposed to do when they paroled these people to our community. We're not aware of who is coming out, sex offenders or none of this. We're not being warned. We're not being helped in how to deal with these people.

[applause] We need help and we need it now. We don't need no more promises. We need action. We need funding. We need money. We need it now. Stop holding onto our money and housing collecting

interest. We need our money to do what we need to do. We pay enough rent. We fight enough out there to get the money. Today as always fighting, but nothing comes through. We don't get paid for what we do. [applause] So we want our tenants to get what they deserve. We thank our Council Member Inez Barron and our community officials that are always out there on the battlefield with us. They don't just come out when something happens. They check on us all the time. We need the money. We need it now. Not later. Now. [applause]

BEVERLY CORBIN: My name is Beverly Corbin, FUREE, Families United for Racial and Economic Equality, and I'm also the Resident Watch Supervisor for White Grove [sic] Gardens. I don't know if the City Council is aware of Resident Want and how it operates but we are on the front lines. We have men and women who volunteer their time to come downstairs and sit in the lobbies to make sure the building is secure. In my development, we have a special setup where we are downstairs in the morning at 7:30 even though we don't clock in until 9:00 to make sure that young men and women get to school safely, that the parents don't have to worry about

1 them coming or going out. We also do a 2:30 to 4:00
2 sitting to make sure that our young people are coming
3 safe and quiet. So we don't have people in the
4 hallways, and problems that used to go on outside.
5 Resident Watch is an important part to NYCHA. I
6 think the tenants are the first people that are on
7 the front lines as to who is coming in and out of
8 their development, what's going on in the
9 development. We know most of the people that live
10 there. And we watched some of the children grow up.
11 When we have our Resident Watch meetings, we invite
12 the young people in regardless to how they're living
13 or what they're doing. Because we tell them this is
14 your grounds. This is your neighborhood. You have
15 to protect yourself. You have younger brothers and
16 sisters, mothers and fathers going in and out.
17 During that time we also invited elected officials
18 down to White Grove Gardens, and was told that we
19 could not invited elected officials unless we were
20 approved by NYCHA to come and speak to the residents.
21 We don't always have- Residents don't always show up
22 to tenant association meetings. They do come
23 sometimes to sit there and listen to people that are
24 sitting down in the community. And we have a unique
25

group of people in our community where seniors don't feel safe or comfortable sometimes talking to elected officials due to the culture of the neighborhood.

But I think it's important that residents hold meetings. Residents are involved in meetings.

Residents have a say-so of what is going on in the community. Thank you. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you. So we're facing time constraints. So we're going to have to move onto the Administration, but I do have one question and you are correct to point out the value of Resident Watch. All of you are the eyes and ears to the ground. The Mayor has made this massive \$200 million investment in the security and public housing, and so far I'm asking do you feel the impact of the security plan on the ground? What has been your experience so far?

BEVERLY CORBIN: We had doors put in White Grove Gardens that don't work. There is a no setup. It is a PST. I have a key that works for me. My daughter's key doesn't work. I'm still waiting for the key to work. The doors do not operate. The panel is not set up so people can come in and out by pressing a code, the number that was supposed to be

set up. So to me, that was a waste of money. Again, the Resident Watch wants the City Mayor talks about now, the young people to come in and out who don't have keys or people that live in the building that don't have keys. It will not happen. And also, another group of people, and I know you don't have anything to do with it, it's our home health aids. A lot of times they can't get into the buildings to take care of the people that they need to take care of. And during the storm that we had with the snowstorm last year, a lot of our home health aids were stuck outside because they did think enough of their clients to come into work. So the doors should work. Home health aids should be given a special priority to get keys to come in and out of the building for the safety of our seniors.

INEZ RODRIGUEZ: I just want to thank PSA2 and Miguel Iglesias for doing a fine job. [applause] And these light towers it's a blessing. I want to help- I want to make sure these light towers stay here through the winter and stay a good while. So we have to give credit where credit is due. We have police officers around the community. They're around Amber [sic] around the center with the

children, and they watch them and they are very concerned. So I just want to give thanks to whoever put Miguel Iglesia in our community. Thank you to the chief and the leaders that are over them because he's doing a fine job. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just want to clarify. So the Security, the Mayor's Security Plan includes \$1.5 million for exterior lighting, those light towers. So you might see some of the developments with extended summer hours for the community center and hundreds of more police officers through civilization. So those are some of the effects that you have felt on the ground. Okay. So your experience has been positive?

INEZ RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

DWAYNE FAISAL: Again, the security cameras that have been flagged to us at Cypress Houses were not paid, and did not come from the grant, from the Mayor. Those cameras came from our City Council Member Charles Barron, and I sent it to John Fenton [sic]. [applause] I'd like to thank you. Our concern right now, as I said earlier, is that we waited almost four to five years to get those things. Now, out of the Mayor's budget I'm hoping

2 and I'm praying that we will see those funds a lot
3 sooner than that because we definitely need them a
4 Cypress House.

5 INEZ RODRIGUEZ: The next issue we're
6 concerned with or caretakers in our development.
7 Okay, we have caretakers that are being actually
8 slave driven because there is no way [applause] that
9 caretakers are so over-burdened with work that they
10 have four and five buildings that they are there
11 cleaning. A lot of times they don't even have the
12 necessary supplies to work with. [applause]
13 Something needs to change about that. Okay.
14 Sometimes it can't work because someone is out sick.
15 Each care worker has four to five buildings to clean
16 alone, and if someone is out sick, then they have to
17 take over that person's building to clean. And it's
18 not done properly because if you have clean so many
19 buildings by yourself. We're killing our caretakers
20 off. [applause] They need help.

21 We have another concern, our manager.
22 Our manager. Our manager is worried--

23 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay, I don't want
24 to -[gavel]. I want to-

25 INEZ RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Because I want
3 everybody on top of it, but I appreciate your
4 testimony. I think we all agree that NYCHA needs
5 more money, and I suspect that NYCHA agrees that it
6 needs more money. So with that said, we're going to
7 call the next panel, but thank you so much for your
8 testimony.

9 INEZ RODRIGUEZ: Okay, sir. [applause]

10 [pause]

11 [background conversation]

12 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So, ladies and
13 gentlemen, as I said before the Mayor's plan is
14 comprehensive. It includes collaboration among ten
15 City agencies, but we will have four City agencies
16 testify today. From the Mayor's Office of Criminal
17 Justice, we have the Director Liz Glazer. From the
18 Housing Bureau from the NYPD we have Chief Gomez.
19 From the New York City Housing Authority, we have the
20 General Manager Cecil House. And from the Department
21 of Youth and Community Development, DYCD, we have
22 Jessica Vides-Hernandez. Committee Counsel, please
23 swear in the panel.

24 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Would you please
25 raise your right hands. Do you swear or affirm to

tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth before the Committee today? You may proceed.

LIZ GLAZER: Thank you Chairperson Torres. Good morning. Good morning to you Chairperson Gibson.

FEMALE SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

LIZ GLAZER: Is this better?

FEMALE SPEAKER: YES.

LIZ GLAZER: All right. So good morning to everyone. Good morning to Chairperson Torres and Gibson and Council Members Cumbo and Barron. I'm Liz Glazer, Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. I'm very happy to be here today to talk to you about the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, which is, as you know, and which Chairperson Torres pointed out is targeted at public safety particularly in 15 housing developments that have some of the highest rates of violent crime in our city. It's a coordinated plan among ten different agencies, and I'd like to just before I begin thank you for bringing this focus on NYCHA Housing and public safety in it, and for holding this hearing hearing a Bruckellen, or Bruekelen. I guess we'll resolve that by the end of the day.

Just to kind of recap where we started from, on July 8th this summer the Mayor announced the launch of this coordinated plan to make New York City neighborhoods and the development safer. And the idea was that police are obviously a critical response or a very important way of addressing crime. But that reducing crime is about more than police, and it's about infrastructure. It's about putting a light in parking lots where muggings happen to deter people from committing crimes. It's about cameras that some of the very eloquent witnesses who just spoke discussed. It's about matching effective programs to people, to families who are most in needs, and it's about strengthening our neighborhoods. And to accomplish all of that, we need to be able to hold ourselves accountable. As the Chairman pointed out at the beginning, are things working or aren't they? And we need to make those decisions based on data and evidence, and we need to ensure that neighborhoods have a voice that's heard. So we're working with a team of researchers who are evaluating what's going on right now in order to get us those answers. And so that we can ensure that the programs that we're focusing on now, and we're going

to focus on in the future are effective as possible. I think it's this level of coordination and of order and of focus. This focus a new a new connected and sustained way of doing business instead of just being an initiative that has allowed us to deliver some initial results. And that makes me very hopeful that this will be a model about how to improve safety in other neighborhoods. So I wanted to first just provide you some updates about what's been accomplished since launch. First, the Police Department has deployed 150 officers each week on the ground in the target developments, as well as officers at the 105 community centers across the city that, as you know, have extended hours this summer for the first time in 30 years. And the second focus was around physical infrastructure. We started with 184 light towers. I think one of the representatives from Boulevard talked about those towers that we just heard about. And those started going up the very day that this initiative was launched. And we have received a lot of positive feedback about the light towers both from resident leaders who say it's improved the quality of life. And also from NYPD who at least anecdotally is reporting that the crime of

the light safety disrupting crime on the ground. We started installing a little under 2,000 security cameras with installation begun at 43 developments and completed at 19. We have almost 20,000 feet of shedding that has been removed since May, and we're on track to eliminate all of the shedding that is not serving a safety of construction purpose by the spring of 2015. [beeping phone]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Can you please shut off your phone, please? Thank you.

LIZ GLAZER: And there's more. It was a very active summer. In looking at sort of where we should make physical improvements not just lights and cameras, although obviously those are very important, but just how the way a neighborhood is constructed may invite crime whether it's shedding or other things. As part of the Summer Youth Employment Program, we had a number of youth from ten development join the Mayor's Office of Operations and the Scout Program to survey the developments to do about 6,000 observations of physical condition that will now be integrated into plans at both parks that NYCHA had to improve their infrastructure. But it's obviously more than cops.

It's more than physical conditions. And so, we've launched a bunch of programs this summer in order to sort of strengthen positive programming and activities in the neighborhoods in which these 15 developments are located. We had 27,000 youth participated in an array of parks programs that were started. They're some of the largest sites like Maria Hernandez Park had 300 to 500 kids. Almost 1,000 additional youth from the 15 developments got jobs for the Summer Youth Employment Program. As I mentioned, there were 175 community centers opened for extended hours with many staying open until 12:30 at night, those with gyms. And we're very pleased to see Council Member Cumbo with her roller skates on at one of the community centers when the Mayor visited this summer.

And the participation was huge and growing at both the NYCHA-1 Centers and the DYCD, the Cornerstone centers. [sic] So the NYCHA centers served 5,300 young people. The DYCD centers served 18,000 over the eight weeks of this summer with just increasing lines. And interestingly, we seemed to have reached a lot of people who were not using the centers before. So we took surveys. Over 40% of

1 them hadn't used community centers before. So we
2 think that that's a very positive direction. But
3 obviously, the important indicator here that we're
4 all focused on and that everybody is intensely
5 concerned about is what the impact has been on public
6 safety.
7

8 I think that we can report that we're
9 making progress in reducing crime. In the ten weeks
10 since the initiative was launched, crime overall has
11 gone down over 7% and violent crime has decreased 2%.
12 So we focused on the developments that drove of
13 violent crime in which have been here for a while.
14 This is not a new issue. And so, we're early in this
15 effort, and a hard problem. It's not a problem that
16 happened overnight, and it's not a problem that's
17 going to be solved overnight. And we're continuing
18 everyday to target and evaluate what we're doing.
19 And we're going to sharpen across all these different
20 areas how we really reduce crime for the long term.

21 So in the coming weeks there are
22 additional program that we'll launch. They are
23 focused on serving residents, and they'll include
24 HRA, reaching out in the developments to ensure that
25 those who are not connected with benefit, whether

it's SNAP or health insurance or cash assistance, that those who should have those benefits are, in fact, connected.

DFTA, the Department for the Aging is hosting trainings for over 2,000 grandparents who care for kids to provide them both with a network of support, and to help them identify signs of those potentially being at risk. And helping them engage kids in productive activities. We have Works Program that is going to be providing jobs to individuals in 15 developments through CEO Works Program. The Department of Probation is starting a mentoring program that will include not just those on probation, a very successful program, but also other people as well.

And the Mayor's Office of Domestic Violence to Chairperson's Gibson's excellent point about the need for the focus on domestic violence, has established already I think here as well getting out information. They're establishing these Domestic Violence Response Teams. That will do extensive outreach in the 15 developments and surrounding communities, launch public education campaigns and

lead victims directly to services through the Family Justice Centers and coordinate a multi-agency effort.

So looking forward to the fall, Parks will continue in its' programming. NYCHA is exploring options with respect to the best way to move forward on our Lighting Plan. And so, in this next phase of this initiative, it is certainly about the programming, but it's about sort of how the programming is linked together. And how we have a more focused and targeted effort to look at what the greatest needs and risks are in each neighborhood.

And to do that, we're going to be working with each neighborhood to understand better what those key issues are just as this hearing is helping to show what those issues that are faced by residents. And we hope that those insights combined with what agencies know, will enable us to build an accountability mechanism. Essentially, a concept for neighborhoods that will bring both agencies and neighborhood residents together. So our goals are aligned so we're able to work together on key issues, and to ensure that we're holding our feet to the fire and making progress here.

And finally, equally critically, we're going to continue to expand our Evaluation and Analysis of what's working and what's not, and seek out neighborhood input on what the right indicators of success are. So, the Mayor Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety is an ambitious plan, which we believe is on the right track. It's reaching and serving an increasing number of people, and improving public safety. We're just two months in, though, to what is a long-term commitment to improving safety in the NYCHA developments and neighborhoods. And starting with those that have been hardest hit by violent crime. And as we move forward, we very much look forward to working together with the Council to ensure that residents of our city have a safe and secure place to live, and have health lives. So I would be happy to take your questions.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you. I appreciate your testimony, Director Glazer, and it's worth noting that even though we're referring to the Mayor's plan, a component of the Mayor's plan is \$50 million for security infrastructure, and about half of that funding comes from the City Council.

LIZ GLAZER: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And the City Council
3 has historically been the leader in funding security
4 and prevention in public housing so it's fair to say
5 it's a joint plan between the Mayor and the Council.
6 That would be the best, and I would point that out.
7 So as I said in my opening statement, for me the most
8 important question is whether this plan is working
9 before we can declare mission accomplished, and it's
10 too early to declare as much. We have to know what
11 the mission is.

12 LIZ GLAZER: Right.

13 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So what are the
14 precise goals of the Mayor's Security Plan, and what
15 measurable progress have we made towards achieving
16 each and every one of those goals?

17 LIZ GLAZER: So the goals to reduce
18 crime?

19 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: That's right.

20 LIZ GLAZER: And we reduce crime through
21 doing a lot of things including through building
22 neighborhood strength. But the number one thing that
23 we have our eye on is what's happening with crime. I
24 think that there's been some positive movement so
25 far. You know, as I mentioned, the-

FEMALE SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

LIZ GLAZER: Can you hear me now?

FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes, that's fine.

LIZ GLAZER: And you're away from home.

All right. So, we think that things are going in the right direction right now. Since the start of this plan, we're down, as I mentioned, over 7% in crime and 2% in violent crime. We obviously want to accelerate and increase those numbers, and there are a lot of points that go into it. It's not just the police. It's about programming. It's about jobs. It's about engagement with our kids, with our grandparents, and with everybody who lives in the developments. It's about improving lighting. There are a lot of ways to reduce crime in addition to what the very important job that the police do. So the short answer is our mission is to reduce crime. We're going to do it in a lot of different ways, though, as we've already seen over the summer and we'll continue to see.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So violent crime in public housing citywide is trending down?

LIZ GLAZER: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So there are 334 developments throughout the City. Do we know out of how many of those developments have seen an increase in crime or violent crime? Do we know the number?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: I could discuss the, you know, the crime stats in these 15 developments to answer the question you just asked. I would have to go through the many pages of the Eagle Report, which is available online. But if you would like to discuss [bell] overall crime- Can you hear me back there.

[crowd response]

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: I'd like to-

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: If you could quickly identify yourself, Chief Gomez.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes, I'm Chief Gomez the Chief of Housing since February 28th. I welcome everybody here this morning, Chairman Torres and Council Members-

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Chief Gomez you're all the way down in the Bronx.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Or up in the Bronx, I think it is.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Let me begin by a little historical perspective of crime and overall crime bureau wide because it's not just the 15 developments. There are another 319 including right here where we sit today in Breukelen and nearby Bay View, Marlborough, and many others that still seek attention. But, overall crime in housing rose 30% since 2009. The year 2009 was the last year that crime was down in public housing. So, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 that crime rose an aggregate of 30%. Mayor de Blasio saw that, and he wanted to change it, and he certainly has taken steps to point things in the right direction and they are. When I was a new chief, I attended one of the Council hearings. I believe that was back in March for the budget hearings. Back in March, overall crime in the Housing Bureau was still up. So here we are after four years of increase. In the fifth year, we were up about 2%. This is in March.

We got more resources, which I will discuss in a few moments. But, you know, since that time I'll give you a pair of facts. Overall crime in public housing is down 4.7%. That's across all three 334 developments. Murders are down 2.9%. Rapes are

down 2.9%. Robberies are down 5.9%. Assaults are up. That's the only crime that we're up in, but certainly a violent crime and one that we must pay even more of an effort to fight. That's up 1.5%. Burglaries are down 6.8%. Grand larcenies are down 14.1%, and grand larceny auto is down 8.2%.

I have three housing boroughs, our Housing Borough Brooklyn, which we have the Borough Community here today. Chief Colon, who got to the Housing Bureau from Community Affairs the same week I got to the Housing Bureau. They're down in crime. Housing Borough Manhattan is down in crime, and Housing Borough Bronx-Queens is also down in crime. Patrolman's precincts, there are 76 precincts across the city, 76 or 77. I have PSAs, as you know. I have six of my PSAs are down, and three of my PSAs are up in crime.

Now, we started this initiative in the beginning of this fiscal year, which is July 1st, where the Police Department was given funding to basically staff more officers on patrol a major focus on these 15 developments. But not a total focus because we have issues in several other developments. Since July 1st, I'd like to give you our statistics.

This is overall Bureau Statistics, and I'll go into the 15 developments. But since July 1st, on July 1st to September 14th, I believe that's the time we prepared it, okay. [sic] Crime in public housing is down 14.4%, and that is a significant decrease, a significant step in the right direction. Every crime, all those seven majors that I spoke about are down, okay. Shootings we struggle a little. Since July 1st, we've had 54 shootings versus 52, an increase of two shootings. Gun violence plagues us, and that is a major focus of this initiative. The very few, the miniscule few that are responsible for this gun violence.

Now, I'd like to move to the 15 developments, which are seen as a major focus of my enhanced appointment. But again, I say not the total focus because as issues arise here in Brooklyn, down the road in Bay View, down the road in Marlborough, some resources will go there. All the residents of public housing are my boss, not just the ones in the 15 developments. But from July 1st to September 14th in the 15 developments, which I previously mentioned for the benefit of the audience, we have- In Brooklyn, we have the Red Hook Houses [sic]. We have

the Brownsville Houses, the Van Dyke Houses, the Boulevard Houses, Tompkins Houses, Ingersoll Houses, Bushwick Houses. If we go to Manhattan, we have the Wagner Houses. We have the Polo Grounds. We have the Saint Nicholas Houses. If we move onto the Bronx, we have Patterson Houses, the Butler Houses, the Castle Hill Houses. If we go to Brooklyn, we have Queensbridge. In Staten Island, we have the Stapleton Houses.

Those 15 comprise this initiative, which these 15 we looked at. We looked back three years, and they made up about 17 to 18% of the violent crime and the shootings. So, we're in the right places. And now the results, the overall results from July 1st to September 14th. There's been a reduction in overall crime of 7.4% in these developments. The shootings were up one, eight versus seven. Again, this tells us we're in the right places, and we have to stay there and do more.

Domestic violence, which was the source of the significant increase in housing the last four years in these 15 developments is down 8.2%, and a lot of these resources in the form of overtime were channeled to combat DV, more visits and the sort.

Now these 15 developments, not all- There's an article I believe in today's, one of today's newspapers, which talks about several of the developments. There are 15 developments. There are nine that are down in crime. There are six that up in crime. And then we must continue to stay there.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Do we know what the plan is? So we have a historic plan that's targeting these 15 developments.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And six of those developments that have been receiving more resources in terms of policing and programming have still seen an increase in violent crime?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes. Yes, sir. With additional resources deployed in these developments, they've seen an increase.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Which developments?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: The one with the most increase is the Bushwick Houses, which is in PSA3. They 20 crimes versus 12 in the same period that I discussed, which is July 1st to September 14th.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: What's driving those crime increases, sir?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: If I could turn the page.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: All right.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: What I'm looking at it's felony assaults. In the Bushwick Houses this year there 10. Last year there were two at the same period of time. So the assaults drove crime in this development. Let me give you the statistics for the individual crimes in the 15, okay. Murder, there's been one murder and that was in Bushwick. Rapes: 9 versus 7. We're up a couple there. Robberies. These are major signs. Our deployment is outside and robbery is 27 versus 50. That's a decrease of 46%. Some of the assaults are behind closed doors. So, deployment of officers is outside. It's not the only answer there, and we're there with this deployment from 6:00 at night until 2:00 in the morning for the most part, but we deal with that. Felony assaults is up 91 versus 76, an increase of 15. Eight of that increase is coming from Bushwick, which I mentioned earlier. Burglaries are down 13 versus 15 for a decrease of 13%. Grand larceny is down 23%, 30

versus 39. Grand larceny auto is down 5 versus 3. So aggregately there's a decrease of 7.24% and these are the developments that we chose because of their past performance with crime.

But, you know, I could read facts. It's not just about facts. It's things that don't show up on the box door. [sic] And what I'm specifically saying is the relationships we have built not just in these developments, but the other developments because we put officers in these Cornerstone community centers. We don't just fight crime. Our officers were visiting homes doing wellness checks. Someone who was an elderly victim of a crime or a scam, we checked on several times. I know in some cases several times. That's not just here in the 15. We're doing this across the Bureau where we have Impact Zones. And the Cornerstones a lot of positive interaction with the youth, with the members of the three that visited that took advantage of these centers. And everywhere I go, I hear positive stories. I even hear stories from my own officers saying we've been here X number of years, and in the past these weren't open. Because they work nights. We didn't even know they were here, but what a nice

center. I would bring my children over in this center. You know, we can measure these facts, and thus far, it's early but time is going down. We're struggling with a few crimes. I think what you can't measure, or maybe you can, is the positive interactions, the thousands of them, or hundreds of them that transpired during this time because of the Mayor's commitment to public housing.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So we're here at Breukelen Houses.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Is it Brookellen or Brookline?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Or Brookline.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Breukelen.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Breukelen. Okay, so we've resolved that. [laughter] And so, I'm curious to know how do we- How did you go about, and this might be a question for Ritchie Gomez or Director Glazer. How did we go about targeting these 15 developments? What were the criteria for selecting them.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Well, We did it together. We worked collaboratively, and we sat down. We looked at what was happening this year,

what's hot at the moment, and we went back two years, two plus years to see what transpired. And we came up with these 15, which are right on target. We represented every borough. You know, Queensbridge is in, and so is Stapleton. But again, I have not neglected the other 319. With this initiative, we also have four Impact Zones, one in PSA2 where DIA Iglesias is doing an excellent job. I want to thank the prior acknowledgement of that. We have the- That's in the Brownsville area. We have an Impact Zone in PSA3, Marcy, Tompkins, and Sumner. And by the way, some of these 15 developments- Well, Tompkins is in this Impact Zone. We have an Impact Zone in East Harlem in PSA5, and we have an Impact Zone in the Bronx. And in addition to that, every housing borough has an impact response team, which wherever the crime is spiking, they get deployed on a daily basis to wherever those hot spots are. If something happens today in the developments-

Say there's an act of attempted violence and some shots fired, in order to prevent retal, you know, they sometimes on the same tour, they get up and go from where they are. And they go to these, you know, to these locations. So after an increase

of four years, you know, down 4.7% from July 1st until now, 14%, I think there are a lot of good things, and certainly a change in the right direction not just in crime. But it matches our commitment to improving the infrastructure, the cameras, the removal of the legacy sidewalk shafts, which is the scaffolding. And a lot of the programs that Ms. Glazer described targeting youth, targeting elderly, looking to assist-

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I still want to go an answer to my question. I still want- So it seems to me one of the criteria is to touch every borough. Like you have obviously developments in every borough.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: That is part of it, yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: But I want to know so why do you think- Of these 15 developments that had the highest rates of violent crime like what- I just want more clarity on how you went about deciding these 15 developments.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: For the most part, yes, yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay, so it was about geographic reach and the rates of violent crime?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Right, right, violent crime, overall crime, overall end of crime, and certainly the gun violence.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. I was wondering. Okay, you have these 15 developments that account for about 7%-

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: -of violent crime in public housing.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: But what about the rest of the developments that account for 83%? What is being done comprehensively to improve the security of those developments?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes, there's additional overtime. First of all, I just described the Impact Zones, which we have in four locations. We have the ILTs. We have the offices assigned to those PSAs, and we have additional overtime, impact overtime where we deploy in other developments that may be suffering from current crime issues. And you

have to understand that also PSB, you know, the Housing Bureau does not cover all of the housing developments, as you know, in your home borough. We gave a significant portion of this overtime to Patrol Services Bureau to make sure those developments are covered. Like in the Rockaways, we have five developments there that are not under my purview. Staten Island is not under my purview, but they have resources at some of them[sic] and we gave them this overtime to enhance their resources.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And are we starting with 15 developments. Is the goal here to pilot an approach that we want to identify what works, and what the aim scaling it up throughout the public housing stock? Is that how it works? Is that the thinking behind this or--?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes. One of the additional steps that we took was the improving of the lighting in these 15. Light towers, there are many light towers, over 170 light towers are deployed in these 15 developments. And some developments have had their existing lighting improved such as Tompkins, and there are three or four others that are being fixed. Police officers, lighting, cameras

these community partnership, these are all the ingredients to a successful venture.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And I don't know if you have any comments on it, but I know that many of the patrols that we're deploying like the SYEP are focused on these 15 developments. And so, these programs- Based on the research, if they're shown to have an effect on the crime rate, are there going to be some thoughts of scaling them up beyond these 15 developments?

LIZ GLAZER: We go where the crime is first, and so that's why we went to these developments understanding sort of the need for representation in the different boroughs. So we went to where the top crime issues were in those boroughs. But the point is to get preventing, plus police, plus physical infrastructure improvements. All these things knitted together in a formula that could work elsewhere and could be transported and replicated easily and flexibly. Some of the things that we're doing now are not just for the 15. So, 105 community centers opened for late hours. Some of the lighting is not just the 15. You know, at NYCHA the infrastructure work there is enormous effort underway

to accelerate and push forward the infrastructure, or a lot of it supported by the Council. So, these are things in which we're trying out a bunch of things on the 15 developments. The results right now are very positive. And the notion would be that what works will be replicated.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Ladies and Gentlemen, we've been joined by the Speaker of the City Council, Melissa Mark-Viverito, and I want to thank the Speaker. [applause] And we've been able to hold this historic hearing here because of our Speaker. It would have been impossible to do without her support. So we are immensely grateful, and I want to give the Speaker an opportunity to make any opening remarks.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well, first of all, I want to thank our Chair of our Committee Ritchie Torres for his leadership and really standing tall and strong on behalf of public housing residents throughout the City. And I want to thank Council Member Barron. I know this is her district, and also the Chair of our Public Safety Committee, Vanessa Gibson, and all my colleagues that are here. Laurie Cumbo as well.

It really is important to come out into the communities and to hear directly from those that we represent. And, we can't do it for every single hearing as much as I would like. We do have to be selective. But we have put a priority not only in terms of our public housing residents and the issues that impact them, but on those policy areas that this Administration has said that they are going to work harder on behalf of. Right? We know there's a plan in place, a Safety Plan in place that was implemented over the summer. And so, this is really the opening conversation to find out how that is going, and to hear directly all of you as residents of public housing to see how that's moving.

So I'm just going to say a few words, and then we can go into the testimony as well and the questions. I have some questions, but I'm going to ask my colleagues to continue their line of questioning before I ask mine. So, I want to say good morning to everybody. I'm Speaker Mark-Viverito. I'm honored to be part of this City Council hearing to discuss the Mayor's plan to reduce crime in our public housing developments. I want to thank our Chair of the Public Housing Committee,

Ritchie Torres, and all those that are here from holding this very crucial hearing.

As has been discussed in the last five years, unfortunately, crime in the NYCHA developments has gone up by 31%, which is simply unacceptable. My district has the most public housing in the City of New York. So this issue really does hit home for me. And based on the conversations I've had with the NYCHA residents in my district, and across the city, I know that the rise in crime is a real concern that we must do something about. All New Yorkers regardless of their economic stats deserve to live in a safe and nurturing environment.

We're here today to ensure the safety for NYCHA residents. The brutal, brutal attack in June on six-year-old Prince Joshua P.J. Avitto and seven-year-old Mikalya Capers at the Boulevard Houses here in Brooklyn underscores a need for action. While nothing we do or say today can ease the pain of losing a child, what we can do is honor his memory by making sure that attacks like the one on P.J. and Mikalya never happen again within NYCHA developments.

I do want to commend-[applause] I do want to commend Mayor de Blasio, NYCHA, NYPD, DYCD,

and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice along with the other agencies and staff that played a role in creating this plan because it shows a firm commitment to reducing violent crime at NYCHA, and investing in some of our most vulnerable communities.

Well, the plan is still in its early days. It just went into effect this summer. I am happy to hear that the police are already reporting a drop in violent crime. The City Council is optimistic, and we're committed to do whatever we can to help make this plan a success. In fact, this year, this fiscal year, the Council has allocated nearly \$43 million for NYCHA Capital Improvements, and \$27.4 of that \$43 million is included in the Mayor's plan for security enhancements. That being said, this is a long-term plan that will require extensive collaboration. Not just the City agencies that are here today answering questions, but also us as council members, other elected officials. And most importantly, a partnership and a collaboration with the community leaders for the organizations and with our public housing residents while working everyday to make their buildings, their neighborhoods safer and better places to live.

The success of the plan hinges on that last part. These leaders and residents must be meaningfully engaged, and consulted every step of the way. They know what the community needs because they are the community. So I echo the committee's call- [applause] I echo the committee's call for regular reporting on progress as the plan is carried out. I hope that the Administration will keep both this committee and the public informed as milestones are reached, and change is made. I also stress that the success of this plan should not be just measured by crime statistics or numbers of officers and cameras. But also by whether residents actually feel safer in their homes.

So I want to close by saying that this hearing is just one step in the right direction. It's the first of other hearings that we will have. I want to thank everyone that has taken the time to join us today. I know it's during the day, and that does make- have limitations on the participation, but this is a great turnout today. So with that, thank you, and Mr. Chair, when you are ready, I would ask a couple of questions, but I would allow for the other questions that are being asked.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'm actually going to ask one more questions so that the Speaker has an opportunity to ask hers. It goes back to what I said, the sense- You know, the context for the plan is the tragic setting in Boulevard Houses. And so, what assurance can you give residents, the residents here that this plan is not a one-shot deal? It's not a short-term response to one tragedy, but it's--

FEMALE SPEAKER: The response is put up security cameras.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Quiet down please.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Excuse me. I'm sorry. [gavel] I want to say that it's a long-term investment that will be sustained well into the future. With that, that will be my final question, and I will hand it over to the speaker.

LIZ GLAZER: Yeah, I think that is exactly the direction that we're going. And, you know, as I said in my remarks, this is not a one-shot deal, my full point here, and why we would organize in the first instance ten agencies, invest with your help so much money into this. But more importantly, start to invest in relationships. So that is- The next phase is to make sure that there is good

communication between the Administration, between this plan so that it becomes the plan of the residents in these developments, and this neighborhood. And that there is a seat at the table, quite literally, as we move into this next neighborhood concept piece of our effort.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: With that said, I want to hand over the gavel to the Speaker.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of quick questions. You know, one of the challenges, and we just had a hearing last week with the Commissioner of the NYPD, and obviously there is a critical role with the NYPD with this plan. And there has to be some recognition, and I think there was recognition and acknowledgement by the Commissioner. And that some of the changes he is implementing in training, and some of the steps he's taking in moving forward is acknowledgement that there has been friction and there has been tension between police and the community. And so, considering and understanding that is a real- You know, a real piece of this plan is an increased presence of police officers. Obviously camera installations and the other wraparound services that

we've talked about. What is being done? What is part of the thinking with regards to ensuring that there is an improvement in police and community relations as this plan moves forward?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Good morning-

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Good morning.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: - Madam Speaker. As I pointed out before, it's not just about crime stats, it's other things. Part of this, and here's the point we have is it's not just about fighting crime. And I mentioned this a few minutes ago before you walked in. But our officers are also doing wellness checks. They are actually knocking on doors of victims of past crimes. Especially the elderly who may have been a victim of a scam. And basically, how are you? Is there anyway that we could assist you? And it's not just a one-time visit. In many cases, I know personal situations where they went back three to four times. Part of the overtime was given to officers to conduct additional domestic violence visits. Not just domestic violence officers, but along with an officer.

Our deployment at the 107 community centers with Cornerstone and NYCHA I could give you

so many- Again, I mentioned earlier how I believe that has improved relations with the youth and the community. Many stories. I got much feedback from community members, as well as officers who, again as I stated earlier, many of them didn't even know that a center was there. And, wow, there's really programs in there, and I would bring my own children there. We conducted additional training on how to conduct interior patrols. We did that with the 101 officers that we received from the Police Academy at the end of June. We did that with the 96 police officers that came from outside bureaus this summer to all our programs. This summer I believe 600 officers throughout the Department. But we received 96, 48 in Brooklyn and 48 in the Bronx. And the Department has produced the training video. Not just the Hazard Bureau, for all the members of the Department on conducting these interior patrols appropriately and justly to minimize negative interactions with our residents.

We also had ten Play Streets. This summer we had ten Play Streets. In the past it was just two or three in NYCHA. Remember PAL in late May and early June. And we went with the number 10,

which was the most ever. Family Days. We have officers who work the Family Days, our Community Affairs officers work. So I agree with you, it's not just reading off this and that, this increase or whatever. There are things that are hard to measure, but that you do here as you make your travels throughout the city.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And you know, I appreciate that because I think, you know, there have been those of us that have been consistently saying that in order to really have a safer community it's not just about looking at community and figuring out how many people you can arrest, how many summonses you can issue, right. It's about what additional support services, resources are being brought. So the idea of the plan is opening up the community center late at night, of doing the wellness visits. Of touching people in different ways other than that negative interaction is critical. And I think that you understood the importance of focusing on these 15 developments. And seeing the success of when you invest those additional resources and the success of that, I think will make the case. But we also have to figure out we can roll this out even further. And

obviously, there is always fiscal implications to that, but we have to see that at the end of the day as a much more cost-effective approach than either criminalizing people or putting people in institutions, or putting them in jail. You know, I think this is definitely the right approach. And we've got to fine tune it along the way as we get the feedback from the community about how they're feeling about it. And I think we'll hear from residents after we hear and interact here.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Right, and if I could add, you know, we've done just that. We're doing this. Crime is down overall in the borough. Crime is down in these developments, and from July 1st to now, it's down double digits, and we're doing this. And we've issued less criminal court summonses. Stop and frisk is down over I think 77% this year. So we're doing-- I think we're doing things much better.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So just two quick additional follow-ups. My understanding is that we're about a mile away from one of the 15 prior identified developments. Is that correct? I don't know. I came a little late. So maybe you went over

this. Are there any statistics that you can provide specifically regarding that development, whether it's how many wellness visits you've done, how many, you know--

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Which development are we-- [bell]

LIZ GLAZER: The Boulevard.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Oh, the Boulevard. Yes, I could talk specific.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Maybe a little bit about the success and not just about the NYPD portion. If there are other parts of--

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Sure.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: That would be great.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: I'll start with the crime rates from July 1st to now. Boulevard is eight crimes versus nine. In ten weeks, there have only been nine index crimes there. Last year we were finding that we had eight. Those eight were- If I could turn the page. One robbery versus three. That's two less robberies. Four assaults versus three. No burglaries versus one last year. Three grand larcenies versus two. That's the eight. There

have been no shootings since July 1st at the Boulevard.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No shootings and how many were there last year?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Last year none at the same time at the Boulevard. I don't have the statistics of the wellness checks on this, you know, on this sheet. But there are officers there.

There's a high presence at Boulevard. Cameras are installed, if they're being installed as we speak.

LIZ GLAZER: So you might want to hear from-- I don't know if Cecil can speak to that at all, but, um--

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Right, but the wellness visits, you know, I don't have that stat to give you. There are light towers at Boulevard. I believe 15 of them at the Boulevard Homes.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right, so I think what I would ask as part of maybe the follow up in terms of getting data information that the committee could be given updates with regards to the progress of the plan. You know, where we find ourselves in each development that has been the focus of this now versus where we were a year ago in all aspects.

Again, not just in NYPD stuff, interactions and stuff, but others as well. Can I just ask, is there increased verticals that happen in the developments with the increased presence of officers?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes, I tracked enforcement, and certainly those, you know, those 15 developments you see more interior patrols. That's what we ask of the officers. But bear in mind that it was the summer. There was gun violence. 86% of my gun violence is outside, in outside areas. So I balance the officers' visibility. I wanted them to be visible in the public areas, in the lobbies, as well as the stairs. They do interior patrols. That is documented, but again, these were chosen for higher levels of violence than others. Not just the shootings and robberies, and I gave you the robbery number before. We certainly made an impact. I want people to see my officers more especially during the hot months. Because that's when crime- As the weather changes, and it will in the coming weeks and months. However, our tactics will also change.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, and my last question, and I noted this in my opening statement was the issue of engaging community stakeholders. I

think I heard you, Ms. Glazer, like talking a little bit about it, but since I came in a little bit late, can you talk a little bit more about that, and what that level of engagement will be moving forward. I also wanted to hear a little bit more about the plans for the Community Feedback Surveys. Obviously, this is probably critical to the success of the plan, but maybe speak to those issues.

LIZ GLAZER: So we're in the planning stages right now, but I think within the next month we'll begin to see sort of more activity in the 15 developments. So the first piece is doing the surveys both paper surveys and in person, and working with NYCHA so that people don't have survey overload. Because I think, you know, people get contacted a lot. To begin to kind of set the baseline about what it is that people care about most. What makes them feel safest? What makes them feel engaged in their neighborhoods? That will help us to then begin to develop this accountability mechanism. You know, this summer was very much about launching these programs and sure that they operated. You know, on day one the light towers started going up. The same thing with the programming, et cetera. So a lot of

effort was just about operations. But where we are now is to begin to develop how we're going to measure ourselves going forward to make sure that the residents have a voice in developing what those goals are. And that the residents are at the table to hold us all accountable to make sure those goals that we set together are met.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Before I actually hand over the questioning to our Public Safety I do want to echo what the Speaker said these points of regular reporting about the progress of the Mayor's Security Plan. So today if possible, if you could keep the committee continually informed about the progress and the plan. And I do want to go back to my original question about the goals. I know the overarching objective here is to reduce crime. But you're in the process of creating a constant system that adapts for you. So what metrics are we using to measure progress? Do you have a sense of what metrics are going to be used?

LIZ GLAZER: So I think that the goal here is to reduce crime, and there are a lot of ways to do that. And we're now figuring out what those ways are. And I think what the concept will be about

and doing this together is then to figure out what are those milestones, and what are the metrics that we're going to have that we can look at together to get us there. So that's what's happening right now.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. So you want to develop the constant system in partnership with the residents. Do you have a timeline when you're looking to develop that system?

LIZ GLAZER: So that's what we're working on. This fall or next year is probably when. You know, you'll begin to see activity within the next month, but there's a lot of work that has to go into it to make sure we get right. And I imagine it will be rolling out probably early next year.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay, with that said, I want to hand over the mic to our Public Safety Chairman Vanessa Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you again, Mr. Chair, and thank you to our speaker for her presence here this afternoon. Good afternoon, everyone. So, I just have a couple of questions, and I know we heard from Chief Gomez and Ms. Glazer. We have not yet heard from Mr. House at the Housing Authority nor Ms. Gonzalez at DYCD. But I think, Ms.

Glazer, as you alluded to, when you're talking about the overall mission of what this plan talks about, obviously reducing crime should be number one. And we look at crime data to determine that. But I think another factor that we really should include as part of that mission is what we're doing to increase the quality of life for residents of public housing.

[applause]

And I have one idea. I have an idea. I have an idea. With a lot of the summer programs that we had all summer or the extension of Cornerstone Programs, some of our Play Streets, a lot of those were driven by the summer. And what my concern is, is now that we have a full season coming upon us, a lot of the crime that we experience in public housing will now go indoors, and behind doors. And so, my concern is we have to continue to keep a priority not just on those 15, but on the entire development. I also want to be clear about the fact that a lot of the outside factors in the community and one of the residents talked about the Social Service programs as a problem.

I think it's good if we also include as a part of this ten-agency portfolio the Department of

Education and the Department of Health, [applause] and Mental Hygiene, as well as the Department of Homeless Services [applause] that sites all of these homeless facilities. One thing that I think is really critical, and I pose that to all of you, creating jobs. [applause] Hiring local residents from NYCHA, from public housing because a lot of the crime is because we don't have enough services and people are not working. So even with the DYCD increase, there were about 850 spots of summer youths that went to public housing residents. They're now either back in school or most of the young adults are not in school, and they're not work.

They need jobs. And so, I am imploring all of you as we have these conversations that in addition to reducing crime, crime data, we have to look at how we're improving economic opportunities for a lot of the residents of public housing. That is important because if you wake up everyday of going to work, you are less likely to commit a crime. [applause and cheers] I mean that's been proven. In addition, I guess my concern is looking at the engagement, and I'm glad the Speaker talked about that. And this probably goes to you, Mr. House, the

Resident Watch Program, are we looking to expand on that to make sure that more residents that are a part of that program can be... They'll be foot soldiers that we need in a lot of these developments is one. [applause]

The feedback surveys, and I'm a fan of surveys, but I don't think they solve the total problem because a lot of people don't engage in surveys. And so, I think that as we have these conversation, surveys are good. But we need you to keep coming back to the development talking with people, meeting with the TAs. Everyone has monthly meetings coming out and making sure that you're talking to residents on an ongoing basis. The challenge is that a lot of people know what's going on, but they choose not to say anything because they have to live here. And at the end of the day, they want to feel safe.

They want to know if they're sharing information that we're actually addressing it. And I guess I bring the Bronx's perspective because I represent ten of the public housing developments, one of which is in this portfolio. And that's what I do in my district in my area. The mental health

services is important and someone brought it up. So I'd like to know are we having conversations with the Department of Health around increasing mental health services for those that need it, offering those opportunities? I think a good idea could be PSAs, Public Service Announcements. We have these beautiful billboards all over the place where we need to start advertising [applause and cheers] better behavior and services that are available.

I think that would be good. And I guess my last question. I always have lots of questions is on again DYCD and working with DOE and working with a lot of students that could be potential truant students that are out in the community that are not in school. And they need to get in school or get into a program. What are we looking to do with that? And I guess my final point is beyond the summer are we going to still have these increased police presence, the site or the watch lights, the scaffolding removal? A lot of the things we talked about. Is that still going to continue at the same pace now that the fall season has arrived?

[applause]

LIZ GLAZER: So these are all great points and you're exactly right. We're at the beginning. We're shaping it and crime is complicated. Crime isn't just about police crime, it isn't just about time. But it's about jobs. It's about health. It's about education, and all those things. And that's why all these different component pieces are into it. So I think that, you know, we started with ten agencies. It's beginning. And part of what we're doing this summer and this fall is figuring out how can we effectively expand? How do we do it in a way that it's not just a pile of programs, but it really drives to achievement.

So there was- You're right, there was Summer Youth Employment. There is also CEO has a big effort going on right now in the 15 developments around jobs. The issue of what we do about resident watches, what we do about mental health services. All of these are incredibly important components, but we have to be able to plan for it in a way that it will be sustained and not just a one-shot deal. So I very much look forward to that continuing dialogue with the Council, and to get your thoughts and ideas

as we move to build things out. We want to make sure it works.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: The resources, the continuation of our resources. The Enhanced Deployment was based on a civilian organization plan of hiring 200 civilians and then 200 cops would go to the Housing Bureau. So this funding was given to us kind of on a declining scale. The assumption that in September 60 something civil would hired, 60 offices would go to Housing in December. Another hire of 60 something and then in March. And this overtime, I legalized it in July and August at the rate of 200 offices, the equivalent of 200 offices a week. This funding is for the whole fiscal year, which is until next June. I don't have enough funding to go at that rate. So in the near future I'm going to curtail that overtime somewhat to make sure that funding lasts. But there is other overtime. We have impact overtime, which I get from my boss the Chief of the Department every week. So I hope that answers your question. It is going to be cut back somewhat based on funding issues.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Can you just explain what the IRT Unit is and what it does?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Sure. An IRT, that stands for an Impact Response Team. Every housing borough has one. The Housing Borough of Brooklyn, the Housing Borough of Manhattan, and Housing Borough of Bronx-Queens. These are offices that work directly for the borough community and they supplement the existing resources so that they could be at the PSA or in the Impact Zones. Basically, they focus on behavior. They focus on the way the crime is, the current trends. Sometimes we have crime issues that are outside of the Impact Zones that we have, and we need more officers at these locations. That is the mission of the Impact Response Teams. There are 50 to 60 officers. And I think Brooklyn has 70 something officers. So they basically where the crime where. We go where the crime is, and it's a good resource to have. Patrol has them also.

DONOVAN RICHARDS: On the Resident Watch Program, I know many of our residents, our participants and it's a very important program to quite a few of them. And as Director Glazer indicated, and asked me to look at the overall, the gist of the overall program, there are a number of

components. And so as we begin to continue to find the program over time, we will be able to see where the Resident Watch Program fits in, where it needs to be expanded, where it needs to be enhanced, and how we are able to utilize it most effectively in the program.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just want to quickly- I don't know if the Speaker had a comment.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes, a question because I'm looking at the- I'm looking at the statistics that were provided to us here of the year-to-date crime in 15 targeted developments, and in- Sorry, give me a second. In all seven of them in terms of the indicators, crime increased. So you've got a case like Polo and Bushwick where it increased by 34%, and Butler in the Bronx, 50%. Those are high numbers. So just in the analysis what are you attributing that to?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes, there are 15 developments. Nine [sic] show a decrease, six show an increase. I have more up-to-date figures. Bushwick is up the most. I believe I spoke about it before you arrived. They're up a total of eight crimes and they're up eight felony assaults. But

some are struggling, but let's look at Ingersoll. Ingersoll is four crimes versus 16. That's a decrease of 75%. Let's look at Patterson, 10 versus 17. That's a decrease of 41%. So, in sum, in the aggregate, overall it's down 7%, but in some developments they continue to struggle. And that is why we're there, and that tells me we went to the right places. And we're going to stick to it, stick to the plan, and help the residents out.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, obviously, you're very- You have much more updated statistics because I'm looking the ones you just read versus what we have here. It's very different. But I guess the question is: You know, this is a concern that I have, and I know that in a city as large as New York it's hard, right. That a one-size does not fill all situations. I believe in the mission, and I believe in the vision of what the plan calls for because you're talking about a lot of different resources. But in cases like that, are you trying to figure out how you tweak the program to make it more unique to that development, and you see there's been an increase? So I'm just trying to figure out if you're trying to fine tune it as you go along, and

figure out other things that maybe help in that situation?

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Well, certainly. If we see that assaults are up because there's an increase in domestic violence related to assaults. Certainly, that PSA commander, and I speak to them regularly several times a week, sometimes several times a day. They will send in the domestic violence officers. They will look at the problem, and certainly look for a solution. But understand it is a little more difficult for us to combat crime that is occurring indoors. I mean, we could do it. Overall, domestic violence in the 15 developments is down, but not everywhere.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: So, you know, we're aware of the developments that are certain. But again, it's a little more difficult to combat issues that occur outside the hours of our employment, and certainly behind closed doors.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I just have one last question, Ms. Glazer, around the domestic

violence piece. So you have an eight-member team that's working within the 15 targeted developments to focus on outreach to bring folks out in terms of services. Is that in addition to the Family Justice Centers that we have in each of the boroughs. Like, can you get a little bit more specific?

LIZ GLAZER: Yes, and I think I have a colleague from the Office of Domestic Violence who could give an even more detailed answer. But, the short answer is these are teams that OCDV is training and launching. And the whole point is to connect the people in the developments who needs those services with the Family Justice Centers. So that we have all these resources that are located in the Family Justice Centers, but how do we make sure that people actually get linked. And that's one of the things that they're going to be doing. And, you know, to the Speaker's point, everything is about the police, right?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right.

LIZ GLAZER: And so, for example, on the issue of domestic violence, what are we going to do? Behavior can be changed in a lot of different ways. Messaging is one thing. PSAs are another, as you

mentioned. And so, that's one reason why we have all these agencies together. And as the Speaker noted, we need to be nimble and flexible and understand exactly what's happening on the ground to the extent we're able to. So that we have the right response because it may not always be a police response.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: So, are we just starting with eight and then we're gradually going to increase?

LIZ GLAZER: Let me introduce my colleague who can give you the full-

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And I guess I ask the question because I'm concerned about eight.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Actually, before you speak, we do want to swear you in, sir. So Committee Counsel.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Would you please raise your right hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth before the Committee today?

TRACY WEBER-THOMAS: Yes, I do.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: You may proceed

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thanks. So I guess I was asking because I was concerned about- I know this is a start, and that we're in, you know, for a couple of months. Eight people is a challenge for 15 developments where the diversity around culture, around language, around access, around culpability, around connecting with family. So, my concern is we're starting at eight, and do we have a long-term plan to increase?

TRACY WEBER-THOMAS: Certainly, so at GWU[sic] we're going to launching this particular project in October, and it's a combination of community liaisons who will be working with the communities, meeting with the tenant associations, working with local businesses and community organizations to really build partnerships. To make sure that individuals are experience intimate partner violence or elder abuse know that there is help available. That they can be helped in their language regardless of their identity, regardless of the income, and regardless of their immigration status at our Family Justice Centers. So we will have individuals working in the communities and doing outreach. And then they will be able to connect to

specialists, case management advocacy specialists at the Family Justice Centers who are dedicated to the 15 developments in particular. To really provide wraparound support that we do offer at our Family Justice Centers. I know many of you have visited the centers, and know about it. But basically, for those who don't the Family Justice Centers provide wraparound service in one location, and it doesn't matter your language or immigration status. We'll help everyone. We have language capability there. We provide counseling. for children who witnessed domestic violence, counseling for the survivors themselves. Immigration and civil legal assistance, family law assistance. We also- Well, on the East Side we have economic self-empowerment programs. And then we also have colleagues on the other side of our Family Justice Centers from the District Attorney's Offices and from the Police Department. So we really want to make sure that no matter what a person's individual situation, they can talk to somebody about their situation, and have a safety plan, and risk assessment, and wraparound services. So our interaction with this particular mission of the mayor is to make those connections between developments,

and then linking individuals and survivors to those case managers. And we have an eye towards making sure we have the language capability. In fact, our staff that we're bringing on board speak over six languages. So we're really mindful of that as well. I just want to make sure that everyone knows that they don't have to suffer in silence. There is help available, and we want to be able to connect them to really quality services.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'm not sure that you identified yourself.

TRACY WEBER-THOMAS: Oh, I'm sorry. My name is Tracy-Weber Thomas. I'm the Assistant Commissioner for the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, and I work for Commissioner Rose Pierre-Louis.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you, Madam Speaker.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. And I do want to note that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. And so the Public Housing Committee will be holding a hearing specifically on domestic violence

and public housing. Because it's a complicated topic, but it warrants a hearing of its own. With that said, I want to hand over the mic to our host Council Member Inez Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we talk about the Mayor's initiative to reduce violence, you cited that there have been some reductions in the major areas. And we know that the components of that plan included extended hours during the summer, and we know that that plan will also have a thousand jobs as the report says at those 15 NYCHA developments. What do we expect is going to happen if we don't continue those kinds of programs, If we don't continue extended hours of services at community centers? And if we don't find after-school jobs and weekend jobs for the youth. What do you think is going to be the impact of the program if those wraparound services or support services are not maintained?

[background discussion]

LIZ GLAZER: So I think we're evaluating right now what the expanded hours look like. We've been talking to residents and others. One of the questions is- You know, we were open very late

during school nights during the summer because there wasn't school. So, how do we adapt during the school year those kinds of hours? That's something we're looking at right now. Some of these programs are summer programs. Some of them are not summer programs, and so there are new things now starting up. But I think sort of the answer to your question is the whole point here is to figure out what's sustainable, and what's not a one-shot. And so, what works and what doesn't work and that's what we're trying to figure out right now. So there were a series of services, programs that were appropriated to the summer. There are new things that are now starting the fall that I laid out a little bit earlier. And, you know, we're taking it sort of a step at a time.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Are you intending to reach the same number of individuals as you did during the summer because your numbers are quite large in the report. So are these new programs coming in designed to reach and maintain that same number of individuals involved?

LIZ GLAZER: I think that the- My understanding is that the summer months, and I think

DYCD is here and may be able to give you a more in-depth answer. I think the summer months always see much higher participation than we see during the year just because it's the school year, and there are different things going on. So we want to do kind of what's appropriate to the time of year.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And in terms of jobs, we talked about civilization of the Police Department pulling them from the precincts, and putting them into the field, and hiring people. Can we target NYCHA residents for that? You know, Title 3 talks about when jobs are coming in, a certain proportion has to be designated for NYCHA residents. Can we target NYCHA residents? Can we give them some type of priority as we go to look to see, to hire them to fill the slots that have been held by police officers?

CECIL HOUSE: I will have to check on that. Some of the positions that they do hire, I think are based on civil service examinations. I'm not sure of all of them, but I'll have to look into that.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay.

LIZ GLAZER: [off mic] For instance, what is your team.

CECIL HOUSE: As we look at in the past at NYPD hiring, yeah I can assess that in the context of Section 3. And in the past, NYPD has actually done a very good job in that area. So hopefully, we can continue the same programs that we've had in the past. And hopefully enhance them, and that will actually create some opportunities for NYCHA residents.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And lastly, there was a program that I'm putting in place in one of the NYCHA developments. It's part of the Clean-Up Initiative. And I wanted to employ or have NYCHA utilize residents to do simple tasks. You know the mopping, the sweeping, the cleaning, the elevators. Why can't we do that, and it was a big problem. Oh, we can't do it because there are restrictions. So I would implore you to look to see how we can remove those restrictions. You'll be building a sense of pride for the community to be able to look at how beautiful. The beautification of their own residence where they live. So we need to look at removing those restrictions, [applause and cheers] and, you

know, hiring people to maintain. Because as certainly as has been pointed- has been pointed out, there are not enough staff presently being hired, and we need to look at how we could expand that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you Council Member Barron, and I would like to turn over the floor to Council Member Cumbo, who is the foremost advocate of tenant leaders. She never misses an opportunity to remind me how important tenant leaders are to NYCHA.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I just want to say good afternoon to everyone. I'm very proud to be here because I grew up not too far from here, and was educated here at PS-279, the Herman Schreiber School, and then went onto John Wilson 211. So I feel very proud to be here and to be in my own community where I grew up. I wanted to ask a few very I guess quick questions because I one that requires a bit more time. The felony assaults and we talk about these different assaults that are happening, and that there is an increase in that way. Are the assaults that we're talking about, the felony assaults, are the majority of these domestic violence

cases where ultimately the high percentage are men assaulting women in household domestic instance.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Domestic violence, as we speak today, is down a few crimes. The seven majors as well as the assaults, but just a handful. And in these four years, they were the reason that NYCHA overall was up 31%. And out of domestic proceeded the felony assaults. And earlier this year, as late as April, the increase was 20% for this year and assaults and overall domestic. So from April to now, it is heading in the right direction, but more work continues. And it is mostly male on female. I don't have the exact numbers, but I read a lot of the reports.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So the majority.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: And that is theme Absolutely. It's safe to say.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: But the majority of these assaults, the felony assaults are domestic violence cases, men against women.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: From personal experience and reading my complaint reports on almost a daily basis, that has been my-- that has been my experience.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: It's interesting to note that and to talk about that that way because we are seeing this national and international epidemic and understanding where it's coming from is very important. I wanted to talk very just straightforward about the scaffolding because the scaffolding is creating a very dangerous environment in our communities. In my district in Atlantic Terminal they're also creating clusters where rats are breeding there. And it creates very dark environments. It creates a very dangerous health hazard on so many levels. What I want to know very clearly, and what to get straight to it, will that scaffolding be taken down in the communities where there is no construction going on, where there has been no activity on that scaffolding? I want to know concretely, as it was mentioned, in spring will that scaffolding be down?

CECIL HOUSE: So I think is between now and the spring the work will begin and be completed in those locations, and we will take the shedding down in those locations. Now, what may happen because this is- Some of the shedding has been there for a while. As we put in new contracts, the

existing contractor on that shedding may take that shedding down. And the contractor who is going to do the work is going to do the work actually will have to put up their own shedding for liability reasons. So the shedding may come down and go back up for a while, while the work is done, and then ultimately it will come down. And our expectation is that we will not have shedding, if you described it, where there is no active work going on after that point. We will definitely have-- We have a lot of construction projects. Across NYCHA, we're doing a lot of roof work, a lot of bridge work. We will definitely have shedding in NYCHA at an extensive level because we're doing a lot of work. But there should only be shedding where we're doing active construction as we move forward.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay.

CECIL HOUSE: So, we've changed our approach to Local Law 11 violations so that now as we identify our Local 11 violations or weaknesses in our facade are identified, we now have contracts in place so that we can actually address the issue, put it up, and take it down right away.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just want to add that because this is- I've gone to many town hall meetings like this, and the topic of the sheds and the scaffolding continue to come down. I would love this time next year that that conversation is not on the table any more. Because these conversations- You know, you're going to lose people's interest after a while if we keep coming back to discuss the same thing.

CECIL HOUSE: Uh-huh, I agree with you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: On that same one, the broken windows theory. From my vantage point coming from the cultural community, the broken window theory was not meant to service or to harm individuals. It wasn't looking at-- it wasn't to address people. It was to address the environment. And when I look at the different public housing developments, particularly also in my district and Ingersoll and Whitman, over \$100 million went into capital improvements in those two developments. I don't see where that money went. [crowd grumbles] I don't see any change or difference there.

And let me tell you, it's one of those things that when I go- I cannot leave my office as a

Council Member, and have those lobbies, and have those stairwells, and have those elevators, and the front [applause] continue to look dilapidated. I mean they haven't had a can of paint on them in what looks like decades. [applause and cheers] And when we're talking about the broken window theory, the concept behind it was, fix those environments. Create a safe environment. Create a clean environment. Create some place where people feel proud to live. When you leave that, and you start to attack the people versus addressing the issue of the physical environment [applause and cheers] we're going to continue to create that type of environment.

So in the capital resources that are being allocated to our NYCHA developments, the exterior and the common area spaces I mean as a society, as humanity, we have to make sure that people can live in spaces where they are proud to live in. Where they feel safe coming in. Where they can invite family and friends to come over to see them. I mean to have those types of conditions is- And I wanted you all to speak about that definitely. But I just wanted to add something in addition to that. I'm very proud of what happened over the

summer, and my District Chief Gomez informed me that in the 35th Council District we had the highest reduction of crime. I'm very proud of that.

And I would say a lot of it was because like you said, roller skating. I wasn't roller skating for the Mayor. I was roller skating there on a regular basis. I was playing basketball, jump ball, playing space, whatever the thing was to get the community together. But I have to add that some of it, most of it had to come in terms of the activities, the game nights, the movie nights. I had to take that out of my pocket to do that sort of thing. So it's one of those things where I would like to see a collaboration of the Department of Cultural Affairs to make sure [applause] that those organizations that we're giving funding so that they are required-

We're giving millions of dollars to cultural institutions, and they should have some kind of requirement or there should be some type of slant to say, If you're receiving this money, we want to see you do something in public housing to make sure that close that gap. [applause and cheers] And then finally, the last thing that I would say is the

police presence there, right. We had incredible police presence in terms of doing dynamic work. And Commanding Officer Delgado was fantastic at PSA3, awesome. But what I would say is I know him, and I know the Community Affairs Officers, but the rest of the individuals that are in the development, I don't know them, and neither do the other people. How can we create an environment where they know their regular police officers, the police officers know them.

So that you start to create this environment of knowing one another, actually caring about one another. Because it's difficult to say hello or good morning or good afternoon to someone on a regular basis and then throw them up against the wall. So if we create that type of environment where we know one another, and those officers are there regularly and the community knows who they are beyond the Community Affairs, I think that we would have a much better and safer community. So just in closing, if you could speak to the issue of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Broken Windows, and real broken windows, not people, and the same officers patrolling would be very helpful. Thank you. [applause]

CECIL HOUSE: Council Member I hear you, and I share your concern over the look and the feel of the lobbies. Some of the stair halls in the development have not gotten the focus and the attention that we at NYCHA would like to place them. So we agree with you 100% on that. With respect to the investment in the developments that you mentioned, I mean if you look at the interior of those apartments, you would find that quite of them have had kitchens and baths renovated. And they have been modernized over the last few years, and the roofs and the facades have been made- made to provide more protection from the elements.

If you keep in mind, you know, one of our top priorities is in our capital investment, and, you know, it clearly is not adequate capital investment that we're getting from the federal government. We're getting about half of what we used to get from the federal government, and it is actually to preserve the buildings. And if we're not able to focus on the roofs, and the facades to keep the weather out of those buildings, then they are going to deteriorate and ultimately become uninhabitable. We don't want that to happen. That's

top priority. To the extent that we are able to get resources, to focus on other areas, we are very excited and very interested to do that, and very willing to do that as well.

And I think this is an area where as we begin to think about the capital plan or capital program for the future, more resident engagement. And more resident involvement in reviewing and assessing, and providing input to the priorities would prove very helpful for NYCHA overall. With respect to our overall program, we have actually invested quite a bit in addressing maintenance issues that do impact the condition of developments. Lighting, you know, general repair issues. Clearly we would like to do more. We would definitely like to do more, but we are actually focused on making the developments as comfortable as decent for the residents as we can-

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: What do you think people-

CECIL HOUSE: - with the resources that we have.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I'm sorry to cut you off. When do you feel that people will start to

see that or when will you start to? Because I walk in the developments, and part of me feels like, Why don't we just go get John and Paul or someone, or let's go to Home Depot and get some paint, and let's just fix up this. Because I can't hear tenant Lita So-So one more time saying dah-dah-dah-dah when I know it's just a simple- I think I could fix it. You know, if it gets to the point where I as a Council Member feel genuinely like, Let's just get some kids together and some young people, and let's just go paint it ourselves. You know what I mean? When it's getting to that point. So I respectfully- You know, I did not go on the campaign trail with most of those apartments. So I didn't see, and I'm not trying to belabor a point because it was with a past administration, but I didn't see \$100 million worth of renovations. [applause and cheers] You know what I mean? I don't even want to say what dollar amount I think I saw, but I didn't see that.

CECIL HOUSE: I think that that investment has been made over time, and I think we can sit down or go through the development and demonstrate what work has been, and what work is still to come at those locations. And I say with

respect to other areas of interest or whatever issues, to the extent that there are resources are available, we would be very happy to sit down with you and with the leaders at those developments to talk about how those resources were being spent.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: It makes sense, and if you can talk.

LIZ GLAZER: I just want to say I think that the points you're making are absolutely key and go to the heart of what this whole joint venture is about. So crime is about a lot of things. It's about the look and feel of places.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Right.

LIZ GLAZER: And so the lights in some ways were sort of that first opening wedge in. Having the kids in the Summer Youth Employment Program, and go through the developments that they lived in to figure out if graffiti here or broken windows there need a coat of paint here, that they can get hot wired right into what the agency's plans are. That's another piece. So I think this is all part of something that has to be organic right, and that we need to take seriously what that look and

feel is because it has a big impact on how people feel about where they live.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: That's right.

LIZ GLAZER: And I think it's also about relationships. It's about relationships among people who live in the neighborhood. It's about relationships between the police, and people who were there. And I know that the Chief would like to say a word to that. So I think that these are all- You've hit it right on, you know, the nail on the head. Those are all pieces of this.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just want to add as that takeaway to make sure that the Department of Cultural Affairs is part of this dialogue and conversation.

LIZ GLAZER: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: And that they are held to the same standard as all of the partners in this. It would be very important. [applause] Yeah, very interesting. So thank you for that.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: Yes, communication, and establishing relationships in the communities that we serve is certainly a key ingredient in the recipe for success and recipe for good police

community relations. I know Julio- Inspector Delgado works very hard. I know he goes- he hosts his own meeting every month. I know he goes to the district meeting with Ray Bower. I attended one of those. I think it was actually in Dockens [sic] or Sumner. It may have been in the Sumner. But certainly the residents should know not just Inspector Delgado and DSO and the Lieutenants, but the officers also.

LIZ GLAZER: That's right.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: That is why when I had mentioned earlier I asked the Impact Officers and as an Impact Zone to do wellness visits. They're giving out tip cards. But I'm going to look into inviting these officers to the next Council meeting, and if there is ever a meeting that is at all concerning this initiative, and one of these future stats, what better way to introduce officers from PSA than in a meeting. And the borough community that was here in this room, Chief Dave Colon has many years of experience in the Community Affairs Bureau. So Dave, I know you're out there, and let's put our collective minds together, and see how we could do this. Again, from personal experience, interactions,

they form friendships, and they certainly mean a lot.
I speak for the officers as well for a community.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I would just add
in closing that I really- I've spoken about this at
other hearings as well, and it seems to fall in the
zone of it's a good idea. But I would very much like
for it to move from good idea to implementation.
Particularly if we're going to be looking at these 15
developments, why not see if this could be something
that could happen in those 15 developments
specifically to see. If we create real community
partnerships and relationships where individuals know
one another, does that have an impact on the
reduction of crime? I believe it would, but it would
be good to see if this could be implemented and moved
from the good idea stage to implementation.

CHIEF CARLOS GOMEZ: I agree. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you, Council
Member Cumbo. Do you have a comment?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I just want to-
I want to actually- Well, good afternoon, everybody.
I wanted to address a question that was asked about
collaboration with DYCD and DOE, and how we can move

forward. I mean I think the success of the summer, the programming had to do with the collaboration of the agencies coming together to do its work as a community. To make sure that we have safe communities all around the city. But in respect to DOE, that is something that we broached this year. One of the things we at DYCD and our programming has to do with providing support for families and in particular with academics.

In particular with the Core competencies knowing that students struggle in many of our communities and many of our kids and families. Working with DOE and now asking parents to provide us with the OSIS number in our applications so that way we're able to bridge with DOE and get information about test scores, and just attendance. And making sure that there is some type of communication between now, the programming of an after school with DOE. And we're beginning that to figure out how to make those connections, and how to work together to support our families. That is something DYCD has begun a couple of months ago. Now with the school year, we're trying it out.

But it's different. It's not only an application. It's about how we then connect with our parents, and how we now connect with the schools. And so, then this summer what's been very promising has been the family engagement that occurred in the summer. I think that there were certain nights and certain locations, because every location is different, and we need to understand that there are different needs in every community. But I think as successful as having that potluck dinner. And getting to know the parents that normally you don't get a chance to know because either they're working and they're running or they're just picking up their children. And you don't have that communication.

Having a skate [sic] night competition, which it was an opportunity for parents to meet other parents. And normally they don't go out. In the summer at night it darkens later. And so then allowing more people in the community that don't socialize, have an opportunity to socialize. I think one of the best practices that we learned is having these events to get the community to come out, and begin to have those conversations about so what is that you need, and how can we help your children?

It is a beginning stage, but I just want to let you know that it is a concern of ours. And it's really bridging what's going in the day, and how to support in the evening. And it's just moving forward and testing what works, and then figuring out what mistakes. So then that way we can change it up, and then we can move forward from there. I just wanted to make sure I addressed that piece.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So we're going to move toward concluding the panel because I know many of the tenants are eager to testify. But I do want to address the issue about the dilapidation of the public housing stock. And I want to know how large is the backlog in unmet capital use for NYCHA?

[Pause]

CECIL HOUSE: I think when you look at the amount of work that currently needs to occur in order to bring the developments up to the standard that we would like them to be at, you're looking at a given the time frame that it would take to get the work done between \$6 to \$8 billion or \$15 billion or \$18 billion. So it's a fairly large investments that are going to be required over the next five years to get those developments up.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So NYCHA- So in order to bring the Public Housing stock, all of the buildings into a state of good repair-

CECIL HOUSE: Right.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: -NYCHA would need \$18 billion?

CECIL HOUSE: That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And so that backlog I imagine did not emerge unintended. [sic]

CECIL HOUSE: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: It was created by disinvestment.

CECIL HOUSE: Over the last 10 to 15 years, the capital funding coming to NYCHA from the federal government has continually been inadequate to meet the needs of the Public Housing.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: In fact, you're receiving half of what you were receiving 10 or 15 years ago.

CECIL HOUSE: Exactly.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: How much do you receive? Do you have a dedicated funding stream from the State?

CECIL HOUSE: We do not.

2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Do you have a
3 dedicated funding stream from the City?

4 CECIL HOUSE: We do not have a specific
5 funding stream from the City. We have gotten funds
6 dedicated for some specific projects, yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So that answers the
8 question why we have a dilapidated Public Housing
9 stock because you're receiving half of what you used
10 to receive from the federal government, and you're
11 receiving no dedicated funding from the City and
12 State government. So the people who deserve the
13 blame would not be NYCHA, but the political class as
14 well.

15 CECIL HOUSE: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And with that said-
17 As part of the shed removal, we would like periodic
18 briefings or reports on the process of the shed
19 removal. So if you would, keep us posted on how
20 that's progressing. And I want to ask one more
21 question about the cameras because I know that's...
22 Is how much- One point of controversy is that it
23 takes NYCHA frankly too damn long to install cameras.
24 Has that improved, and how more quickly are cameras
25 being installed.

CECIL HOUSE: Yes, so the funding that we received last year will be completed by the end of this year. And the funding that we received in this current fiscal year, as I identified, and I think you got the list, will be completed before the end of this fiscal year, before June.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So you're able to install the cameras within a year of receiving funding? Is that fair?

CECIL HOUSE: That's correct. The actual installation depends. It varies.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Right.

CECIL HOUSE: In some places the installation is a few weeks. In other places the installation depending on the size of the investment can be a few months. I think the challenge that we've had is actually to- From the funding, identifying the funding. We actually have a process where we make sure that the local leaders at the development are engaged in helping to make the decisions around how the funding is invested. If we're not getting enough to do everything, that all of the locations want, so we do have to make the decisions. Once we make those decisions, then we

move into the construction phase. Then we have significantly reduced the amount of time that it takes us to do that.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And that's the extent of our questions. I want to thank the panel for coming here, and for fully cooperating with the Committee, and for your substantive testimony. Thank you so much. [applause]

[Pause]

[discussions among the crowd]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'm calling this hearing to order. Thank you. So we are-

[Pause]

[discussions among the crowd]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So our next panel is going to consist of four organizations. The point of today's hearing is to think about crime comprehensively, to think about it beyond policing. It's about bringing art and programs to Public Housing. And so we have four organizations that provide programs that proven models for mobilizing and engaging the community and reducing violent crime. And so among them is Timothy Washington from

Man Up; Dennis Acevedo From Green City Force; Amy from Groundswell; and Bob from Council for Unity.

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And we'll begin- We'll begin with Mr. Washington. I know you have time constraints.

TIMOTHY WASHINGTON: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Timothy Washington from the community-based organization called Man Up, Inc. We're based in the eastern most section of Brooklyn, and located on 32nd Avenue. We have a variety of different programs inside the organization from administration, after school programs, summer camps, mentoring. We have a job development center, Ready for Work, and the department that I represent today is the Anti-Violence Department. We replicate a model out of Chicago called Cure Violence. It is basically a structured model just to go about reducing shootings and killings in a specific area. When we first launched it, we were in the Unity Plaza area in the east lower section of Brooklyn and we were able to go 101 days with nobody being shot or killed in that area. And the positions consist of

Outreach Worker, Violence Interrupter, and Hospital Responder.

A Violence Interrupter is a person that goes in the deepest. They go into areas if they get a call about a specific beef, that's related to gun beefs, and they mediate the situation. And God forbid if it's shooting that happens, they prevent retaliations.

An Outreach Worker is a person that's similar to that. It's a social worker. They try to provide the necessary resources such as jobs, schools, training, anything that a particular individual in that neighborhood needs. And we deal with high-risk individuals.

High-Risk Individuals are the people that's in a neighborhood that are considered shooters, people that really like a terror in the neighborhood. And we try to provide the necessary to them because those are the people nobody really want to work with them.

And we are Credible Messengers. Credible Messengers are the people from a specific area that go back in the same area, and try to put out some of the fires that they once helped create. So the right

Credible Messengers and the right people doing the model effectively, you'll see the numbers drop. So to date in 322 days nobody has been killed in our neighborhood. At 46 days nobody has been shot. The longest we were able to go was last year I don't know if you all heard about the clipping in Daily News and Neil Todd [sp?], he was able to go a whole year, 367 days and nobody was shot or killed, and not targeting them. Which consisted of Linden Houses, Boulevard Houses, and the Linden Houses, Boulevard Houses, and the Penn-Wortman Houses. That's the target area that we work in now, and we are still in that target area now. So we are looking to expand, but with the right wraparound services and the right resources for the highest individuals you will see that gun violence will go down in our community. And all you have to do is replicate the model correctly, and you will see that gun violence will definitely decrease. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So we heard about Mr. Washington about the Violence and Eruption Model. It's about people who might have been in gangs before who have street clout and use their street clout [sic] who will use their street clout to interrupt

violence on the part of our youth. So that's one approach. And the second organization that specifically targets unemployed and under-employed youth in public housing is Green City Force. And so I want to give Dennis an opportunity to speak about that.

DENNIS ACEVEDO: Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. Chairman Ritchie Torres, Members of the Committee on Public Housing and Council Member Barron and other distinguished members of the City Council and Administration, thank you for allowing me to share my own Green City Force perspective. Underneath is a broader stakeholder's engagement in the plan to reduce violent crime at public housing in particular. Not only here in Community District 42, but citywide. I am Dennis Acevedo, and I am Senior Director of programs for Green City Force throughout Eastern Brooklyn and we are on a AmeriCorps Program.

Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty, prepare NYCHA urban young adults to succeed in their chosen careers by engaging them in service, training, and work experience as related to the Clean Energy refinement. In doing so, Green City Force

encourages them to lead socially, and environmentally responsible lives. We are working towards a green city built principles of sustainability, social, economic, and environmental justice. Since inception in 2009, Green City Force has served 300 NYCHA 18 to 24-year-old opportunity youth and have achieved a 80% graduation rate, and an 80% placement rate for work and college.

I was born in Marlborough Houses, and live there until I turned 18, and I left to attend University. Stony Brook University. I still came home during summers and holidays, but it was my way out of the violence that I had seen nearly everyday in the streets, roads, and parks in Marlborough Houses. One day when I was about 12 years old, I ran to see my neighbor stab his own brother right in front of my very eyes. I remember hearing gun shots in the middle of the night, and hoping that it wasn't someone I knew, or worse, one of my family members like my father who work late nights to support our family. There are too many stories to share, and many that I erased from my memory because they are too painful to even think about today.

So one generation our core members have similar experiences to mine. In her July 2014 graduation speech, NYCHA resident Crystal Reed stated: Green City Force gave me a purpose, and now I see that I was brought here for a reason, to help others make out the same way I did. I am walking, talking, breathing example of someone who was heading right to their grave, almost facing seven years to life in prison. I am here to tell you that all of it was worth it because eventually I ended up in Green City Force with the absolute feeling of not wanting to go back to my old days. We have to recognize the problem to find the solution, and that is what I found with Green City Force. And I don't want to be a problem to my community any more. I am passionate and proud to be part of the solution, and now I know how. [bell]

At Green City Force, we also believe in the boundless potential of young adults especially those living in NYCHA. We offer concrete and positive alternatives to violence and invite young people from NYCHA to be part of the solution. GCF members are making buildings more energy efficient and extending access to helping poor and low

communities. In the process, they are gaining multiple skills, gaining confidence, finding a positive cure, and get on a path to careers.

In our experience, when offered, young people answer with yes to building a positive future for themselves and their communities. At Green City Force, young NYCHA adults can take action. A quote from GCF team leader Lawrence Harris states, Green City Force has played a major role in coming into these neighborhoods and really showing this is a better way to success whether it's in entering the job market or going to school, or showing them that they don't have to take anger out because they are in poverty.

Without Green City Force many of our core members would be engaged in drug trafficking, gang involvement, and violence and whatever means is necessary to get money just to survive another day. Children learn that to give is to receive and that there is big difference between doing well in the world and doing great for the world. In that space, there is no tolerance for gang and violence.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to address a need for a greater investment in

engaging young adults, particularly those in NYCHA as part of the solution to this serious issue of violence prevention through expanding programs and services for NYCHA residents. Thank you for your time. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And just on a personal note, I not only chair the Committee on Public Housing, but I grew up in public housing, and I had a chance to speak to some of the public housing youth in your program. And it was probably the most gratifying experience I've had as a Council Member. So it's a powerful program, and I appreciate the work that you do. I wish I were an alumnus. But we have Violence Interruption from Man Up. We have leadership development from Green City Force.

And as Council Member Cumbo pointed out, we need to the arts. We need to bring the arts to public housing, and it's a critical part of the equation. So I want to invite Amy from Groundswell to say a few words.

AMY SANANMAN: Thank you for the honor and privilege to testify on the value of the arts as a cross-sector tool for change. My name is Amy Sananman, and I'm Executive Director of Groundswell.

Groundswell has employed and engaged thousands of artists, disadvantaged youth, and community members, including hundreds of NYCHA residents in creating visible and permanent change through the production of over 500 works of public art across the city. And there are samples in your packet.

We applaud the City's commitment to reduce violence through expanded programs. As the cultural capital of the world, New York City should be the global leader in using one of our greatest assets: creativity, to engage youth and communities in both physical and personal transformation. At Groundswell, we don't talk about broken windows. We talk about youth and communities aspired- I'm sorry, inspired by their own potential; about communities creating their own narratives, solving complex problems together. And making our neighborhoods more beautiful places to live by revealing their hidden treasures.

I'd like to share a headline from my more extensive written testimony. Cultural activities provide youth with an identity they can be proud of as opposed to a pathology, a diagnosis, or a serial number. When youth do real life projects with adult

stakeholders, and highly public real life consequences, they are inspired to aspire. Their sense of self esteem increases. They raise the bar on their own performance and aspirations. Feeling more inspired and empowered about their futures, we see young people take school more seriously resulting in an increase in grades, a path to a career, life long civic engagement, and overall better long-term choices.

Each year scores of community partners leverage the Groundswell process to raise awareness, transform spaces, build critical connected tissue between youth, communities, local businesses, government agencies, schools, police, et cetera. For example through one Groundswell initiative young adult probation clients and community residents are creating a beautiful mural corridor along Historic Pitkin Avenue benefitting Brownville's entire population through a strengthened business district and quality of life improvements.

Through another initiative, Hunts Point residents come together across racial, economic, and generational divides to prioritize policy changes and suggestions for the New York City Department of

Transportation. As this ambitious initiative gets underway, Groundswell calls for keeping the progressive arts community at the table by valuing and supporting youth and adult partnerships and prospective strategies; inspiring participation through Expanded Pay Summer, and school year cultural program; activating community centers by providing non-profit no or low cost program space.

And finally, producing beautiful, visible, valuable public art that can generate momentum for growth, and bell] Attract other private/public investments. Promoting and publicizing NYCHA resident achievements. In this time of possibilities, we need to dream big, feel connected, and propose bold new ideas. Thank you for your time. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Finally, we are going to have Bob DeSana from Council for Unity.

BOB DE SANA: Thank you panel for this opportunity to present the Council for Unity program to you. The Council for Unity is a very unique program because it was born out of gang violence, and it was founded by gang members. The commitment they made was to create an alternative culture that met

the same needs and kicks that gangs did, but in a healthy way. From that miracle, the Board of Education adopted this program. A curriculum was developed and the Council of Unity model now extends from Buffalo and through all five boroughs. The Council offers one of the most holistic approaches to these problems. We are school based, we are community based, we're law enforcement based, and we are involved in the correctional facility model in New York State. We're in Sing Sing and we're in the Suffolk County Jail. We use prisons as a community asset to prevent crime because Council for Unity members in prison are the messengers that we need. Almost all of my employees are ex-gang members, ex-convicts, ex-drug dealers who turned their lives around. And they bring a profound message that they have spoken. I want to give the remaining amount of time that I have to Michael Hines who grew up in public housing, and is now applying the anti-violence programs in five communities in New York State with the highest amount of gun violence.

MICHAEL HINES: I want to speak to the audience as well. My name is Michael Hines. I'm the Director of actual programs for Council for Unity.

Like you two distinguished gentlemen, I grew up in Far Rockaway Edgemere [sp?] houses. My story it turned out differently. Growing up, my parents addicted to drugs. So I was forced to go outside to play with people that were just like me. We had Edgemere Community Center, but when we went to Edgemere Community Center there was nothing for us to do. There was nothing for us to do. So if, in fact, there is nothing to do in the community centers, we're on the block. At 19 years old, no prior criminal history, just got a football scholarship to New York Tech. On Labor Day Weekend I go to a party at Edgemere, and to make a long story short, there was a fight. I had a fight with a young man. I was told when I was small if you have a problem with someone, you don't get a weapon, you don't do this. You fight them like a man because you can wipe your bruises off, and you'll be all right. I don't teach my children that now. As a result of the fight, the young man passed away. My 19th birthday, my 20th, my 21st, my 22nd, my 23rd, my 24th, my 25th, my 26th, my 27th [bell], my 28th, my 29th, my 30th, my 31s, my 32nd, my 33rd, my 34th, my 35th, my 36th, and my 37th birthday in a maximum security prison.

This year through the City Council with the Anti-Gun Initiative, we were give a mission for five locations throughout the city with the highest violence rate, actually to go in there and implement our school programs.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'm sorry, your two minutes are up.

MICHAEL HINES: Two minutes?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Yes.

MICHAEL HINES: Wow, that was successful. We have a website. What we're actually doing is, we're doing the comprehensive curriculum that the schools are doing, but I add a minimal component where they kids come to talk about- The issues in the comprehensive curriculum are: How Does Peer Pressure Influence Behavior? Positive Relationships for Young Men and Young Women. Positive Relationships Between Parents and Children. And as a result of the conversations we have, the kids go and write screenplays. They write their own screenplays, and in the process of that in the program we have agreed to a five-minute mini-movie that kids actually wrote. That the kids filmed. That the kids acted in. And I

will be the first to tell you, if it wasn't for those after school programs, where would our kids be?

Gangs and the Housing Authority is a major problem. What are we doing to address those issues? My situation is if we could come up with an incentive like the radio program that have kids in it. Once they're there, now we can work on the positive aspect and start to change them. My thing is with the master's program, with a master's degree, I tell that shiny car, that big house it don't come from the streets. That comes from education. In a nutshell, if we- I'm talking about really, really want to make a difference in the New York City Housing Authority, we have to find out what these gang guys need and try to help them, and we need help. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: We had Council for Unity, Green City Force, Man Up, which implements a violence and eruption model, and Groundswell. So there are four programs that I believe could transform public housing if we were to bring them to public housing. It's not enough to make repairs. It's not enough to install cameras. We need programs that take care of the whole person and the whole

community in public housing. And so, these are four proven models, and I thank you for the work that you do. Actually, my colleague has a question.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Just very briefly I want to thank all of you for your presentation. But I have to give kudos to Man Up. [applause and cheers] I know the work that they do. Many of you know the work that they do. I know Andre T. Mitchell is out of town, but he is the Executive Director of the program and the Violence Interruption that they do and the Cure Violence and the Cease Fire is remarkable, as he told you. And this is a group that started out of a handful of young men and young women. It's Man Up, but they also have women who out of their commitment and love for the community decided that they would patrol the streets themselves. They don't have guns. They don't have weapons. What they have is intelligence. What they have is training, and they did it for several years without any kind of funding. Simply out of the commitment to improve the community, and they now have grown to be a very substantial organization. And I just have to let you know how proud I am of the work that you do. Thank you. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just want to- For the gentleman back there from the Mayor's Office, I just want to say this is Council for Unity, Green City Force, Groundswell, all the programs that need to be funded in public housing. I just want to say that.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: So in addition, I, too, want to thank all the people for your testimony and for all the incredible work you do. I share the sentiments of my colleagues. Not only am I proud, but I am jealous. Man Up is incredible [applause] and we do not have a Man Up in the Bronx. But I can tell you the violence interrupters, the hospital responders, the people that are on the ground make the difference, and in addition to Man Up and I Love My Life, Save Our Streets, Guns Down, Life Up, there's so many of these incredible programs with people that understand our community and can talk to our young people through the arts, through culture, through interruption, through at-risk. And making sure that there are programs in place. So I applaud all the work you do. And I also want to mention since you talk about the Anti-Gun Violence Initiative that was started by the City Council by Council

Members Jumaane Williams and Fernando Cabrera
[applause], this year we expanded those programs.

So like he said, we started in five
neighborhoods. But this year, we're going to 15 in
the City of New York. [applause] So we are
expanding beyond the five neighborhoods. We're going
across ten more neighborhoods. In Far Rockaway, in
Bed-Sty, in Brownsville, in the South Bronx, in the
East Bronx, Queensbridge. We're going throughout the
entire city because we recognize the good work that
started, and we must continue. And the one way we
continue is by investing money, and by making sure
that you do the work that you do, and you continue to
do that work. So I thank you for being here, and
continue to do the great work. Thank you again.
[applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So as wonderful as
all of you are, you can be as wonderful as the
residents. So we want to hear from them. So thank
you so much for your testimony. [applause] So we
are going to call on a few advocates and residents.
Heidi Cain from the Legal Aid Society. Leah Goodrich
from the Urban Justice Center. Marie Boone from
Tilden Houses. Mr. Grungo [sp?] from Canarsie

Houses. Edward Tyree from Gowanus Resident Council,
and-

MALE SPEAKER: [off mic]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Latisha? Well, I'm
the Chair so I will call the Teamsters up. So there.
Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And Rebecca Ferguson
from the Teamsters. So that's it. Remilda. [sp?]
I'm sorry. And we have Wendy Nathario [sp?]

FEMALE SPEAKER: MacLaren.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: MacLaren. Okay,
sorry. Someone's handwriting.

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: I'm going to
squeeze in one more person Joanne Brown, and we're
going to do several panels before we get to everyone.
So that we get to everyone. Is Joanne Brown here?

FEMALE SPEAKER: Lisa Kenner.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Lisa Kenner?

FEMALE SPEAKER: Lisa, she's not here.
She's gone.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: We have Lisa Kenner
from-

FEMALE SPEAKER: No, she's coming.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: She's coming? All right from Vandyke House. Okay, great.

[background discussion]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay, so we'll start with the Legal Aid Society.

HEIDI CAIN: Hi, my name is Heidi Cain. I'm an attorney with the Legal Aid Society's Anti-Gun Violence Unit. It's really wonderful. It's an honor to speak here. Thank you so much Chairperson Torres, Council Member Barron, Council Member Gibson who is not here right this second. But it's an honor to actually follow the group that just- the panel that just spoke because my unit, the Anti-Gun Violence Unit at the Legal Aid Society is funded by the City Council Taskforce to Combat Gun Violence. So we are funded specifically to work with groups like Man Up, Inc. to provide them with legal support, and provide their participants and the other community members that they work with who have been affected by gun violence with legal support. Basically, you know, it is an honor to be speaking here today.

Everyone in New York City has a right to safe housing. This right applies to residents of

both public and private housing. Feeling safe in one's home means having working legal locks to the building and to the apartment. It means having a working intercom system. It means that the elevators in the building function regularly. It also means that when conditions such as mold, rodents, and plumbing problems need to be addressed or repaired, the landlord is responsive and repairs them without delay. Feeling safe in a home also means that one's friends and relatives can visit without fear that they will face harassment by the police, or suffer the indignity of being stopped, searched, or arrested without probable cause. Often, solely because of the color of their skin. Feeling safe means living in a community where residents feel heard and supported.

[applause]

I'd like to highlight three points from the written testimony that you guys have today. One, over-policing is not the answer to safety in public housing. Number two, the City must continue to invest in approaches like the panel before us. Community based approaches that focus on prevention rather than over-arresting and over-incarceration. And three, that NYCHA must focus on repairs in

apartments and in buildings to achieve safety, not just on installing security cameras.

Many NYCHA residents live in equal fear of people committing crimes, and of the NYPD that patrol their buildings. Unfortunately, indifference and disrespect by the NYPD for people, families and especially young men and women of color, who reside in public housing, have become the norm in the NYCHA community. The Legal Aid's Society is counsel in *Davis vs. the City of New York*, which challenges as unconstitutional the NYPD's practice of stopping and arresting residents in legitimate businesses [bell] of residents in New York City Public Housing. The case also challenges the racially targeted practice of the NYPD known as stop and frisk. If NYCHA does not understand and address the underlying root causes of crime and violence rely instead on policies that harass and disrespect members of the community, the violence of NYCHA's residents' Constitutional rights is the inevitable result.

We can achieve safety in many ways, but it does not need to be through over-policing. Any policy that addresses the safety of NYCHA must embrace community-based programs that examine,

understand, and interrupt root causes of crime and violence.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Madam, your time is up.

HEIDI CAIN: Okay, and such programs specifically we had a panel before Man Up, Inc., Life Camp, and South Jamaica-Queens, SOS Crown Heights, and SOS South Bronx, and Harlem SNUG and 49 Strong out in Staten Island. Those are programs that work at resolving root causes of violence that we support continued funding for. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: The Urban Justice Center.

LEAH GOODRICH: Good afternoon. My name is Leah Goodrich, and I'm a staff attorney at the Safety Net Project of the Urban Justice Center. We combine direct legal services, affirmative litigation, research, and policymaking to achieve economic justice for all New Yorkers. I am part of our NYCHA Dignity Campaign, which litigates on behalf of NYCHA residents in all five boroughs to apply repairs. I'm here to speak to you today about the intersection of violent crime and repairs in NYCHA developments.

Systemic building repairs are the silent accomplice to violent crimes in NYCHA developments. Without the facilitation and aid of the accomplice, the crime would have less likelihood of success. NYCHA residents know this all too well. For example, take the story of Mary Green whose name has been changed to protect her identity, but she is one of my clients. Although the walk from the subway station to Mary Green's apartment door total ten minutes, Mary dreads this trek. After work, she picks up her 6-year-old son Kevin, and the two of them make it home by 9:00 p.m. As Mary exits the subway, she looks down at Kevin and says, You know the drill, buddy. He does. Talk, talk time over. Walk fast like mommy. No stop. They hurry past loiterers under the building's blue scaffolding, which blocks exterior lighting. When Mary and her son reach the building's entrance front door, the result of a broken intercom, which is unlocked, they are greeted by a man who Mary does not recognize standing in the lobby. Mary's uncertainty of whether the stranger is a tenant or trespasser is settled when he asks her for a dollar. Thoughts flood her mind. Will he rob

me? How fast can little Kevin run upstairs if this man assaults me?

The absence of cameras in the lobby has emboldened criminals in Mary's development. Fortunately, she passes the man only to see a sign on the elevator, which reads "Out of order. Ticket No. 4516." Left with no other choice, Mary and her son climb the nine flights of dangerous [sic] stairs to 9J. She claps tightly onto her son with one hand, and lifts up her cell phone at the light with the other unveiling graffiti and urine stained walls. They pass shadowy figures in the stairwell smoking and loitering and hissing. But she finally reaches her door unharmed, and she is relieved about that.

Now, those ten minutes of Mary's life are an indelible reality for many NYCHA residents who are more vulnerable to violent crime due to the shoddy conditions of the premises. Over 40% of NYCHA residents surveyed in the Report by the Manhattan Borough President and other elected officials, said they feel unsafe in their building's staircases. 45% of residents surveyed said their lobby had working locks. [bell] My son was mugged, but when we went

to the police, we couldn't get a picture because the camera was off, one respondent said.

These languishing repairs have proven to be powerful allies to criminals working in tandem to deteriorate walls built to protect New York's poor. An out of order elevator can aid a rapist who can lurk in a stairwell waiting for the convenient time to strike. Scaffolding can partner with a robber to provide a convenient dark location to hold an unsuspecting passer-by hostage. Non-working intercoms, which result in unsecured entrance doors can help trespassers enter developments. Broken front door locks can accompany a burglar who breaks into a tenant's apartment. The absence of light in the stairwell may facilitate an assault in a darkened area. And as we all know, inoperative cameras can assist a murderer who can take a child's life without fear of identification.

Mary Lou Kepp [sp?] couldn't be here today, but they wanted to let you know of their story. We go into our list of things that can be done to alleviate the nexus between crime and repairs, and that's our testimony, our written testimony that we provided.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Which I think is a point that Council Member Cumbo made earlier is when think of our broken windows, it's not about over-policing communities. It's about repairing the physical environment, which in those communities I suspect that's a reality. So I want to invite the Teamsters who represent most of the employees at the New York City Housing Authority, particularly the frontline employees who have been savagely cut by the budget gaps created by this investment.

REMILDE FERGUSON: Yes. Yes, sir. Thank you, Chairman Torres, and the members of the Public Housing Committee for convening this hearing on Mayor de Blasio's plan to reduce violent crime in public housing. My name is Remilde Ferguson. I'm Director of the Housing Division for Local 237. I'm here to represent my President Gregory Floyd, who represents nearly 9,000 members working in NYCHA developments. We welcome and thank the Mayor for putting for this initiative. Police reports tell us that shootings at public housing increased by 30% here alone. For my President, this is not just a statistic we read about. No, it's more of a warning about the dangers

to our members. One-third whom also reside in public housing faced on a daily basis.

As to the Union President, he told his concern about the environment in which his workers work. The workers who had to dodge bullets really accelerated that concern. With this in mind, he would like to offer two additions to the Mayor's Plan, which in his opinion would not only help increase protection for our workers, but also in so doing help to further reduce the crime in public housing.

First, Governor Cuomo at our urging recently signed a bill into law elevating a misdemeanor in the third degree against a NYCHA to a Class C violent felony offense. Thereby, upgrading penalties for our workers on a par with municipal workers such as police, fire fighters and emergency technician. Our members have been shot, slashed, and otherwise assaulted on the job. Mayor de Blasio in a letter to the Governor pressing him to sign this pending legislation though that this bill would complement its own crime reduction plan, and, thereby serve as a strong deterrent against assault and intimidation of NYCHA workers. But this law is so

much more. This will go a long way towards counteracting the current existing environment of anything goes at public housing largely because random acts of violence would have tougher consequences. The penalties of this law should be well publicized. There needs to be mass advertising. They need to put the fear into potential criminal and let them think, Is it worth the time to do the crime. All NYCHA residents and workers will benefit from this.

Second, the Mayor's Plan calls from surveys engagement with NYCHA residents to identify existing problems and develop opportunities to find solutions. We also suggest talking to our members at Local 237. They know the turf. They know the nooks, the crannies. They know the stairwells. They know the hotspots. They work in them. They live among them. Local 237 NYCHA workers may have valuable recommendations ranging from where better lighting is needed to where the best place security cameras should be put. [bell] And areas in the playground that are frequently inhabited by the drug dealers. Clearly, our members are an important resource that

no plan to reduce violent crime can afford to exclude.

In summary, on behalf of Local 237, we applaud the effort to reduce violent crime at public housing, but we believe that our members who work and live there should be involved as both a guide and a deterrent from within who will serve as a tremendous asset in helping this plan ultimately achieve its goal. Thank you. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you. Now, I look forward to hearing from some of the tenants.

MARIE BOONE: Good afternoon. Thank you Chair Torres, Council Woman Barron, and Council Woman Gibson. My name is Marie Boone from Tilden Houses. I'm the resident president there, and I'm very, very annoyed. When I read about the development list of 15, I could not understand why I was totally omitted. Across the street from me is Brownsville. To left-to the right Van Dyke. Across from and on the other side is Riverdale Towers [sic]. For the last two years, Tilden has been plagued with street gangs. Street gangs mean children between the ages of 9 to 21 using bats, sticks, wrapping their hand in a chain. And so, what happened was this has been going

on for two years. We had the community to come up.
[sic] We had different folks come out to speak, and
the kids were constantly fighting each other without
no real reason. But for whatever reason, Tilden was
left out. Because when kids are fighting in
developments, they fight from left to right, back and
forth.

And what happened? We lost a young man
who was only 18 years of age at the end of August,
and he was on his way to college. And we have the
CCV cameras. Okay, we have that. The young man that
did the shooting he is very much visible on the
camera. In addition to that, the community came out.
But why I waited so long to speak is I think the
Council needs to know what goes on when you receive
funding from the Council. Our funding came from
Ardie Markowitz, [sp?] Senator Schumer, Senator John
Sampson, Council Member Mealy. Do you know what
happens? The funding sits there for years because we
started in 2007. Implementation started in 2009.

Now, what happened next? You have to
deal with contractors. So, therefore, we have to
deal with capital projects. So when they came to us
and said the best NYCHA has to offer today are the

layer access doors. I'm here to tell you, folks, they layer access doors have utilized millions of our dollars. It went into operation February of this year and non-operational as of April of this year.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: At Tilden?

MARIE BOONE: At Tilden.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay.

MARIE BOONE: So then to top it all off, you have the process being milked. Well, I called it milked when I sent my letter to Ceil House, when I sent my letter to the Chair. Because it appears that the money is just being milked by the contractor.

[bell] There is no check and balance, and there is no accountability. So if there is no accountability, Council Barron, you can give all you want. Torres, Mr. Torres, Ms. Gibson, give all you want, but there is no accountability for the money, if I as a resident leader have to rely on NYCHA experts to tell me what to buy, and then it's not there and not working. How do you fix that? Because all of our doors are open, and meanwhile we have had people killed, shot, and stabbed, but we're not on the list. Thank you. [applause]

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2 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you. And I
3 want to thank you for your testimony, and I want to
4 tell you that everyone here on this committed to hold
5 NYCHA accountable and holding NYCHA's feet to the
6 fire. But we need tenants like you to be our eyes on
7 the ground.

8 MARIE BOONE: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So if the layer
10 access system is not functioning as well as NYCHA is
11 advertising it-

12 MARIE BOONE: No.

13 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: If it's not
14 operational within a few months, that's something we
15 should know.

16 MARIE BOONE: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So I'm going to
18 follow up on that. I want to know why that system-
19 But little pieces of information like that on the
20 ground is very helpful to us in doing our jobs so--

21 [Pause]

22 WENDI McLAREN: Yes, hello. My name is
23 Wendi McLaren. I am a former tenant leader up here
24 for Breukelen Houses. I am also a community
25 activist. I am here- I remember in 1994 when we had

the Coolie Attack, which I'll call the merger after takeover. And Police Commissioner Bratton wasn't the Police Commissioner at that time. Many of the things that you all are talking about implementing are the same things that he put out for 1994. The domestic violence issue, the gun issue, all that was here.

Twenty years later, we are at the same point.

Nothing has changed. You know, when we got the-

When the Mayor here that, we lost lots of dollars.

We lost police officers also. I understand there are only 1,870 housing police officer, and there are what, 334 housing developments. How does that number work out with protection? It doesn't. We lost verticals. We don't have verticals. Officers are not coming to the buildings any more. We basically lost our police force period. They're non-existent. This is not about the police.

This is about the scaffolding on the side of the buildings. I live here in Breukelen. My apartment has water damage. The guy from the federal came to my apartment and said, Oh, Wendi, we'll scrape the walls. No, don't scrape my walls. Take care of the outside of the buildings first because it's a waste of money to come and scrape my walls,

1 paint my walls, and the outside has not been taken
2 care of. Okay. An another thing here at Bruekelen
3 we've got new elevators. Elevators hold two or three
4 people only. That's how big they are. But also
5 when you look at our elevators, I doubt that a queen
6 size bed can fit in that elevator. My headboard
7 can't fit in the elevator. These new elevators that
8 we just got in these projects I complained about
9 them, but nothing was done. You should go and look
10 at our elevators.
11

12 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And you're from
13 what development?

14 WENDI MCLAREN: Here. Breukelen. Right
15 here.

16 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Okay. So I can take
17 a look right now.

18 WENDI MCLAREN: [laughs] Yes, that is
19 all I want to say, but you could really-

20 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Are you from
21 Breukelen or from Brookline? [audience responds] I'm
22 kidding. It's a joke. It's a joke.

23 WENDI MCLAREN: I'm from Breukelen. I'm
24 the former tenant leader. I used to be the president
25 here, you know. But Bratton's plans should be looked

at because this is what we were promised and it is the same as what we are talking about now. Thank you. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you so much.

[pause]

LISA KENNA: Testing. [laughter] Okay.

Good afternoon. My name is Lisa Kenna. I'm the President of the Van Dyke Houses, and I am one of those 15. One thing about being one of those 15 you've got light. You can see, but I don't want to see it permanent. That's a waste of money, you know, from the summer and then we're going to turn it off in the winter. And let's face it, that's when the people get run off [sic] in the winter. I love to see the lights. I love to see the police outside. I like the extended hours for the youth because they stay off the streets. A lot of kids did get killed. Unfortunately, Darnell got killed because he was one of my boys.

I did a program for the basketball team so he was one of those boys. But I'm talking about NYCHA. I'm one of those presidents that walk up and down the steps checking if she washed the floor or didn't wash the floor. I email everybody, but there

is no accountability especially if I'm doing it for manager. If she's the manager and I'm working the deputy assistant, she can tell me- she can say the same thing I said. Why do I have to go back and say the same things over here, and they're getting a paycheck. That's why July the 24th, I went to the BMCC. I told them, I want the manager gone, I want the superintendant gone. I want both assistant supers and the supervisor caretaker.

Because I've been Van Dyke. I was born and raised here, 55 years. So I'm telling my age, and my mother taught me you better take care of where you live, and if you don't take care of it nobody else is going to take care of it. [applause] So that's what I try to possess, and that's what I pass on. But if you've got people getting a paycheck, and you ain't doing your work, that defeats the purpose. Now, I know they're trying to build, but just run into me and they're just rushing people like this. I'd rather people didn't know about it. Now, we have a football field, a baseball field, that's supposed to be a baseball field. When it hit the compacting there temporarily, they never fixed it up.

So how would our kids know about baseball or football or learn how to skate? So why can't these kids learn how ride these bikes right here. You can't ride a bike in front of the building because you'll crash into somebody, and they're going to end up being hurt, or you crash into basement. Then your mother got take you to Brookdale. So it's like it's a no-win situation. You know, they said affordable. Affordable means that the people that live in the neighborhood ain't going to be here in that building. But the thing is that running back and forth, and putting these buildings up, they're going to take our baseball field, our football field.

Instead of putting some green in there, and teaching the kids how to play football, how to play baseball. So they can get off the Internet and everything else they are on. [bell]. They're going to go but, however, with the cleaning of Van Dyke, like I said, I'm holding people accountable. I was supposed to work with the chair yesterday, but she had a meeting. I still know that's going to happen. I even sent Cecil House. I'm going to be persistent because I'm not living like, and I'm going nowhere. Where am I going at 55? I might as well stay there

and do what I've got to do. You know, if I was 30, that would be a different story. That's why I encourage the young people get your education.

Move on, but remember where you came from. So I'm just asking you to look at public housing. I understand the way we say it go with the caretaker, but some bimbos don't even do their work because I go behind them. When you've got garbage up to the third floor, when you've got a floor that looks like it ain't been washed in month, how much pride do you take in your job? Now, I don't know about other place, but I can tell you about Van Dyke. So I'm saying there are some good caretakers, but there are some that are not doing their job, and getting a paycheck and they've been allowing them to get away with it. And I'm tired of it. So other people need jobs, and I'm sure people who will come in here and do a better job than the ones that's not doing their job. Thank you. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Well, there's good and bad in everything, but they are only good enough for the official at Breukelen. [sic] [laughter] And I know that Council Member Barron had a comment, and then I will conclude the panel.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Just very briefly. I note that I used to teach at P.S. 41. So I know.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I used to teach at P.S. 41. So I know Brownsville. And your question is well taken because Brownsville-- For those of you that do not know, Brownsville is literally next to Van Dyke, which is literally next to Tilden, which is literally next to Brownsville. So if you didn't look on the building to see the name of the development, you would think it was one huge development. So it's just a matter of their selection process. But what exists in one of those NYCHA developments, exists in all of them because they are all contiguous, and they are all adjoining each other.

And in terms of inflowing, which they call infilling, Mayor de Blasio has said, and I'm holding it to him to it, and I'm making it public so you can hold him to it also-- There will not be construction on those open fields within NYCHA developments. He has pledged [applause] that there will not be any housing built on that. So make sure

that you hold him to that, because that was one of the first questions that I asked him. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you. With that, I want to thank this panel. I am particularly to the residents for coming out, and sharing their experiences. And we will take your contact information so that we can keep you in touch about future hearings.

MARIE BOONE: I want to respond to Council Member Barron.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Sure.

MARIE BOONE: That's not true, Council Member Barron. It's absolutely somewhat true because when they did the lighting, Tilden was omitted from the lighting. So, therefore, when the street gangs was running, they were able to run freely through Tilden with the layer doors wide open, and cause all type of mayhem to take place. And so, I could never understand why it was not 16, because there were other people that were shot in Tilden this year as well as staff. And these were young children ages 9 to 18, and it's so said because it's been going on for two years.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: My only point is that they're all almost basically one family.

MARIE BOONE: You're absolutely correct about that. Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you so much.

MARIE BOONE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And I want to call up--

FEMALE SPEAKER: [off mic]

MARIE BOONE: Hold on one second here. This is going to change.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Absolutely. Did she sign up or- Okay, that should be- Audrey Smith. Olivia Taylor? Where is she?

AUDREY SMITH: I'd like to say good afternoon, and thank the Council people for listening-

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'm just going to call everyone up before we proceed. C. Aaron Hinton [sic] from Suffolk Houses. Dolores Laguerre [sp?], Dora Ashley, Betsy Pallone, Alyse Cambridge [sp?], Cynthia Carruthers, Lynette McIntosh, Maxine Rose, Valerie Rosenberg from United Neighborhood Houses, and Phyllis Brockett [sp].

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: So, we're actually- We have about- a little over ten minutes. So this will be the last panel because there are children waiting to use this space for lunch. So we don't want to get in the- We don't want to fund community services, and then interfere with them. But we'll start with you, Ms. Taylor.

OLIVIA TAYLOR: All right, good afternoon. I'm a resident of Boulevard Housing, the housing development where we had a horrible incident. We lost one child and another that got seriously injured. But the one thing that has troubled me so we had three incidents because the young man who committed the crimes was a resident of one time of Brooklyn Houses. He had trouble with Juvenile Justice System, but he also had trouble with mental illness that had not been addressed. I wonder what's happening to him, and will those issues be address as well as the large number of young people who are in and out of Boulevard who are homeless and have mental problems.

And the community concerned about that at Boulevard. Where Boulevard is one of the 14. If you look at the history of Boulevard, it was rated for

about five years -- I'm not sure of the state, or the status now -- as one of the lowest crime projects in the country, in the State as well as in the City. And that is there. If you look at the rate of education, 95% of its young people graduated high school, over 50% had one to two and more years of colleges. So it is a prime place to live. And I feel today more like not a resident with the Criminal Justice Programs being taken. And, of course, we need much more to make a good place a better place to live, and I welcome that.

But I don't want a situation to be total criminalized, and stop gaps being put in place. As much as you need the criminal things, you've got to do social programs to connect with jobs, and programs that are going on. In most of the communities we need programs to continuously uplift the quality of life. And that's what you need in Boulevard. You will not- You can walk into Boulevard, and you will not see one ounce of graffiti on the wall. Residents get on residents. The same thing that happened 50 years ago. Most of the people go to work and go to school. Now, we've got lights, and I am sorry. I

welcome the lights, but I don't want to be criminalized.

I don't want the children that come to play on the basketball court to feel like criminals. Fix the intercom system. Provide the programs. The senior programs where seniors are going across town for lunch on a bus. Do the programs and make that model thing where you do the programs. The social programs that were mentioned in that second panel, connect, and evaluate what has been done. And you look at the status of Boulevard where he said it was zero murders last year [bell] it was zero the year before that, too.

And I think a thorough investigation and the transparency. And I've got one last thing, and I'll be quiet. We have had butchering of the greenery around Boulevard in the name of Sandy. We had people just come in and cut down maple sugar-maple trees. We had oak trees cut down. We have crab apple trees cut down. None have been replaced, and indiscriminately there is cutting, but they were not their trees. Three of the worst ones that they should have cut down are still there. And constantly

the greenery around Boulevard is being destroyed.

Thank you. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you so much for traveling as far as you did to come here. I appreciate it.

C. AARON HINTON: Good afternoon. First things first. I'd like to give to give honor Council President, I mean Committee President and Chair.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Are you promoting me?

C. AARON HINTON: [laughs] Committee Chair, and all the fellow Council Members in attendance. I also would like to give honor to everybody in attendance who came out, who did show up today, and sit through this entire hearing. My name is C. Aaron Hinton. I'm a resident of Suffolk Houses in Brownsville, Brooklyn. And I wanted to start off just by mentioning CFR 964, Section 3, something that everyone in here should get to know, get to be more intimate with. And definitely get to know it. In fact, that goes for all NYCHA employees, residents, everyone. It is Code of Federal Regulation 964, Section 3. And basically, I just want to talk

briefly today about knowing your rights. And I know we have a lot of know your rights training going on.

But when they say rights, I'm sure they mostly mean the inalienable rights that are quoted in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. That every citizen has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Unfortunately, first things first. I mean you've advocated. That's what I do in my profession, and I advocate for the youth. I think that when I speak here today, I speak for a lot of the youth in NYCHA developments specifically the Brownsville developments. A lot of their happiness comes from either money, sex, or drugs for lack of a better term. But that's what it is right now. And what I like to teach them is that what good is money if you cannot manage it.

And on the same token, I would also say, what good is time if you can't manage it correctly. So I live my life managing my time in a way to help others. I created a non-profit youth organization recognized by the State of New York entitled DUCES. DUCES stands for Do Use Enlightenment and Cultural Empowerment Services. Our mission model and goal are

the same, to save our youth, save our streets, squash the beef and increase the peace. Not only in Brownsville, but in other under-served communities. And it's ironic because we were just celebrating family day where I was introduced by the Citywide Council President Mr. Reginald H. Bowman to Deputy Inspector Iglesias who runs PSA2, Commanding Officer.

And in no less than 24 hours after they introduced him as a youth leader and as an advocate, I was apprehended by officers. And we had just had a conversation about me coming in and speaking with some of the officers about sensitivity training, and how the police conduct themselves in the NYCHA developments. And we found it very harsh that a lot of the times when the police officers are speaking to the youth, they always hold their hand on their holster. And I always felt that that was bad because 90% of communication is non-verbal. So even though they are not verbalizing anything, when you hold your hand on your holster while speaking to our young people, it definitely sends them a bad message. So I was apprehended that day, [bell] for-

They found nothing more than the only crime I committed was knowing my rights. That was

the only crime I was basically guilty of. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. We know that, but the question I have today is this: Council Member Barron just mentioned earlier about how it looks in Brownsville. A lot of officers cannot identify the difference between the project developments. So if you can't even tell the buildings apart, how are you supposed to tell the residents apart, who's who? And me as a community leader was again arrested on our Family Day for simply playing music, which was a violation and not a crime. Which means that I should probably have gotten a summons, and not been detained. So my question today before I conclude is: How can I as a resident of New York City be protected by an entity in which members are ignorant to the very law they are sworn to uphold?

In fact, a better question is how am I as a resident of New York City even able to protect my rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness when I must live in fear of the very entity established to protect and serve my Constitutional Rights? The only protector I'm at liberty to fear is God. NYPD is not God. NYCHA contracts NYPD to come in the Police Service Areas, and I believe that the

residents out to be allowed to establish its own
policing entity. So a simple solution to a lot of
the problems that we have today is funding should be
given directly to the residents to do the things that
they need. By the way, my non-profit- the majority
of my board members are NYCHA residents. So that
qualifies us a Section 3 Resident Owned Organization.
I just wanted to note that. Thank you very much for
the time, Council. [applause]

DOLORES LAGUERRE: Good afternoon. I would
like to beseech the Council to do something very
simple and that is listen to the New York City
Housing Authority resident. For years we have not
been listened to. If New York City Housing Authority
had listened when we called and we reported about
broken doors four or five years ago, the development
would not be coming down. I blame New York City
Housing Authority for the condition that the Housing
Authority is in now. I blame them for the crime.
They let the crime in. They blocked their ears to
residents who have been there for years. The New
York City Housing Authority is destroying their own
self. I blame Mayor Bloomberg, and I blame the
Council for allowing Mayor Bloomberg to put forth a

lot of what he's put forth, and what he's left us to deal with. He put on a deaf ear who were- We complained about the doors. We complained about the intercoms breaking, and no one heard us. And the superintendent in our New York City Housing Authority buildings they need to come out to those buildings, not just to put people out. But to walk the grounds and go through stairwells. To have meetings with the community. In fact, they need retraining. Many are rude. Really, we are made to feel as if that we're just there temporarily, and you hear that speech a lot. New York City Housing Authority was created to give you a leg up. And so, a lot of this comes from resentment. And so, I beseech the Council to please listen to residents, and when we send letters, please open them and respond back to us. I sent a lot of letters, and I was ignored. They don't have a connection with the contractor. Once these contractors are sent out, you call the office and they say, Well, we don't know. We're not involved in that. They are disconnected. The only connection they have is to the rent. Did you pay it on time and the notices that come out. And if the Council had listened to us, I think this, where we live, our

homes can become a better place to live. Because it's not a criminal entity. Housing let the criminal entity in. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just one to invite one last person. Ms. Green. You're invited to joint the panel, and that will be it because we do have to conclude the meeting.

VALERIE ROSENBERG: Okay. Hi there.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Thank you.

VALERIE ROSENBERG: So, thank you Chair and Council for holding this hearing today, and for staying with us this long day to hear all of the tenants and advocates, and the providers. My name is Valerie Rosenberg and I am here on behalf of United Neighborhood Houses, [bell] one of the City's federation and settlement houses and community centers. We have a deep commitment to public housing, and to a model of public housing that provides comprehensive community-based services. Well over half of our member agencies operate programs on sites in NYCHA developments, and several are located entire- headquartered and located entirely in NYCHA developments.

Settlement houses provide public housing residents with a broad array of services including early childhood education, after school youth development programs, adult literacy education, eviction prevention services for older adults. We support the vision of the Mayor's plan for improving public safety in NYCHA developments. The plan, which includes a major role for settlement houses and other community based organizations is welcome departure from previous plans that rely heavily on harmful police practices like stop and frisk. We're glad that the plan recognizes the value of youth development programs as a means of providing a safe space for young people.

I'm going to focus on the youth development programs here in this testimony. SYEP, which has been spoken about several times today provides salaries for teens and helps to install and reinforce positive behavior in young people. We're glad to see that the plan includes an increase in summer jobs. As nearly 100,000 applicants are turned away from SYEP every year. And we look forward to working with the Council, with your leadership on expanding that.

A second and larger engagement with youth development programs has been providing funds for community based organizations to stay open at night and on the weekends to provide a safe space for young people to go. Our members recognize the value of an open door, particularly for young people. And we are committed to work with the City to ensure this program continues. Like everyone else has been saying today, it's ongoing and it's successful. We want to commend the staff of DYCD who work day and night to make this program successful, to at least start it off the ground. Working with providers to help recruit staff, and design programming and even ensuring a donation of air conditioners, which was necessary to keep programs open and attractive to young people on the hot nights.

But there were significant challenges for providers in ramping up the night time and weekend programs at community centers. We believe these challenges led to mixed results in the quality of the programs at the outset. Challenges in this ambitious program arose from the steam at which it was ramped up. Programs were opened just a day after being notified by either NYCHA or DYCD, and had very little

time to prepare. Staffing was a huge challenge as providers needed to depend on their staff, on trusted staff. And for the most part, these folks were already working full-time jobs during the daytime hours. So staffing was an even greater challenge for these programs that didn't already have the tight programming serving older youth. And they didn't have staff who specialized in serving this population.

In order to improve the service that is continuing now and for next summer, we have a few suggestions. One, provide equal rates for DYCD and NYCHA [bell] public programs. DYCD funded programs operating out of cornerstones were funded nearly \$100,000 for the summer. While NYCHA funded programs operating on other NYCHA sites including DFTA funded senior centers, and other DYCD funded programs were only offered approximately \$30,000 for the year. This allowed for programs to open, but not really to provide a lot of options for recreation. And we've heard from folks early about how when young people don't have anything to do at the community center, what's the point of going there, right?

Another suggestion is a designated NYCHA staff member who can be a main point of contact for community based organizations working in each development. Providers often have challenges working with NYCHA on issues prepared and opening times. So with a dedicated staff member to cover that, that might help that issue. Provide funding for staff overtime. A lot of the staff that were already working during the day, then having to work at night, there isn't any money to actually pay them time and a half, which they deserve.

Expedite repairs in community facilities. We've heard that from many, many people today, and that is important, and we heard the same. And provide more notice to providers for extensions in the future. If there are going to be other big changes like this that require ramping up of personnel and additional resources. When organizations can have more advanced notice then they'll have greater success in implementation. So, thank you very much for hearing my testimony today.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I actually did not know about that disparity between NYCHA on the other-
[sic]

VALERIE ROSENBERG: Yes, it's very
upsetting, right?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Yeah. So that is
something we're going to look into even further.

AUDREY SMITH: I want to say good
afternoon to my Council Lady Inez Barron, which we've
seemed to meet a lot of times at the senior centers.
We also met at Vandalia, and I also met you in the
other center on Penn-Wortman. I also want to say
hello to Mr. Torres and Ms. Gibson. My question
today is that I've been an activist in Breukelen
Houses. I've been here since 1963. I graduated
along with your husband from Thomas Jefferson High
School. In 1987, I also graduated from New York City
Housing Authority as its team leadership- in team
leadership training under the administration of Mr.
Poccalisio [sp?]. I don't know if you all remember
him, but it goes way back to 1987.

My question is I was active at that time
in getting the doors into the development especially
in Breukelen. Now, the doors didn't seem to work
because now they're also being broken. I'd like to
ask you, Mr. Torres, what do you suggest that be done
to the doors with the locks being broken, the

children putting things in the door to keep it from being closed because that's a safety to the people in this community? What do you suggest should be done about that?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: One option is we're looking to invest where you have access control, but we heard earlier from a resident that it might not be resistant to vandalism-

AUDREY SMITH: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: -as we thought, so that's something I would even leave access control. A fiber optic system as it's known to be much more secure.

AUDREY SMITH: And another thing I just want to get back on the thought for one second. When they talk about the cameras. So is it possible that you can put cameras in the door, you know, in the buildings as the way they have them Starbucks [sic] City. Would that be a solution for out here in Breukelen that you can see who is coming in, who's destroying in the buildings and things like that?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: What was the question? The cameras. In other words, you can see when someone is trying to come into the building,

when people are in the building you can see through the camera. Like they had that at Starbuck City. Can we do that or Housing can't afford that?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Well, that's something- I mean you and I can actually speak about it outside the context of the committee hearing, and whatever questions you [bell] have, I can certainly submit them on your behalf to your local council member.

AUDREY SMITH: And my next question to you is that where I live from East 105th needs pavement. In July, I fell into the building, and because it's cracked so it's pavement here. It also needs new tiles in the building. The tiles are all broken up in the building. So I done fell coming in the front door. My niece had to pick me up and bring me upstairs. I also fell in the building because the tiles are all broken. I went to management, and I let them know what happened because I was in the hospital. I had to go to the hospital. To this day -- this happened in July -- we have no new tiles. Nothing has been addressed as far as the pavement has been concerned. I wrote the Housing Authority, and I

also wrote to the Mayor, and I haven't got any response yet. I don't want to go on--

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: You know what I'm going to do, I'm going to have my Chief of Staff Sindri McDonald take your information, and we'll take every one of those complaints and I work with your local council member to get those taken care.

AUDREY SMITH: Okay, now, I have to be quick because I don't have long. What's going to happen with the cameras? How many cameras are allocated for the Breukelen Houses because I heard a lot of developments are getting cameras. Are we allocated, Council Woman, for cameras for Breukelen?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: At this point no. We heard Mr. House talk about those that are already in should be done by June, and we'll see if the next cycle will include whichever housing developments. The problem is that NYCHA doesn't always fully fund what's needed, and council members are required or expected or want to put money in to do that. But it is quite costly, and it's one discretionary fund that council members get, and that we've got to take care of. If you're going to do parks, if you're going to centers in schools, if you're going computer labs, if

you're going to do upgrades in school, it all comes out of that same capital funding.

AUDREY SMITH: Well, is there any way to a- - [knocking] we can get a camera on at least 105th Street because we have a lot that hang out there. And we have a lot of people that come from the shelters that comes over there. So is there anyway that you think we could get a camera at least in that area?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well, nothing will be done before the next budget cycle, and perhaps what we can do during that cycle is look to see if NYPD would be willing to put a camera. They also have cameras that they provide, and that they put in and that they monitor. So we could look to see if we could involve them in that.

MS. GREEN: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: No problem. Last but not least.

MS. GREEN: [off mic]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I do because of it. Yes.

MS. GREEN: Good afternoon, Council Member Barron, I have to salute your husband, because

your husband was the one who gave Pink Houses \$600,000 plus to start our cameras. And here's my second part. Senator John Sampson allocated \$1 million to Pink Houses in 2009. My question is when is Housing going to release our million dollars so they can finish the rest of our cameras?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I don't know, but I can certainly talk with the Chairman of NYCHA, and find out, and track down where it is, and what the time line is for that to be found. As has been said, all the money that's in the pipeline should all be expended and the programs completed by June. That's what he came and said at testimony today. So will have to check.

MS. GREEN: Because I heard that they blocked us out of the million dollars.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'll have to check that, Miss-

MS. GREEN: But once the money was allocated only to Pink, how could you take those funds away from us?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: That we'll look into. It does sometimes get shifted, but we'll check it out and find out.

MS. GREEN: And, you know, my board consists of five manors. We represent 1,500 units. I think we're one of the biggest developments in Brooklyn. We have to come down of about 150 years of Housing Authority's premises on my board. Here's my question: I retired in 2004, and so once I retired, most of the board is retired. We said we were going to take a very active part in the community back in the days the way it was. Housing has never been in the state that it is now. Pink Houses in the last seven years we've had seven homicides, and several shootings. For three years I have been on the band wagon of them opening up the community center. And two sources came, and I don't know where it came from, but they opened the community centers. Our community centers were opened seven days a week until 12 o'clock at night. Our centers are utilized by between 80 and 100 kids every night. And you know what, we have not had one shooting. Not one homicide. So, it shows that if you give kids something to do- Our minds are the Devil's workshop. It gets dark at 5 o'clock. Can we look into expanding these community centers in the wintertime for these kids?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: That was the question that I posed when the second panel came up. We know what works. We know what is successful. How are we going to maintain those programs so that we can continue to get a positive result in terms of reducing violence in our community. So that's a question that we pose. How do we maintain opportunities for children to be involved in a positive way with adult supervision [bell] and interaction so that we can maintain a safer place.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And to her point, every nature was in danger of closing. Every senior center, every center. And it was the City Council that secured \$17 million to save those centers.

MS. GREEN: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And then the Mayor added more money to extend the community hours. But it was the City Council that put in those dollars to save the centers, and it has been the main funder of security improvements in public housing. So, we have access doors, intercoms, cameras.

MS. GREEN: And I appreciate that because the former City Council President, Ms. Quinn, was giving us absolute regard. You seem to have some

positive things, and you want to do something. I hope you keep that, and just don't let it go by the wayside. Now, when it comes to safety issues, have you actually gone out to some of these developments and do a walk-through? The cleanliness is unbearable, meaning inside the building and the grounds. Do you know every time HUD come to their inspections nobody going to will pass. Do you know we're losing funds when we're not passing?

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I do believe you receive fewer funds, yes.

MS. GREEN: So how much funds would we lose in the last 12 years that are owned to us?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ms. Green, your time is up.

MS. GREEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Just one question and I'll leave. Just one more I want to ask. Just one last question for me. One thing. The lighting development. Winter is coming and these developments are very dark, and the light is still not fixed. And thank you very much for your patience. [laughs] [applause]

CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Of course. First I want to thank to thank this panel for coming and

2 testifying. So thank you. And I would like to
3 submit for the record testimony from the Citizen's
4 Committee for Children. With that submitted, I
5 declare this hearing adjourned. Thank you. [gavel]

6 [applause]

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1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date September 19, 2014