



**TESTIMONY**  
**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES**

**OVERSIGHT HEARING**

**“What can we do as a city to better address the  
issue of youth violence?”**

**PRESENTED BY**  
**COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG**  
**JUNE 22, 2015**

Good morning Chairman Eugene and members of the Youth Services committee. I'm Bill Chong, Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). I'm joined by Darryl Rattray, Associate Commissioner, Community Centers and Strategic Partnerships and Andre White, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Youth Employment. Thank you for inviting us to testify today.

If we ask ourselves what we can do as a city to better address the issue of youth violence, we are challenged by not having all of the answers on why youth violence happens or what its root causes are. However, what we do know at the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is how to build communities that care about youth and give them opportunities.

When Richard Murphy, Mayor Dinkins's Commissioner for the Department of Youth Services developed the Safe Streets, Safe City program, he said "the idea was to create dozens of small universes in which young people could learn, dream, and grow and in the process, stay out of trouble." The program kept thirty-seven schools open beyond the regular school day, to provide tutoring, exercise classes and other activities. Safe Streets, Safe City grew to become our current Beacon program, which has become a national and international model. As of July 1, 2015, DYCD's providers will operate 174 community centers that offer programs and services to youth, families and adults. The 174 centers includes 80 school-based Beacon centers and 94 Cornerstone community centers located in public housing developments.

Richard Murphy's words still resonate very strongly with DYCD today. Providing programs and opportunities that engage young people to make positive choices is at the heart of what we and our provider organizations do. DYCD promotes and values positive youth development that supports a young person's growth and transition to adulthood. We use an asset based approach to design programs that can make connections to the village of peers and caring adults that youth need to grow, develop and succeed. This benefits all youth, but especially those who don't have strong family ties or positive role models in their lives.

In addition to Beacon and Cornerstone centers, DYCD has various other programs that provide youth with supportive environments for self-expression, skill development, and the chance to explore their interests and talents.

Our COMPASS afterschool programs represent the largest municipal afterschool system in the nation. And when we embarked on the universal expansion of SONYC middle school afterschool programs, we knew the middle school years were pivotal – it's when young people start to make bad choices. By having a program at every middle school in the city, we can offer enrichment opportunities to a much greater number of middle school students.

Youth employment is a very powerful way to engage teenagers. A recent study from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business proved that the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) reduces incarceration and saves lives, by saving youth from external causes of death such as homicide. Economists value each saved life at \$9 million. Last year, over 47,000 youth worked through SYEP. Mayor De Blasio has also invested the highest amount of city tax level funding into the program, at \$33.8 million dollars. We will also double the number of vulnerable youth served this year from 1,000 to 2,000.

We have several programs to assist disconnected youth, who are out of school and out of work. Because of the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), at least 75% of our federal youth workforce funding must support year-round employment programs for out of school youth. We are already very close to this threshold. To help young adults aged 16-24 with only a high school equivalency degree gain work experience, our Young Adult Internship Program –YAIP – is a 14 week program comprised of job readiness training and a 12 week internship. Beginning July 1, DYCD providers will operate a new program similar to YAIP, but targeted to youth and young adults living at or below 125% of the federal poverty line, aged 16-24. To assist disconnected youth who have been in the criminal justice system, we partner with Youth Represent, a youth defense and advocacy non-profit that works to ensure that youth from under-served neighborhoods have access to housing, employment, and education both during and after involvement with the justice system.

Our transition to high school (THS) and Neighborhood Development Area education support programs encourage and support high school youth to build academic skills, stay in school and attain high school diplomas. This year, we ran a successful literacy pilot with teenage boys from the Pelham Preparatory Academy. Their writings were published in a book entitled, "Experience Our Story, Young Men on the Rise." We plan to expand this pilot writing program to more THS program sites in the upcoming year.

The Teen ACTION program fosters leadership by having youth identify community service projects to work on. In the upcoming year, we are excited to assume the oversight of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, where youth research a public policy issue, develop recommendations, and advise the Mayor on a solution. A new feature will be connecting the central youth leadership council to 10 Beacon and Cornerstone advisory councils, so that youth understand the local impact of citywide policy decisions.

In order to make sure we are serving high need communities, we have layered specific strategies and system-wide components to our programs. For example:

We have targeted high need communities based on socioeconomic indicators such as youth poverty rates, youth unemployment rates, number of English Language Learners in public school, and number of single parent families with children under age 18.

Through our annual Step It Up competition, we have been promoting an anti-violence theme this year. All the finalists produced anti-violence PSAs, which I will show at the conclusion of my testimony today.

To promote healthy dating and relationships, we organized a Tweet session on teen dating violence last month. We have also worked with the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence to hold 25 training sessions at Beacon and Cornerstone centers on the topic of teen dating and healthy relationships.

To address trauma, DYCD has worked with the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA) to develop a six-week training series entitled "Tools and Skills for Building Trauma-Informed Youth Development Programs." The series helps DYCD-funded programs build programs to meet the needs of those who have experienced trauma; use tools and strategies to manage secondary traumatic stress and maintain mental and emotional wellness when faced with job stress and challenges. We also just held a one day conference with MHA entitled "Healing the Hurt: Standing Together to Heal Community Trauma," which included workshops on addressing racial trauma, creating trauma free environments for LGBTQ youth, listening to victims and survivors of crime, and techniques for healing and self-care.

Over the past few years, DYCD has enhanced services in Cornerstone centers. DYCD has a Cornerstone mentoring initiative and is working with one provider to expand their model of LGBTQ youth services. Together, we've worked to host several "Over the Rainbow" panels to raise awareness of LGBTQ youth issues. This can pave the way for more Cornerstone services for this population. In the past year, we've also organized three youth-police summits at Cornerstone centers in East Harlem, the Rockaways, and Staten Island, which will happen this Thursday. As part of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), all Cornerstone centers will have extended hours again this summer, until 11pm nightly. We will also offer again, 850 SYEP slots to MAP's 15 target NYCHA developments.

As you can see, DYCD's programs and strategies provide enrichment that is age appropriate and focuses on a young person's strengths, assets and stage of development. When youth are engaged in positive activities, it strongly minimizes the chance to get involved in negative activities that can lead to bad choices, such as youth violence.

Thank you again for the chance to testify today. Before we answer your questions, I would like to show the Step It Up anti-violence PSAs I mentioned in my testimony.



## Youth Violence Prevention Programs Adequately Serving the Needs of NYC's Most Vulnerable Youth

Remarks by Cidra M. Sebastien, Associate Executive Director  
June 22, 2015

Founded in 1995, **The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (BHSS)** provides comprehensive, holistic and long-term support services to youth who range in age from 8 to 22. Our Theory of Change is to provide multi-layered support, guidance, education and love to our membership, to teach them to have self-discipline and form order in their lives, and then to offer opportunities and access so that they may develop agency. BHSS presently provides direct service to 750 young people - 350 youth at our Harlem site, serves another 400 youth via our work in three schools in the Bronx and Harlem to provide anti-violence and conflict resolution services; and via our partnership with NYC's Department of Education to administer youth development services throughout three schools in Brooklyn and Queens. In addition, BHSS administers a farmers market and environmental program that served over 1500 community residents in last season. We expose our young people to new opportunities through wilderness retreats, cultural performances, college tours, and month long intensive international study programs. For our recent alumni members, we provide support to ensure they remain in college or employed and that they continue to make healthy and productive choices in their lives; fully developing emotional intelligence and critical decision-making skills.

Black and Latina/o youth must each day navigate a multitude of negative social conditions often with little or no positive guidance. Most of our members live in not merely underserved, but all too neglected communities where from an early age they are exposed to violence, drugs, poverty, misogyny, racism, and death. They participate in a failing public education system where overcrowded classrooms and outdated, if existent computers, science labs and other essential educational tools are the norm. They witness negative images of "masculinity" and "femininity" in their communities and the media that unless they learn to critique, they will surely replicate. Routinely, without having the necessary guidance and resources all young people need to shape and achieve their potential, they are coerced into devastating lifestyles. One devastating impact often leads to the next - resulting in a litany of distressing statistical outcomes.

We defined our community as being within a half-mile radius of our building and including West Harlem, Hamilton Heights and Washington Heights. A recent New York Times described Manhattan as "an island of extremes" as it has the biggest dollar income gap of any county in the country, according to data from the Census Bureau. The top 5 percent of households earned \$864,394, or 88 times as much as the poorest 20 percent (\$9822). Our school district (Region #6) is the only overcrowded elementary district in Manhattan. Our neighborhood is the main distribution point in the northeast for cocaine, supplying over 90% of the city. There is a lack of quality food, few medical services, limited useful commerce, and few housing options for the constituents we serve. According to the December 2014 report of the African American Policy Forum, in New York the number of disciplinary cases involving black girls was more than 10 times more than those involving their white counterparts and the number of cases involving black boys was six times the number of those involving white boys, despite there being only twice as many black students as white students. More and more young people, specifically young women and girls are battling mental illness and considering suicide (*NY Daily News, August 2014*). Our young men and boys are continually targeted by policing efforts that criminalize them without cause (*NY Times, December 2011*) and our young women and girls face injustices at the hands of police officers as well (*NY Times, August 2012*). Our community is also one of most environmentally toxic areas in the city and it has experienced massive cuts in social service programs while attracting much wealthier newcomers whose ability to pay high housing prices is forcing longtime residents out. These conditions have only gotten worse during the nation's current economic crisis. Schools, which have a key responsibility for the social development of youth, are not meeting the demand, and traditional youth programs are not effectively addressing the experience of today's Black and Latina/o youth. BHSS stands in the chasm.

**The Brotherhood/Sister Sol** has stood at the forefront of comprehensive youth development for the past 20 years, building programs that provide a network of support and guidance for youth who face a range of challenges and pressures each day. We have created an evidence-based model that is recognized throughout the country. We have been recognized due to our statistical outcomes, comprehensive programming and pedagogical approach to youth development that is documented via assorted curricula and modeled. BHSS is an evidence-based program that has documented outcomes that far surpass City numbers:

- Harlem's teenaged pregnancy rate is 15 % - our members have a rate of less than 2%
- In the City of New York the general high school graduation rate is 61%; where as 88% of our alumni have graduated from high school, 94% either graduated from high school or earned their Graduate Equivalency Degree
- In Harlem 30% of youth, ages 18-25, are working full time or in college; where as 95% of BHSS youth are working full time or enrolled in college.
- One out of three Black men in American, ages 20-29 are under supervision of the prison system – in prison, on probation or on parole. After 20 years no member or alumni of BHSS is incarcerated and less than 1% are on probation.

BHSS citywide reach is also displayed by our work to advise on the New York City Council's recent *Task Force to Combat Gun Violence* that sought to decrease gun violence throughout New York City and resulted in funding for anti-violence programming in Brooklyn, Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens. In addition, BHSS has partnered with Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance on an anti-violence initiative in Central Harlem. DA Vance believes that this model can be used in other New York City high crime areas. BHSS has worked over several years to train educators from throughout New York City on our model. BHSS has been selected by the NYC's Department of Education as one of four professional development providers to the 40 high schools selected as a part of the Young Men's Initiative's Expanded Success Initiative (ESI). BHSS has held assorted citywide trainings of teachers, youth development workers, and educators from schools throughout NYC. In addition, BHSS was selected to provide 6 months of professional development to partner with DOE to create two new schools in Queens (Council Member Wills) and one in Brooklyn (Council Member Cornegy) that incorporate a BHSS model of youth Development. These schools began in September 2014 and will expand in September 2015.

We facilitate programs and activities that are culturally relevant, foster connections with members' families and schools, and are rooted in our 10 Curriculum Focus Issues –

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mind, Body & Spirit               | 6. Drugs & Substance Abuse              |
| 2. Leadership Development            | 7. Conflict Resolution & Bias Reduction |
| 3. Pan African & Latina/o History    | 8. Political Education & Social Justice |
| 4. Sexism & Misogyny                 | 9. Educational Achievement              |
| 5. Sexual Education & Responsibility | 10. Community Service & Responsibility  |

Throughout BHSS programs, members learn about the total wellness of the mind, body and spirit, receive support to experience wellness and thrive. In helping our members become critical thinkers and empowered leaders, it is essential to help them identify their natural and unique strengths as a means for defining their self-worth. Emphasis on these strengths – embodied in the concepts of mind, body and spirit – allow our members to come to know themselves. By honing their critical and creative thinking skills, they are helped to analyze and solve personal and social problems. They develop habits that ensure good emotional, mental and physical health. They learn about connecting to their inner selves and connecting to others. Ultimately, we seek to help our members identify inner strengths and belief systems, and to become healthy and whole individuals. We create an opposing pressure to do right and turn toward a lifestyle that truly has a future.

Are youth violence prevention programs adequately serving the needs of NYC's most vulnerable youth? Yes. And we need the City to mirror our efforts on a citywide level to ensure there are policies in place – and the enforcement of those policies – to for youth to receive what they deserve to have lives free of violence. Those policies must reach them in their schools – providing necessary guidance and college counselors; reach them in their communities – ending policing practices that criminalize young people; reach them at their worst – no child should be held on Rikers Island, not one, no matter the crime; and must reach them in their pockets – providing SYEP and other avenues to meaningful employment.

**Center for Court Innovation Testimony  
New York City Council**

**Oversight: What can we do as a city to better address the issue of youth violence?**

**June 22, 2015**

Good afternoon Chair Eugene and esteemed members of the City Council. My name is XXX and I am XXX at the Center for Court Innovation. As you know, the Center is an independent not-for-profit organization that works with the courts, government, and communities to create a more effective and humane justice system. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about how the city can better address the issue of youth violence.

The Center is dedicated to eradicating the scourge of gun violence in New York City communities. As part of the City's anti-gun violence initiative the Center operates S.O.S. Save Our Streets – a replication of the Cure Violence anti-gun violence model – in four communities in the Bronx and Brooklyn. An evaluation of Save Our Streets in Crown Heights found a statistically significant impact on gun violence trends in Crown Heights when compared with three similar precincts in Brooklyn. At a moment when so much public attention nationwide is focused on the question of how to reduce gun violence and the challenges of legislative solutions, the success of SOS Crown Heights suggests that ground-level prevention efforts can be an effective response to violent crime. We are proud to be part of the citywide anti-violence movement.

We are also working in other key areas that we believe are vital to addressing youth violence in our communities. For example, in Crown Heights we have expanded our programming to focus on the tangible effects of witnessing or experiencing violence on young men of color in the community. Traditional victim services, which are often located in a prosecutor's office or in community based agencies and shelters, often focus on the victimization experienced by women and children. Recognizing the cultural stigma around young men of color identifying as 'victimized' – and the lack of services that target their specific needs –the Crown Heights Mediation Center added a trauma-informed component to its programming. Make It Happen provides supportive services to young men of color aged 16 to 21 who are dealing with trauma,

yet are not in a position to acknowledge and process their trauma. Make It Happen is a trauma informed and culturally competent program that provides mentorship, intensive case management, clinical interventions and supportive workshops. We challenge our participants to think about how their definition of manhood is intertwined in trauma and gender roles. Make It Happen is also charged with attempting to engage traditional victim service providers on the needs of male crime victims, and to make victim services compensation available to young men of color who have been victims of crime. We believe that more programs like this that acknowledge and responding to the trauma experienced by young men exposed to violence is an important step the city can take to address youth violence.

Youth empowerment is another key issue; we believe that young people themselves are the most powerful voice against youth violence. Because of this, the Center runs programs throughout New York City that engage young people in speaking out against violence. In YO SOS, the youth mobilization arm of SOS Crown Heights, young people are trained to become peer educators and community organizers around issues of violence, trauma, and conflict mediation. Our Brownsville Anti-Violence Project engages at-risk and court-involved young adults in anti-violence messaging while encouraging their civic leadership skills and their growth as positive change-agents within the community. And in Staten Island and Queens our newly formed Neighborhood Youth Justice Councils, based on our Youth Justice Board model, will bring the historically underrepresented voice of young people into discussions about public policies that affect their lives, including focusing on how to improve trust between police and teenagers so that they can be partners and allies in the fight against violence

Finally, we are excited about the potential of restorative justice practices as a means to violence prevention. With support from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Center will soon expand our successful Red Hook Peacemaking Program to NYCHA Red Hook (East and West) Houses. Launched in January 2013, the Red Hook Peacemaking Program seeks to empower community members to play a role in healing its own wounds and solving its local problems by using traditional Native American techniques to resolve disputes outside of the formal justice system. The program allows youth affected by a crime or offense to "talk it out" and reach a



consensus agreement for restitution and repair, instead of placing them in adversarial positions. Up to now, Peacemaking in Red Hook has been focused on cases coming through the court at the Red Hook Community Justice Center; now, Peacemaking will expand to focus on conflicts between young people within the Red Hook Houses, particularly those that are at risk of escalating into violence. This model trains regular community members to be Peacemakers, drawing on their wisdom and strength, and training them to use their deep-rooted knowledge of the people and the culture of their neighborhood to resolve disputes. But Peacemaking goes beyond dispute resolution; the goal is not only to resolve the immediate dispute, but also to heal the relationships among those involved and restore balance to the community. The idea is to bring healing and restoration for all parties involved, and the neighborhood as a whole. We urge the city to look to innovative restorative justice programming as a tool for reducing violence and promoting peace.

Again, we are proud to work with the city and with many organizations throughout the five boroughs to develop new ideas, innovations and programs to address this critical issue. We look forward to continuing these important partnerships.

## FOR THE RECORD



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Testimony of United Neighborhood Houses  
Before the New York City Council  
Committee on Youth Services

Honorable Mathieu Eugene, Chair

On Preventing Youth Violence  
Presented by Gregory Brender, Co-Director of Policy & Advocacy

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Thank you Chair Eugene and members of the Committee on Youth Services for holding today's hearing on this important issue and for the opportunity to testify. My name is Gregory Brender and I am here on behalf of United Neighborhood Houses, New York City's federation of settlement houses and community centers. UNH's 38 member agencies provide a broad range of services to New York City's youth in neighborhoods in all five boroughs and have a deep commitment to a positive, asset based approach to youth development. Our member agencies have on the ground experience providing services that don't just keep kids off the streets but ensure that they have positive educational experiences outside of school. This commitment includes:

- After-school and summer camp to nearly 50,000 school age children and youth and have opened 50 SONYC programs as part of the expansion.
- Summer jobs to nearly 5,500 young people.
- Participating in the NYCHA public safety initiative.

We are particularly proud to include today that this past Saturday night youth from five UNH member agency after-school programs competed DYCD's Step It Up showcase for youth step and dance teams. Undefined Beatz from UNH member agency

University Settlement won the award for performance by juniors and the Classic Steppers from UNH member agency BronxWorks won the award for a performance by seniors.

We believe that combatting youth violence requires an approach that recognizes and supports the potential of our young people. We need to keep young people out of dangerous situations on the streets but we also owe them positive and enjoyable experiences that help them to grow and succeed. We have outlined below three proposals to achieve that: expanding the Summer Youth Employment Program, maintaining and strengthening the community supports in the NYCHA public safety plan and expanding and strengthening after-school.

### **Expand the Summer Youth Employment Program**

A recent study of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) conducted by Goldman School Of Public Policy, US Department of the Treasury Office of Tax Analysis and the Wharton School of Business found by contrasting data of individuals who participated in SYEP in New York City with those who applied for SYEP but did not win the lottery, that participation in SYEP decreased both incarceration and mortality among young people.<sup>1</sup> We are thrilled that this study provided data that showed what providers have known for years that SYEP provides a productive environment for young people that helps guide them to positive life choices. We were heartened that Mayor de Blasio included an expansion of SYEP in his public safety plan for New York City Housing Authority developments. This expansion coupled with a more significant expansion from the City Council led last year more than 47,000 youth participating in SYEP which is both the highest level since 2009 and a significantly higher level than in the Mayor's Executive Budget but still far short of demand as more than 130,000 young people typically apply to SYEP this year.

UNH makes the following recommendations to strengthen SYEP:

#### **Invest \$19.9 million for SYEP in FY16**

UNH strongly recommends that the City continue to invest in SYEP. While we appreciate last year's investment which brought the total number of summer jobs to over 47,000, we are asking for an additional \$19.9 million for SYEP be included in this year's budget. This will cover:

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<sup>1</sup> Alexander Gelber, Adam Isen and Jude B Kessler. The Effects of Youth Employment: Evidence from New York City Summer Youth Employment Program Lotteries. Goldman School of Public Policy Working Paper Series. December 2014.  
[https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/research/pdf/gelber\\_isen\\_kessler\\_122314.pdf](https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/research/pdf/gelber_isen_kessler_122314.pdf)

- Recent increase in minimum wage that has gone up from \$8.00 to \$8.75 per hour
- Restore the 10,700 jobs that were created last year by the City Council.
- Create 2,874 more jobs for our youth in the City.

#### Increase the number of SYEP jobs to 50,000

Currently, more than 130,000 young people apply to SYEP, and approximately 80,000 are turned away. Last year Campaign for Summer Jobs announced a goal of increasing the number of SYEP jobs to 100,000 within 5 years. Increasing the number of jobs to 50,000 this year would put us halfway to the 100,000 mark.

#### **Maintain and Strengthen the NYCHA Public Safety Plan**

Last summer, the City engaged Community Based Organizations (CBO's) in an ambitious initiative to reduce violence in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments. UNH remains greatly encouraged by the vision of this initiative. The plan sought to provide positive spaces for young people- a welcome departure from previous public safety plans that heavily utilized harmful police practices including stop and frisk.

As mentioned above, the NYCHA public safety plan included SYEP slots for teenagers and young adults living in public housing. The second and larger engagement with youth development programs was providing funds for cbo's to stay open at nights and on weekends to provide a safe place for young people to go. Settlement houses recognize the value of an open door, particularly for young people. We are committed to working with the City to ensure that this programs continues and is successful.

However, there were significant challenges for providers in ramping up nighttime programs at community centers and we believe that these challenges led to a mix in the quality of the programs available.

The challenges for this ambitious program arose from the speed in which is ramped up. Programs were open just a day after being notified by either NYCHA or DYCD and had little time to prepare. Staffing was a particular challenge as providers needed to depend on trusted staff and, for the most part, trusted staff were already working a full work week during the daytime hours. Staffing was an even greater challenge for those programs that did not already have daytime programming serving older youth as they did not have staff who specialized in serving this population.

In order to improve service that is continuing now and for next summer UNH makes the following suggestions:

- **Provide equal rates to DYCD and NYCHA funded programs.** DYCD funded programs, operating out of Cornerstone Community Centers, were funded at 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 per year. This allowed for programs to open but often not to provide many options for recreation.
- **Designate a NYCHA staff member who can be the main point of contact for CBO's working in each development.** Providers often have challenges working with NYCHA on issues like repairs, opening times and other facility problems. UNH urges NYCHA to designate a staff member for each development who can work with the provider to resolve these issues.
- **Provide funding for staff overtime.** Many of the staff operating nighttime programs also work during the day. UNH urges the City to provide funding so that staff can be paid time and half for hours above the normal workweek.
- **Expedite Repairs in Community Facilities.** Many community facilities used by nighttime programs have significant maintenance and infrastructure issues. In some cases, the City Council has already allocated funds for repairs, but NYCHA has not acted to make the needed improvements. UNH urges NYCHA to expedite repairs on community facilities so that providers can offer programs in safe and comfortable spaces.
- **Provide more notice to providers for extensions.** While we understand this program is a work in progress, UNH urges both NYCHA and DYCD to give notice earlier to providers about requested extensions. For example, this labor day weekend, providers were informed on Friday that they were expected to keep programs open throughout the weekend and up until the start of school on Thursday. This forced providers to cancel prep time for after-school programs that were opening and force staff to cancel much needed vacations

## **Strengthen and Expand After-School and Summer Camp**

UNH is a strong proponent of after-school and knows the value of after-school as both a youth development program and a key work support for families when parents need a positive, safe space for children and youth after the school bell rings. Along with our colleague in Campaign for Children, UNH is calling for the City to ensure that every child in New York City has access to high-quality, affordable and stable early childhood education and after-school programs.

After-School programs provide the recreational activities and homework help that strengthen young people's education. And after-school is an absolute necessity for many working families. A 2012 Campaign for Children survey reveals that 36% of parents whose kids were in after-school programs would have to quit their jobs if their children's program closed.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, providing after-school is a positive and educational way to provide a safe space for youth during the summers and the hours after the school bell ring when youth are most likely to either commit or be a victim of a violent crime.<sup>3</sup>

We have been glad to see both the City Council and the administration's focus on after-school and summer camp. Recently with our colleagues from Campaign for Children we worked with members of the City Council and the administration to restore summer camp programs for middle schoolers. While it is tremendous relief that these programs were restored this summer, they are not included in the projected budgets for future summers and we must ensure that summer programs are there for future summers as well.

We are thrilled that with the creation of SONYC after-school in the school year is now something that all middle schoolers can access. We must continue this sort of expansion to reach all ages so that there is a comprehensive system of community supports for children and youth starting with early childhood education and continuing through high school.

To stabilize the after-school system in the current budget, UNH urges the City to:

- Invest \$8.8 million to ensure all elementary COMPASS programs (formerly OST) after-school slots are paid the same rate (all \$3,200 rather than \$2,800 being offered to those issued awards with the baselined funding).
- Ensure all after-school models include summer camp
- Maintain 12 existing COMPASS elementary programs with historical connections to families and communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I am glad to take any questions.

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<sup>2</sup> Campaign for Children. "Parent Voices: What Will You Do if the City Closes your Child's Child Care of After-School Program" 2012 <http://www.campaignforchildrennyc.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/NYC-Parent-Voices.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> For data on when youth are most likely to either commit or be victims of violent crime, see: Sanford Newman, James Alan Fox, Edward Flynn and William Christenson. America's After-School Choice: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime, or Youth Enrichment and Achievement. A Report from Fight Crime Invest in Kids, 200 <http://www.jfox.neu.edu/Documents/afterschool2000.pdf>

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gregory B reader

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: United Neighborhood Houses

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Michael Martinez

Address: 463 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street Apt #3B

I represent: Students For Protection

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SEBASTIEN, CIDRA

Address: The Brotherhood / Sister Sol

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 512 West 143 St NY 10031

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/22/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Commissioner Chang

Address: 123 William St.

I represent: DYCD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: June 22nd 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andre White

Address: 161 William Street

I represent: DYCD

Address: 161 William Street

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Amy Ellenbogen

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Center For Court Innovation

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DARIEL RATHVAY

Address: 2 LAFAYETTE ST

I represent: DYCD

Address: 2 LAFAYETTE

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆