CITY COUNCIL CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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HELD AT: 250 Broadway-Committee Rm, 14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.

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I. DANEEK MILLER

Co-Chair

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

Kimberly Hardy
Deputy Commissioner for Economic and Financial
Opportunities at New York City's Department of
Small Business Services

Andrew Schwartz SBS general counsel

Ashley Putnam Advisor at the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

Hazel Dukes
President of the NAACP

Bertha Lewis
Founder and President of the Black Institute

James Sanders Junior State Senator of New York

[gavel]

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CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Good afternoon. My name is Robert Cornegy. I'm the Chair of the Committee on Small Business. I want to thank my colleague, the Chair of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Council Member I. Daneek Miller for joining me in convening this hearing on Intro 1382, a local law to amend the New York City charter in relation to the reporting of information on the workforce of contractors performing construction work for the city of New York. The purpose of this bill is to pull back the curtain on the hiring preface of developers that are awarded multi-million-dollar city contracts but have not been required to publicly disclose the demographic of their workforce. As it stands the city charter requires that the Department of Small Business Services submit employment reports in such form and containing such information as the commissioner may prescribe by contractors to whom agencies propose to award city contracts and their proposed subcontractors when such contracts or subcontractors have a value above a monetary threshold that the commissioner shall by rule

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establish. To this date these reports have not been made public, therefore the purpose of 1382 is to require that they are released within 45 days at the end of each quarter of the fiscal year and posted online for the general public. It is my hope that the data FDF has gathered as mandated by the city charter is sufficient, thorough, and comprehensive enough to satisfy the many constituents that have seen buildings in this city rise but have come to my office with concerns about workforce that does not represent the diversity that makes the city so great. As a legislator, I reserve the right to amend 1382 into a more comprehensive bill if necessary. I want to acknowledge my colleagues on a small business committee who are here. I also want to thank the many staff who have worked to put this together, put together this hearing. My Chief of Staff Stephanie Zimmerman, my Legislative Director Damon Lipscomb, the committee's Policy Analyst Michael Kurtz and our Community, Committee Counsel Nicole Abene. I also want to thank the Committee on Civil Service and Labor staff for their work pulling this hearing together. Finally, I would like to thank

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the constituents and organizations that have advocated on behalf of this and many other pieces of legislation like this. So, at this point I'm going to ask for my co-chair on this particular issue, I. Daneek Miller for his opening statement.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Council Member. Good afternoon everyone. I'm Council Member I. Daneek Miller, Chair of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor Committee. Today we are holding a joint hearing with the Committee on Small Business and its chair, its distinguished chair Robert Cornegy. And on a bill, Intro 1382, making charter mandated reporting, small business services, on construction industry to the public. Small Business Services is supposed to collect data on city funded projects relating to employment practices, policy procedures, statistics, and collective bargaining agreements. So the public knows that those who are, have been assigned construction contracts are in complinement [phonetic], compliance with those agreements. The construction industry continues to be one of the city's most important industries, and in educating the residents on opportunities that will be helping

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to bring men and women to, into the middle class and making sure that we have the workforce that allows us to grow as a city. But part of being the world class city is, is about creating opportunities for all that needs it. By making this reporting public the transparency it will provide will help us to ensure that industries remain strong and support the working families that it should. When council members work with these industries to develop projects in their districts one of the requirements we would like to have is local hiring MWBE contracting and participation. The data outlined in the city charter, charter is meant to help us in ensuring these objectives being met, to being met. But there are some policies that could be impeded, that impede us from achieving these goals. Obviously, some of the restrictions that we had that are confronted with in contracting and procurement with MWBEs are these. Based on these reports organizations such as Demos and Economic Policy Institute we know the number of construction workers being misclassified as independent contractors is on the rise so that they do not receive the ... often do not receive the

benefits that they are entitled to. And the amount
of minorities, African Americans in the trade has
not kept pace with the increased population. So
besides reporting mechanisms I am looking forward
to hearing the testimony from SBS and the advocates
and experts in the industry on other tools in the
city, and the city is using that we can use to
ensure that we have increased participation from
MWBEs, local hires, and ensure labor standards
throughout. I would like to thank my staff of
course. First, I'd like to thank Council Member
Cornegy for convening this hearing. Like to thank
my staff Mr. Gregory Rose and Counsel Matt Carlin.
I'd like to also thank Gofar Zolof [sp?] and
Kendall Stephenson as well and the members of the
Committee on Civil Service and Labor for their
participation. And with that being said Okay, no
from We have Council Member of course Cornegy,
Dromm, Constantinides, Koo, Vallone, Menchaca,
Koslowitz, Eugene, King, Williams, and Ulrich. And
that I'd turn it back over to my co-chair.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you Co-Chair. So, we probably going to dispense with the

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formalities and get right to it after we have the swearing in of our first panel.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Can you please raise your right hand? Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in your testimony today and to answer council member questions honestly? Thank you.

Open up with a few questions. And then my co-chair will offer some questions. And then in the interest of time we're going to allow for my many colleagues who have attended the hearing today to ask their questions as well so... That probably would be a good idea. I told you I wanted to get right to it. I apologize it. I guess there is, there is a formality of an actual testimony.

KIMBERLY HARDY: Well we would like to share the testimony. Thank you so much Mr. Chair. Good afternoon Chair Cornegy, Chair Miller, and the members of both committees, the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Civil Service and Labor. My name is Kimberly Hardy. I'm the Deputy Commissioner for Economic and Financial Opportunities at New York City's Department of

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Small Business Services. This is the division which supports minority and women owned businesses generally. I'm joined today by SBS's general counsel, Andrew Schwartz as well as Ashley Putnam, who is an advisor at the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development. At SBS we are connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, creating stronger businesses and fostering thriving neighborhoods. Today I am pleased to testify on Intro 1382 which would require SBS to report information on the workforce of contractors performing construction work for New York City. At SBS we believe in the power of inclusion and diversity. And under the leadership of Mayor Bill de Blasio as well as Commissioner Greg Bishop we have committed to ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to financial opportunities. The SBS Division of Labor Services which I oversee monitors a contractor's compliance with equal employment opportunity laws and supports them in their efforts to increase representation of minorities and women in their workforce. To achieve this goal certain city, certain city construction contractors and subcontractors are required to submit employment reports to the division of labor

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services. The employment report contains information on the contractor's employment practices, policies, and procedures and collective bargaining agreements. However, not all contracts with the city are subject to these requirements. Construction, prime contractors in excess of one million dollars in subcontracts in excess of 750,000 dollars are subject to review. For supply and service contracts prime and subcontracts over 100,0000 dollars are subject to review when the vendor has more than 50 employees. SBS meets with contractors and works with them to ensure that they understand the equal employment requirements of New York City and to ensure their compliance. Reviews sometimes results in contractors having to make changes to their EEO policy or to determine if they will proceed with the contract. SBS provides the company with a certification letter which advises the contracting agency that the vendor can move forward on the project. If the employment report does not meet our standards an incomplete letter is issued to the vendor and the contracting agency advising of issues with the employment reports.

Through this process SBS will make every effort to

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work with companies to resolve noted compliance issues. If approved companies are certified by SBS for a three-year period it should be noted that companies can also be certified upon submission of a certificate of equal employment opportunity compliance issued by an appropriate state, New York state or federal agency in the prior 12 months. Ensuring contractors are EEO compliant is an important part of our work. We are also focused on ensuring workforce diversity. SBS working with partner agencies and the city council has made great strides through a comprehensive approach to this issue. First SBS leverages its network of 20 workforce career centers by advising city contractors of the various ways job candidates can be found through our workforce system. Last year SBS's network of providers connected nearly 30,000 New Yorkers to employment. Second, through the Hire NYC portal city contractors who've received city subsidies are now required to consider New Yorkers for employment opportunities created through eligible city contracts. Hire NYC is one of the largest targeted hiring programs in this nation. It will also leverage SBS's network of workforce one

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career centers to connect New Yorkers to open positions created through the city's purchases and investments. Through Hire NYC and the workforce career center system we were making sure that more New Yorkers have a first shot at jobs related to city projects and that employers have access to an expanded pool of talent from the local community. To tackle the issue of workforce, diversity in the field of construction SBS recently launched the construction industry partnership. It's called the mayor's committee on construction workforce and contracting opportunities, industry partnerships, work with industry, organized labor, nonprofits, training providers, private philanthropy, and workforce organizations to build a pipeline of local talent to fill these New York City construction jobs. The mayor's committee on construction workforce and contracting opportunities met last November and outlined three goals. They are workforce, MWBE capacity building, and safety. On the issue of workforce, the committee will focus on diversity, access, and advancement opportunities for women and minorities in the traits. Through this holistic approach, we

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feel that we are taking substantial steps to ensure diversity throughout the workforce on city projects and increase opportunities for minorities, women, and veterans to access construction apprenticeship programs that can provide a career path. Along with this work SBS had made, has made great progress in supporting our minority and women owned businesses to grow and thrive for so many individuals owning a business can provide a path... a pathway to the middle class and beyond and we are working hard to ensure that minority and women owned businesses have access to those opportunities. Recently Mayor De Blasio set an ambitious goal of awarding at least 30 percent of the dollar amount of city contracts to MWBEs by 2021 and doubling the number of certified firms by 2019. SBS will support this work through increased capacity building resources for MWBEs as well as through increased outreach to businesses to certify as MWBEs. And as I hope you know we are certainly interested in working with the council with regard to increasing outreach to businesses to certify as MWBEs. These efforts will also help ensure that minority and women owned construction firms have an opportunity to

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participate in these projects. Along with this our pre-award construction meetings with contractors provide a critical opportunity to review contractors plans for subcontracting work and identifying certified MWBEs that are available to help on these projects. We feel that through our ongoing work with Hire NYC the mayor's committee on construction workforce and contracting opportunities and the MWBE program. SBS has a holistic approach increasing opportunities through city contracts. We are also committed to a strong... excuse me... we are also committed to strong workforce practices for all city funded projects. This bill would require aggregated reporting from the employment reports that we collect. We do think there could be a usefulness in this reporting and support the intent of this bill. We would like to discuss further with the council which information would be most useful in these reports for the council's purposes and how the information gathering could be practically implemented. We are happy to answer any questions that you have. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you so much. So, as I stated before we'd like to get right to this. And I guess I have some basic questions for context. Can you tell me the amount, the, the actual number of contract awards in 2016. This is for the purpose of context.

KIMBERLY HARDY: The actual amount of contract awards again just to distinguish between the, the citywide awards and then there is a subset that our Division of Labor services actually reviews so we reviewed about 24 hundred employment reports. So, that would mean 24 hundred contracts.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: What was the actual number on that? Was it 200 million in awards?

KIMBERLY HARDY: We don't have the actual number but we'll be... we'll be happy to get that information for you.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, so for me that's important for context. So, what we do know is that the construction industry and its relationship to contracts in the city of New York have provided a very solid pathway to the middle class for citizens in this city. Right? That's,

that's... We know that to be a fact which is why we need to know exactly who's benefiting from that and this demographic information is important. Again, I asked you these preliminary questions are just for context as to why the bill... you know why we're asking for this bill. So, we believe that again through good jobs that's a pathway to the middle class in, in this.

KIMBERLY HARDY: Mr. Chair if I could just provide you with the total construction contracts as reported by the agency procurement indicators that there were 9,087 contracts valued at approximately 2.5 billion dollars in fiscal year '16.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Right. So, that's, that's a, a very large number. And to my point you know someone is benefiting from that tremendously. We'd like to make sure that that's representative of the city as a whole which is, which is really the context for this bill. So, let me just move on. Can you explain the data currently being gathered on the workforce of contracts, on the workforce of contractors performing construction work for the city? Currently what data do you collect?

AIMBERLY HARDY: Sure. I'd be happy to address that. In the employment reports we collect data obviously identifying the vendor's name, address, the EIN number, MWBE status, union affiliation, whether it's a prime or a sub, the contracting agency, the contract amount, the anticipated start... construction start date and completion date, a description of the work to occur, the employment practices including health benefits, disability, life insurance, equal opportunity manual, the projected workforce is also collected.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, is there a difference between projected workforce and actual workforce?

Workforce that we receive is prior to the start of the construction project. The EEO report is really part of the procurement process. So, before the award is finalized a contracting agency will look for a sign off from SBS that the contractor has submitted the employment report and that we have assured that they have equal opportunity practices and policies in place.

commenced.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, so preliminary I could assert that if there were, if there were a follow up there may be some companies, which I'm saying this anecdotally but we...

KIMBERLY HARDY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: ...know that it's true, who are not meeting what their projection is. Are there penalties for a company who, who, who does that whether it's intentional or whatever, is there, is there a penalty for a company that is, is fraudulent in their information.

KIMBERLY HARDY: Well currently with regard to the employment reports the contractor's principal does sign a sheet affirming that what is in the employment report is true. And it could be subject to criminal or civil penalties.

asking but... but has that been the case. Has it been the case that you determine that someone has not met what their projected employment information or data was and if that is true what, what was, what were the penalties if any?

 $\hbox{\tt KIMBERLY HARDY: I... the... well I... I do} \\ \\ \hbox{\tt hear your question sir and I, I think the answer is} \\$

that, that we are looking at the employment report at a point in time prior to the start of the construction project. And so, they are projections. We're actually not reviewing it once the project is underway. I, I hope that helps.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I mean it answers it but it makes it a little bit harder for me to go on because there's an obvious gap there. So, if you, if you don't review it to make sure that obviously, they're meeting their projections then how do we know that...

KIMBERLY HARDY: Well I... You know ...

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Like that's a...

KIMBERLY HARDY: I guess I would just step back. As I said I... we certainly believed that the intent of the bill that there is a usefulness to understand the data moving forward and we would be very happy to continue discussions on how we can get to the information that the council, council would need to see.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, I'm going to dispel this line of questioning because at the risk of beating a dead horse... not that I advocate for the beating of any animals, especially horses...

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KIMBERLY HARDY: Yes, understood.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I, I, I want my colleagues who are here and who've sacrificed their time to be at this hearing to be able to also have input. So, at this point I'll come back to my questioning and I'll ask my, my co-chair to add any...

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'd also like to acknowledge that we've been joined by Council Member Crowley of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor. Good afternoon. So, I, I kind of want to add on to what Council Member Cornegy has said without kind of covering that same ground. Although we... I think we have a specific objective here which is to figure out whether or not we're achieving our goals and reaching our target audience and creating opportunity of employment and economic stability. And we want to see if this legislation or reporting, how it could best be used and what tools are, what other tools are available in the city's tool box to ensure the oversight that we are reaching that target audience as well as providing opportunity to those who are looking for such. And We did briefly mention some

procuring and construction in the city?

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KIMBERLY HARDY: Yeah. It would be in the indicator's report. We would be pleased to get that to you. I don't have it at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: And that report would also... so because what I would like to... do, do you know who the top five firms are?

KIMBERLY HARDY: We do... we do not know who the top firms are, the top five firms are... But again, we will be...

 $\label{eq:council_member_miller: we're} % \end{substitute} % $$\operatorname{COUNCIL}_{\operatorname{MEMBER}} = \operatorname{MILLER: We'll...}_{\operatorname{Member}} $$$ with...

KIMBERLY HARDY: Happy to gather that information and, and, and share it with you.

that line of questioning do you, do you know of those top firms what percentage of that 2.5 billion that you mentioned goes to them? Right. So, if the top percentage, so the top five companies, how much of that budget is... so we know... we already know that the money is spent on larger contracts, the bulk of the money is spent on larger contracts, the bulk of the money is spent on larger contracts. I want to know in keeping with the council member's question

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do you know what percentage goes to the top 10 firms?

KIMBERLY HARDY: We, we would be happy to get back to you and get those numbers from the Mayor's Office of Contracts, yep.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yep. Thank you and, and so when you do so we want, we have some obviously general questions that we want to be, to ask each contractor but we specifically want to know about those, the major plays in the industry so that I think what we want to drill down on is the contracts, the locations throughout the city, those communities, and ultimately whether or not the workforce represents and reflects the demographics of those communities. How do we... what are the, what are the breakdowns of those companies, what are the breakdowns of those companies in, in particular in terms of gender, in terms of ethnicity, in terms of age and, and things of that nature there. So obviously, that's what the report is we're hoping to accomplish. But I, I did hear Chair Cornegy ask of all the data that is currently collected what information do we have. So, do you know what percentage of the contractors

and what you, what you're getting is, is a

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Council Member King. So, thank you for your ...

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interject really quick Council Member. The recently launched mentioned the industry partnership on construction. The mayor's committee on construction workforce and contracting opportunities. One of their three objectives is looking at safety. So again, the city of New York is very committed to one of the things we consider important in job quality is the safety of our workforce. So, that is something that we're going to continue to be looking at as that industry partnership and round table convene.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you Mr.

Chair and Mr. Chair. I have like one or two
questions. And I'm, I'm not trying to be insulting
at all. I know due over the holiday break I worked.

But the holiday is over. And I find it kind of
disrespect to the committee that we're having a
conversation about dating and you're answering like
two percent of the questions like we have no
answers. I don't get that. You know we all here
investing our time to figure out how do we make
sure that we do right by the city of New York when
it comes to our businesses and on, the best thing

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you can do is come prepared and give us some answers, that we got to stop asking questions because we're not even getting any answers to questions. But I'm, I'm going to jump into your testimony here in regards, comes to MWBEs because I do have some concerns when it comes to MWBEs because I've watched women and I know it was designed for minorities, but a lot of times I see it's... you know the women get contracts and then the women are not of minority and the Caucasian male still is able to tap into the, those monies. So my question to you when you said 30 percent in your testimony, 30 percent... I like to know what is the breakdown of women and people of color who are getting part of that 30 percent. Because you still can come back to me and, and say you know even that we get 30 percent but 25 percent are Caucasian women that means five percent still going only to people of color. So, I mean still something wrong with that whole system, could you have those numbers?

KIMBERLY HARDY: I don't have them readily available but I'll give you the breakdown. The 30 percent of the goal for 2021 I would say

with regard to MWBE generally that under the mayor's administration it's, it's contracting to MWBEs has approximately doubled to almost 16 percent for fiscal year '16. But we'll, we'll give you the breakdown of the demographics of how that works out across the, the various ethnic groups and the women breakdown...

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: My next question be... what do you do to ensure that these contracts end up getting... I hate using the term minority, I'm just...

KIMBERLY HARDY: Sure.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: ...people of color...

KIMBERLY HARDY: Sure.

getting a large percentage of these contracts. I know what the procurement process and... some people not being able to get to it because they just don't have capacity to deal with the billions of dollars that are on the table. But what are we doing right now to allow them to grow so they can compete.

KIMBERLY HARDY: Right. That's a great, that's a great question council member. Thanks for asking that. At SBS we really have undertaken a

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number of capacity building programs and it starts from just one on one technical assistance that our staff and, and some consultants that are experts in the field who'll work with MWBE companies to review bids with them before they submit them, to help map out a strategy on whether they provide goods or services in which agencies they should target. We also have more long term services where we have mentorship programs in the construction industry. We recently launched mentorship program, the first of its kind from goods and services that launched back in November. We have a bond readiness program to help assist companies with becoming ready to, to get a bond as we know that's typically one of the major issues that construction companies are smaller generally encounter. And, and we're really thinking of new ways to, to help more MWBEs.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: And you'll be able to report this data of what you've been able to accomplish and how it's moving forward and not saying all because this X amount percentage wasn't able to be successful we just didn't try to move them along, get a new group to get more of that funding.

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KIMBERLY HARDY: That's certainly our goal sir, to have...

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay.

KIMBERLY HARDY: ...measurable accountability that we can report our successes in that regard.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay. I'm going to wrap up but, but I do have one final question when it comes to your data and tracking those who get these contracts, the, the developers or even some of the unions. I know we have these community agreements that you got to hire from the community. So often when I see construction sites I'm looking at construction sites that don't reflect the community. How do you change that, how are you tracking that data? How are you ensuring if you're going into Bed-Stuy that they look like people who live in Bed-Stuy, not looking like they coming from Lodi, New Jersey. How do you make sure that this is what you say it is? Because when I'm... I'm here, I'm hearing a whole other game that's being played and the data should be able to reflect, and that means having real data. I mean it's got come and be able to answer real questions. Small business and labor

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can't have a committee... have a hearing here and you can't come and give us real conversation because that's how we can have real conversation, you bring us the real data. So, what's the plan? How were you going to get there? And how are we going to make sure that communities of color are represented when these contracts are?

KIMBERLY HARDY: Right. Well a couple of things. First, let us say we are... we certainly are in agreement that we want to promote more diversity particularly in the construction industry. And we have a number of initiatives underway that Ashley will say. But we're ... with regard to our data collection it's also something we're working on at SBS to have more data readily available. We probably need some additional resources, more technology, so that we can have the numbers that we, we need. And again, we were ... be pleased to speak with the council to discuss some of the ideas that we have internally so we can provide more data. But Ashley's going to just turn to some of the discussion with regard to the industry partnerships that we're working on.

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ASHLEY PUTNAM: Yeah and this is... this is... thank you very much for the question. And we are absolutely... you know this administration is very committed to ensuring that city funded projects are providing good quality jobs for New Yorkers. That was our career pathways agenda, something we're really deeply committed to at the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development. We know again that these are fantastic jobs with good quality wages, good supports, and that really do lift up families and communities. So, the Hire NYC program is really doing that. It's placing New Yorkers at the front of the line for jobs that are created by our city contracts and our investments. We also met our local hire goal. Oh yeah. So, I think a couple of the things we've done, this industry partnership which is really looking at the diversity and access and retention within the construction industry is one of them. We also have project labor agreements and I'm happy to talk a little bit more about those but those are things that the mayor's really been committed to under this administration. We upped the requirement to 55 percent of all new apprentices coming into the

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trades are coming from direct entry programs such as new construction skills. So, we've seen some great strides as we continue to work on increasing diversity. And we know that this is something we've been really committed to in our office particularly using Hire NYC to, to accomplish that. So, happy to answer more questions on that.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Before you go on I just want to interject. So, you, you, you talked a lot about goals, and how important goals are... I just don't know how we even get to understanding or, or meeting any goals if we don't have the correct demographical information. Like it does, it just doesn't... you know it doesn't, it doesn't make sense to me. It's really hard to say that we've reached or failed at a goal if we, if we haven't, we don't even have the correct data to measure where we are in these goals. Like I go back to the ... the written... like we can, we can be here all afternoon about what we should do. But if we don't have the correct data you're... have... you're skewed on what your results are all day. So, while I respect that you understand that there is some value in this and I hate the term the devil's in

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the details but this is a good example of why that... that saying probably even came about because while we look at goals we're, we're looking at these goals for a particular thing when we're not demanding another thing from our workforce. So, we're granting billions, literally billions of dollars in contracts and not holding people accountable. And there's no way you can hold them accountable with the system being what it is. So, this really is to have us backup 1,000 feet and make sure that we can get the demographic data necessary to see who these company... whose ... who these companies are comprised of and if they're meeting their goals. If we don't do that then we're going to have this hearing over and over and over. And I don't want to do that. I don't want to have redundant hearings. So, I have to go back to the, the reason that we're here. Because we're going to go off on a tangent because there are so many things that can be corrected as it relates to parody in employment especially with city contracts right. And I don't want to spend the afternoon doing that so I have to refocus us back while we're here. I don't believe that we'll have the, you'll

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get the questions that you're getting. I don't believe... This is anecdotal, but I don't believe we'll get those questions if we have the right data up front.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KING: All I'll just ... I'll end with this Mr. Chair. Maybe you can come back and present us a real plan of what are the challenges that you're having so you can get the real data so we can have a real hearing and we can get some real answers. I thank you for your time. Thank you Mr. Chair. Thank you Deputy Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank, thank you Council Member. Now I... what I do hope is that someone is taking notes because we asked a lot of

things for you to come back with. And unlike other times not, not with you where we've said this and we didn't get anything back and, and 75 percent of what we're asking for would make this hearing go smoother. So, I agree with Council Member King. He made valid points. It's very difficult for us to conduct a hearing that makes any sense if, if you're not prepared to respond to the questions that we have. We have next Council Member Crowley.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you. Good 3 afternoon. Thank you to both our co-chairs for 4 having this important hearing. I have a, a few questions. Before I heard some numbers as to the 5 percentage of MWBE contracting that happens in the 6 7 city. And how the mayor's been able to double that and how there is a goal for 30 percent in 20, 21. 8 So I heard some numbers. A lot of numbers were flying around. Nine billion in contracts? Is that 10 11 right? Is that the total amount of construction 12 contracts or, or all together contracts? KIMBERLY HARDY: 2.5 billion in 13 construction contracts in fiscal year '16. 14 15 [background comments] 16 KIMBERLY HARDY: 9,000 contracts, that's 17 correct, yeah.

[background comments]

KIMBERLY HARDY: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: So, so the city

only had 2.5 in total construction contracts?

KIMBERLY HARDY: Contracts that were registered in Fiscal year 16.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: And can you

just say what agencies they are?

that have PLAs?

KIMBERLY HARDY: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: So, what is the total amount that the city contracts in construction with all those agencies... each year?

KIMBERLY HARDY: In fiscal year 2016 the top five agencies registered over 17,961 contract awards. Those are not all construction but they were valued... again it was just the five agencies at 4.2 billion dollars.

hard to have a hearing and measure progress if
we're not looking at accurate numbers. It seems as
if when you put out that 2.5 billion it's, it's
some type of fraction where you may have a greater
success for MWBEs. Because when I hear you say 16
percent I've never seen that number in construction
contracts from the city. Now, I believe your intent
is to be at that number or be beyond that number
but what is the realistic number?

KIMBERLY HARDY: The number of the percentage of MWBE... of... the percentage of contracts that went to MWBEs this year is approximately 16 percent in fiscal year 16.

	COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE	10
1	SMALL BUSINESS AND LABOR	41
2	COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Show me where	
3	that is. Show me your data, your report.	
4	KIMBERLY HARDY: I I will be I'll be	
5	happy to to share that with you.	
6	COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: And you're	
7	counting that as 2.5 billion?	
8	KIMBERLY HARDY: Not out of the 2.5.	
9	What the overall… the overall contracts that were	
LO	subject to 1NYC.	
l1	COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Just the ones	
12	that are subject to 1NYC.	
L3	KIMBERLY HARDY: Yes.	
L4	COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: And how much	
15	money is that?	
L6	KIMBERLY HARDY: I don't have the exact	
L7	figure with me today. But I we'll we'll be happy	
L8	to report that back to you.	
L9	COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: We had a	
20	hearing in December on MWBEs.	
21	KIMBERLY HARDY: Yes.	
22	COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: And it was even	
23	difficult to get the number in that hearing, wasn't	
24	straight forward. When you look at all the	

contracting in the city it's closer to six percent.
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KIMBERLY HARDY: The numbers that were provided in the hearing Council Member, for the accounting that the Mayor's Office of Contracts does, the numbers are approximately, the percentage is approximately 16 percent. But I'll be... we'll be happy to provide you with, with that information, that was discussed at the hearing back in I think December 8th.

I think that what is probably the truth about your numbers is that it's just out of that 2.5 billion. And in those 2.5 billion dollars where monies allocated to a project labor agreements or some type of community benefit agreement where you had to produce MWBE goals. It would be good for the administration to do that, to put those types of goals into every contracting dollar that goes towards construction. And then you will get to 30 percent or somewhere near 16 percent. But the truth of the matter is the city is nowhere near that today. And it's not fair to this committee or to this council or to the city to play with numbers

single contract?

raising and certainly we are in full agreement of ...

and want to promote diversity. So, we have to...

we've been working on improving some of our

technologies so that we can provide this

information in, in a more reasonable time period.

Currently now it's...

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Right. It's my understanding...

KIMBERLY HARDY: Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: ...that the council passed a law, a local law 1 of 2013 that required the report, reporting to the council and to the mayor by your agency for those contracts and understanding the diversity of the workforce as well as the diversity of the leadership of those companies.

there, there... our report... most recently we just submitted the compliance numbers for MWBE compliance. I'm sorry I thought when you... when I was answering your question before I thought you were referring to the EEO reports. But for MWBE compliance you're absolutely right.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Right.

| | COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE OF |
|----|---|
| 1 | SMALL BUSINESS AND LABOR 4 |
| 2 | KIMBERLY HARDY: We, we submit the |
| 3 | reports on a quarterly basis to council. |
| 4 | COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: In those |
| 5 | reports, do they ask for the demographics of the |
| 6 | entire workforce? |
| 7 | KIMBERLY HARDY: I believe in the |
| 8 | compliance reports that are submitted for Local Law |
| 9 | 1 we do not include demographics on the workforce |
| 10 | but in the employment, reports we, we do ask for |
| 11 | demographics for the workforce. |
| 12 | COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: But this these |
| 13 | demographics you already have. You just don't have |
| 14 | them at your fingertips? |
| 15 | KIMBERLY HARDY: For Yes, the |
| 16 | projections we do have. |
| 17 | COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: For the |
| 18 | workforce? For the |
| 19 | KIMBERLY HARDY: Yes. |
| 20 | COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY:entire |
| 21 | workforce? |
| 22 | KIMBERLY HARDY: Yes. |
| 23 | COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Okay, thank |
| 24 | you. No further questions. |

KIMBERLY HARDY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, that was painful. It's, it's frustrating. So, I know it's frustrating for you to have to answer these questions you have to imagine how frustrating it is for those who represent communities who have been disproportionately affected by bad policy across the board. So, I don't think it's myself or any of my colleagues' intention to make this painful. But it is what it is. And we have to get to the bottom of this so that we can really begin to do what the mayor's mandate is and what the agency's mandates are which is to meet, meet those numbers. But we can't do it without the correct reporting from, from the beginning. Carlos Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you

Chairs. And I'm... we're, we're here to try to figure

out how, how to get to a better place. And for the

reasons that we're tripping through right now we're

in a... we're in the middle of a legislative process

as well. So, we have a bill that we can make

better. Help us do that. And so I'm hoping that in

the questions not only are you answering questions

but really kind of point to ways that we can help

with some, with some legal enforcement through law,

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help you craft a better reporting mechanism. And some... we're going to offer that to you. And before I get to my questions is there something that upon the multiple questions that have come out can you give us some suggestions about how we can recraft this, this bill... that's a topic for the hearing?

KIMBERLY HARDY: Council Member I... we think that the, the bill is really well intended and we would welcome having further discussions. Again just, just to step back SBS and the administration are very committed to workplace diversity. We agree the more information that we can get the better for, for all of us to have more transparency. We've been really working at SBS to improve technology and we're looking at some potential different avenues that we can take. And certainly, in the broader procurement context there is a, there is a, an initiative underway to, to have more technology, to, to give us the city, the, the, the ability to, to report and analyze data. And we're very open to working with the council to figure out what information would be most useful and how we can implement it. So, we're very committed...

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: So, sounds like there's some gaps in technology. There's some things in it, resources that you don't have right now that you would, that would better serve this conversation for a better hearing next time.

KIMBERLY HARDY: Absolutely.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Is that, is that right? Okay great. So, let's be, let's... we get clear about that.

KIMBERLY HARDY: No, absolutely.

would love, love to hear that. And that's just also... Isn't the city required to take and, and really kind of specifically track demographic data for federally funded projects under an executive order 11246? Is that right?

KIMBERLY HARDY: We collect... through the employment reports we collect the demographic data. It's done in a manual basis now.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Now, tell me a little bit more about that demographic data. Is that data and just, so, so you're saying yes, you do collect data from...

reporting on that front?

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ANDREW SCHWARTZ: I, I think, I think that's a good point Council Member is that these are projections that we get and I think that's the, the bill as I understand it from the council 1382 is for us to aggregate these projections. That's what we don't have now, we don't have those aggregated numbers and that's what I think we're talking about. When we say employment reports we're not talking a comprehensive report to the council, we're talking about individual contracts and what the construction companies are giving us. And we're going to aggregate that information that's what we're talking about needing a little bit more in terms of technology and, and staffing. I, I just want to differentiate that from the MWBE discussion that came up because those reports are covered by local law 1 and we do file those every quarter. I know there have been a... some questions here about specific percentages and we don't have those at our finger tips but some of that material is in the MOCS report, some of that is in the report that we file and it's just difficult to have all of that at the ready and we will get that to you but we concur as we've said that we would work with the council

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in terms of aggregating the information we are getting and you know that's something we are looking at. I think you're referring to the federal OFCCP, the Officer Federal Contract Compliance and they do... I know they are working on programs to increase the reporting from companies and that if we could find a way to piggy back on getting the, the reports that the companies have to file with the federal government that might make our process a little simpler because the other thing we're concerned about here of course that this does take place in the context of procurement and everybody's concerned about the length of... you know at the same time we're concerned about these issues there's concerns about the length of time it takes to get a procurement done. Now MOCS is working on a citywide procurement initiative to speed that up. So anytime you know we're waiting for the DLS process to get done that's the time it takes before you can register a contract. So yes, with enhanced technology that could increase our ability to report for us to analyze, to provide to you, to get procurements done. So that's something we are doing our own operational analysis now, I mean it... since

Deputy Commissioner Hardy has come on the focus has been you know in the six, seven months she's been here has been MWBE but DLS is also something that we want to talk with you, you know you've seen our employment report form, we would look for ways to improve that, to capture the information that you're looking for if, if that's helpful.

it is helpful and it offers a lot of other questions in how we think about MWBEs and the reporting, the local law in the federal executive order but i... what I will say to is what, what does the city do when, when contractors don't meet those projections?

ANDREW SCHWARTZ: Yeah, I think... well projections are just that, projections are not necessarily held to that but I think what we've been focusing on, the programs that Ashley has, has laid out Hire NYC these are the first time that city contractors are being mandated to use workforce from our workforce system which has a good percentage of minorities and women and they are required, going to be required to use those on city contracts. So, that's kind of a first. When we

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do see construction... now here ... an area where our DLS process and our MWBE process comes together is in construction, when DLS brings in the companies for a pre-award conference that's a time to talk about well what sub-contracting opportunities are going to be on this project and we are going to be able to recommend certified firms for you to use for sub-contract because look the companies that are MWBE database they are not going to win the project to do a water pollution control plan but there's going to be sub-contracting opportunities on that and we want to make sure that at the beginning, during this pre-award process we've actually had an opportunity to look down the road at what the sub opportunities are going to be. So, we're able to use it in that way. So, I understand like on the one hand we're looking at kind of programs that for the first time are trying to bring city workers into city contracts but at the same time you're looking for information on specific contracts and holding people accountable and I think we understand that.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Well and, and I think if... it... my next question is how, how much

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of a plan have you developed already internally at the agency level for this technology solution and are we in brainstorming sessions, are we, are we beyond that do you, do you have something ready to go, we're going into budget season soon, are we going to see that in the budget, in the budget hearings, how far are you down the line in, in developing that solution?

ANDREW SCHWARTZ: It's tough to say at this point but somewhere in that process. I think as you indicate budget process is a good time to hopefully...

the only time we're going to have to talk about this and so we're hopeful that in a budget hearing we can, we can see and we can expect and we're giving you that notice now, we're going to want to see a, a real solution and plan so that we can support you, support that. I think that that's a hurdle that we keep on hitting and we don't see solutions and so now is the time. We want... not only get data that we've been asking for but a, a technology solutions that are going to get us to that point too. I, I'll just throw out a couple

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pieces that, that data in, in so many ways can get crafted in, in... for us and by trade is another important thing. We want to see, we want to see data by trade, we want to see what trades are doing better than others, that's an important thing for us and I think this is a question that we talk about a lot. And then also on the dollar value of the contracts too, that's an important piece that can help, help in, in other ways, understand exactly how much by dollars are minority and women contractors getting as we move forward. So, that's also just to kind of que in the, the, the technology pieces as well as you, as you develop the technology solutions. And, and look we're going to hear from the advocates and they're... we're, we're all in the same boat, we want more transparency, we want more ability to track data so that it could be understandable so that we can, we can bring more policy solutions to the front. And the last thing I'll say is that I know we don't want to slow down the contracting process but one way to not necessarily slow it down but make it clear for companies that are doing the right thing is to understand who is doing the right thing. And

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so reporting, better reporting will show us that there are, there are contractors that are not only responding to not just projections but post projections in saying they're a good player, we'll give them better, better ratings, this is not just a low dollar, low dollar bid, bidding process, this is a... they're following the rules that we're engaging, they're saying their projections and they're meeting them and you get to the front of the line. Let's figure out how we can, how we can do that but we can't even do that right now it sounds like because we don't even have that data. So, I'll stop there and, and just say I, I am incredibly frustrated right now too but it sounds like we have a solution and a pathway for a real impact on this next budget to solve some of those solutions. So, one year from now we're, we're back in a better light. And so I don't know if you want to answer any...

ASHLEY PUTNAM: ...yeah, Council Member

I'd, I'd love to address some of the information we
do have by trade. And actually, this comes from
again the mayor's Committee and Construction

workforce and contracting we had a presentation on

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the data on apprenticeship entries. So, under our project labor agreements we do require a certain percentage of apprenticeships spots in the trades to be held for our direct entry program and I'm happy to share that with you now. So, this is our data that is provided, we have to get this data from the New York State Department of Labor on apprentices. So, this data is as of 2014. So right now, all of our apprentices in New York City construction sites from this data set, 39... or sorry, 69.9 percent are minority and 11.5 percent are female, 82 of those folks came from helmets to hardhats, 100 from NEW which is Nontraditional Employment for Women, and 121 from the Edward J. Malloy Construction Skills Program. So, we are continuing to follow up on those project labor agreements. Again, is a very important tool for us to diversify the trades and something you mentioned before is getting them into those apprentices. And those apprenticeships are something we're very committed to and I'm happy to share, I do have a breakdown, I don't have it aggregated but I do have this information. I'm happy to follow up and, and

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share with you from the, from the state Department of Labor.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, before we hear from Karen Koslowitz I want to say that I, I, I want to clear something up. Aggregating the data on predictions isn't as effective to me as aggregating the data on actual placements. So, I, I don't want to, you know have to come back and say that I agree to aggregating data on projections because I don't agree to that and I don't think any of the rest of the, the members agree to that. We need to know actuals and then to Council Member Menchaca's point, I would like to leave here today knowing what the barriers to getting this data are not speculating, not assume, not asserted, what are the actual barriers so that we can ... I ... and then I don't want to necessarily let any agency off the hook by saying it's a budget issue and we'll discuss it in the budget because there are ways around everything that don't include money sometimes. Now there are certain barriers, I get it but I need to know as the chair of this committee what the barriers are so that I can go back to the committee members and

be willing to advocate where, where necessary for whatever could be to the barrier but if I don't know the barrier then I'm going to continue this line of questioning which is probably not fair if you, if you've identified barriers that we can remedy. So, I just... you don't have to answer that, I'd like you to think about that but think of me as an advocate even though this, this hasn't been an advocates conversation, I understand that but if there are barriers I, I, I literally need to know by, by the end of this hearing what those barriers are and I'll just let Karen Koslowitz has some questions.

don't have questions because I'm very frustrated with this hearing and I love SBS you do great work but I really feel that it's not together and I really feel that at the next hearing we should have contracts here also to be accountable for what they canned out to the city of New York. Transit Authority doesn't come under your jurisdiction but I, I worked for contractors in the '70's and I know and I did the bidding and I did all, all that kind of work. So, I know what it entails and we had... I

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worked... we probably had 500 people employed under... when I was working electricians, I worked electrical contractors and we knew about each and every one of the people that were for us. So, we, we ourselves and we bided out many contracts to the city of New York. And we could tell you about almost everyone that was there and I think that each company should be liable to giving you the statistics that you need and I think it has to be computerized, I don't think it's something you know off the top of your head, we're talking about money that it costs money when you contract, contracted out the bidding process, of course money you... hopefully you'll do the, the lowest bidder. You have to have more information, I mean this is very haphazard and it makes me really sad to see this. And like I said SBS is a great agency, I've worked with them, they've been very cooperative but on this level, I'm disappointed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you Council
Member. So, get back to the, the project labor
agreements in, in developing these agreements how,
how were these agreements negotiated and, and what
do they entail, are they specifically involving the

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city and organized labor or is there local hire or local community workforce development or not for profits involved, how, how, how does these project labor agreements come together?

ASHLEY PUTNAM: So I can speak to that to a certain extent, I'm happy to get back as I was not there for the negotiation but the project labor agreement has several things it entails and yes that includes building and construction trades, GCA, we also had workers representing minority, minority and women businesses that we had a whole collaboration of folks that came together around negotiating these project labor agreements and it involved both contracting opportunity and workforce and one of the things stipulated that is the committee, the mayor's committee on construction workforce and contracting opportunity and that they are tasked with tracking and interested in tracking these apprenticeship entries. There's a lot of other things in the project labor agreement which I'm, I'm happy to, to send along and speak to you. there is not a specific language around local hire as much as around these pipelines, is that incorrect... around these pipelines into, into the

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apprenticeships so we're looking at again, getting someone into the trades, understanding that working with these certified pre-apprenticeship programs that we talked about before and that also includes NYCHA residents. So, that is specifically named the NYCHA Resident Training Academy, has a percentage slot into the apprenticeships and we've been working very closely with them to connect more NYCHA residents with career opportunities in the trades. So, we've had great success again through this industry partnership and over the past couple years within this project labor agreement trying to connect more folk... people to those, those opportunities and that involves investments and skill development and education and literacy so we understand that it's not just the regulation it's also our investments of the city and, and helping to build those people up and SBS has been a leader in doing that.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, could you tell me again how many reports you actually received annually or, or this year, how many reports you received from the 9,000 contracts that are out?

is the pre-award employment report.

contracts, are they obligated... is their

awards are added at that time too when sub-

KIMBERLY HARDY: It does not.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Councilman.

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the advocates I'm, I'm going to ask that you stay and hear from the advocates or at least some of your staff stay and hear from the advocates. I think you know you've heard us talk around the issue to some degree but I think you need to hear directly from some of the, the more vocal and more prominent advocates who are here who have been on the front lines dealing with issues... this issue and the very similar issues for, for a long time. So, if you, if your schedule permits I really would prefer if you were able to give them your ear or your staff.

ASHLEY PUTNAM: And Council Member I do want to clarify it has, it has been clarified to me that 11426 there are agencies that do track that in terms of diversity data and again that's not necessarily at the DLS level but the agencies such as the HRO and other agencies but the agencies contracting it do have access to that data for federal funding again also of section three.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: And... but I think it's worth noting that we know that there are some agencies that do some of this very well so we, we,

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we know that SCA we've worked with and does a great job and has a program that we'd like to see replicated through all the agencies. So, I don't want you to leave thinking that you know this was totally us not understanding who has been at the forefront of doing, doing some of this work really well but it also gives us a benchmark to, to higher our expectations for, for all agencies and, and to have some uniform way that this is done to help you and us reach our, our goals.

Council Member. Yeah Mr. Chair I would just reiterate that the city and the SBS specifically obviously are very committed to diversity and the workforce and we certainly agree that more information is needed and, and we want to work with the council to discuss ways that we can improve some of our practices. We probably... we know we need... you asked about some of the barriers, technology and some of the other members have noted is, is, is much needed in this area. Our resources to date to promote diversity have really been in the construction industry partnerships, the Hire

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technology as a way to have the information readily available and we're very, very open to working with the council and, and thank you for holding, holding the hearing today.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you so much for, for coming out and providing what limited information that you do have which, which is not a knock and, and, and this is not the first time that, that this has happened but I think that we have enough information to, to, to take back that we can drill down on and that we can be better, that we can ultimately reach that target audience that, that, that we're looking to reach and, and sure that they are participants in the construction trades. And particularly when, when projects are being done in these communities that the communities that the people that are performing these tasks are, are representative and reflective of the communities as well as not just the labor side but certainly on the ownership side as well. So, whatever we can do we, we want to do that but let me just... can I just... when you... when, when, when these... and just conversations of procurement are going on. How, how are we engaging the contractors,

are we asking these questions, are we actually physically... is there a form that says... is there a, a request that we have that says that this is the criteria or this is... these are the expectations?

to the employment reports and the contractors that are submitting them in addition to the actual submission of the written report we also have preaward conferences where we talk about the diversity of the workforce, ensuring that there's fair employment practices, connecting, asking about the subcontractors, connecting them to our NWBE that are in our directory and in, in trying to make a... those connections. So, so, so there is some conversation, quite a bit of conversation...

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Do you...

KIMBERLY HARDY: ...but that, that's not...

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: ...have the human capital for oversight to, to follow up and, and ensure that folks are adhering to these policies currently and, and do you have the, the, the human capital to, to not just gather this data but to be able to retrieve it and, and transform it into, to,

to useful information to achieve the goals I think everyone here is seeking?

KIMBERLY HARDY: I, I, I think to achieve those goals that many of us agree on... and with regard to workplace diversity we would need additional staffing resources, we're trying to analyze exactly what those needs would be and they would be based on what, what the legislation is...

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Okay, well let me...

KIMBERLY HARDY: ...moving forward...

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: ...say that, that, that the Committee on the Civil Service and Labor and if I may speak for, for my, my colleagues at small, of small business and his committee that we are absolutely committed to the success of, of this legislation and whatever we can do to move forward and make sure that you have the tools that, that this is successful that we're willing to do and, and, and just want to thank you guys again for coming out.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Before you go

out I think one of the things I did not do was

detail what we're looking for in the report. Some

of the, some of the demographical data, demographic

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data that we're looking for include but are not limited to gender, trade affiliation, employee address, so are you hiring New Yorkers, union affiliation, hours worked, and length of placement. Now with just that preliminary real basic information do you think that's something that you could produce quarterly?

KIMBERLY HARDY: I think that's something we, we certainly want to look at and, and, and we would, we would hope that we could do that, we would need additional resources but certainly that is useful information. And again, we'd love to continue to work with you, we know we are capturing some of that in Hire NYC and that there's other things we're interested in also; NYCHA residency for section 3 compliance and everything from even... public assistance... we're very interested in looking at who we are connecting to these job opportunities and we are capturing some of that within Hire NYC. And again, we are very committed to this idea of workforce diversity, we want to ensure that there's transparency and we again will work with the council to come up with the, the right outcome.

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be clear I believe that, I believe that you are committed to that in other areas, I've worked very closely with SBS and then you demonstrated that so I guess we all are a little alarmed that at this plate... that we're at this place and, and that's probably where some of the greatest criticism comes in because we know that you know you guys generally lead the charge as it relates to diversity. So, I think that's kind of where the disconnect and, and has people probably more upset because we expect so much because you've done so much. So, thank...

KIMBERLY HARDY: Well thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, we're going to call the next panel. This is a very illustrious panel so I don't even know how to call them without saying it's an illustrious panel; the illustrious Hazel Dukes, the illustrious Bertha Lewis, and the illustrious state senator James Sanders Junior, what a panel. Alright and former Chair of the Civil Service and Labor Committee.

[background dialogue]

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: We just want to affirm your testimony so we would ask you to...

business, Progressive Caucus, black, Latino, and

Labor. My name is Dr. Hazel n. Dukes, I'm the

president of the NAACP New York state conference

Asian Caucus and the Committee on Civil Service and

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with 15 branches operating in the five boroughs of New York City. As a matter of fact, we're so big and bold that we have three to four branches in most places. In Queens, we... I am honored to say we have four branches so we didn't leave Queens out. Brooklyn is so large till we named it twice so we only have one in there. You may know the NAACP was one of the oldest, boldest, and most effective and most respected civil rights organization in the nation. The NAACP has played a pivotal role in moving their agenda of freedom and equality forward under the leadership of many before me, each of whom address many critical issues during their tenure. Like my civil rights activist miss Bertha Lewis of the Black Institute I'm testifying in opposition to introduction number 1382 of 2016 and if you heard what I heard if you didn't take a nap knowing that people did not bring information that they should have you will know why I am vemit [phonetic] opposed to it because there's no teeth, there's no information for my community as we watch buildings going up in New... in this great city with nothing but African American and mostly women raising flags. However, I want for the record to

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show the veil is holier inadequate to further the aims that we need for transparence and for us to know where our tax payer dollars are going, full disclosure. Over a period of months and I say months but I mean years, the last five years the NAACP under the guidance of our direct... board of directors we were entrust with five game changers and one of the game changers was economic state ability. And so that's why I work so hard in the last five years to bring those together in city, government and state government and in the trades especially in the construction industry and have had no way of moving it. So today I express uncertainty about 1382, it would not accomplish much needed goals that have been reflected by the NAACP and could not take the place of the disclosure act. You heard it, I didn't bend it, the people came here today did not have the information that you needed to go forward to make a decision. So... and I have included a complete text and so I'm here standing. This resolution came out of the, the NAACP mid, mid-Manhattan branch where the state economic development is a vice chair of that branch. We have looked, we have reviewed from every

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instance that we could and do not see the spirit of improving transparency. So, I will summarize some prevision of the disclosure act to ensure the public is fully aware of just how unacceptable the 100 words included in Intro number 1382 truly are. Now given that you all have moved forward with this 1382 instead of the discloser act. I believe the public deserves to know why it is acceptable to maintain the city inability to access... to receive the benefits of city assisted construction projects, why can't the public be made aware of the actual demographic these... of these projects, why can't the public be shown whether or not city residents are receiving the benefits of good paying construction jobs after receiving city funds. Why can't the discloser act move forward. NAACP strongly oppose Intro number 1382 in its current form. We believe New York City deserves better, the city council should address the department failure to fulfill requirements of the city charter by replacing the broken system with a modern most transparent alternative. So, the disclosure act that you have before you now is to amend administrative code 6 title 1 and while I was

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sitting there I was praying for patience and wisdom. No questions was really directly asked of these persons who get paid to do this job. When was their last report and who did they report to? The city charter mandate that is to be done, I didn't hear nothing but juba jumbo and I took a little nap and then I woke up to hear more of nothing, nothing and you city Council Members did not drill down, where are the reports under the city charter. When did you see one, if there's any why wasn't they provided today instead of coming back. So that's why the NAACP have got a disclosure act would stop all of this nonsense and you wouldn't have to come back and you most certainly shouldn't come back next year when we just begin 2017, we didn't see you getting anything for 2016 so now we got to wait till we get some... whatever they need to do nothing with because what we asked them for could be done by interns, we don't need any other... all of this waiting and see. So, what we want here is additional definition of administrative code title 6, chapter 1 which presently provide non... new requirement included, create workforce to close your records to be submitted to the department each

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quarter and identify city assistant construction projects by address with... which Councilman Miller did get to before he closed his statement. We want to see demographics, we want to see gender and trade classification, MWBEs affiliation, home zip code. This is nothing that the LBI is going to ... about a house and... them for. I'm a citizen, you're using my, my money to fudge people who are making money off of this city, we don't know where they live, we have men and women who are trade prepared to work because they were out of work they couldn't pay union dues and so cousins and uncles are coming back and people from my community is not working. And so this disclosure act will mandated to it your Intro 1382 won't do anything but let them continue to slide by and as a civil rights activist I will not sit here in this city with my 15 branches and allow this to continue to happen to us not only African Americans but Latinos and women and I won't ... stop talking about minorities. We are the majority in this city so let's be fair and let's put it on the table who we're talking about and who I'm here fighting for, I'm for equal opportunity for everyone but when I hear the statistics

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continue to be where my community is not able to have a decent living, they are homeless, children can't go to school, come on we cannot sit here any longer and play games with our self. So therefore, I want the record to show we are vehemently opposed to 1382 and ask you to look at our disclosure act, come back to us and tell us why this can't be a act for the city of New York. Thank you very much.

BERTHA LEWIS: Any questions? My name is Bertha Lewis and I am the founder and the president of the Black Institute and the Executive Director of the Black Leadership Action Coalition. I'm giving this testimony before this joint committee about local... a proposed local law introduction 1382. This is supposed to amend the city charter in relation to the reporting information on the workforce of contractors performing construction work with city assistance. I want to thank you, thank you, you two Councilmen for having this hearing. I really appreciate your, your leadership. This hearing is vital, it's important and it's needed. However, we beg to differ and we disagree with the current forum of your legislation which we feel is incomplete, inaccurate, and wholly

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inadequate. The Black Institute and Black has as our foundation data collection and research, we are an action tank, that is a think tank that takes action. You cannot address or attack any problem or issue without real data and facts. As you all may know we've been waging a campaign for the last two... a few years to address the shameful discrimination and city contracting against minority and women business entrepreneurs which I might add includes many veterans across this city and state. We've joined together with the NAACP, other groups, organizations, and individuals on this matter because it effects and encompasses some of the very same issues that MWBEs face on a daily basis as it pertains to the construction industry. The construction industry has provided workers with a historical pathway to economic development and advancement. However, it is far from clear who is being provided such opportunities for economic advancement. Publicly available, geographic, and demographic data as to who is performing construction work in New York City is simply not available. The city should assess whether city residents are receiving the benefits of good paying

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construction jobs. Now we are proposing amendments to the city's administrative code to require not till we see... when we get ready but to require workforce disclosure on all, all, all projects that receive financial assistance from the city with a present financial value of a million dollars or more. Make it simple, make it plain, all analysis of the workforce disclosure records that will result, facilitate the use of city assistance to broaden economic opportunities for city residents. The changes that we propose would aggregate information that is supposed to be currently collected and we would take this out of a disparate process, require the submission of additional information to provide greater context and transparency for the impact of city financial assistance. Actually, create reports that would inform future policy surrounding workforce goals and MWBE participation and make more information more useful through electronic filings and release, exactly the issues that you all brought up. The disclosure act that we drafted in our attempts to help would of answered and provided all of the issues that you brought up here and why is this so

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important to us because the demographics of this city are 65 percent quote minority unquote. And soon the entire country will be a new majority that is composed of so called minorities. The workers in this city will be the majority minority but now they only make up some of the lowest rung, unskilled, non-union workers in the booming construction industry. You know there's a, a congresswoman in Brooklyn that said New York City has a new bird and it's called the crane because everywhere you look there is a construction crane. We talk about infrastructure and the city of tomorrow, well who do you think is going to build it? The data that was supposed to be collected to comply with city, state, and federal equal employment opportunity law was first codified in the New York City charter April 25th, 1980 under Mayor Koch. It's only been amended three times with just minor adjustments and so ever since Mayor Koch these reports were supposed to be done and then came Mayor Dinkins and these reports were supposed to be done then Giuliani, then Bloomberg and finally Mayor William De Blasio. We believe that this administration is in violation of the city

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charter, we believe that SBS in violation of the city charter. We believe that the leadership of SBS should be fired, terminated, and replaced and that the administration and the mayor's office is not up to the task of enforcing the charter or adhering to it. What is the punishment when you violate the city charter every single year since 1980? This counsel should be asking for every single contract since 1980 that had a so called EEOC attachment, ask for that so you can finally figure out whether or not SBS has in fact done any reports we don't think they exist because if they existed they would of presented them here today. Therefore, you need to amend 1382 so that it really can affect a broader population of projects, provide real transparency, penalize those who do not comply and have the force of law not just an executive order but the force of law. Women need to be counted, veterans need to be counted, MWBE's need to be counted, we cannot continue to have minorities as Dr. Dukes says on construction projects be the flag wavers you've seen them out in the middle of traffic that's what they do. Apprentices, really forever. This is what is brought to you all as

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testimony by the small business administration. We will never have parody because even small business agency can't get it together so we'll never get into big business. Enough, enough, enough. Now we know that this progressive counsel will do the right thing, we know you all will because after sitting through what you all had to sit through we know you all are going to the right thing. We know that you will make 1382 have real teeth and real force and that you will do the right thing even though the mayor and SBS cannot seem to or maybe the mayor and SBS do not care to do so. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you, Senator Sanders.

JAMES SANDERS: You noticed that I was choking before there's such power at this table my friend that it choke a brother up. Let me thank the committee having sat in the seats that you have as a Council person for 12 years, it's a, it's a joy to see the council grappling with these age old problems that we were with the same spirit. I, I commend you for that. I'm going to bypass my, my testimony, you have it but I want to frame this in a, at type of context that we need and the context

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is really the question, will New York City be New York City for all New Yorkers. This is the thing that we're wrestling with, this is the essence of what... everything that you're going to hear for the rest of the day, will there be one New York or will there be several New Yorks as there are currently. I, I, I digress to say that I take this especially serious because I'm the father of MWBE in New York City. I am the author of local law 1, the author of local law 129 and I was taught this by the very people sitting at this table here and others. I learned of these things because I had a great teachers who educated me. I am also on the mayor's MWBE advisory board, I'm also in a few days probably going to be the Chair of the Senate Dems task force on MWBE but I'm speaking for myself today, I'm speaking as myself for myself, I'm not speaking for anyone else. As a father, a father always wants a strong robust child, a... educated, strong, robust child and MWBE has not been that, its been anything but that. My points are a little different than my, my colleagues, I always noticed that, that MWBE has been given to SBS but SBS is probably one of the least funded agencies that we

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have and this part of SBS MWBE has historically been under funded. The really energy needs to go into this part if you want these reports, if you want to have it at the point that you, that, that they have it in their hand then you have to fund them in that manner. A word of the bill that we're speaking about today I commend the chair and others for trying to come up with this. In logic, I would say that this is necessary but insufficient, necessary but insufficient. The spirit is right, you're going in the right direction but you got many miles to go before you can sleep on this issue and we shouldn't sleep on this one that if we could just remember that at the end of the day there's real people on the ground that need this stuff. The people that we walk over and sometimes asking us for, for money or whatever these people need to be working. One of the hardest things I've ever had to do is when... people, my constituents come up to me and pull me to the side and say listen I really need a job, I need help, can you get me... can you help me and I have to really tell them no, I can't help you, it breaks my heart. Yes, I could send them to this place and that place but I know that

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very little is going to happen when I send them and that breaks my heart because Bob Marley taught us that in midst of water only a fool is thirsty. If we are going through an incredible boom in the city then how come these people are not working, there's something wrong here but let's be clear this is an age old problem, this is an American problem. This is one that was started 400 years ago, this is an old problem, an American problem. However, problems have solutions, we just can't say it was started then, then that's the end of it, what are we going to do about it when we realize that justice delayed as Madame Dukes will teach us is justice denied. Every day that we're not doing something about this then we add to our own sin here, we add to our own crime or are a part in it. Now most jobs everyone knows most jobs are started by small business and this is a fact beyond, beyond anyone questioning. Another study will also show you most businesses, small especially hire people who look like themselves. So, if you're not giving people of color a chance to create these businesses you're adding to your unemployment, you're simply adding to it. Now I didn't create that problem but it is

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real, we have to keep the context that New York City is a, a so called majority minority city. If we were talking of a different land we should be happy about, I've heard figures tossed about, I've heard five percent, 17 percent, six percent, we couldn't get a real figure here. We should be happy about that if the people of color and women were only 17 percent or less of the population then we should say we're making progress, we're doing great things but if you're talking about 65 percent of the population and we're arguing is it really 11 percent or is 12 percent or is it five percent or could be three percent then there's something wrong. In a fair society if you had 65 percent you would expect 65 percent of the contracts. In a less than fair society you would expect 40 percent and keep going until we get the numbers that we have. There's something fundamentally wrong here and yes, yes collect the data but if we do not enforce these goals we're... it doesn't matter what data you collect. It doesn't matter if you collect every single soul that was or, or has a job or, or whatever if you're not going to enforce it then all you'll do is make a list of the unpardonables if

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you wish. Now a Haitian saying is... has it that fish rot at... from the head which means that we have to ... we, we are the heads my friends, the city council, this a bicameral body. the city council is a head too that we need to... we... I have to remember that I'm not... I'm on this side and not that side, get a little confused but I'll use it, we need to take this serious and we need to say you know what when it comes to, to statistics we will remember things. We will remember the, the philosopher Disraeli who warned you that there were three type of lies, lies, damned lies and statistics. And if we get caught up into the weeds of is it 16 percent, 16.5, 50 all of that stuff and we fail to see ... just use your eyes. You see who's working in these communities and you see who's not just use ... whenever they go high and they get all sophisticated just go low on them, football again they go high, you hit them low. Go low on it and look to see who is working and how do the communities look, are they looking... are they starting to become enriched or are they looking shabby. If you just use your eyes there. Now there are things that we can do and I'm actually working

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on it with others but I'm not alone. The, the stuff that the, the, the... I'm sorry, the bills that have been advocated by my, by my far better qualified than I people are... is... are great. These are good things, if I were a Council Person I would immediately take them, I would already have my name on it before, before this session is up I would have that. I would, I would have nothing against what, what you're saying sir, I'd be on that too but I would take all of these things. There are other things that can be done and perhaps in question we will go to that but... and I'm talking about concrete ways that we can make a difference here but it's not simply data collection and you do have to include the EDC in this because half... just about half of the budget is in the EDC and it ... so your numbers as meager as we sounding but if you include them you're now miniscule, its... it gets worse but, but the problem is just as bad at the state if not worse my friends. This is not simply to, to get on the mayor without the context, it's an American problem and the state is no... I'm not here preaching from the state to you when I haven't done my work there either. There's a whole lot of

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work that we need to do at the state and it's unfair to the city when you're using apples and oranges, you cannot compare the states numbers to the city's numbers because the state has less transparency than the city. So therefore, they have to be looked at by themselves but that's just in the side. I commend you, I, I start ... where I started I commend you for grappling with an American dilemma. I also urge you god speed, go for it because back in Queens where Council Member Miller and I stem from and other places we have to walk past the bodies, we are actually walking past the living dead who deserve better than we're getting, they deserve to have a chance at America like everybody else. And that's all we're saying. America be America for everybody. Thank you...

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you senator.

I just want to say I look forward to working with everyone at that podium to make the necessary amendments to strengthen this bill.

BERTHA LEWIS: And again we have consulted with several law firms who specialize in the city charter as well as the state constitution and adding the amendment that we have proposed to

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1382 at this point can be absolutely done right now and there is no legal barrier to that so we can expand 1382 as, as we also look at getting the past reports that were supposed to be done from SBS so that when you amend 1382 you can see what they have already reported to the mayor and what they have not and if you do have another hearing the mayor should be called and ordered to produce the reports that were made to him.

JAMES SANDERS: [off mic] thank you.

HAZEL DUKES: I want to concur with

Senator Sanders that I'm not here just for New York

City, my role is the state and most certainly we're

on record at the state level. Same thing last year,

we are waiting for their report, I had not been

before this city council with this before and I

thought it was about time from the 15 branches in

the... of five boroughs of New York City that is

complaining daily as he said men and women come to

these offices daily and say why can't we... and we

had hearings, we have union members here today who

have been union members because they couldn't get

their jobs they didn't pay union dues and so they

are out of work but yet and still we can see the

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construction works going on in the city, we always hear about apprenticeship, what about our men and women who are certified, been certified because they come from North Carolina and Alabama they know how to build any damn thing, they built everything they had and so this is the problem that we're seeing and that's why we're here today and that's why we're vehemently opposed to 13... 1382 because we know, we know, she's absolutely right when I was told well where are your lawyers, I never ... we never had a lawyer involved in this, it was the economic development team under direction of Gary Johnson who put this together but we have had lawyers now to look at this and there's nothing in here that violates the city charter. We, we get this done then they can't come back again and tell you they coming back, who would not have the demographics about the community, who wouldn't. it was an insult for me to sit here and hear some of the things I heard today, absolutely you said you frustrated I am more than that, I'm a little angry but I asked for patience while I was there praying so I would come and behave like the people I represent.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Well we, we are so grateful for that and you, and you being here and we are coming up... we do have one more panel and I, I do want to say first of all thank you and that you know that we will be reaching out.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: We, we don't ...

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: We don't,

excellent. That's even better because I have a three... have a 3:30 waiting but, but that we do we, we value everything that was said, that information I know will be discussed and, and hopefully those amendment will, will, will take place but I... you know I want to add since we've been sitting here there are two developments that are not even really up but just going up in, in, in downtown Jamaica and we were able to get who's on the, the site, how many folks come from what zip codes, who's pouring the concrete, local contractors, and who's supplying the lumber and the electrical local contractors, who's doing the printing, and what the wages are. So...

HAZEL DUKES: It can be done ...

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: It, it absolutely can be done that we, we, we want to... that that's

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not a indication that we are leaving now, somebody just lay... turned on the light but... and, and everybody here wants to be better. The council certainly wants to get better, its, it is too important to our collective communities, it is too important to this city and, and it just cannot... this cannot go on the backs of our communities that we have to benefit from this as well and let me just say my concern is senator that we have one half of DEP's budget, one and a half billion dollars currently is being spent in southeast Queens on infrastructures sewers and so forth. And when you look down and see who's going in the ground it is not reflective of those communities, no sir. So we... this information is critical and it is not incumbent on myself or Council Member Cornegy or you or any other elect ... Council Member King to have to negotiate in every community that someone is doing work in... with those particular companies that's why we need these rules and policies in place so that companies know when they are doing business that these are... this is how you do business in this communities and that, that owner should not be on... put on individual members

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| 1 | SMALL BUSINESS AND LABOR 99 |
| 2 | to do so but while it is then we'll do our due |
| 3 | diligence in making sure that communities get |
| 4 | served but I thank you so much for, for, for what |
| 5 | you do and, and coming out and look forward to |
| 6 | working with you. |
| 7 | HAZAL DUKES: [off mic] Thank you very |
| 8 | much. |
| 9 | [background dialogue] |
| 10 | COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Is, is That's |
| 11 | it? |
| 12 | CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: That's it |
| 13 | [background dialogue] |
| 14 | CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I want to thank |
| 15 | everyone for coming out and I thank everyone who |
| 16 | testified before this committee. I'd like to thank |
| 17 | my co-chair Robert Cornegy and the Committee on |
| 18 | Small Business, the members of the Committee on |
| 19 | Civil Service and Labor with that I call this |
| 20 | meeting this hearing adjourned. |
| 21 | [gavel] |
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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 January 27, 2017 | Date | January | 27, | 2017 | |
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