

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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May 5, 2017  
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HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND  
Chairperson

INEZ BARRON  
Chairperson

MATHIEU EUGENE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
James G. Van Bramer  
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Corey D. Johnson  
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Helen K. Rosenthal  
Steven Matteo

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

Vita Rabinowitz

Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost  
City University of New York, CUNY

Matthew Sapience, Senior Vice Chancellor  
Budget and Finance

Judy Bergtram, Vice Chancellor  
Facilities Planning and Construction

Allan Wernick, Director CUNY Citizenship Now  
Professor at Baruch College, CUNY

Ginger Waters, Vice Chancellor  
City University of New York, CUNY

David Crook Associate Provost  
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City University of New York, CUNY

Bill Chong, Commissioner  
Department of Youth and Community Development, DYCD

Andre White, Associate Commissioner  
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Jadeen Phenor, Assistant Commissioner  
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Department of Youth and Community Development

Darryl Rattray, Associate Commissioner  
Community Centers and Strategic Partnerships  
Department of Youth and Community Development

Ron Zan, Senior Director  
Adult Education  
Department of Youth and Community Development

[sound check, pause]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Good

morning and welcome to today's Finance Committee hearing. I am Julissa Ferreras-Copeland. I'm the chair of the committee. I want to begin by thanking my co-chair Council Member Inez Barron, Chair and the members of the Higher Education Committee for joining us today. I also wanted to acknowledge the members that have joined us today Council Members Vacca and Rodriguez, and I'm sure others will be joining us throughout the day. This morning the committee continues to look at the Mayor's Fiscal 2018 Executive Budget with the City University of New York, CUNY. I want to first thank CUNY's Executive Vice Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz. Unfortunately, Chancellor Milliken could not be with us today, but we wish him all the best in his recovery. CUNY's Executive Budget for Fiscal 2018 totals \$1.1 billion, a slight increase over its Fiscal 2017 Adopted Budget. Significant new items include \$1.2 million to support Pathways to Higher Education, which is part of the administration multi-agency Jails to Jobs Initiative. The Executive Budget also adds \$751,000 for the Peer Navigator Certificate Program. Before I

1 turn it over to Chair Barron for her opening remarks,  
2 I want to highlight a couple of items that I hope can  
3 be discussed further at today's hearing. First, I  
4 look forward to discussing the impact on CUNY  
5 students of the Excelsior Scholarship Program  
6 announced by Governor Cuomo—Cuomo this year. While I  
7 applaud the Governor for highlighting college  
8 affordability, the details of the program are a  
9 problem—problematic, as they relate to CUNY's student  
10 population. The New York Times has estimated that  
11 only between 3,000 and 5,000 of CUNY's approximately  
12 245,000 students who will ever receive Excelsior  
13 Grants. This is due to the fact that 71% of CUNY  
14 community college students report gross family  
15 incomes below \$30,000 a year, which already qualifies  
16 them for existing federal and state awards. Further  
17 more, Excelsior does not address the high cost of  
18 living that burdened low-income students at its heavy  
19 course—and its heavy course load requirements makes  
20 it difficult for those students who must work to  
21 support their education. Second, I hope to hear from  
22 more about CNY's planned tuition increase of senior  
23 colleges of \$200 per year as well as more about  
24 CUNY's discussions regarding tuition increases at  
25

1  
2 community college. What impacts does CUNY's  
3 anticipate—what impacts does CUNY anticipate this  
4 will have on enrollment? Is the university  
5 discussion any ways to offset this impact on students  
6 struggling to pay tuition? I look forward to hearing  
7 about these issues and many more at today's hearing.  
8 I will now turn it over to Chair Barron for her  
9 opening remarks.

10 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
11 Chair. Good morning. I'm Inez Barron and I'm the  
12 chair of the Committee on Higher Education. I would  
13 like to welcome all of you to our hearing today on  
14 the Fiscal 2018 Executive Budget for the City  
15 University of New York. We'll be joined by Matthew  
16 Sapienza, CUNY's Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief  
17 Financial Officer standing in for Chancellor  
18 Milliken. Mr. Sapienza, please extend our best  
19 regards to the Chancellor at this difficult time.  
20 Also joining him is Vita Rabinowitz and Judy  
21 Bergtraum. The Chair has talked about the Excelsior  
22 Scholarship Program that has been presented and  
23 adopted by the state. I'm here to say that by this  
24 program Governor Cuomo is, in fact, contributing to  
25 the income gap that exists between the upper and

1 lower bands of income. The reason that I say that is  
2 that this program adds more students who are in the  
3 middle income of \$100,000 and disadvantages those  
4 students who are at the lower income bands. He's  
5 contributing to that income gap, which is widening  
6 and widening. As has been stated, lower income  
7 students do qualify for TAP and for Pell.

8 Consequently, they need assistance to complete their  
9 degrees for the other costs, which usually exceed  
10 tuition costs. So, Governor Cuomo, I say to you,  
11 shame on you. You need to have considered additional  
12 programs that would provide assistance to low-income  
13 students who need a college degree as has been so  
14 adequately demonstrated in order to move out of the  
15 lower income bands. They're trapped when they don't  
16 have those degrees because certainly we know that  
17 they're required today and for the future jobs. So,  
18 while the Fiscal 2018 Executive Budget may not have  
19 seen many changes since we last met, the state has  
20 implement a number of changes that certainly will  
21 have an impact on CUNY's student body. I echo Chair  
22 Ferreras-Copeland's concerns about the impact of the  
23 state new Excelsior Scholarship, and its approved  
24 \$200 per year tuition increases at the community and  
25

1 senior colleges. In my time as chair of this  
2 committee I have made clear my beliefs that tuition  
3 should be free at the CUNY Colleges as it once was.  
4 I look forward to discussing with the Senior Vice  
5 Chancellor today how we might work today to avoid  
6 adding to the already tremendous burden placed on  
7 lower income students in pursuit of higher education.  
8 On the other hand, I do appreciate the fact that the  
9 state has implemented a new part-time scholarship  
10 program to support community college students. It's  
11 not anywhere near the amount that needed to have been  
12 presented. So many of our associate degrees--  
13 associate degree seeking students are unable to take  
14 on a full course load when they have to balance other  
15 full-time responsibilities both at work and at home.  
16 I hope that this new scholarship will allow even more  
17 aspiring students to take the next steps to reach  
18 their full potential. I'm also pleased the state has  
19 continued to increase its per capita base aid rate  
20 allowing CUNY to offer higher quality services to its  
21 students. And as I'm interested in the city's  
22 investment in the Jail to Jobs program, which brings  
23 \$2 million in programming to assist formerly  
24 incarcerated individuals in their transition into  
25

1  
2 higher education. I look forward to discussing these  
3 and other items with the university today. I'd like  
4 to particularly thank my staff before we begin. My  
5 Chief of Staff Joy Simmons, Ndigo Clay-Ndigo  
6 Washington, my Legislative Director William Clay,  
7 Jessica Ackerman, Senior Finance Analyst to the  
8 committee, Kawuja Kawu (sp?) my Committee Counsel and  
9 Committee Policy Analyst Chloe Rivera. Thank you,  
10 Chair Ferreras-Copeland, and I return the floor to  
11 you.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you  
13 very much, Chair. We will now hear from the Vice  
14 Chancellor. After she's sworn in my by counsel, you  
15 may begin your testimony. [laughter, pause]

16 LEGAL COUNSEL: Do you affirm to tell the  
17 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in  
18 your testimony before the committee today, and to  
19 respond honestly to Council Member questions?

20 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: I do. Thank  
21 you. Good morning, Finance Committee Chairperson  
22 Ferreras-Copeland, Higher Education Committee  
23 Chairperson Barron and Committee Members. I am Vita  
24 Rabinowitz, Executive Vice Chancellor and University  
25 Provost of the City University of New York. I am, as

1  
2 you have suggested, representing James B. Milliken,  
3 Chancellor of CUNY who is not able to be with us  
4 today. I will be reading testimony that Chancellor  
5 Milliken prepared and had hoped to deliver  
6 personally. Thank you for this opportunity to meet  
7 with you today, and thank you for your long history  
8 of support of CUNY and its talented ambitious  
9 students. I am joined today by a number of  
10 colleagues who may help us in answering your  
11 questions. Seated at the table with me are Matthew  
12 Sapience, Senior Vice Chancellor for Budget and  
13 Finance and Judy Bergtram, Vice Chancellor for  
14 Facilities Planning and Construction. We have  
15 conveyed to the Council on other occasions including  
16 in the recent past the thinking behind our new vision  
17 for CUNY's future, our new strategic framework, and  
18 we want to begin today by thanking you for the  
19 investments you make in our universe. I would also  
20 like now to take a few minutes to briefly discuss how  
21 we are rapidly implementing that vision, and the  
22 great payoff that our students, our city and state  
23 will be receiving. True to the mission of CUNY,  
24 which turns 170 years old this month, our initiatives  
25 and especially your support are helping us expand

1  
2 access to the benefits of a college diploma, increase  
3 the quality and focus of the education we provide,  
4 build wider bridges directly into the most promising  
5 careers for our graduates, and approve affordability.  
6 Most of all, we are adding significantly to the  
7 single most important asset we provide, opportunity  
8 to the most diverse and talented student body in the  
9 country. One reason for our optimism is an increase  
10 in CUNY applications this spring for fall 2017. We  
11 will not have final enrollment numbers for some time,  
12 but the jump in applications overall and the large  
13 increases at some college demonstrate the importance  
14 of the educational opportunities CUNY offers. We  
15 credit both the city's investment in free application  
16 waivers and the excitement over the state's new  
17 Excelsior Scholarship for some of this increase, and  
18 I do hope you take as much satisfaction in that  
19 progress as we do. You are, of course, all aware of  
20 the vote of confidence in higher education that we  
21 experienced to this spring with the enactment of  
22 Governor Cuomo's Excelsior Free Tuition program that  
23 we understand will be a topic of-of conversation  
24 today. This program will create more access and  
25 opportunity for more students and contribute to New

1  
2 York's prosperity well into the future. There is  
3 great interest in the program among potential  
4 students at CUNY, and their families, and we are now  
5 implementing the program across the university. Yet,  
6 another reason for our optimism is the number of  
7 superb candidates who have expressed deep interest in  
8 leadership positions at CUNY at this time. We are  
9 delighted that our Board of Trustees approved  
10 Chancellor Milliken's recommendations last week to  
11 appoint Carol Mason as the new President of John Jay  
12 College of Criminal Justice. Ms. Mason who held  
13 senior positions in President Obama's Justice  
14 Department and prior to that was a national leader at  
15 a major law firm, brings a wealth of experient-  
16 experience and talent to this outstanding college.  
17 She brings also extraordinary stature, a proven  
18 commitment to equality and justice, and best of all,  
19 genuine affection and respect for the college's  
20 students and mission. She found an apartment near  
21 John Jay in two days. So, we think we can say with  
22 confidence that this match was meant to be. In terms  
23 of our strategic framework, we are making a  
24 significant advance in access by implementing this  
25 spring an important series of reform in our programs,

1 and we are requesting, Council, your support and  
2 advocacy for this very important initiative. About  
3 82% of incoming community college students, 57% of  
4 all CUNY students are assessed as needing remediation  
5 when they come to CUNY. With careful evidence based  
6 assessments of other colleges, programs and outcomes,  
7 we have undertaken—we have already begun a  
8 comprehensive approach to revising our remedial  
9 efforts, and as they are phased in, we expect major  
10 increases in the number of qualified students who  
11 will move and move more quickly into credit bearing  
12 college courses. Of course, our academic standards  
13 will not change at all, and the students will still  
14 have to satisfy the very same credit bearing course  
15 and degree requirements guaranteeing unwavering  
16 quality. But it is clear that more students will  
17 move more swiftly toward degree completion. This is  
18 particularly true of students from under-represented  
19 groups who—who now make up a large proportion of the  
20 students placed into remediation. In another  
21 important initiative that will expand access and  
22 accelerate degree progress for our students we are  
23 moving forward on our plans for a significant  
24 expansion in our offerings of online degree programs.  
25

We have issued a request for proposals for a technology partner for our programs, and have already received great interest. The partner we choose will provide the expertise, technology platform and branding expertise so that interested CUNY faculty will be able to create online courses of consistent quality and designed for success in this medium. We are confident that there will be interest in all online programs. Indeed, there already is, and particularly among adult students, a key constituency for CUNY as we expand access efforts. In addition, we have moved forward on our robust Administrative Excellence program. This is a comprehensive redesign of administrative operations that will, as we phase this in, improve the services we provide to CUNY colleges, remove unnecessary administrative layers and frictions and not least, save tens of millions of dollars a year freeing up funds that can be invested in the classroom and on our highest educational priorities. The city's investment in our senior colleges is another area in which your support would assist in implementing our new vision and expanding access and program quality. Of course, continued support for the City Council Merit Scholarship

1  
2 Program is an investment that changes lives and  
3 delivers substantial returns for our city. We are  
4 extremely grateful to the Council particularly the  
5 Higher Education and Finance Committees for their  
6 continued support of the Council Merit Scholarship  
7 Initiative. [coughs] The City Council has been a  
8 stalwart partner to CUNY, especially to our community  
9 colleges, but also to comprehensive and senior  
10 colleges by providing support for critical  
11 maintenance work and major new buildings. In recent  
12 years, your support has been instrumental in helping  
13 CUNY to complete North Hall's new Quad at Bronx  
14 Community College; a major expansion of Medgar Evers  
15 Library; creation of a new dining facility at Queens  
16 Borough Community College; and the creation of the  
17 Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Brooklyn  
18 College, all projects that added much needed space  
19 and enriched those campuses with modern well designed  
20 facilities that honor and inspire out students.  
21 Also, with your support we have been able to start  
22 design on the new Allied Health and Sciences  
23 Buildings for Hostos Community College. This major  
24 facility will provide modern classrooms and science  
25 labs for the college's Allied Health Programs, which

1 provide essential workforce development. In  
2 addition, it will house a dental clinic that will  
3 provide students with practical experience at the  
4 same time that it furnishes the community with  
5 expanded services. In recent years, the Council has  
6 provided over \$250 million to CUNY and funded over  
7 100 projects, in particular at community colleges  
8 where the need is greatest. Because of your  
9 incredibly generous support of critical maintenance  
10 funding, CUNY has been able to address some of the  
11 most challenging critical maintenance issues at the  
12 campuses. As you know from our previous discussions,  
13 achieving a state of good repair within the system is  
14 an utmost priority for us. All of this work is  
15 essential to realizing the vision in our strategic  
16 framework and expanding all the ways that CUNY  
17 advances the causes of spreading benefits of  
18 opportunities to all New Yorkers. Other projects  
19 that support that vision including the progress we  
20 are making on one of our largest single critical  
21 maintenance—maintenance projects and that is the  
22 construction of the new façade of La Guardia  
23 Community College's Center 3 Building. This enormous  
24 building is 100 years old, and its façade must be  
25

1 replaced if the building is to be preserved. I am  
2 happy to report that we expect to complete  
3 construction of this \$125 million project by the  
4 beginning of next year, and I believe you will all  
5 take pride in the realization of what will be a  
6 community treasure. Other crit-critical maintenance  
7 projects that have benefitted from Council funding  
8 are the ongoing campus wide utility upgrades a Bronx  
9 Community College; a complete replacement of the  
10 electrical system at Queensborough Community College  
11 so that the college will no longer experience power  
12 outage-outages, and the phased renovation of Hostos  
13 Community College's 500 Grand Concourse Building.

14 Council Members, let me concluded by  
15 pointing out that we are moving into a commencement  
16 season that will put on display just what your  
17 investments deliver. Our students and our faculty  
18 have won an extraordinary number major distinctions  
19 this year in fields ranging from poetry to biology.  
20 These distinctions are a tribute to the drive,  
21 create-creativity and talent of our students, but  
22 just as important Chancellor Milliken wants to  
23 stress, and I join with him, that we take enormous  
24 pride in the many outstanding students [coughs] who  
25

graduate and then go on in large numbers to teach our children in the city schools who keep us safe as law enforcement officials and maintain the help of our communities as the nurses and the technicians who are the heart and soul of the most effective healthcare system in the nation. These graduates are the backbone of our city, a backbone that only gets stronger with your support. So thank you for all you do for CUNY and New York City, and for your time this morning. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you very much for your testimony this morning. I have a few questions and then I'm going to have my colleagues ask some questions, and we'll come back in a second round. So, just wanted to prepare you. Members will have five minutes in the first round, and if there's additional questions, we'll come back in a third.

VITA RABINOWITZ: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But, you know, we love CUNY so I don't think you'll have a-a second round, but thank you. Just wanted to start off with one of, you know, the initiatives that we pride ourselves to partner with you on and that's the

1 CUNY Citizenship Now program. The Council's  
2 initiative with CUNY that we called on the  
3 administration to be baselined in the Preliminary  
4 Budget response with Citizenship Now. In the current  
5 political climate now more than ever the city's  
6 residency access to free immigration services. As a  
7 sanctuary city, New York has a responsibility to set  
8 an example of why we are already great. In Fiscal  
9 2017, the Council funded Citizenship Now at \$2  
10 million. It's something that I personally believe  
11 in, a lot of my colleagues believe in. It's  
12 something that, you know, is changing lives everyday  
13 in our district offices. How else is Citizenship Now  
14 funded?  
15

16 VITA RABINOWITZ: I will--because this is  
17 a funding question, Councilwoman I will--I will pass  
18 this to Senior Vice Chancellor Sapienza.

19 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Thank you and  
20 good morning.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Of  
22 course.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: We are  
24 certainly looking for, Chair Ferreras-Copeland, for  
25 restoration of the \$2 million. We--you know, we

1 certainly echo everything that you say that  
2  
3 Citizenship Now is one of the best programs that  
4  
5 we've developed over the last decade at the  
6  
7 university, and as you mentioned, certainly with all  
8  
9 of the issues surrounding immigration right now, it's  
10  
11 becoming even more important. So, we certainly are  
12  
13 looking for that support to continue, and I just want  
14  
15 to point out the Director of our Citizenship Now  
16  
17 program. I want to give him all the credit, Dr.  
18  
19 Allan Wernick who is in the front row there who has  
20  
21 been running the program since its inception and him  
22  
23 and his team do a terrific job.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: We are in  
15  
16 total agreement. He has been doing a great job and  
17  
18 been a great partner, and just been someone—I  
19  
20 remember when this was pitched, right, as a concept,  
21  
22 and where we thought would benefit most. It wasn't  
23  
24 in every Council District. It was where we thought  
25  
at the time was most needed not having the foresight  
that we'd be where we are today that it was going to  
be needed across our city—our city, and definitely  
across our country. However, many of us have waiting  
lists in our office. I think I have a month and a  
half almost two months wait. So, also partnering

1  
2 with those weekend workshops helps a great deal  
3 because we're able to get a group of people off the  
4 waiting list. To what extent has Citizenship Now  
5 seen an increase in the number of requests for  
6 services since November's election. Not just in the  
7 Council district office, but across all of the  
8 services because, you know, this is one service.  
9 It's very-it's-the title says it, but in reality we  
10 do so much more than just the M-400 application. So,  
11 have you-I-we know the uptick, but if we could just  
12 get it on the record--

13 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [interposing]

14 Sure.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --on what  
16 we've seen after election day.

17 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Alright, so--  
18 so, Chair, I'm-I'm going to ask with your and Chair  
19 Barron's permission if we can make our first call to  
20 the bullpen and have-and have Allan Wernick come and--  
21 -

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

23 [interposing] Alright.

24 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --and respond  
25 to that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well,  
good thing you were sitting in the first row, Allan.

DR. ALLAN WERNICK: [off mic] It is  
actually. [pause] I was working with my students.  
So, if I sit first row with each of them, you know.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: There you  
go. Can you turn on your mic.

DR. ALLAN WERNICK: Yes. My name is  
Allan Wernick. I'm Director CUNY Citizenship Now.  
I'm also a professor at Baruch College, City  
University of New York. You know, we've--since--since  
the election we have seen a--a--this substantial and  
marked increase in the need for services both at the  
City Council offices and in our--[coughs] pardon me--  
and at our six offices located throughout the city.  
Rosie Hennial (sp?) who coordinates our Attorney  
Services at that City Council Officers reports that  
waiting times have gone from two to four weeks to six  
weeks on average and Council Member Ferreras, you  
know, yours is a--your office has the longest wait,  
which is about four months. We have also received  
additional--as a result of inquiries, we've received  
additional--several Council Members requesting  
additional days of service, which we are more than

1 happy to provide if there's appropriate funding, and  
2 at least five of the locations we're substantially  
3 over capacity. Two-thirds of the sites require  
4 additional resources if we're actually to meet the  
5 increased demand. Our goal is that people should  
6 have to wait longer than two weeks if possible to-for  
7 an appointment, and there are additional council  
8 members who have asked for services. What we do is  
9 when we get-when we-when the funding comes through  
10 from City Council we send a letter to all 51 council  
11 members offering them services. Some of the say no I  
12 don't need the services at my office, but what's  
13 happened is since the election, other council members  
14 who are not currently served because we did not  
15 budget to serve, are now asking for days, and we're  
16 doing the best we can to accommodate them, but  
17 without increased funding that-we're-we're going to  
18 have to take from the existing offices where we have  
19 two days let's say and make those one days, and then  
20 take the one day to the other offices. We-we feel  
21 that we have the-and the other thing I would say is  
22 that one of the things that's happened is that people  
23 who have put off become U.S. citizens for instance  
24 because they had a criminal record. It's too much  
25

1  
2 trouble to get the record. Maybe they thought they  
3 didn't really qualify are now coming to see us. Many  
4 of these people do, in fact, qualify for citizenship,  
5 but their cases take longer. So that's adding to  
6 the-to the waiting list, right because where before  
7 we may be able to help somebody in 45 minutes perhaps  
8 it's going to take two hours or several visits. Very  
9 often people do not information about their  
10 immigration or their criminal history. On the  
11 immigration history we file what's called a Federal  
12 Freedom of Information Act Request. It takes, you  
13 know, six to nine months and we bring the person back  
14 in and review their-their immigration record. And  
15 so, you know, our policy is that if a person  
16 qualifies for citizenship they do not get turned  
17 away. It-it-there is no such thing-there are case  
18 that take more time, but there are no cases that we  
19 consider too difficult or too complex for us to take  
20 on. That is our mission. So, if it means that a  
21 person's case takes longer, that's just the way it is  
22 and we will do the best we can to accommodate them.  
23 Then, the final thing I would say is that we know,  
24 you know, based on the space availability, we know  
25 there are Council Members where we could set up

1 basically an office. In other words, we could be  
2 there five days a week with the same attorney, with  
3 the same paralegal, with the same administrative  
4 assistant. And that is, of course, the best way to  
5 provide services to have the--the same people there,  
6 to have them there all week. Of course, again that--  
7 that--that request for additional funding. But we--we  
8 have the capacity to provide that service because of  
9 Rosie's work--I call her Rosie because I know you know  
10 her. I'm sorry. Attorney Hennial's (sp?) work, and--  
11 and because of the, you know, the structure that we  
12 have built into Citizenship Now, and may I just say  
13 this one last point, one of the things we're doing in  
14 response to this need, and of course, the need is not  
15 just for citizenship. You know, we have needs for  
16 people who are applying for permanent residence,  
17 other kinds of visas and our view is the best  
18 protection against deportation is to advance your  
19 status, right, within the immigration system. So,  
20 we--we are doing everything we can to increase  
21 efficiencies, and two things I'll just mention really  
22 quickly, if you give me the moment. One is that  
23 we're trying to centralize our appointment system.  
24 So, there are people willing to go from the Bronx to--  
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1  
2 to Brooklyn if it means that they can get their  
3 appointment sooner. So, we've—we've put a lot of  
4 resources and time into that. The other thing is and  
5 this is sort of—we've had a soft launch. So a lot of  
6 people know about it, but one of the things that's  
7 happened is first of all we've had an increased need—  
8 increased interest from our volunteers. People—more  
9 people want to help us, and when we do an  
10 announcement of citizenship training, it fills up in  
11 one day, the number of seats. The other thing is  
12 we've been approached by a number of private  
13 corporate immigration law firms that do not do  
14 immigration work that want to help immigrants. So,  
15 we sort of have a soft launch. We have a project  
16 where we are working with now two—they're fairly  
17 large firms that have made a major commitment. We've  
18 started to send them cases that require  
19 representation beyond the capacity of Citizenship  
20 Now, but again if we had additional funding, we would  
21 like to expand that because we see the interest  
22 that's out there. Are there any questions I can  
23 answer for you?

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, I  
25 would just recommend that we follow up on what

1  
2 funding would be the ideal case, right? Because I  
3 think my-my particular office is one that would  
4 probably require a full set up, but also if you can  
5 share, and you don't have to do it right now.  
6 Unfortunately, because of the rhetoric that our  
7 president had-got elected to, there are those that  
8 believe that these services are for Latinos or that,  
9 you know, and I believe that a lot of them probably  
10 are benefitting, right? But I think that Citizenship  
11 Now also can prove that this service is for anyone,  
12 and for everyone and that anyone and everyone is  
13 benefitting from citizenship and immigration support  
14 through this CUNY program that is cred-credible and  
15 it's consistent in our office.

16 DR. ALLAN WERNICK: And we will provide  
17 you that data, but just real quickly I can tell you  
18 that the five countries which received the largest  
19 amount of services number one is Dominican Republic.  
20 The second is Jamaica, Haiti, China, and Guiana. So  
21 those are the five countries-

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
23 [interposing] I'm sorry. Can you say that again?  
24 Dominican Republic--  
25

1  
2 DR. ALLAN WERNICK: Sure, I'm sorry. I  
3 rushed it. I apologize, but we will provide you a  
4 document. The Dominican Republic is number one as  
5 country of origin, Jamaica, Haiti, China and Guiana.  
6 After that it's Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador and  
7 Mexico but we will provide you with data. That was  
8 based on the last fiscal year.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay,  
10 perfect. So, we would love to see that. Thank you  
11 very much. I have two more questions and then I want  
12 to open it up to the Chair. I'm actually going to  
13 come back in a second round. So, the research  
14 institutes is something that we also asked to have  
15 baseline. The Council has been funding some of the  
16 research institutes at CUNY for over a decade  
17 supporting as much as one-third of their total  
18 operating budgets. We asked the administration to  
19 baseline support for these three programs as well as  
20 funding for the Mexican Institute at the Jaime  
21 Mexican Studies Institute at Lehman College and the  
22 Haitian Studies Institute at Brooklyn Colleges are  
23 both institutes that we strongly believe in and want  
24 to support. So how do other CUNY research institutes  
25 get their funding and do any of the research

institutes get support from the administration.

[background comments]

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [background  
comments] I'll start and then I'll turn it over to-to  
Executive Vice Chancellor Rabinowitz.

VITA RABINOWITZ: Thank you, thank you.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: So thank you,  
Chair Ferreras for bringing up the institutes and the  
funding for them. Historically the Council has  
provided funding for the Center for Puerto Rican  
Studies at Hunter College, and the Dominican Studies  
Institute at City College. In the current fiscal  
year, both of those centers were funded at \$970,000  
each, and so we're looking for restoration of those  
funds in the Fiscal 17--in the Fiscal 18 Budget as  
that's negotiated with--with the Mayor. And we're  
very grateful that you also mentioned the--the Mexican  
Studies Institute as well because we're very excited  
about that, the Haitian Studies Institute, which is--  
which is a fairly new institute. So, we're  
definitely looking for support for those things, and  
is there anything you wanted to add.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: I only  
wanted to add that the--as one who spent her career at

1  
2 Hunter College, I know that the support for central  
3 office has been tremendous and has made all the  
4 difference. Some of the newer institutes because we  
5 are in different fiscal climate have not been as  
6 strongly supported and we do believe that institutes  
7 should be multiply supported by grant support, by the  
8 home college, by the central office that no one  
9 entity should bear the entire cost, but we do want to  
10 make sure that the Mexican and the Haitian Institutes  
11 get off to great starts.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I know.  
13 We absolutely agree. We just want to better  
14 understand the contribution that you've given to the  
15 other-the institutes-

16 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
17 [interposing] Very good.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: That  
19 these two institutes so that they can be on solid  
20 ground, and also to support. But ideally our vision  
21 is that all the institutes would be baseline so that  
22 they can move forward and plan this appropriately.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Absolutely.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So that  
25 they don't have to continue to come to the Council

1  
2 and, you know, from our perspective this is a  
3 program. We like to create things that prove to work  
4 with the hopes that, you know, then the  
5 administration takes it on.

6 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: That's  
7 right.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Not with  
9 the hopes that we keep funding--

10 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Right.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --  
12 endlessly or that our funding is to enhance, right.

13 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Exactly.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So we  
15 would like to better understand and we can follow up,  
16 you know, I would want that--that bot the Haitian and  
17 the Mexican Institutes have--have as much support as  
18 the other institutes that have been there  
19 traditionally for a longer time.

20 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Thank you,  
21 Chair.

22 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.  
23 Chairperson, we--we have been doing an inventory of  
24 how our institutes are funding, the various sources  
25

as well as leadership, and we would be pleased to  
provide that when it is finished.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.  
Fiscal 2018's Preliminary Budget Response called for  
the administration to also baseline city support for  
the Murphy's Institute.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Also,  
kind of the same thing. How is the institute  
currently being funded and what is the Murphy  
Institute's total operating budget? Also a very  
important institute to our Council. Wanted them to  
be baselined just for planning purposes and for  
strengths so that we don't have to continuously have  
to whether-or even be really exposed to what may  
happen on a federal level, but then the first ones  
that we have to look at right sizing are those-are-  
are the things that are on our ledger because our  
budgets are much smaller than that of the  
administration. So, if you can walk me through the  
Murphy Institute or is that the same?

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Sure. No, the  
Murphy Institute receives funding through the state  
from the State Adopted Budget, and those funds were-

1 this year's allocation will continue into Fiscal 18.

2 So, we're—we're pleased about that. The City Council  
3 supports, and the funds that we get from the city of  
4 New York are also critically important to the Murphy  
5 Institute and there are some grants that the Murphy  
6 Institute receives as well.  
7

8 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

9 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: And, of  
10 course, thanks, and tuition revenue from the students  
11 is, of course, a major resource for—for the Murphy  
12 Institute. So, we can provide you with all of the  
13 details behind the Murphy's budget.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

15 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: But again, we  
16 agree with that that's an important institute and we  
17 look forward to continue to support that, and we're  
18 grateful for the Council's support.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: You spoke  
20 about the reforms at CUNY's Remediation program.  
21 What is—what is it—when you say support, we can write  
22 you a support letter. I don't think that's what you  
23 want. So, what—what are the details of the support  
24 that you need from the Council for the Remediation  
25 program?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Well, thank  
you for that question. We'll just start by saying I  
think there is no single thing that CUNY can do that  
will lead to greater student success or remove the  
greatest barriers to students' success at CUNY at  
CUNY at large than comprehensive remediation reform.  
I mentioned in my testimony the percentage of  
students who are placed into remediation. What I did  
not say is that at the end of their first year at  
CUNY, slightly less than one-half of the students  
have completed their remedial work, and most of the  
students who do not complete their developmental  
studies, do not go on to graduate not from CUNY, not  
from anywhere. So, we—our approach needs to be  
comprehensive and it is. Council Chair, what we  
propose is to change how we partner with the DOE to  
make sure that more students come to CUNY college  
ready because of our collaboration while students are  
still in high school. That is assessing proficiency,  
offering courses, versions of our very effective CUNY  
Start programs in senior year. So, students come to  
us proficient, but beyond that we want to change how  
we place students into remediation. We want to  
incorporate grades into the algorithm because the

1 fact is grades are a better predictor of students'  
2 success than test scores. So, we will not abandon  
3 test scores not at all, but we will incorporate  
4 grades. For students who score close to the cut  
5 point for proficiency, we will no longer say you're—  
6 you're in developmental education, which many  
7 students find stigmatizing, disappointing and  
8 discouraging. The more we learn about remediation,  
9 the more we realize it's not an unquestioned good.  
10 Well intentioned people have believed that for many  
11 years, but it is more complicated. So for students  
12 who score close to the cut point, we are suggesting  
13 boot camps, boosts, other short non-course based  
14 interventions and then they re-test and go right into  
15 where we can only hope credit bearing courses. To  
16 the extent, we also want to better prepare our  
17 students for our tests. Many students come in to  
18 take the CUNY placement test cold. We now know that  
19 even short orientations three-hour general  
20 orientations to test taking could improve scores.  
21 Add another three hours and put in some math or  
22 English reading, writing content and you can boost  
23 scores even more. Right now, we over-place students  
24 into remediation. This is not a problem just at  
25

1 CUNY. It's a nationwide problem. So, place fewer  
2 students into remediation in the first place. Once  
3 they are assigned to—if-if they—if-if they score  
4 high, offer them course, credit bearing courses with  
5 additional supports. It's known as—these are—these  
6 are co-curricular courses, and we want to train our  
7 faculty. So, we want—we need to train faculty,  
8 provide additional supports, refresh and enliven our  
9 curricula and pedagogy more generally, but aside from  
10 the co-curricular courses, we would like to align  
11 student's math needs in particular and their math  
12 curricula with their intended course of study. So,  
13 no longer will Algebra proficiency be a barrier to  
14 students who are not interested in—in STEM careers.  
15 And finally, we are changing. Student must move  
16 development course work more quickly. So aside from  
17 the additional supports, we are changing the way  
18 students exit from remediation. No longer will  
19 students need to take a standardized test and pass a  
20 court of which the standardized test is 35% of the  
21 grade in order to exit. Again, we believe that if we  
22 implement these reforms, we will reduce and perhaps  
23 even eliminate racial achievement gaps, and you asked  
24 what—what do the—what benefits. We are predicting  
25

1 that we will double graduation rates in associate  
2 degree programs by 2022. Now, it—it won't be all due  
3 to comprehensive remediation reform. ASAP expansion  
4 is going to contribute. I don't want to over sell  
5 anything, but we can't reach that goal of doubling  
6 graduation rates from about 17% or 18% to over 35%  
7 without—without reform. The percentage of students  
8 on track to graduate by the start of their second  
9 year, will increase by at least 25%. The percentage  
10 of students placed into developmental education to  
11 begin with especially math developmental education  
12 will decrease by at least 15% probably close r to 20.  
13 So, we—we are imagining greater academic momentum.  
14 To achieve these results, we're going to need  
15 tutoring, money for tutoring and supplemental  
16 instruction, faculty newly trained on developmental  
17 pedagogy and curricula, emersion programs boost—boot  
18 camps, the kinds of things I talked about, retesting  
19 opportunities, test preparation so that our students  
20 don't walk in cold and disadvantaged the way—the way  
21 they do now.  
22

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So,  
25 what's the cost?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: \$ 4 million  
a year.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.  
You should have started with the four. [laughter]  
\$4 million--

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: A year.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --a year.  
Now did you request this as a new need when you--

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --in this  
fiscal year.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: We did yes.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Of the City  
a new need.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yes.  
Okay. Alright, well, you're preaching to the choir.  
We all believe in getting our--our young adults that  
want to go to college actually take college courses,  
but we understand that the partnership with DOE is  
also--

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] Critical.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm going to have the Chair ask her questions. I'll come back in a second round after our colleagues ask their questions. Thank you, Chair.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Thank--thank you, Madam Chair. Once again, thank you for coming. I've got lots of questions. In terms of the developmental program that you just described, how does that relate to the CUNY Start Program, which was a topic of the hearing recently?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Exactly. It's--CUNY Start as you--as you now know, Chair Barron, is a very special form of developmental education. It bears no credits and it does not consume financial aid, but CUNY Start is not for everyone, and by the way, I wish it were for more students. I want to make it clear, it's wonderfully effective. It requires full-time attendance. It requires that students immerse themselves in--in--in study in a way that some of our students simply can't, and it also requires that they put off matriculation, and some students just they--they don't want to do that for reasons we understand. But CUNY Start will remain a

critical tool in our toolbox because for some, you know, for double remedial students for example, it's wonderfully effective.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Do you have a--a name for this program that you're talking about, the developmental program that would do some orientation and test prep?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: No, we don't--

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] Okay.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: --but we--we should come up with a catchy name. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Okay, and then you talked about exiting from CUNY.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: You said there's a change. Could you expand on that a little?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes, right now, CUNY is an outlier. CUNY does something that virtually no other system does. In order to exit remediation, students must pass a comment developmental final in any of math, reading or English, and in addition to that, they must pass a course on which--in which that very same common

1  
2 developmental final is worth 35% of the grade. In  
3 other community colleges, for example the SUNY  
4 schools, students must pass a course, a developmental  
5 course, not the course and also the final separately,  
6 and that keeps our students, that Chair Barron, it-it  
7 holds back students who have the skills.

8 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: So what is the  
9 proposal?

10 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: The proposal  
11 is now to use the course in which there was still a  
12 common final, and that's as much--and that's as much  
13 so that we've got a standard that we can point to.  
14 This is what we expect students to know, but the  
15 final exam will not be worth more 35% of the course  
16 grade.

17 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Okay. Alright,  
18 thank you. In terms of the budget that is proposed  
19 here, you talk about critical maintenance and you  
20 talk about capital strategies, and you talk about the  
21 capital commitments. How do the two plans relate?  
22 The Capital--the CUNY Capital Strategy--the Strategic  
23 Budget for 2018 to 27 is \$389 million, and the  
24 Capital Commitment Plan for 2016 through 2021 is \$543  
25

1 million. So, I'm trying to get an understanding of  
2 how those two amounts relate.

3 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Well, the--  
4 the \$500 million is the Capital Plan for the next  
5 four years.

6 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Right.

7 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: The  
8 Strategic is the plan for the next three years.

9 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: The Strategic is the  
10 plan for the next--

11 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: For the next  
12 four years.

13 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Four?

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yeah.

15 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Okay, I thought it  
16 was the Ten-Year Capital Strategic Plan. So it's  
17 four. Okay, I need to correct that information then.  
18 And--and in terms of the money that has been expended  
19 for those capital improvements, I know you had plans  
20 that you highlighted them. At Lehman you completed a  
21 project for the Science Hall, BMCC the library, BCC  
22 the Library, BMCC, cinema (sic), the College of  
23 Technology, the College of Technology, Medgar Evers.  
24 How do schools--how do the campuses get bumped on the  
25

1  
2 list? What's the prioritization of the campus on the  
3 list to make sure that their projects are there? I  
4 know you spoke about the phase and having the money  
5 for phases to be sure that as each phase is  
6 introduced the money is there.

7 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: So, we sit  
8 down every year with ever single campus, the senior  
9 colleges and the community colleges, and we developed  
10 this book, which is 150 pages and we go through the  
11 priorities. We prioritize the critical maintenance,  
12 we prioritize their--their new--new--their need for new  
13 space. So this is everything that CUNY needs. CUNY  
14 is not going to get funded for this. For the capital  
15 money that we get from the state we use a formula for  
16 critical maintenance. We've done a critical  
17 maintenance study, which we're just about to redo,  
18 and what percentage of the total amount that is  
19 appropriate. That's how we determine what the  
20 schools get, but it's based on a formula and it's  
21 based on what I'm holding up.

22 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Thank you. In the  
23 budget you've got--what is it? \$803 million from city  
24 tax levy dollars and you say that 71% of that was for  
25 salary and wage increase for 2017 to '18 and we know

that PSC had asked for negotiations to take place so that \$35 million would be available for faculty—full-time faculty to have a reduced course load.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Right. Thanks Chair Barron for raising that issue. We were very grateful last summer to come to an agreement with— with all of our unionized employees including the—the Professional Staff Congress, the PSC for—for wage increases. As part of that agreement that we have with the PSC, the university and the union also had a—a side agreement that said that both sides would work to—together and form a committee that would look at ways in which the workload could be reduced by three hours. So, for community college faculty the workload is—is right now 27 contact hours. For the senior college faculty it takes 21 contact hours, which are both more than what the national averages are for—for workload. So we agreed with the union that we would look to find ways that we can—we can do that both operationally and financially. The committee has had—has met and will continue to meet. In our budget request for this—in this past fall that we—we presented to our Board of Trustees as—as you mentioned, we did include \$35 million that would—that

1  
2 would be used to help fund the workload reduction. We  
3 asked the City for this funding as part of our new  
4 needs. It was not included in the Executive Budget,  
5 but we're still hopeful that we'll be able to—to  
6 obtain funding to help us—help us get them.

7 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Great and then you  
8 have some state dollars, \$297 million, and you say  
9 that it includes per student, base aid at community  
10 Colleges, and you talk CUNY in the Heights.

11 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Uh-huh.

12 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Could you talk a  
13 little bit about that program, CUNY in the Heights.

14 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Sure. CUNY in  
15 the Heights is another program that—that was launched  
16 in the mid-2000s and has been incredibly successful.  
17 We received another \$200,000 in the state enacted  
18 budget this year for CUNY in the Heights that we were  
19 really grateful about. CUNY in the Heights provides  
20 both credit bearing courses and adult community ed  
21 courses for residents of Washington Heights, and they  
22 also serve Inwood. We have folks from—from North  
23 Bronx that come over and take course there, and we  
24 have two partner colleges that—that administer the  
25 Community Heights program, BMCC and Hostos. BMCC

1  
2 does have—it does do the bulk of the credit bearing  
3 courses, and one of the things we're really grateful  
4 about and want to do more of is for the residents of  
5 Washington Heights, many of them are BMCC students--

6 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] Yes.

7 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --because that  
8 is the community college in the borough along with--  
9 along with Guttman, but for them to be able to take  
10 credit bearing courses in their local neighborhood  
11 rather than have to travel to BMCC is a great benefit  
12 to those—to that family and work obligations. And so  
13 we want to do more of that, and that's what we're  
14 hearing from the community is that they like more  
15 credit bearing courses from BMCC. Hostos is more on  
16 the side of adult community ed--

17 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Right.

18 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --sector, but  
19 we certainly would like to make more investments in--  
20 in the CUNY in the Heights program and be able to  
21 provide that community with—with more credit bearing  
22 courses.

23 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Right. In terms of  
24 the Murphy Institute, we have visions of the Murphy  
25 Institute, in fact, becoming the Murphy School.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Can you tell us  
where we are in that regard.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Okay. Yes,  
Chair Barron, we have been working closely with the  
Murphy Leadership Team, with the Labor Advisory Board  
that—that is very important to the school with its  
current Homeless School of Professional Studies and  
with other stakeholders to transition the Murphy  
Institute to what I believe will be called the CUNY  
School of Labor Studies and Urban Affair, which will  
at once raise its profile and permitted to grow. We—  
Chancellor Milliken has stated, and we are on track  
to deliver on June 26 to our Board of Trustees a  
resolution that states not only the board to move  
forward with the formation of the CUNY School of  
Labor Studies and Urban Affairs, but also has some  
more details about its home college. I cannot at  
this time—I mean the announcement of precisely what  
that will look like we'll await Chancellor Milliken  
and Chair Thompson's, you know, announcement, but we  
are on track. It is our—our goal, and our commitment  
frankly to—to achieve school status for the Murphy  
Institute.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: You spoke about the  
need of about 80% of the students coming into  
community colleges--

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: --to have a need for  
remedial work. It's my belief that education should  
be from the cradle to what we call graduate work,  
post-graduate work. If we're going to do that, and  
if we're going to make sure that students progress  
appropriately along the continuum of learning, and  
not have a need when they get to community college or  
senior college for remedial work, what are we going  
to do to better prepare teachers that the DOE is  
hiring many of whom are New York City residents. So,  
it-it seems that it's our own population that we have  
basically in the majority. So how are we working  
specifically with the DOE and with teacher  
preparation universities to make sure we get the  
teachers that we need?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: You raise a  
great question. My understanding is that 30% of all  
new teachers hired by the DOE every year are CUNY  
education graduates. So, we-it's just another way in  
which our relationship is like this. We do need to

1 strengthen and diversify the teaching workforce of  
2 New York City. CUNY has a special obligation to do  
3 that and a commitment. In terms of strengthening  
4 teacher quality, Chair Barron, one of the ways we are  
5 moving swiftly and, in fact, I'm meeting next week  
6 with the Deputy Chancellor of the DOE to discuss  
7 teacher education, is the expansion of clinically  
8 rich residencies. In other words, our teachers need  
9 more experience—our teaching—our—our teaching  
10 students need more experience in classrooms, more  
11 supervision, and we are going to grow our residency  
12 programs. So, that is one important major new  
13 direction. Another is we have been advised that we  
14 will need to refresh curricula and pedagogy. Some of  
15 what I said about developmental education is true  
16 throughout the curriculum more generally that is that  
17 there's new research suggesting how people learn,  
18 what works, what—and—and we've got to get there, and  
19 we're—we're—we're doing it in teacher education.  
20 We've got at least two new relationships, residency  
21 relationships. So, that's—that's something we are  
22 pursuing.  
23

24 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Who are those  
25 relationships with?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Well, we are working—we want to work with the UFT, New Visions among other partners, but certainly those two partners.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Okay. We're talking about faculty and CUNY has, as you know, an abysmal record—a terrible record in terms of recruiting faculty of color. So what's being done? That's a question that I always want to ask, and how much money do we see, can we identify in the budget that actually goes after recruitment?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: In fact, there is a budget answer, and you—you asked a larger question, but let's get started with that?

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: In terms of the budget, in—in Fiscal 17 Budget, there is a program that was funded by the city as part of that Young Men's Initiative. It's \$300,000 as a partnership between CUNY and the DOE, which aimed to as you mentioned, Chair Barron, improve the diversity and specifically this \$300,000 is aimed towards trying to add more male teachers of color into our public schools. So the goal was to try to increase

1  
2 the city public school teaching workforce by a  
3 thousand male teachers of color by 2018.

4 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: By 2018?

5 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: By 2018,  
6 right. So we have \$300,000 that was funded in the  
7 budget for that.

8 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Do you have a number  
9 as to how successful been? Can you tell us?

10 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Not yet, but  
11 we will--

12 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Okay.

13 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --we'll follow  
14 up with you on that. We also have a new diversity  
15 plan that we've worked on with our Board of Trustees.  
16 That, you know, is--is a big focus for us going  
17 forward. I'll ask Chancellor Ginger Waters who has  
18 been work on that is here if you want to hear more  
19 about that, but it certainly is--is a focus that--

20 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Yes.

21 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --and one of  
22 our top priorities not only in the administration,  
23 but for our Board of Trustees as well.

24 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: And we really have  
25 to address that because there's only been according

1  
2 to your data a 1% increase in black faculty over the  
3 last 20 years. So that's unacceptable. We have to  
4 really move the needle.

5 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: It is.  
6 Chair Barron, if I may just add Chancellor Milliken  
7 just charged a new task force with--of CUNY  
8 presidents, also our Vice Chancellor Waters and me to  
9 devise a comprehensive plan for diversifying our  
10 faculty. We are trying to identify resources within  
11 our existing--within our existing budget, and we're  
12 also working very hard and have had more success of  
13 late. It's a minor--it's--it's nothing--nothing that I  
14 can share in terms of major percentages in retaining  
15 faculty of color because that's another issue. We--we  
16 have lost more faculty of color than we lose majority  
17 faculty and we're--we're--we're on that as well, but  
18 Vice Chancellor Waters is here. Is there any--Ginger,  
19 do you want to?

20 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: If you have any.  
21 I don't have any comments.

22 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Okay.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: Thank you and  
24 good morning. So, I want to just pick up on what  
25 Executive Vice Chancellor Rabinowitz just said. One

1  
2 of the things that we've learned in looking at the  
3 data is that we do lose faculty of color at a much  
4 greater rate for reasons of resignations and for non-  
5 reappointments. And so, one of the—one of the  
6 programs that that we are putting in place is to  
7 provide support for faculty as they go through the  
8 process on campus for tenure and promotion, giving  
9 them critical responses to their writing, and helping  
10 them navigate the—the system. We bring in publishers  
11 who tell them what they're looking for as they  
12 prepare their dossiers for consideration. So that's  
13 one of the programs that we have in place. Another  
14 beginning on May 13<sup>th</sup>. We're actually going to the  
15 training faculty. We have invited provosts, chairs,  
16 other faculty. Training them in the—in unconscious  
17 bias because we believe that when people are actually  
18 presented with CVs, et cetera, that they—that there  
19 are things that work their way into the process that  
20 perhaps against a faculty of color.

21 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Yes.

22 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: And so we have  
23 started a—a program to train. We—we have the  
24 capacity for 80 people coming up in—this May to begin  
25 that process, and then there will be people on the

1  
2 campuses who can actually work with search committees  
3 as they go through the process of evaluating resumes,  
4 et cetera that come to their attention. So, we are  
5 also-we have gotten \$540,000 from the Mellon  
6 Foundation to also provide support at the schools  
7 that have Mellon grants. We have the Mellon Faculty  
8 Fellowship Program that also provides support to  
9 faculty who are at those schools and are working in  
10 areas that are specifically for minority faculty. So  
11 we have that program in place as well, but in terms  
12 of recruitment, we're also going to be looking  
13 tracking better how we recruit faculty, where-where  
14 they come from, what kind of partnerships we need to  
15 develop with the Spanish serving institutions and  
16 HBCUs and see if there's a way to tap into the  
17 programs that produce doctorates from those  
18 institutions. So, we have a number of-we're working  
19 on a number of different tracks, and we've had  
20 tremendous support from our board to proceed in this  
21 manner. So, I'm very excited about that.

22 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: I thank you for  
23 that. I'm glad to know that there are so many  
24 tactics that you're looking to employ. I think it's  
25 important. I'm especially pleased to know that

1  
2 you're looking at what we call the unconscious bias  
3 because I've heard from Black faculty about the  
4 systemic racist obstacles that they have in their  
5 departments that prevent them from moving up the  
6 tenure track, moving up and--and I think that as we  
7 address that, as we face it, as we acknowledge that  
8 it exists then we'll be better able to retain those  
9 persons who do come and elevate them through as they  
10 stay with us, with CUNY. Because we certainly know  
11 that students are influenced by identifying with the  
12 instructors that they have in their classes, and by  
13 the personnel that they see around them who help to  
14 inspire them to be able to say I can move forward as  
15 well---

16 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: Absolutely.

17 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: --as all those  
18 Black.

19 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: Absolutely.  
20 We're--we're in total agreement, yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Okay. So now I'm  
22 going to get to the question that I raised in my  
23 opening remarks, the Excelsior Scholarships. You say  
24 you have an increase in enrollment.  
25

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:

Applications.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Applications, right.  
How do you anticipate increased numbers being  
accepted? How are you prepared to accommodate these  
new additional students? Where will they be placed?  
We already have faculty that talks about the  
increased class sizes that they're teaching. We  
already know that they're teaching 27 hours for full-  
time.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Where are we going  
to put the students that are coming, and how is  
faculty that's already stretched beyond what we find  
in other universities around the country, expected to  
deal with these increased numbers?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Okay, Chair  
Barron, maybe first we should look at what we're--what  
impact we're expecting in terms of numbers--

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Yes.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: --and then  
to your question what are we going to do about it,  
and--and we--several of us can answer that. Matt, do  
you want to start with that?

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Sure, thank  
you. So, we're very excited about the Excelsior  
Scholarships and we're working very hard to make sure  
we get information out to not only our current  
students, but any of our new students that are coming  
in for the fall, and any prospective students that  
we—that we may have. So, if I can take a minute I  
just want to unpack a little bit the data so that  
you—we all have better context over—over the numbers  
and—and what some of the projections are. So, right  
now at the university we have about 160,000  
undergraduate full-time students, and those would be  
the students that—that would be—that where Excelsior  
recipients would come from because part-times  
students, graduate students are not targeted under  
Excelsior. So, we have 160,000 full-time  
undergraduate students at our senior colleges and our  
community colleges. The average at CUNY of the  
number of students who attend tuition free currently  
because of the TAP program in New York State and Pell  
the Federal Pell Program is about 57%. So about  
90,000 of those 160,000 students are already  
attending tuition free, which would leave 70,000  
that—that pay something. So, of that 70,000 that pay

1 something, some of those are non-resident students.  
2 They don't live in New York State, and so they  
3 wouldn't be eligible for Excelsior. Some of them are  
4 above the income level, which for next year is  
5 \$100,000 so they wouldn't be eligible, and some  
6 aren't eligible due to academic reasons in terms of  
7 where they aren't, in terms of their--their path to  
8 graduation. So when you consider all those factors,  
9 and the main fact that 57% of our students are  
10 currently attending tuition free, it makes the  
11 population much smaller. And so, I just want to make  
12 sure that everyone is aware of that and that there is  
13 already more than half of our students that are  
14 attending tuition free. So, we're projecting of our  
15 current students about 4,000 will be eligible for  
16 Excelsior--

18 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] Just  
19 let me interject. I don't usually interrupt. I  
20 thought this was only applicable to students who are  
21 just now graduating. Not those who are presently in  
22 attendance.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: No, it's--it's--  
24 it's for students who are currently in attendance who  
25 will--it--it begins for the fall 2017 semester. So,

1  
2 any students that are at CUNY whether they're  
3 continuing students or whether they're new students  
4 that are coming in for the first time, would be  
5 eligible if the income and academic criteria.

6 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: I'll have to check  
7 that again because that wasn't what I had seen.  
8 Maybe it was an earlier version that I had seen.

9 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Right, so we  
10 think about 4,000 of our continuing students would be  
11 eligible, and again, a lot depends on what their  
12 income levels--

13 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] Right,  
14 right.

15 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --were for the  
16 past year. How many credits they've--they've taken.  
17 So, you know, that number is obviously an estimate.  
18 But we're hopeful from our new freshmen coming in--

19 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] Right.

20 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --on average  
21 we usually have about between 35 and 40,000 new  
22 freshmen that come into the university every year.  
23 So, again, just unpacking the number, and saying  
24 well, if at least 57% of those students and probably  
25 more will be--will not have to pay any tuition because

1  
2 PATH and Pell. Some of those will be non-residents  
3 and again, when you start layering off the students  
4 that wouldn't be, we expect—we're hopeful that about  
5 6,000 our freshmen will be eligible for Excelsior on  
6 top of the 4,000 continuing students

7 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: I guess my question  
8 then is do you see an increase in enrollment numbers  
9 based on students who might have gone away to school  
10 or to private school who will now be applying to CUNY  
11 because they make \$100,000 and they can come tuition  
12 free?

13 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Yes, yes, we--

14 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] Yes,  
15 you do, and what--what number are you project that to  
16 be?

17 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: I don't have  
18 a--an overall projection in--in that number, but we  
19 certainly expect that that--that will occur, that  
20 students who maybe were thinking of going elsewhere  
21 like you say--

22 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Yes.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --going to an  
24 institution where they can live outside of New York  
25 City or go to a private institution will now consider

1  
2 CUNY. We certainly expect that to-to be the result,  
3 and--

4 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: I don't want to  
5 belabor the point. I want to thank you because I  
6 think it's just that Excelsior a very rushed program.  
7 It wasn't, in my opinion, well thought out. I didn't  
8 have the input of a larger population of people who  
9 were—who are interested and have demonstrated a  
10 history of being involved in higher education, and I  
11 think that the Excelsior Scholarship program is going  
12 to bring in a population that is white, that is  
13 middle-class, and that will displace students who are  
14 Black, Latino, and low-income, and I wonder how CNY  
15 will begin to make their selection of students who  
16 are applying if they have a limited number and if  
17 they want to increase their standing and their  
18 stature, and they know that there are perhaps  
19 students coming who don't need the remedial work, who  
20 don't need the developmental work, and what will be  
21 the criteria? How will—how will colleges, how will  
22 the CUNY campuses select from the population of  
23 students who are coming to them?

24 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Yeah, Chair  
25 Barron, I oppose--

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] And  
that we don't displace students now who are Black and  
Latino--

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [interposing]  
No.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: --who see CUNY as  
that road to get--

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Total-total  
hear your concerns and, you know, while our response  
to that is at CUNY we take very seriously, you know,  
one of our main missions, which is, which has been  
really the mission of CUNY for 170 years since we--  
since CUNY was first started. You know, since the  
beginning of the decade, I think we've added 60,000  
students. 60,000 students since the beginning of  
the--beginning--I'm sorry, since the beginning of the  
century in 2000, and even over the last five years we  
have--we've had--we added--

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] Yes.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --13,000  
students. So, what I would say to--to that concern  
and--and to everyone is this is what we do here at  
CUNY. We are open to everyone, and anyone that wants  
to come to CUNY we will find a seat for you somewhere

1  
2 in our 24 campuses because that's what we do, and  
3 that's what we'll continue to do.

4 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: I-I couldn't  
5 agree more and Chair Barron, I want to add so what  
6 are we doing for what we do think will be some  
7 expanded capacity? We're going to offer more summer  
8 and winter courses so that students can be eligible  
9 for the scholarship that our existing students or  
10 transfer students can be eligible for the scholarship  
11 if they're within striking distance. We're going to  
12 look at opportunities on Fridays, Saturdays and  
13 Sundays online courses. We are going to, you know,  
14 we're-we're going to work hard to create a culture of  
15 15, encourage students to make more academic momentum  
16 and Matt is talking about our commitment. We're not  
17 going to be turning students away. We're going to be  
18 expanding capacity and it will be challenging. It's  
19 also true that we're graduating more students than we  
20 di before. Last year for the first time at least in  
21 modern history and probably in CUNY history, we  
22 graduated more than 50,000 students. We've gotten--  
23 our remediation program hopes to accelerate movement  
24 through classes. So, putting it all together, I--  
25 we're going--we want our students--we want as many of

our existing and transfer students to profit from  
this. We are not going to be turning away students  
that are committed to serve.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
Chair. Thank you for your indulgence.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you, Chair and again we can do a second—Whoops. Okay,  
we can—that's why you shouldn't be eating or drinking  
in Chambers. [laughter] We have a second round. So,  
if you have additional questions as our colleagues  
asked us, and we will be calling on-- I just wanted  
to say that we were joined—were are joined by  
Minority Leader Matteo, Council Member Gibson and  
Williams. One question and then we will hear from  
Council Member Vacca followed by Council Member  
Rodriguez. You know, we have had a lot of discussion  
about supporting families and young students and, you  
know, not all students are young at CUNY. We have—  
you have the advantage of serving everyone from  
different stages of their career, and their past, but  
one of the realities is are childcare, and the  
challenges that we have with childcare. I'm the  
mother of a 3-year-old. There's nothing more  
startling than not knowing where your child is going

1 to be or if your caregiver is sick, which happens.  
2 But also, if you need to stay late to take one of  
3 your remedial support classes, you don't have the  
4 luxury of necessarily leaving your child where it  
5 might be further away from your school than you  
6 originally intended. So, what are the plans or  
7 opportunities for childcare support for mothers and  
8 fathers. But, you know, in most cases it's young  
9 mothers that are trying to get an education to  
10 advance their family, but also the number one  
11 priority is that your child is safe. So, can you--?

13 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Sure.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --speak  
15 to these challenges?

16 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Sure, and I  
17 want to--and--and I appreciate your raising that  
18 issue because we totally agree that that is one of  
19 the most critical functions that--that we can serve  
20 our--our students who--who are parents and have  
21 childcare needs. We want to make sure that they're  
22 able to--to continue their studies, take a full course  
23 load as--as Vice Chancellor Rabinowitz said. We have  
24 16 child care centers I think currently. Sixteen  
25 childcare centers at our campuses. We were very

1  
2 grateful in a state enacted budget that \$900,000 was  
3 restored to the Childcare Center budget to—to keep  
4 them at least flat for this year, but we are looking  
5 for investments in—in the childcare centers for next  
6 year. There was a hearing on this recently amongst  
7 the City Council—at the City Council, and so we are  
8 requesting additional support for the childcare  
9 centers as well.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Is that  
11 any part of your new needs request?

12 [background comments]

13 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Yeah, there—  
14 there is a proposal and we'll—we'll get it to you,  
15 but I believe it was for several hundred thousand,  
16 \$400. Thank you. \$400,000 in additional support for  
17 our childcare centers.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: \$400,000  
19 would support the existing 16 or add additional?

20 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: It would  
21 support the existing 16 and give us greater capacity  
22 to—to serve more—server more students.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And  
24 pardon. I—I know that you might have talked about  
25 this at your prior hearing. I was in joint, so if

1  
2 you can—is this an absolutely free program or do  
3 students have to pay for the childcare program? Is  
4 it a free program?

5 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [interposing]  
6 Every childcare center is—is run differently but for  
7 the most part there is a fee that students have to  
8 pay. The—and one thing I want to point out about the  
9 childcare centers that a lot of folks don't realize  
10 it's not just, you know, daycare or—or, you know,  
11 babysitting. It's—there are academic programs that  
12 are going on for the—for the children of the students  
13 at our childcare centers. So there is—there is an  
14 academic component for this as well. So, they—so  
15 they are very critical, and we certainly want to  
16 continue to invest in them.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, the  
18 chair and I—I would like to follow up with the chair  
19 because especially as we're talking about 3-K--

20 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --and 4-  
22 K, we tend to focus on the school district, but this  
23 is an entity onto its own that could probably take  
24 advantage as you wrote up these programs to actually  
25 make it not only affordable but free for some

families so that we can really provide the support  
that they--that mothers and families need.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: That would be  
terrific.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, we  
should probably follow up with that.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Council  
Member Vacca followed by Council Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you. By  
this time, so many of my questions have been  
answered. Let me take exception for a second. I  
support the Excelsior Program. I think it's great.  
I think it's a step in the right direction. Maybe in  
a year or two we have to look at it, assess and  
tweak. That always happens in legislative proposals--

-

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Sure

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: --but the reality  
is we are the first state in the nation that offers  
this program, and there are many students who will be  
taking advantage of it, students of all colors, and  
all backgrounds will be taking advantage of this  
program, and if this encourages more students to

attend CUNY, I want more students to attend CUNY.

Now does that mean we have challenges in terms of space, in terms of capital infrastructure issues in terms of faculty? Yes, but then we have to address the issues, and we have to work on them, and we in the Council are here to help CUNY. We believe in the mission of CUNY obviously, and I'm sure the state would be there when you go to the state and say to them we need help. But to argue about whether this program helps any particular group, I—I think this program helps all groups in this city, and certainly that's where I'm at. I'm at the point where I know that we have students who cannot afford college and that issue should not be a—should not be a criteria that blocks a student from attending college. So, we support you in your challenge, and I—I want to tell you that there are members here willing to do that constructively, and across the board for all. You did mention remediation, and I wanted to ask you—I'm—I'm encouraged by your plans. I see that we're on a path, but is there a price tag you've attached to what you want to do? Is the money there? Is there a price tag you've attached that you would advocate? We and the Council will be entering budget

1 negotiating time, and I think it's—it's a reasonable  
2 question to ask because we want to know.

3  
4 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: It is a very  
5 reasonable question to ask, council member. So, our—  
6 our new needs ask was exactly \$4,110,000 and that's  
7 inclusive. We've—and that includes some of the—the  
8 biggest ticket items are frankly tutoring,  
9 supplemental instruction. This is money that goes  
10 mostly to our students, you know, direct student  
11 support, direct student support. So, there is that  
12 price tag, and it—we are hoping that over time the  
13 price tag would—would diminish because, again, we  
14 hope and expect to be placing fewer students into  
15 remediation in the first place. That's our goal  
16 using lots of different levers to do that, but for  
17 the next few years, it will be about if we're going  
18 to do this the way we want to do it, \$4 million. Of,  
19 course, CUNY is making its own investments where, you  
20 know, but we will need additional support.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic] Have you  
22 —[on mic] I'm sorry. Have you articulated that  
23 number or that request to the administration?

24 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes, yes we  
25 have.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [off mic] Yes.  
Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Because this would  
be a city request because the remediation--

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [interposing]  
Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: --request involves  
the community colleges specifically.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Absolutely.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Yeah.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: It is to the  
city only.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Okay, I thank you,  
and I wanted to give the Chancellor my best, and I--

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: --I hope you're--I  
hope you're doing well. Thank you.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you, Council Member Vacca. Council Member Williams  
and Rodriguez followed by Council Member Williams  
followed by Council Member Gibson, and we've been  
joined by Council Member Cabrera and Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Than you,  
Chairs. [coughs] First of all, the best for the  
Chancellor, and I hope that you will get—you will get  
a good cooperation. [coughs] First, I would like to  
encourage CUNY to increase the support so now the  
school, the Murphy Institute as—as you know like just  
with the name of the institute the school dedicated  
to the former Chancellor who committed himself to  
bring diversity in the leadership and at CUNY, it is  
important to support as well as the institute not  
only the school at CUNY, the only school that we have  
and the—and the institution that is dedicated to  
training the laborers and the future leaders in our  
city. So, that's my first just recommendations and I  
hope to—see support, more support from the central  
office to the Murphy School. Then, I—I have a  
question related to first how do we anticipate that  
the free tuition, which I believe that even though we  
can have some details and concerns, you know, it will  
be applied, but I think it's—it was a good thing that  
the governor did—did to us. How do we anticipate  
that the free tuition will increase the student  
population, and is CUNY ready to work with the PSC so  
that professor—the ratio of a student per professor

1  
2 is balanced so that a student can get a quality  
3 education--

4 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
5 [interposing] Right.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [coughs] that  
7 institution is committed to provide to them.

8 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Yes, and--and  
9 thank you, Councilman Rodriguez for raising that. We  
10 have certainly have had discussions. We had meeting  
11 with the PSC about a week or so ago, and this is one  
12 of the items that we talked about, it was the  
13 Excelsior Scholarship and how we can best serve  
14 students. As we mentioned earlier, we certainly are  
15 expecting that more students are going to come to  
16 CUNY, and I-I agree with what Council Member Vacca  
17 said that we welcome that, and we want more students  
18 to come to CUNY. But as has been raised earlier by--  
19 by Chair Barron and--and other members of--of this  
20 committee, we know that there are challenges and  
21 there are space challenges and there's full-time  
22 faculty challenges, but we're ready to meet those and  
23 we're planning---planning to--to put in place some of  
24 the--some of the levers that Vice Chancellor  
25 Rabinowitz talked about in terms of weekend courses

1  
2 and summer and winter and online capabilities for our  
3 students. So, we're excited about it, and we look  
4 forward to having more students come into CUNY and  
5 more and just as importantly putting students on  
6 track to graduate in a more timely way by taking 30  
7 credits a year.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]  
9 [coughs] Is there—we-we know that there is a  
10 connection for having—you're expecting to improve  
11 relations with the students? (sic)

12 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Right now, our  
13 new freshmen applications were up 5% over last year.  
14 So again, that doesn't mean that that's going to  
15 yield a 5% increase in enrollment. The new freshman  
16 applications are up 5%, which again, we're very  
17 excited about, and as was mentioned in—in the  
18 testimony that was read by Vice Chancellor  
19 Rabinowitz, we think that some of that is due to  
20 Excelsior, some of that is due to the fee waivers  
21 that was funded in the City Budget, and some of that  
22 is due to additional confidence that people have in  
23 our university and—and their willingness to want to—  
24 want to study with us.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Good. I--  
3 just hope that, you know, we at the state level and  
4 the city level do our part. You know we should  
5 expect for you to do the best we can as the leaders  
6 of the most important institution, the one that has  
7 been opening the door for many of us for generations,  
8 and that's something for the future, but what is not  
9 a question, it's not a question for you, but for the  
10 state and for us here to continue putting more  
11 resources on capital so that we can upgrade the  
12 infrastructure and what we have right now, and to  
13 build--

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
15 [interposing] That's right.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --you know,  
17 the new permanent community college or any other  
18 community college or only the new higher education  
19 that we would need. One concern that I have, as you  
20 know, that the-the reduction of Black and Latino  
21 students in senior colleges, and--and you know that  
22 that's a--I can say for me this is a like an epidemic  
23 that we are also facing in the city. That when I--  
24 when I was at City College in the '80s, you walk in  
25 the cafeteria you could see the diversity. [bell]

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Today, you go back to City College, you can go to Hunter College and you can go to Brooklyn College, and it's not the same presence or the diversity of what New York City is today. You know, it's not just on CUNY because when you receive a student, mostly at community college where 80% that they need remedial courses.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Then we are dealing with the big challenges.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: So what is the plan that we have? We have ASAP, we have college now.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: How can we increase the percentage in this case Black and Latinos--

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --that have been going down big time compared to the 80's and what we have today at the senior colleges.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right. I'm going to start to answer that incredibly complex and

1 sensitive issue, Councilman Rodriguez, but I-it's-  
2 it's an important question. At one of the planks of  
3 our new strategic framework, is explicitly to  
4 diversify some of the most elite institutions within  
5 CUNY. You know, I'll mention two, and one is the  
6 CUNY Graduate Center. We want to produce more  
7 students who will be the professoriate of tomorrow.  
8 We need to do a number of things to do that, but we  
9 want to diversity the professoriate, and frankly grow  
10 some of our own professors for the future. So the  
11 Graduate Center has hired a, you know, a special  
12 dedicated full-time person to focus on diversity.  
13 They're a target of opportunity and fellowships in  
14 which students are recruited and-and their stipends  
15 are supplemented. So the graduate center is doing a  
16 number of things to diversify the doctor of the  
17 student body. The Macauley Honors College is one of  
18 our-CUNY's most elite units. What the Macauley  
19 College is doing this year is it probably right now,  
20 right now a program, the first transfer program to  
21 Macauley from Bronx Community College. If this pilot  
22 is successful, and we think it will be because it-it  
23 was very well thought out. In other words, we want  
24 our students to succeed, then we could expand a  
25

1  
2 transfer program to our highest unit and diversity  
3 that--that unit, but all the colleges are. You know,  
4 our senior colleges are working to diversity their  
5 student bodies. It's very much part of our plan  
6 moving forward. I'm going to ask Vice Chancellor  
7 Waters if she--I--I know it's faculty and leadership  
8 that we deal with mainly, Ginger, but in terms of  
9 diversity of student bodies, do we have any further  
10 indication of our progress.

11 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: I think I am  
12 what you spoke about with the graduate school is the--  
13 the most appropriate for my--my purposes

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Okay.

15 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: Because it's--  
16 it's really feeding the--the faculty--

17 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

18 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: --the faculty  
19 ranks, but I understand your concern about the  
20 students being put into--

21 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

22 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: --the--the elite  
23 senior colleges, and I think part of the--part of our  
24 work even with the unconscious bias training, we're  
25 trying to--we're trying to insert a cultural shift,

1  
2 and I think that the cultural shift throughout the  
3 university will indeed impact the representation at  
4 the senior colleges with the student population.

5 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right.

6 VICE CHANCELLOR WATERS: So, I think this  
7 is a multi-faceted approach that we are—we are moving  
8 there, and I think it will really address your  
9 concerns.

10 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right,  
11 right. I just want to add one thing, and that is one  
12 thing we need to do at CUNY it's also in the plan is  
13 improve transfer and articulation from community  
14 colleges to senior colleges. We are one university.  
15 We are exceptional. We were built to be well  
16 articulated and interconnected, and we need to behave  
17 more like that, Councilman. So we are with—because  
18 at Baruch, at Hunter at—at Queens at Brooklyn at City  
19 the transfer population is larger in many cases than  
20 the full-time, first time freshmen. We have a chance  
21 by—by easing transfer by removing frictions and  
22 barriers of getting more community college students  
23 who at CUNY seek to go to community colleges. We  
24 need to be more welcoming to the students at  
25

community colleges who are much more likely to be  
students of color.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, but  
that training is not changing. It seems like that it  
needs to [coughs] but in 2000 when I—at senior  
colleges, we cannot say no one can bring the number  
say ten years ago the number was in this percentage  
especially in the Black and Latino senior colleges.  
And today because of everything that we have done,  
that number has changed it for the good. It's not  
going in that direction. So, we need to really work  
in that pilot project because that was close to 80%  
Black and Latino in the '80s. Today, it's only 50%  
in senior colleges.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you, Council Member Rodriguez. We will now hear from  
Council Member Williams followed by Council Member  
Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
Madam Chair and Madam Chair and thank you for your  
testimony. I know at somewhere the Haitian Institute  
was brought up, but I just wanted to bring it up  
again and how important it is to me. I know—I think  
it's the number one thing that the college has asked

to push as well. So, I just wanted to get a-sorry.

Can I get my 30 seconds back?

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: You can get your 30 seconds back. I promise. I-I apologize Council Member. I just wanted to acknowledge some very, very important guests that we've had. We have the guest of Majority Leader Van Bramer and Council Member Dromm from PS150-Q in Queens. We have 60 wonderful, marvelous children that are on their way. This is a hearing for your college. Okay, so everybody wave. Welcome to City Hall. [background comments] They are so well behaved. What are you council members doing to them up there? [background comments] Thank you and welcome and we hope you enjoy hearing. Council Member Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: There are—I don't think I was every well behaved in my entire life so. [background comments] [laughter] People are always—I know they're shocked when I say that. But yes, so it's very important. I just wanted just—just hear again where we are with it, and I wanted to understand how much money does the administration, does CUNY itself put in for the institutes as a whole?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right,  
right. Council Member, I do not have the figures in  
front of me but, in fact, I just asked about that  
including the Haitian Institute because it's one our  
very newest institutes. It is obviously located at  
Brooklyn College. I did call the Provost actually a  
few weeks ago to discuss the funding of the institute  
so I'm collecting statistics. I do know that there  
is a director, and I want to, you know, be sure that  
the director is supported. So, I will get back to  
the Council not just with information on the Haitian  
Institute, but also the Mexican Institute, an  
institute I work very closely with now through  
Professor Ramona Hernandez, the institute—the CUNY  
Institute for Dominican Studies, which is a thriving  
institute and does enjoy university support, but my  
sense is there is an imbalance in support for the  
different institutes, and I want to understand that  
better and see how we can move forward.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Well, well  
think you. I just want to reiterate how important it  
is. I think there's only one funding line, and that  
is for the—the director.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: The  
director.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: It's not a—it's  
an institute in name and he's doing great work.  
Without additional funding, it's—it's not going to do  
what it—the best that it can.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: And I just want  
to shout out to my colleague Assembly Member Rodney  
Bichotte, who really pushed to get it done, and I  
thank the Chair of the Finance Committee for—for  
asking questions previously. I know that she's  
supportive of—of trying to get it done.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Well, thank  
you for that.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Our—my Governor  
has put on a particularly progressive coat that I  
think he can take off and does any time he wants to,  
a progressive coat. So, one of the things that he's  
pushing progressive is this Excelsior Program. My  
understanding is it's not all it's cracked up to be,  
and one of my biggest points of contention is that  
you have to graduate in four years or you have to

1  
2 repay the money. I want to just get on record how  
3 many CUNY students graduate in four years?

4 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: In four  
5 years. I'm going to ask the Associate Provost for  
6 Academic Affairs, David Crook to-to help with that.  
7 David, what are our latest figures, please?

8 ASSOCIATE PROVOST CROOK: In our  
9 Bachelors programs, the four-year graduation rate is-  
10 -those are my numbers somewhere in-in the range of  
11 the mid 30% range right now.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm  
13 sorry. Can you just start from the beginning because  
14 your mic was off so we can get it in the record

15 ASSOCIATE PROVOST CROOK: Okay, sorry.  
16 So, right now of the first-time freshmen who start in  
17 a bachelor's program, about-somewhere in the mid 30s,  
18 complete in four years, but one of the big changes  
19 that we're hoping to bring about is a change in the  
20 number of students who instead of taking 12 credits  
21 every semester take 15 so that that percentage would  
22 go up.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: And what about  
24 undergrad?

ASSOCIATE PROVOST CROOK: So that would  
be—that's the undergraduate rate of students in  
bachelor's programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Bachelor's or  
Masters?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Bachelor's.  
Yeah, no, it's bachelors. Yes.

ASSOCIATE PROVOST CROOK: Bachelor's.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So Bachelor's  
about 35%?

ASSOCIATE PROVOST CROOK: Somewhere in  
that range.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Alright. So we  
can say 60 to 70% do not?

ASSOCIATE PROVOST CROOK: That's under  
current conditions, but we're, like I say hoping that  
we'll be able to increase the percentage of students  
who take more credits so that that percentage will go  
up.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Well, I would  
have hope—see the changes before the program came.  
So, there's no way I will believe that that's going  
to have a huge—a huge impact that way. It took me  
seven years to get my four-year degree, four years to

1  
2 get my three-year degree for various reasons, but I  
3 made it through. I'm more of a typical student than  
4 a non-typical student, and so it frustrates me that  
5 this program is touting something with pictures of  
6 Bernie Sanders that it is not something I believed he  
7 would have wanted. Also, I believe the--the income  
8 challenged students who need it the most, it's not  
9 going to affect them because they need books and room  
10 and board, and that's not what they're going to get.  
11 Is it your contention--some people are saying that one  
12 of the primary reasons that it's so low is because  
13 people have to pay for their tuition and they're  
14 saying if they pay for the tuition, then they'll be  
15 able to graduate faster. I don't believe that, and  
16 so I think people have to pay for additional things  
17 to survive as well as not everybody can take a full  
18 course load to graduate. So, what is your contention  
19 to that not that if we just pay for the tuition, the  
20 graduation rate--the--the four-year graduation rate  
21 will change?

22 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Council Member  
23 Williams--

24 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
25 [interposing] Council member--

1

2

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Oh, I'm sorry.

3

4

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: No, I'm  
sorry.

5

6

7

8

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Council Member  
Williams, I just want to--you--you mentioned a--a  
really critical word that I want to address, which is  
textbooks.

9

10

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] Yes, that's what I was going to say.

11

12

13

14

15

16

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: So, in the--in  
the state budget the--the Excelsior got so much  
attention that it's something that was unnoticed, but  
was very important to us at the university was  
there's \$4 million that was funded for what was  
called open educational resources--

17

18

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] Right.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --and it's  
something that we're really excited about. It's  
going to help provide online textbooks and course  
materials to students, and I just want to again be on  
the record. We did submit a request to the  
administration for a city match of that \$4 million,

1  
2 state allocations that we would have \$8 million, but  
3 our submittal--

4 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:

5 [interposing] Yeah, that's--that's--I want to add that  
6 we've estimated the average textbook costs of CUNY,  
7 one of the costs that you've alluded to correctly is  
8 \$1,200 a year. That's an enormous out-of-the pocket--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]

10 I'm sorry. I know my time is up. Just would you  
11 repeat that again?

12 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: The average  
13 book cost for CUNY students is about \$1,200 a year.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Wow.

15 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: So by--  
16 through this open educational resources or OER  
17 Initiative, we are going to be creating courses and  
18 perhaps even whole degree programs with zero textbook  
19 costs, and that is something that the Governor funded  
20 generously, the state funded generously, and again  
21 we're looking for the cities to do this, and CUNY  
22 right now in our Associate Degree Programs, in our  
23 community colleges, we are developing whole programs  
24 where you can get through your major with zero  
25

textbook costs. This is—and this initiative will be  
the wind in our sails.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
That's excellent to hear. I think my other concerns  
are still valid, and I think nationally, if we looked  
at a four-year graduation rate it's—it's tipped kind  
of the other direction. So, that's all I have to  
say. Thank you very much.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you. Council Member Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam  
Chair. Good morning.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Good morning.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I think it's  
still morning. Maybe. I don't know. Good  
afternoon. Good to see you guys. Thank you so much.  
So, I, too, certainly as a SUNY and CUNY graduate,  
twofer, I want to echo the sentiments—sentiments of  
many of my colleagues. I think the Excelsior Program  
is obviously a good approach and a good measure, but  
we always have to look at the final details--

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] You do.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --and sometimes  
3 the devil is always in the details, and certainly I  
4 would never support any effort where there is an  
5 underlying and unintended consequence to keep young  
6 students out of the system, and when you hear, you  
7 know, some of the high costs of tuition, and books  
8 and all the other incidental costs I mean these are  
9 some of the things that keep our children and our  
10 students behind. So, as many of us myself included  
11 are still trying to understanding what Excelsior  
12 means, alluding to Chair Barron, and some of the  
13 questions that she had, I guess my general concern is  
14 capacity. Many of our CUNY schools both the senior  
15 colleges and community colleges are bursting at the  
16 seams, and that's why this Council is so supportive  
17 of your capital projects. So, I represent the Bronx,  
18 and we have an incredibly aggressive Allied Science  
19 Building that we are pushing for Hostos Community  
20 College--

21 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:

22 [interposing] Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --which is  
24 absolutely needed, and even going beyond that we're  
25 short about 90,000 square feet to date.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Wow.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Bronx Community  
College is another incredibly successful institution-  
-

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:

[interposing] Yes, it is.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --in my back  
yard, and I was a part as well as Council Member  
Cabrera of the opening of the north instructional  
building, and now a lot of the campus wide utility  
projects that really need to make BCC a lot better as  
it could be. So, understanding all of that, I mean  
and we're looking at obviously what Excelsior would  
do. With more students coming into the system, how  
are we going to address the spacing capacity and then  
obviously faculty is going to be critical. We don't  
want to have more students in classes where we're  
getting to 30 students in a class. So are these the  
conversations that you're having, and if so, where  
are we going to get the support? Is it coming  
through CUNY, the Council as well as the state? How  
is all of that going to work? [background comments]

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: We are—we  
have many, many more students than we have capacity

1  
2 for. However, we are growing. Let me give-let me  
3 talk about the schools that you mentioned. Hostos in  
4 the next six or seven months is going to get 25,000  
5 more square feet, which is across the street from the  
6 school at the-at the post office. Bronx Community  
7 College has space, but it's not the right space. So,  
8 we're renovating space. So those are the two  
9 examples of the schools that you mentioned, but we  
10 have that in every community college. We're adding  
11 some space, and we're looking and we're going to  
12 renovate space to create more classroom space and  
13 more reading space for students.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay. So,  
15 obviously we're still having ongoing conversations  
16 because a lot of that I know we can't deal with in  
17 one fiscal year, of course. So, obviously it will  
18 span over multiple fiscal year.

19 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [interposing]  
20 Council Member Gibson, I just want to--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Sure.

22 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: I'm sorry to  
23 interrupt you. I just wanted to state that you-you  
24 raise a good point that we do have some of our  
25 campuses that are at or near capacity, but again I

1  
2 just want to stress that, you know, at CUNY what we  
3 do is we make sure that everyone that wants to come  
4 to us finds a home somewhere. We have 24 campuses  
5 and, you know, we're not in the business of turning  
6 folks away.

7 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: That's  
8 right.

9 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: So, while some  
10 of our students--some of our campuses, excuse me, are  
11 at capacity, there are others that can certainly take  
12 on more students, and we want more students to come  
13 to CUNY as--as was mentioned earlier so--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing]  
15 Okay.

16 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --I just want  
17 the Council to be confident that you have that  
18 commitment from us at the university.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, I have  
20 three questions I'm going to spit out literally.  
21 Someone mentioned in the four years of a student  
22 attaining their Bachelor's Degree, 35% of the  
23 students graduated in four years, and I wanted to  
24 know do we have a breakdown by race and ethnicity so  
25 that we can obviously look at some of the factors

1  
2 within that number? I wanted to ask about ASAP's  
3 expansion. Someone mentioned that. I wanted to see  
4 how that would roll out, and then also I believe that  
5 CUNY is working with the City Department of Education  
6 working on a adult literacy. So, we have—in many of  
7 our school districts we have students that are in  
8 transitional housing, and we're working with parents  
9 and libraries. NYPL is also a part of that, and I  
10 believe CUNY has a role in that. So, I wanted to  
11 find out where you fit in that, and I also wanted to  
12 ask about the Fatherhood Academy, which I'm a huge  
13 fan of, and I know we have at Hostos where we are  
14 with that, and are we looking to expand. [bell]  
15 Right on time.

16 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Okay, that was  
17 [laughter] that was impressive.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I did it.

19 [laughs]

20 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Okay, okay,  
21 we're—Yes. Go ahead, Ginger. Sorry. Just for ASAP  
22 space the city has funded capital and expense for us  
23 to look at every single campus and expand space or  
24 renovate the space that we have for every single  
25 campus that's going to have ASAP. Two campuses are

1 getting additional space. That's Hostos and BMCC.  
2  
3 The other campuses we're looking at space that they  
4 have. You know, if-if you look a--the libraries of  
5 today are very different than the libraries of ten  
6 years ago. There are more meeting spaces now, and  
7 we're looking at libraries all over campuses to-to  
8 renovate what we have and make it more useful.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

10 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: So, that  
11 answers a little piece of your question.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

13 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: The overall  
14 expansion for ASAP is we want to be at 25,000 by  
15 2019.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

17 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: And I want to--  
18 I want to recognize John Mogolesky (sp?) and Donald  
19 Linogen (sp?) who are here who--who have--who birthed  
20 the program, and continue to run the program and do a  
21 spectacular job doing that. In regards to you first  
22 question, Council Member--

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:

24 [interposing] Four year graduation rate per  
25 demographic. David.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: A four-year graduation rate—we do we have, Jim? If we could provide that. [pause]

JIM: I don't have the—the date. It's broken out by race available now, but we'll get that to you.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

JIM: But while I was sitting here, I had a chance to double check the numbers and it's actually not 35%, it's 25%. Just wanted to put that on the record.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Oh, that's even worse.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes, it is.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

JIM: So, we'll get you the data broken down by race.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, thank you, and Fatherhood Academy?

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Fatherhood Academy, you know, very glad that you mentioned that. It started at La Guardia Community College. It was funded by the city, which we were very grateful, and as you mentioned, expanded to Hostos. So, you know,

1  
2 it's showing terrific results and, you know, we  
3 would—we are encouraged by it and would like to  
4 expand it more if we could.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, great.  
6 Thank you very much. Thank you Madam Chair.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
8 you, Council Member. I have—we're going to follow up  
9 with questions to you on capital projects. In the  
10 years that I've been a Council Member I feel like  
11 that's always been lacking (sic)step with a lot of  
12 our conversations, a little less so this year. So,  
13 we're going to just send those questions over to  
14 your.

15 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Sure.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But I  
17 wanted to quickly ask about the base aid increase.

18 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And how  
20 you will be using the additional space support within  
21 your system.

22 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Right. So,  
23 for the community colleges in the state enacted  
24 budget, the state included a \$50 base aid increase  
25 for our community colleges with enrollment increases

1  
2 and expected enrollment increases. That base aid is  
3 going to generate about \$11 million in additional  
4 funding to our community houses. So, we're very  
5 happy that we have a-another base aid increase. It  
6 brings us up I think to over \$2,700, almost \$2,750 or  
7 close to it per student, and those funds will be  
8 invested in our community colleges. Overall at this  
9 point with our state support and our city support for  
10 community colleges, a community college budget is  
11 expected to grow about 3% over the current fiscal  
12 year. So, we certainly would like more support for  
13 our community colleges, and-and-and we know that, you  
14 know, we need to continue to invest in them, but, you  
15 know, it is trending in-in a positive direction.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Great.  
17 So, do you see this going into programming or what  
18 does this help support within your system?

19 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: It becomes  
20 part of the overall community college budget. So we  
21 don't prescribe to each college. You know, you're  
22 going to get a \$50 increase. Here's what you must  
23 spend it on. We know each of our community colleges  
24 are unique, and have their own set of fees.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

3

[interposing] So it's like a general operating--

4

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [interposing]

5

Yes.

6

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --budget.

7

Okay.

8

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Correct.

9

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

10

Thank you, and I have additional questions, but we're

11

just going to get those to you. If you can get them

12

back to us--

13

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Sure.

14

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --

15

because--

16

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:

17

[interposing] Absolutely

18

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --we would like

19

the answers before we do our handshake.

20

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Absolutely.

21

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Council

22

Member Barron. Chair Barron.

23

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Thank you, Madam

24

Chair. I have lots of questions, but I want to

25

consolidate them. I just have to make a statement in

1  
2 regards to the Excelsior Scholarship program, and  
3 state that if you—if—if my colleagues aren't aware  
4 that there aren't as many Blacks in the middle income  
5 as there are whites. So, consequently, not as many  
6 Blacks will be able to apply for the Excelsior  
7 Scholarship.

8 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Uh-huh.

9 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: That's just a  
10 statement of fact.

11 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: That's  
12 right.

13 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: So, I don't know  
14 that my colleague is still here, but I certainly will  
15 have that discussion with him afterwards. And in  
16 terms of the program, if the Governor had made this a  
17 scholarship program that's called First Dollar In,  
18 then it would be equitably applicate to all, and  
19 everybody would have a chance to get the scholarship  
20 for tuition, and then students could find other ways  
21 to help get assistance for the other needs that  
22 exceed what the tuition needs are. So, it should  
23 have been a first dollar in scholarship program,  
24 which brings me to the point. A student who applies  
25 for the Excelsior Scholarship and receives that

1 scholarship, and then at the end of the first year,  
2 is not able to maintain 15 credits, will then be  
3 saddled with a debt because it's now a loan. Will he  
4 have—he or she have to pay that loan? How will that  
5 loan--  
6

7 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: No, no. If—if  
8 a student in—in—in the example that you raised, Chair  
9 Barron, if a student is eligible for Excelsior and—  
10 and receives it, and then they become ineligible--

11 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Right.

12 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --then they  
13 just don't receive the award. Where the loan part of  
14 it comes in is for students who graduate. Who—who  
15 received Excelsior and then graduate. The—the  
16 expectation is that they will live in New York State  
17 before they--

18 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] But,  
19 if they're no longer—if they got it for one year, and  
20 one eligible for year 2 and 3, what—what happened to  
21 that first year that they received the loan? I mean  
22 the scholarship?

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: It's paid  
24 for.

25 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: It's paid for.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes, it's  
paid for.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: They—that  
doesn't turn into a loan. The only way it turns into  
a loan is if some on graduation—

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] It doesn't at graduation.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --does not  
stay in—does not live—

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] Live and work—

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --or work in  
New York State--

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] Or live over.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: --for the  
amount of time that they go the scholarship for.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Okay. I have to  
think about that a little further.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
[interposing] That's right.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: But I have several  
other questions. I'm just going to ask them quickly.  
What is the Pathways to Higher Education program? Is

1  
2 that the Jails to Jobs program? [background  
3 comments] What are you doing for the foster care  
4 children? I know there were I think 40 students that  
5 were--had their tuition paid for, and had living  
6 accommodations--

7 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [interposing]  
8 Right.

9 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: --and a Metro Card.  
10 What is that program? How is that program intended  
11 to expand, and I had another question, but I can't  
12 think of that.

13 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Sure.

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

15 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: If it's okay  
16 with you, Vice Chancellor Rabinowitz will talk about  
17 the Foster Care Program.

18 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: The Foster  
19 Care Program was 40 students last year and now we're  
20 increasing it. We're doubling it and it's going to  
21 be at Queens College, City College and--

22 VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: CSI.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Queens, City and  
25 CSI?

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: The College  
of Staten Island.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Oh, CSI and I do  
remember my other question. Have you found a  
permanent location for Guttman College? What are  
your plans? I thought that their initial plan was  
that it had to be permanently located within a  
certain time frame.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Well, the--  
the--the lease expires in 2020, and we are now looking  
at the possible use of North Hall, which was  
associated with John Jay and other possibilities.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: And the other  
question was about Pathways to Higher Ed. Is that  
the Jails to Jobs Program? Are they different or how  
are they related?

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: They are  
related and the Pathways to Higher Education is going  
to be administered by John Jay College. I know we  
have a lot of John Jay students here today. So, I  
want to give them a shout, but the Prisoner Reentry  
Institute at John Jay College will be administering  
this program, and it's designed for folks who are

1  
2 leaving incarceration to try to get them on a pathway  
3 into-into higher education.

4 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Thank you, Madam  
5 Chair.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
7 you, Chair.

8 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Madam Chair,  
9 could I add something.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yes.

11 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Could I add  
12 something. Chairperson Barron asked about-about two  
13 hours ago about the Commitment Plan and the-the  
14 Commitment Plan and the Capital Strategy Plan. The  
15 Capital Strategy Plan is 10 years. The commitment is  
16 four.

17 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: I thought so.

18 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: One is the  
19 subset of the other and--

20 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: [interposing] One is  
21 a sub-I was trying to understand that so--

22 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ:  
23 [interposing] Well, the reason.

24 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: --if you could  
25 explain.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: The reason  
the numbers don't match.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: The numbers don't  
match.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: The reason  
why the numbers don't match is that the Commitment  
Plan starts with this year and the tenure starts with  
next year. So, the numbers are not the same.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Thank you.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: That was  
your question, right?

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Yes.

VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BARRON: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you, Madam Chair. Council Member Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you again.  
I just have one final question, and first I wanted to  
commend you. In light of the Federal Administration  
and all of the work that this Council has been doing,  
the fact that we are continuously promoting us as a  
sanctuary city. Never before has there ever been a  
time where immigration is the thing we talk about,  
but the thing we continue to commit to, and CUNY has

1  
2 had an incredible track record through the CUNY  
3 Citizenship Program, and I am one of your fans not  
4 only because my district has benefitted from CUNY  
5 citizenship and we continue to every single week, but  
6 now we're seeing obviously a higher demand--

7 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --and not just  
9 Pathways to Citizenship, DACA cases, but just in  
10 general families just having questions.

11 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes, being  
12 fearful.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: So, I wanted to  
14 ask in this budget cycle are we looking at expanding  
15 CUNY citizenship for all the right reasons because we  
16 know that there is so much anxiety and fear--

17 VICE CHANCELLOR RABINOWITZ: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --in our  
19 communities, and we as a Council are working really  
20 hard with the Mayor making sure that we protect our  
21 schools, our public institutions, our courthouses. I  
22 mean everything under the sun because we just want to  
23 make sure that reassure families that they are  
24 protected whether they are an immigrant or not. So I  
25

just wanted to ask about the CUNY Citizenship Program  
and will see an increase this year.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So,  
Council Member, I'm just going to inject.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: We gave  
CUNY citizenship like a good ten minutes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Oh, we did?

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Oh, okay. I'm  
sorry.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And Allen  
Ward (sic) makes it--

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing]  
Well, just add my name to the conversation.

[laughter] Just add my name to the conversation.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yes, yes  
we will gladly do that. We know you're a champion  
and how important this is also for your district.  
CUNY expressed the need for additional support. So,  
we're going to be looking into that, but I-I hope  
you--

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing] So,  
when you say additional support, not a letter of  
support at all?

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Not a  
letter no matter how much we talk it. [background  
comments, laughter]

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: Unfortunately.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: That's  
right. Thank you, thank you, Council Member, thank  
you, Chair. We're going to have some follow-up  
questions.

VICE CHANCELLOR SAPIENZA: [interposing]  
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --from  
both of our committees, and we do know what was  
answered today. That concluded the first part of  
today's budget hearing. Thank you again to Vice  
Chancellor Rabin-Rabinowitz for testifying today. As  
a reminder, the public will be invited to testify on  
Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> the last day of budget hearings at  
approximately 1:00 p.m. in this. For any member of  
the public who wishes to testify, but cannot make it  
to the hearing, you can submit your testimony to the  
Finance Division on the Council's website

council.nyc.gov/budget/testimony, and the staff will  
make it a part of the official record. We will now  
take a 15-minute break after which we will come back  
and hear from DYCD. Thank you. [gavel] [pause for  
break]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: We will—  
we will now continue with the second day of budget  
hearings with testimony from Commissioner Bill Chong  
of the Department of Youth and Community Development.  
DYCD's mission is to support city's low-income youth  
and their families through a range of programs aimed  
at providing them with the opportunity to grow and  
succeed. These include after school and literacy  
programs, family support services and youth  
employment. The Council has made DYCD's program a  
top priority in recent years, and I believe the  
record is clear on our success. In Fiscal 2017, we  
pushed the administration to fund a record 60,000  
summer job employment programs as well as to provide  
additional funding on top of significant funds given  
by the Council for 6,000 year-round jobs for our  
city's youth. The administration also agreed to join  
us in creating a joint youth employment taskforce to  
assess the needs and effectiveness of SYEP and Work,

Learn and Grow. I had the privilege of co-chairing this taskforce working alongside Council Members Matteo and Eugene. We also have the support of several of our colleagues including Council Member Chin, Cumbo, Gibson, Rodriguez, Torres and Williams. The taskforce released our report on April 27<sup>th</sup>. While we were excited about the new pilots that we—that we'll implementing in SYEP this summer, [coughs] we are concerned that the report does not address year-round employment. We also want to ensure that new SYEP procurement process allows for enough flexibility and diversity in format to support providers with best meeting the needs of our city's youth. I look forward to continuing with the administration and finding new and innovative ways to expand youth employment opportunities. Turning to the Executive Budget, as I have stated on multiple occasions I believe that DYCD could be a stronger partner during the budge process. While DYCD's Executive Budget does include minimum wage increases for SYEP, 3,600 new SONYC slots, and additional money to support the 11 new Beacons added in the Preliminary Budget, the administration could do more to alleviate our concerns. The 5,000 new SYEP jobs

1 added in the Preliminary Budget were a step in the  
2 right direction, but barely begin to address the  
3 overwhelming demand for this program. We hope that  
4 the administration would heed our call for 15,000 new  
5 jobs to be funded in the Executive Budget. Instead,  
6 not a single additional Summer Youth Employment job  
7 is added to the 5,000 we saw at prelim. Given that  
8 the Council has repeatedly indicated that youth  
9 programs are a key priority for us, it is  
10 disappointing that our calls for enhancements to  
11 these programs were ignored by the administration.  
12 Besides SYEP, the administration neglected to  
13 baseline \$47.9 million to provide year-round  
14 employment to 12,000 young people; \$27.7 million to  
15 restore the SONYC program to its original size and  
16 provide summer afternoon programming to 34,000 middle  
17 school students, and \$16 million for COMPASS to  
18 provide expanded after school programming to  
19 elementary school students. When we talk about  
20 providing opportunities for city's youth, youth  
21 employment and after school programming are exactly  
22 what we mean, but words are not enough. They must be  
23 joined with action, and this budget does not go far  
24 enough. We expected the administration would work  
25

1  
2 closely with us over the next few weeks to address  
3 these concerns as we move toward budget adoption.  
4 Before I turn over the mic to my co-chair for his  
5 opening statement, I want to thank the Finance staff  
6 for their work on this hearing, Regina Poreda Ryan,  
7 Eisha Wright, Jessica Ackerman and Eric Bernstein. I  
8 would also like to thank our Director—our Finance  
9 Director Latonia McKinney for her continued  
10 leadership in pushing expansion of these critical  
11 programs. I will now turn it over to Chair Eugene  
12 for his opening remarks.

13 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you, very much  
14 Chair Ferreras-Copeland and good afternoon. I'm  
15 Council Member Mathieu Eugene, Chair of the Committee  
16 on Youth Services, and I would like to begin with my  
17 colleagues in welcoming you, all of you to this  
18 oversight hearing of the DYCD's Fiscal 2018 Executive  
19 Budget. The Fiscal 2018 Executive Budget for DYCD  
20 totals \$679.8 million. This includes \$15.6 million  
21 of minimum wage increases for the Summer Youth  
22 Employment Program, but only for one year. I believe  
23 that includes \$10.7 million for 3,600 more after  
24 school slots for middle school students and SONYC,  
25 but only during this school year. Frankly, this

1 budget does not do justice to the needs of the  
2 interests of New York City. Like Chair Ferreras-  
3 Copeland and my colleagues and the Council, I am very  
4 disappointed that the administration has failed to  
5 better meet the demand for jobs and Summer Youth  
6 Employment Program. SYEP serves many very important  
7 purpose in New York City. SYEP not only help young  
8 people have money, but it gives them job training and  
9 keeps them safe. It gives employers across the five  
10 boroughs a source staff during the summer months, and  
11 it helps support our city's economy. New York needs  
12 this program. Nearly 140,000 applications last year  
13 not only underscored the need for this program, and  
14 that is the reason why the Council—the Council need  
15 to approve for 15,000 more SYEP jobs for this year.  
16 I'm also very concerned about the lack of attention  
17 on the Executive Budget to services for disconnected  
18 youth. The Council has recently passed legislation  
19 to address this—the establishment of a disconnected  
20 use task force that meets every two years to review  
21 programming and make recommendations. I look forward  
22 to work of the new task force, but I'm concerned  
23 about what services will be available in the  
24 meantime. I do not—I do not want our city's young  
25

people who desperately need jobs and education to  
have to wait another year before they see any real  
changes. As a city, we must do better than that.

Before we begin, I would like to thank my Legislative  
and Budget Director Ethan Tucker and the staff of the  
Youth Committee Jessica Ackerman, Senior Finance  
Analyst; and Hugh Disaru (sp?) Committee Counsel and  
Michael Benjamin, our Senior Policy Analyst.

Commissioner, I'm looking forward to your testimony.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: [off mic]

Thank you, Council Member and Chair Eugene.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Do you affirm to tell the  
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in  
your testimony before the committee today, and to  
respond honestly to Council Member questions?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I do. Good  
afternoon, Chairwoman Ferreras-Copeland, Chairman  
Eugene and members of the Finance and Youth Services  
Committee. I am Bill Chong, Commissioner of the  
Department of Youth and Community Development. I'm  
joined by Andre White, Associate Commissioner, Youth  
Workforce Development and Jadeen Phenor (sp?) ,  
Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Budget and

1 Finance. Thank you for the opportunity to testify  
2 today on DYCD's Fiscal Year 2018 Executive Budget.  
3 With summertime just around the corner, planning for  
4 this year's Summer Youth Employment Program is well  
5 underway. Mayor de Blasio has demonstrated yet again  
6 his commitment to youth employment by adding \$15.6  
7 million in the Executive Budget to support the city's  
8 portion of the minimum wage increase for SYEP. This  
9 investment in addition to the 5,000 new jobs announce  
10 in the Preliminary Budget, which increased the total  
11 number of baselined SYEP slots to 65,000 for this  
12 summer, and as part of this—as part of the ongoing  
13 partnership between the Mayor and the City Council to  
14 support opportunities for young people to work and  
15 explore careers, the Youth Employment Taskforce  
16 Report was released last week. Chaired by Deputy  
17 Mayor of Policy Initiatives, Richard Buery and City  
18 Council Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, the  
19 task force was charged with assessing the key areas  
20 of growth and improvement in the city's Youth  
21 Workforce programs. The taskforce also developed  
22 recommendations to inform the future direction of the  
23 Summer Youth Employment Program and Work, Learn and  
24 Grow. The direct—the recommendations fall under two  
25

categories—fall under two categories: Program focus and program quality, and operations in system building. Some key recommendations include:

1. Investing in enhanced support services for SYEP Vulnerable Youth Program participants. As part of building and providing capacity and strengthening the program model to serve vulnerable youth, enhance career development and service learning expertise can be developed to meet the unique needs of the population. Additional services could also include pre-program or retention, counseling and referral services on-on conclusion of one SYEP experience.

2. Strengthening connections between SYEP providers and schools to improve in-school career development. Creating more deliberate partnerships between schools and SYEP would allow students to receive dedicated city support for career exploration during the school year.

3. Facilitating seamless entry between the city's youth employment initiatives.

Strengthening interagency connections and transition to Work, Learn and Grow and other DYCD and—and city agency youth employment programs will benefit all

SYEP participants particular disconnected youth who require more support. Participants can build on their SYEP experience through the sequential opportunities to further explore careers and the world of work while developing job skills.

4. Creating a specific younger youth track focus on career exploration. Younger program participants would benefit from a more tailored SYEP experience focused on career exploration and project based learning.

5. Revamping the SYEP timeline to better support the job development and employer matching process. A prime benefit of having a significant portion of SYEP funding baselined is that program planning and start-up activities can start much earlier. Providers have more time to plan so they'll have quality job placements, and raise the quality of the experience for participants, and

6. Boosting system building efforts through new training programs and leveraging of available resources, new partnerships and data system upgrades. Enhancing the key elements of a Summer Youth Employment Program and Work, Learn and Grow such as the provider capacity, interagency

connections, employer engagement and evaluation will improve overall program quality and operational efficiency.

The report's recommendation will be incorporated into a concept paper we expect to release this summer, which allows the provider to needs to submit feedback on proposer-on proposed enhancements to the city's Youth Workforce programming. The recommendations and the concept paper will also inform DYCD's, SYEP's Request for Proposals, which we expect to release in the fall of 2017. I want to thank again, Chair-Chairwoman Ferreras-Copeland, Chairman Eugene and Council Matteo for their leadership on this task force. I also want to thank their team of colleagues Council Members Chin, Gibson, Rodriguez, Torres and Williams for all supporting the work of the task force.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, DYCD released their Beacon Community Center RFP. The RFP includes the new investments made to the Beacon Program, which were the first announced—which were first announced in last year's Executive Budget. Each Beacon will be funded at \$550,000 in Fiscal Year 2018, an increase from the \$400,000 in its current fiscal year. The

1  
2 RFP includes funding for new Beacon sites raising the  
3 total number of Beacons to 91. I want to thank Mayor  
4 de Blasio for his leadership in expanding Beacon  
5 funding. I also want to thank the City Council,  
6 Chairwoman Ferreras-Copeland and Chairman Eugene for  
7 your leadership and steadfast support of Beacons of  
8 the years. These new Beacon resources represent the  
9 first funding increase in over two decades and is a  
10 very appropriate way to celebrate the Beacon program,  
11 which turned 25 last year.

12 Under Mayor de Blasio, DYCD has expanded  
13 its funding to support Schools Out NYC middle school  
14 and after school programs offering access to every  
15 middle school student that is interested in—in the  
16 program. Currently, over 62,000 youth are enrolled in  
17 the SONYC programs citywide. The Executive Budget  
18 builds on the Mayor's historic investment and a  
19 commitment by adding \$10.7 million to fund another  
20 3,600 SONYC program seats. Some new middle schools  
21 and those that opted out of the 2014 expansion RFP  
22 will now have an opportunity to offer after school  
23 programming through SONYC. We are developing our  
24 plans for how these seats will be allocated and we  
25 can share more details soon. In Fiscal Year 2018

Executive Budget, Mayor de Blasio continues a strong commitment to youth, families and communities again investing resources with DYCD. We are very excited for the opportunity to further expand our programs and build on our resources. We look forward to continuing to work with the City Council to create opportunities that improve the lives of all New Yorkers. My staff and I are ready to answer any questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you, Commissioner. We're going to jump right into the Summer Youth and year-round employment programs. 15,000 new slots in Fiscal 2018's Preliminary Budget Response is what we called for, and the administration to increase for Summer Youth to serve an additional 15,000. What is DYCD's position on expanding SYEP?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, as you have seen over the last three years, we're committed to two major things. One is obviously expanding the program, and with the help of the Council and the Mayor, we've almost doubled the number of jobs in the program, and focus on quality, and which is why we found the task force work so helpful because it helps

1  
2 inform the panning process with the new model. As  
3 the Budget Director said yesterday I think the, you  
4 know, the conversation about adding jobs will  
5 continue in the budget adoption process, and so I—I  
6 think we're looking forward to whatever comes out of  
7 those negotiations.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, so,  
9 can you maybe just very briefly talk about what were  
10 the challenges that you saw in expanding from 30 to  
11 60 and were those challenges or are those challenges  
12 addressed in this new RFP that you—that you--?

13 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, I'll  
14 start and then Andre can add in. I think the biggest  
15 challenge in growing what is the last minute funding.  
16 I mean this is something that was discussed I think  
17 in my very first meeting of the taskforce last fall  
18 is that quality is also a function of having  
19 certainty about how much money you have to work with  
20 because the more time you have to plan, the better—  
21 the experience for a young person and for the  
22 employer. So, this year because so much money—I  
23 believe \$97 million was baselined. We were able to  
24 start the process earlier, applications were earlier  
25 and then Andre can add sort of like what providers

1  
2 have been telling us about this year's experience as  
3 it's different from last year's.

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Andre  
5 White, Associate Commissioner of Youth Workforce  
6 Development programs at DYCD. So this year has been  
7 incredibly a lot less stressful for our providers for  
8 the most part. As the Commissioner mentioned we were  
9 able release applications earlier. We're able to  
10 start the lottery process earlier. Because of that,  
11 providers have the ability to sit with each and every  
12 young person to have a deeper assessment and to make  
13 sure that they match their interest. So far, we have  
14 enrolled a large number of participants. We started  
15 two months ago, but over--

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
17 [interposing] So, I'm-I's sorry what-what's our-  
18 what's our total as of to date?

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: It's  
20 39,000 young people that have been enrolled.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And how  
22 many have applied?

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Over  
24 146,000.  
25

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: 146,000  
to date, and what's the cut off date?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: The-the  
application deadline already passed.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right,  
I'm just saying if there's a potential of additional  
growth, then you would- Do you know what I'm saying?  
We're-we're kind of for-there's a going to be cohort  
that's exactly where we were before. So, do you  
open the-do you open-expand the opportunity do you  
just take the 140 something thousand and apply for-  
and-and pick more young people from that pool.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: It would  
be from the current pool of applicants.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, and  
it's a 140--

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: --6,000.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: 46,000.  
Okay, thank you. Go ahead. I'm sorry.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, again  
because of the timeline and making some adjustments.  
To that, we have seen a lot of improvement. In the  
past some of the more-some of the challenges were  
around developing work size particularly for the

1  
2 younger youth. As you know, young people ages 14 and  
3 15 and employers unfortunately do not want to take on  
4 that responsibility. They felt they was babysitting.  
5 So, providers struggled around develop-developing  
6 appropriate sites for that population, and I think  
7 that was the largest challenge for-for a lot of the  
8 providers.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, is it  
10 improved now because you had more time?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:  
12 Absolutely.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

14 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So,  
15 because everything was moved up the worksite  
16 recruitment process started earlier as well as the  
17 application process.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay. Do  
19 you have a-kind of a breakdown of how many of your  
20 people are placed in city agencies?

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes, we  
22 do.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.  
24 Can you give us like the top three agencies, and then  
25

1  
2 if you can share with the committee your list of  
3 agencies.

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:  
5 Absolutely. Just give me one second.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Sure.  
7 Thank your time. It's pouring outside.

8 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: [laughs]  
9 [pause]

10 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So while he's  
11 looking, last year for the first time the Mayor sent  
12 out an email to all of the agency commissioners, and  
13 that really reflected a huge increase for us. I  
14 think it was six—I seem to remember 6,000 young  
15 people last year were working at a city agency, which  
16 is 10% and I know the Council Members themselves I  
17 think we had a record number of Council Members.  
18 Twenty-seven I think it was--

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:  
20 [interposing] Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --who also.  
22 So, it-it-I-I-I'm a strong believer that we have to  
23 expose young people to careers in public service  
24 because it, you know, that's the only way you learn,  
25 and so do you have the list?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes,  
absolutely. So, in 2015, just to give you some  
stats, we had over 1,108 young people that worked in  
city agencies at 33 city agencies. We have that, and  
last summer we had over 4,000 young people working in  
city agencies.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, 4,000  
young people, and what is--what do you think, if you  
have it there, what were the top three agencies for  
placement?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:  
Administration for Children Services, DEP, Department  
of Parks and Recreation.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: They  
weren't cleaning parks were them?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I'm sorry?

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I was  
asking if they were cleaning parks, but that's fine  
and looking at the job descriptions later.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, the  
Youth Employment Taskforce developed a final report,  
as--as we all know. Can you go into more detail in  
describing each of the four pilots, and I know you

1 discussed it in your opening statement, but if we  
2 could actually—it was what we spent most of our time,  
3 and I think it was great, but it was also unfortunate  
4 because we didn't get to delve into the Work Learn  
5 and Grow program and, you know, we sent the Work  
6 Learn and Grow to you as a year-round, and that's  
7 what we called it, and you gave it back to us as Work  
8 Learn and Grow, which I think the average person  
9 doesn't understand that, you know, Summer Youth  
10 Employment is called that. Summer Youth Employment  
11 and so people are like oh, that's where I go apply  
12 for a summer youth job. Work Learn and Grow could be  
13 a gardening program. We don't know right? So,  
14 that's—that's why the Council found it very  
15 important, and we're going to continue to have this  
16 conversation. I believe it should still be called a  
17 year-round program. I know that it wasn't because of  
18 the programming and you added onto SYEP, but we  
19 should be speaking about this this, and—and because  
20 it's trying to achieve something, but I think it's  
21 important and something that can last in our city,  
22 and that's giving young people and opportunity to  
23 work year-round after school. So that they don't  
24 feel that they have to go work, you know, at a  
25

1 McDonald's or have—you know, that they can other  
2 opportunities, but if you can just walk me through  
3 the pilot program--  
4

5 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:

6 [interposing] Absolutely.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --for the  
8 record, I'd appreciate it.

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right. So,  
10 when we think about the task force recommendations,  
11 one of our recommendations really focus on younger  
12 youth and ensuring that they—that we offer a career  
13 version for them. So, the pilot that we're testing--  
14 I'm sorry--this summer is working very closely with  
15 the Department of Education Career program. Right  
16 now, we have identified over 150 young people ages 14  
17 and 15 that will--that's going to be engaged. In the  
18 midst of academic work is also project based  
19 learning. They're going to be working with a non-  
20 profit called Solar One, which will provide for like  
21 energy exploration work. They're going to be in  
22 classroom. They're going to taking tours, visiting  
23 their front--the front offices, the front locations.  
24 They're going to have guest speakers and the idea  
25 there is ensure that not only are they're let in

1  
2 classroom—the idea is to make sure what they learn in  
3 the classrooms is also applied also in the classroom,  
4 right. They're also going to be getting an academic  
5 credit, an environmental science credit at the end,  
6 the conclusion of the program, and they're going to  
7 be getting a stipend.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: That's a  
9 great example and then those are your—that's one  
10 pilot?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: That's—  
12 that's one, yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, we've  
14 got three more?

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes, the—  
16 the second one focuses on vulnerable youth. Young  
17 people ages 14 through 24. As you know, many of them  
18 are not work ready. So when they come through the  
19 door and they're doing an assessment their providers  
20 recognize they have the skills necessary to thrive in  
21 an independent workplace. So, the idea is there's a  
22 creative service learning model for those young  
23 people. We're going to go after them with a group  
24 that LAMP, and what they are going to be focusing on  
25 is really the technology work, creating a PSA, using

1  
2 their phones, learning how to edit videos, and  
3 actually— We're actually identifying a theme that's  
4 important to thrive in their community, and based on  
5 this theme they're going to create a PSA that they're  
6 going share with—with us at the end of—at the end of  
7 the summer. That's one of these pilots. So, there's  
8 50 young people that's going to be working on that  
9 specific pilot.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And how  
11 many are working on the first pilot?

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: 150.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: 150 on the  
14 first one that's the solar--

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: The solar  
16 one.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: The solar  
18 one and 50--

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: On the  
20 vulnerable youth.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: On  
22 vulnerable--?

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Vulnerable  
24 youth, yeah.  
25

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And that's  
14 to 21?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: 24.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: 14 to 24.  
I though our—one of our recommendations was specific  
to the old, you know, the older programs. (sic)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:  
[interposing] Correct. Again, we're just testing the  
concept. That doesn't mean it can't be applied to  
young people--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: --up to  
age 21.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And  
what's number 3?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Number 3  
is the Second Year Opportunity Pilot, and we had a  
lot of conversation in the task force around a lot of  
young people who excelled during SYEP that summer to  
get that second opportunity, right. So, they will be  
placed at the same worksite they worked at the year  
before. So, we're working very closely with the  
providers who have identified the 50 young people,  
have identified over 50 placements using the same

1  
2 work sites from last year, and those young people are  
3 going to be engaged in more rigorous activities this  
4 summer. And the fourth one is working very closely  
5 with the CTE schools. There's a lot of expanded ed,  
6 and these two programs they work with these young  
7 people year round in specific sets of trainings, and  
8 they're going to be developing jobs in these specific  
9 centers for them throughout the summer.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And  
11 that's how many?

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, for  
13 CTE it's 250—I'm sorry, 360 young people, and for  
14 expanded ed it's 250.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, did  
16 you total all this so I don't have to do this  
17 quickly.

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: 860.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: How much,  
20 860?

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.  
23 So, I guess for us and especially the—from the  
24 Finance Committee there was no budget outlay when we,  
25 you know. So, we'd like to see where you're going to

1  
2 budget this out. Even if it's costing you, it's  
3 still right because it potentially could be costing  
4 whoever is doing that within the envelope of, you  
5 know, the current budget. But it would be great to  
6 see what one pilot program costs are versus another.  
7 I'm sure there's a reason why some of these have 50  
8 and others 150 and others have 260. So, kind of  
9 better understanding that. Do you have the budget  
10 breakdown on these?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I could  
12 talk through the budget breakdown in terms of how we  
13 got to those numbers. So, on the younger youth  
14 pilot, as I said before, we're working very closely  
15 with DOE, Career Clue, right. They are the ones  
16 funding that portion of the pilot. What we are  
17 responsible for is paying the stipend to the young  
18 people. So, again, that's costly initially because  
19 that's a typical model for SYEP. DOE is committed to  
20 providing teachers in the classroom, and providing  
21 funding for the solar one.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Is there  
23 a-a budget line that we can follow at DYCD?

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: We could  
25 share that with-we could share that with you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: On-on the--  
the Video pilot, we're working closing with the LAMP,  
and that was funded through YMI and CEO funding, and--  
and that's roughly anywhere from \$30 to \$40,000 for  
the equipment and also the training that the LAMP and  
the curriculum that they're going to be developing.  
And again, the wages DYCD that we're responsible for.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So that's  
a \$50 continue-\$50--

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: \$50.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --for  
each person.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Exactly.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: And for  
the--the year-round piece it's CT and expanded ed.  
Again, we're responsible for wages. Those programs  
actually are already are engaged with young people  
throughout the school year. So, those resources are  
already there.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: And the  
second new opportunity is the same principle that  
applies.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And the  
CTE and the--?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Expanded  
Ed.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Expanded  
Ed.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right, so  
they take care of the--the training throughout the  
school year, and then we pay the wages in the summer.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay. Can  
you send us a copy of this budget breakdown?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:  
Absolutely. Yeah, absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And if  
it's tied to an agency like DOE, you can also share  
with us where it's kind of--that exists--

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:  
[interposing] Sure.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --or how  
you follow that connection of the costs. So, I noted  
there is something that's very important to the

1 Mayor, within this conversation, and that is the  
2 vulnerable youth, or youth at risk or, you know, it  
3 means everyone has different titles, but I'm also  
4 learning that everyone has different definitions.  
5 Limiting access to SYEP when the Mayor announced the  
6 release of its task force in a report, he talked  
7 about want to ensure that SYEP serves the city's  
8 highest need youth. The council feels very strongly  
9 that SYEP should be universally available regardless  
10 of background. Who is the mayor or your agency or  
11 anyone on that side of the hall referring to when you  
12 mentioned highest need or most vulnerable or whatever  
13 other term that we've seen used in this conversation?

15 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, right now  
16 there is no plans to change the-the qualifications of  
17 who would be eligible. So, let me make that clear  
18 upfront. The Summer Youth Employment Program  
19 currently targets communities where there's high  
20 youth unemployment. So, the programs tend to  
21 generally be located in communities where there's  
22 high youth unemployment. In fact, in the-I think in  
23 the Task Force Report, we've-we cited that 77% of the  
24 young people last summer were TANF eligible. So that  
25 doesn't mean that if you're not TANF eligible you

1  
2 can't apply, but we're just—we're very deliberate  
3 because we know that these resources are precious,  
4 and we want to make sure that the young people who  
5 have the least access to the summer job market, have  
6 an opportunity to get jobs. So there—there are no  
7 changes being considered to change the qualifications  
8 to make it anything different than it is now.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So the  
10 application is—the R—the new RFP that would go out,  
11 none of that would change?

12 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes, we're—it's  
13 still going to be a universal program, but I—I think  
14 the question is how do we make sure that the people  
15 who benefit the most are the ones who need it the  
16 most?

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right,  
18 but, you know, from our--what we are hearing and what  
19 we want to be clear on is that there is something to  
20 be said about it being universal.

21 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And if  
23 it's universal that means that anyone from my  
24 district can benefit just like anyone--

25 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --from  
Minority Leader Matteo's district can benefit, and  
that we're not assuming that because there's a  
district that the medium income may be high--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --doesn't  
mean that they don't have areas of, you know, where  
families can benefit. Nor are we saying because of  
middle income families, it-it-because you're middle  
income or considered middle income when it comes it  
how we describe the-the medium income in New York  
doesn't mean that a young person within that  
household could not benefit from this program.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: There's no plan  
to add income requirements.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, now  
year-round, which is something that, you know, was  
conceptualized by this Council, something that I care  
for deeply personally. How are we supposed to move  
forward and improve a program that isn't in the  
budget? If something that was not included in the  
Executive Budget, it was not included in the  
Preliminary Budget and it's something that's very  
important to this council. So, are we saying that,

1  
2 you know, this is the program that you don't  
3 necessarily believe in or, you know, this is the  
4 message we're getting.

5 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: You're  
7 basically saying Council, you love it so much, you  
8 fund it.

9 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, and we--  
10 we--we are appreciative of the Council's support of  
11 this. We've--I think this year in the second year of  
12 the program, the number of young people has  
13 maintained the same. In fact, the number of hours  
14 they've worked has gone up. So we see a lot of  
15 positive signs. I think it's part of the ongoing  
16 conversation as we move toward the Adopted because  
17 like the Summer Youth Employment Program, this is  
18 something that's been jointly worked on with the  
19 Council and so, I'm confident that--that we're heading  
20 in the right direction on this. Unfortunately, it  
21 didn't make it to the Executive Budget, but we  
22 certainly--

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

24 [interposing] Is this something you asked for OMB to  
25 baseline when you asked for your baselining?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, you know, they are aware that--of the success of the program, and I think they're aware of the Council's support of the program.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And I think that's why it wasn't baselined because they know.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, I--I can't speak for OMB on this.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well, I'm going to ask them.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: But we-- certainly from DYCD's perspective we like the program. It's been--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
[interposing] Okay.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --it's been an enhancement to young people who have been in the Summer Youth Employment Program, and I think the numbers show that young people work more hours. The first year was a challenge. It was learning curve.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: This year, I think we've gotten better at--at getting young people--

1  
2 placing the right young people in the program because  
3 not every young person can work in the school year.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

5 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: And so, it's  
6 finding the right match, and finding the right  
7 worksite because the worksite that was available in  
8 the summer may not be available in the school year  
9 because of a young person's schedule.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

11 So, would we have capacity if the Council decided to  
12 expand this program? I don't like that face.

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: [laughs]

14 So, let me just give you some background. So,  
15 currently the contract for Work Learn and Grow, these  
16 are existing SYEP providers, right. So they're the  
17 ones we amend their SYEP contracts. It's really just  
18 a short application and they apply for this contract.  
19 I—I think that potential there might be room to grow  
20 the program beyond the 6,000 number, but in terms of  
21 doubling, I think it's important to have a  
22 conversation with our providers to see exactly what  
23 capacity they could manage.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I would  
25 think that city agencies would probably make sense.

1  
2 It's a year-round job. So, it's not like a summer  
3 camp that we know has and end date--

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right,

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --but  
6 there's probably--there's strength in some of your job  
7 sites that probably have a potential to handle these  
8 year round, probably DOE or even young people working  
9 in their own schools.

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right. I  
11 think the challenge there is, you know, most city  
12 agencies for the most part are sort of like this 9:00  
13 to 5:00 schedule, right--

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: --of the  
16 young people and school at three-fourths, and that's  
17 when they travel to the agency and the agency is  
18 already closed. So, I mean I think for those  
19 agencies that maybe work around the clock, maybe  
20 young people over 18 was able to work beyond 7:00  
21 p.m. That might be a good fit for now.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Alright,  
23 right, right. Okay, well, we're going to continue  
24 the conversation with--with year-round and can you  
25 please share any reporting measures that you have on

1  
2 both SYEP and Year-Round that can show how the  
3 program is doing, what have been some of the--the  
4 feedback that you're getting from young people and  
5 from providers. So, any of your evaluation tools and  
6 what you've gotten, if you can share that with the  
7 committee--

8 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Sure.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --it would  
10 be greatly appreciated. I have follow-up questions on  
11 SONYC and Beacon, but I'm going to give my Chair an  
12 opportunity to ask his questions, and our colleagues  
13 that are also here, and I'll come back on a second  
14 round.

15 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,  
16 Chair Copeland. With--with respect to the minimum  
17 wage increases, when the Preliminary Budget was  
18 released, we saw that with \$3 million as you know from  
19 Fiscal Year 2018 to support 5,000 new jobs in SYEP at  
20 the minimum wage of \$11 per hour. From Fiscal 2017  
21 the minimum wage of \$9 per hour and increasing the  
22 number of jobs to 65. Our outyear funding for these  
23 new job increase in correlation with the scheduled  
24 minimum wage increases. The Fiscal 2018 Executive  
25 Budget at \$15.6 million to bring the manning of

1  
2 60,000 jobs up to the new \$11 per hour minimum wage  
3 but only for one year. We know that the minimum wage  
4 for New York City is scheduled to increase to \$13 per  
5 hour in December 2017, and to \$15 per hour in  
6 December 2018, and we know that SYEP was fortunate to  
7 serve these 60,000, you know, positions in the out  
8 year regardless of how many more are. Why the  
9 administration is where, you know, it doesn't  
10 baseline the minimum wage increases.

11 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, OMB is  
12 fully aware of the schedule of minimum wage  
13 increases. So, we've been given assurances that that  
14 will be added. The big open question is what the  
15 costs of the new models will be, and that we haven't  
16 quite figured out that, and that will be reflected in  
17 the RFP that's released this fall, and so, when we  
18 know how much administering the program will cost,  
19 the fixed costs related to the minimum wage will be  
20 added.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Let's talk a little  
22 bit about the taskforce. We know that the  
23 recommendation of the taskforce. We also had a new  
24 taskforce and that the taskforce made seven  
25 recommendations. Some of them has been to observe

1  
2 and report, but not all of them. That's surprising  
3 about the--the--the special application, you know, for  
4 the new job because we know that the people who are  
5 working on the summer jobs, summer camp that's a  
6 program for 15% I believe of young people in SYEP  
7 working the summer jobs. We are talking  
8 approximately 9,000 young people, but we recommend,  
9 the taskforce recommended a separate application just  
10 to ensure that the people who are included they're  
11 allowed to do that. Why?

12 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I mean I-I  
13 think one of the things in the current application,  
14 and we can provide you a copy, is we asked people--  
15 young people what their interests are, and so one of  
16 the great things about having baselined funding as a  
17 result of the efforts by the Council and the Mayor is  
18 that the young people when they apply and they're  
19 selected and--as--as Andre mentioned, we actually pay a  
20 lot more individual attention to each young person,  
21 and we can match them with an actual job that  
22 interests them. So, I think a separate application  
23 which is create more paperwork, we collect all this  
24 information. We really I think--really appreciate it.  
25 I mean I-I said this to the staff and I said to the

1  
2 Summer Youth Employment providers is that by having  
3 baselined funding it really represents a see change  
4 in the program that for the first time in recent  
5 memory people can plan and really do a great job in  
6 getting young people the right job that matches their  
7 interests and—and background. So, a separate  
8 application would probably not be helpful. It'll—it  
9 would just create more layers. We already do it now.  
10 We just now have the time and the funding to do it  
11 early.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You know, in terms  
13 of [coughs] Work Learn and Grow, this is a very  
14 important program. We all—we all know that because  
15 giving the jobs to the young people during the summer  
16 through SYEP is great, but we have to think about  
17 those young people who need a job also throughout the  
18 year. That explains the importance, the need for the  
19 Work Learn and Grow. So the City Council funded, you  
20 know, 6,000 positions, you know, slots or position as  
21 Work Learn and Grow, but because of the increase of  
22 the minimum wage, if the City Council wants to fund  
23 this program, what do you—what do you think it would  
24 cost because of the minimum wage increase?  
25

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We, you know, the—the one nuance about the Work Learn and Grow program is that since it's a year-round program it's in—in two different calendar years, and so for example the schedule of minimum wage increases takes effect December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year and the next year. So, it's—we can provide that information to you afterwards. So, the minimum wage increase hits mid-year.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. So you would send the--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We'll—we'll send that to you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. So the City Council voted on Intro 708 asking the creation of the taskforce. It's very important we believe that the taskforce is very important. So, when we see the city of—in the city of New York we have a lot resources. We have a lot of dedicated skilled educated people, the Commissioners and now so the service providers. Even young people. So we think that if we come together all of those 45 dedicated people come together, and bring all the resources that we have together, we will be in a

1  
2 better position to serve our young people. So, where  
3 we are at now in terms of, you know, putting this  
4 taskforce together and the process of, you know,  
5 bringing everybody together to create that taskforce?  
6 What is the position and the--the--the participation of  
7 DYCD and the process of creating the taskforce?

8 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, I think  
9 we're waiting a decision from the Mayor's Office on  
10 who the chairperson will be. I'm --DYCD is a  
11 representative of the taskforce and, you know, we  
12 agree on the need for coordination. In fact, one of  
13 the things I focused on when I first started as  
14 commissioner was really improving the coordination  
15 within DYCD because we have a lot of the same  
16 programs that serve young people who may be  
17 disconnected, but they weren't connected. They  
18 weren't working together. So, we're--we have work  
19 groups of our different staff, those who may work  
20 with homeless youth programs, and those that work  
21 with out-of-school youth programs. They're often the  
22 same young person, and how do we begin to build on  
23 the resources we already have and do a better job?  
24 And we've had conversations with the Small Business  
25 Services about how do we do handoffs of young people

1  
2 who exit our programs into their programs because  
3 they serve anyone who's 18 and over? So, we're—I  
4 think you can't do enough coordination in government.  
5 I have someone who's worked in four different  
6 administrations. I—I see one of the biggest  
7 challenges because money obviously, is how do we  
8 better coordinate what we have? And it's—it's just  
9 frustrating at times to see that we're not really  
10 maximizing that. So, we—we look forward to the work  
11 of the taskforce.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But I know that you  
13 say you are waiting on the Mayor, you know, but is  
14 there any recommendation from DYCD in terms of how to  
15 work together to better, you know, create this  
16 taskforce in terms of what the Mayor--

17 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing] I  
18 mean I think we would share our—our experiences that  
19 we've been doing for the last three years.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry.

21 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We would share  
22 our experiences over the last three years. So, our  
23 best practices of how, you know, instead of looking  
24 at—at people as individual program participants, look  
25 at them as whole people, understanding that a young

1  
2 person who might be homeless while you're providing  
3 housing for them, they also need a new job or they  
4 might need other types of services. So, I think we  
5 take a much more holistic approach to the people we  
6 serve rather than looking at separate siloed  
7 programs.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, you said that  
9 you will, but right--

10 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, we are at  
11 DYCD, but, you know, I don't—I'm not responsible for  
12 all the other agencies. So that's why the taskforce,  
13 which the Mayor's Office will take the lead in  
14 employing new shippers, and will take on the larger  
15 role outside of DYCD. I can control what we do at  
16 DYCD and that's why three years ago we convened all  
17 the different programs that we currently fund, but  
18 there are strategies on how they can better work  
19 together. But I agree with you that you need a  
20 larger strategy and that's—that's something that I  
21 don't necessarily—I can't tell SBS what to do. We  
22 can reach out and coordinate, and that's why the  
23 taskforce provides a forum to have those  
24 conversations.  
25

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Well, thank you very much, Commissioner. I will be back with some more questions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you, Chair, we'll both be back on the second round, and now we will hear—we've been joined by Council Members Chin, Rosenthal, Greenfield. We will now here from Council Member Williams followed by Council Member Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and Mr. Chair. Thank you for your testimony. As you might know, I've been very interested in—in Summer Youth and youth jobs, and I thank both chairs for—for their leadership and the Council as well. I—I've been trying to do—I want to say that from the beginning there's been a very big resistance from this administration and my belief to wanting to expand this, and there's been a whole bunch of reasons why we can label things universally fairly easily from Pre-K to 3-K, but when it comes to this we have difficulty. So, we did get a report, and it was three months late, and one of the things that I believe it avoided was the question of expansion. So, I wanted to know why you think that

1  
2 was left out of the report in general. We had some  
3 good questions answered I must say about the quality  
4 of it, but the main question of expanding youth jobs,  
5 probably some youth was left out of the report, and  
6 why was that?

7 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, I think  
8 the focus of the taskforce, and the very first  
9 meeting there was a conversation about it sounded  
10 like we shouldn't focus on budget, but we should  
11 focus on quality, and so that's why I think you see a  
12 lot of the work of the taskforce was about how to  
13 improve the model. I think as we begin to test these  
14 recommendations this summer, and issue the concept  
15 paper, and hopefully finalize the RFP in the fall,  
16 we'll be able to get to a -a better idea of what the  
17 cost of doing a different model will be, and that  
18 will help inform the decision of how to grow the  
19 program because we want both quantity and quality.  
20 Because obviously I think everyone agrees that we can  
21 do a better job in the Summer Youth Employment  
22 Program. The first big step, as I said, earlier was  
23 to baseline fund for the current program. The next  
24 step will be to test these different recommendations,  
25 and then--and then cost out what these new services

1  
2 will cost, and then that will inform how much--how  
3 much it will cost to grow the program. I think as  
4 the Budget Director said yesterday I think he agrees  
5 that issue of continuing to expand this program will  
6 be part of the conversations we need as we move  
7 towards an adoption before the end of the fiscal  
8 year. But I--looking into the out years, I think the  
9 big issue is how much will it cost to run a new model  
10 and that will then--because we know what the minimum  
11 wage will be. That's--that's not something--

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]

13 Well, so not--one at a time. One, I think we  
14 purposely avoided asking that question. I don't think  
15 it was a special decision that was made. I think it  
16 was purposely avoided, and I think it shouldn't have  
17 been, and all of these things that we're seeing,  
18 costs and all that, I think it's the same type of  
19 thing when it comes to UPK and 3-K--and 3-PK. Somehow  
20 we're able to get past that and get the thing done.  
21 So, I don't know why we're refusing to do that here.  
22 Also, I want to understand because I do believe it's  
23 capacity issues. What has been done from last year  
24 to help expand capacity?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, so this—I  
don't think it's a refusal. I think the capacity is—  
is the same capacity as last year.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]  
But there's been a refusal to accept the concept even  
before we're getting it done. I want to make that  
clear.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Oh, well, I—I  
think in order for us to cost something out we have  
to test it, and that's what I think we're doing this  
summer because then when you know if it works, then  
you can discuss what's the cost of scaling it that  
far. So, it's kind of premature to talk about how  
much a new model will cost unless you actually test  
it.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Alright, I hear  
you, but we've—we've--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, on the  
capacity--

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]  
This has been---this is a longstanding program just  
so we're clear--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --so there's a  
3 lot of tests out there, but the capacity issue is  
4 what I--

5 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
6 Well, the capacity is based on the fact that we have  
7 the same number of programs that we had last year.  
8 So, based on what they told us--and we're constantly  
9 talking to them--in the Preliminary Budget was created  
10 to us from what they have said that 65,000 was the  
11 maximum they could do without compromising quality.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: My--my question  
13 was what have you done since last year--

14 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
15 Well, you can't add capacity until you have new RFP,  
16 and so the new RFP won't be issued for--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]  
18 Sir, sir, we've heard for several years that  
19 capacity.

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
21 Right.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --was a  
23 problem. My question is what have you done to work  
24 with the provider or add additional providers to  
25 expand capacity? That's my question.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, the money  
that was given to us was to cover \$65,000.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]  
You did nothing. That's an answer. Apparently what  
the answer is you did nothing to help expand  
capacity. That's—I mean I'm trying to give you a-a--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, I'm  
trying to be straightforward with you.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yeah, if-if  
you're saying that--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
Excuse me.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --you did  
nothing to—because the number was the same, that  
means you did nothing, and so I'm asking you what you  
did--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: The capacity  
actually had gone up 5,000 jobs in the Preliminary  
Budget and that was based on the feedback we got from  
100 programs. I don't have the—I don't have the  
authority to add programs arbitrarily. I has to be  
an RFP to add. I mean, I'm just following the law.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing] I  
didn't ask you to add programs.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, this kind  
of seemed that but Council Member--

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: This is--this is  
the problem. Let me tell you why because if there  
was a belief that we should expand [bell] you know  
the things done to help expand. Even the 65,000 that  
you were told, we know that's not the number that we  
want. So, if the issue is capacity, you would do  
something to help expand the capacity. You're saying  
you capped it at 65 simply because that was the  
number you were told. I didn't ask you to go out and  
expand the program. I didn't ask you to add  
additional programs, but there are things that could  
be done to entice additional providers in case that  
capacity is expanded. But if an administration does  
not agree that it should be expanded perhaps they  
wouldn't do anything to try to expand it.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay, we are  
committed to expanding capacity. The way we're  
legally required to do that is through a request for  
proposal, and to do the request for proposal we need  
to test different models, which came out of the task  
force's report.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So, when an-  
when the RFP comes out you're going to then go out  
and try to expand capacity.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes, but that's  
how it's done.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Alright, thank  
you very much. I appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: That's how it's  
done legally. I don't have the authority to add  
programs arbitrarily.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: That is  
foolishness. That's foolishness.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you, Council Member Williams. Council Member Chin  
followed by Council Member Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam  
Chair. I wanted to focus my question on the Complex  
Program because under the SONYC the-the after school,  
universal after school program for middle school  
kids, it seems like, you know, that's going well, and  
-and in this year's budget you're putting more money  
in there and you're expanding it to new schools, and  
other schools that didn't have a program if they want  
to participate they can get involved. My question is

1  
2 about the after school program for the elementary  
3 school kids. Is the administration and the Mayor  
4 thinking about Universal after school for elementary  
5 school?

6 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I mean I think  
7 we're aware of the need for more services for  
8 elementary. It comes up often. I've raised. No  
9 decisions have been made because it's obviously quite  
10 costly. I think we appreciate the additional monies  
11 provide in this year to add additional elementary  
12 seats. Part of it will be hopefully addressed with  
13 the expansion of the Beacon program with the  
14 additional 11 Beacons. They will be serving  
15 elementary, but obviously more needs to be done.

16 It's an—I think an ongoing conversation about how do  
17 we get to that point. We're not here and think that—

18 -

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] But I  
20 think is—is—is the administration, is the Mayor  
21 thinking about universal afterschool programs,  
22 elementary school kids?

23 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We haven't had  
24 that conversation.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] is  
that--is that a goal that we want to work towards?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I--we haven't  
had that conversation. I think there's an awareness  
about the need to do more in this space.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] Can  
we get a commitment to have that conversation?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, that's a  
conver--that's a conversation you have to have with  
the Mayor.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But you as the  
Commissioner you can help--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing] I  
mean we're--

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --but do you--do you  
think we should have universal after school programs?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
I mean the more after school programs--

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --for elementary  
school kids.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: The more after  
school services the better. I think we started on  
that path with the expansion of the Beacon program,

1  
2 but the cost is extremely prohibitive. So, it—I mean  
3 that's the reality that we have to challenge.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But do we know the—  
5 the total cost?

6 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I don't have  
7 that number.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, let's start  
9 with that, right. Let us have an idea what we have  
10 to work towards because we all know that after school  
11 programs is beneficial, and is needed especially for  
12 low-income communities or immigrant communities.

13 It's been tested. I mean I was an after school  
14 teacher for 40 some years ago, right, and I'm sure a  
15 lot of people have benefitted through those programs,  
16 and—but right now, not every have that opportunity.

17 I mean some of the schools like in my district the  
18 parents have to pay for the after school program.

19 Some of them might not be a lot of money but still it  
20 wasn't—it's not free. So, a family if you have, you

21 know, two kids or three kids, if you have to pay a  
22 \$100 a week, that adds up. So, we really have to

23 look at this population. Middle-school kids we all  
24 understood. You know teenagers we got really make

25 sure they're doing the right things and giving them

1  
2 all these creative programs, and it's been great.  
3 Everybody loves the middle-school after school  
4 program, right. I hear praises from low-income  
5 families, from middle-income families it's great, but  
6 what I'm hearing from the elementary school kids is  
7 that, the parents they're telling me that they don't  
8 have those opportunities. They either have to pay or  
9 they have to let the kids stay home by themselves,  
10 and that should not be the case in 2017. So, I think  
11 that DYCD, Commissioner, you need to take the lead on  
12 making universal after school, and need to include  
13 the summer component for our elementary school  
14 students, and we should work with you. As the  
15 Council we want to work with you to make that happen.  
16 Can we get a commitment?

17 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, I hear you.  
18 I'll bring it back, but it's certainly something that  
19 has come up at different town hall meetings that I  
20 have attended. So, I'm sure the Mayor is aware of  
21 it, but no decision has been made on this obviously  
22 because it's a major investment that I'm not sure the  
23 city at this point can make. But it's something that  
24 on the radar.  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] No,  
but you—but it's a commitment to really work towards  
that. We're not saying that open that--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --but really look  
at it every year because like I'm so shocked to say  
that—to see that there was \$2.4 million that was  
transferred out of COMPASS because there were extra—  
they didn't use all the money. That should not be,  
right. Every year we should be putting more money  
in.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Putting more money  
in every year to get towards universal after school  
programs for elementary school kids. Just like the  
way we're doing for SYEP, right, and we need to start  
doing it now, and that's the commitment I'm asking  
you as the Commissioner and DYCD to work with us to  
start making that happen.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I would be  
happy to continue the conversation.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [bell] Well, thank.  
We'll stop at that. Thank you. Thank you, Chair

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you. We will now hear from Council Member Rosenthal,  
and we've been joined by Council Member Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
much Chairs, and Commissioner, it's nice to see you.  
I'm putting on my Chair of the Contracts Committee  
hat, and so when I express a little bit of just--a lot  
of disappointment-- So the savings that DYCD, just  
to follow up on my colleague's point, is showing this  
year is because contracts were let, right? What  
contracts were those that didn't end up being funded?  
What services were not provided?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: It's not  
contracts not awarded, it's underspending, but I--  
that's typically 2 to 3%. There's never been an  
experience where a contract spends 100% of their  
money, hiring is delayed, people leave jobs. I mean  
there's always underspending in any particular  
program so--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, wait--wait.  
So, here's--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
Yeah, it's called approval.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --my point.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: If we go to the next question, which is in 2015 the Mayor put in COLA increases and raises up to \$15 an hour. We're at the end of 2017, and only 72% of the contracts have had that completed. I'm concerned that part of the money that's not being allocated is because vendors, right, the agencies the non-profits haven't finished their templates or it hasn't gone through your screening, and therefore, hasn't going to the register--to the Controller. So, we're at 28% of your contracts. Those salary increases have not landed in the pay stubs of our workers.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We can get back to you, but I--I think there was a certain number of programs that declined the increase, which may account for some of the shortfall, but I think we're in pretty good shape as far as most of the contracts registered that passed--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
There are 92% of the contracts have been sent over to the Controller--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --but only 72% of the contracts that should be getting increases in wages for their workers have been completed by the agency.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay, I-I do--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, 28% is a pretty big number of con-contract agencies that don't want the money, and if that's true, I'd like the list.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay, I think our program--our budget staff will meet with you because it doesn't jibe with the numbers we have.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I got these numbers from the Mayor's Office of Contracts.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, there-- there may be a lag because I know when we started the COLA process there was a number of programs that did not respond, did not want it. We've gotten better at it, and the ones that did respond, most of them have been registered, overwhelming numbers have been registered, and so there might be a discrepancy in understanding what was registered and what--who actually accepted because--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
It's a pretty big discrepancy going on.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay, but so--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So with RN  
it's about 2,000 contracts.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right, and if--  
-

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
But we'll be happy to sit down with you--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
1,500--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I think there  
is a misunderstanding there.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --have gone  
through the process. Let's get the names and the  
dollar amounts. You should have the list. I mean  
that should be a click of a button. How many  
contracts--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
Well, we do and we can provide.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --would have  
gotten the money. How many have gotten it and how  
many haven't and who are these people who are not

1  
2 getting their salary increases? I mean the Governor  
3 passed a law that by next year everyone has to be  
4 paid \$15 an hour. Are we allowing our contract  
5 agencies to pay that \$15 an hour by providing the  
6 city funds that we've—you know the Mayor takes credit  
7 and rightly so for putting in our wage increases.

8 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We can provide  
9 you a list that—of the programs that have accepted  
10 the money, those that have been registered with the  
11 Controller.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, you're not  
13 going to give me the list of the people that haven't?

14 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
15 But that didn't accept. We can give a list of the  
16 people who--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
18 That's around 84 (sic) who are stuck in the system  
19 right now. There's so many.

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing] I  
21 don't think there's any stuck in the system. I think  
22 the discrepancy is that some people said no.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: 28% of the  
24 2,000 contracts said no?  
25

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I-I think there is--that those I'll double check with that, but I don't think it was that hot.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: That's not.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: But--but there-- we can provide you a list of everyone who was eligible those who didn't apply and those who have contracts registered, which should be--that's--that's--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
So, I appreciate that everyone--everyone is looking pretty confident over there--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes,

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --and I appreciate that. So, how quickly can we get the list of those who have not?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Sometime next week. I have them next week. I mean this is stuff that we have regular meetings with OMB on, and with the providers. There would have been numerous emails sent to people who said no, numerous deadlines.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, we should be clear about those who have said no because next year they'll be breaking the law.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well--well--

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]

3

So, I'm—I'm really interested to see who said no--

4

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]

5

Okay, with--

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --and how

7

they're making up the difference next year. I mean

8

it's an important conversation. We care--

9

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --about these

11

workers--

12

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]

13

Right.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --getting

15

paid, you know, at least poverty wages, \$15 an hour,

16

right? We care deeply on that.

17

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I'm pretty sure

18

the providers who said understood their legal

19

obligations as a minimum wage. I think this--

20

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing] I

21

don't know. You should tell them confidently--

22

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]

23

Okay, I mean the--

24

25

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --that they  
know, and your office is responsible for  
administering this program.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right, but--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, all I want  
to know is who are these possibly 400 contractors who  
said no to getting increased--more money to pay their  
workers. It's a simple question. Can you get back to  
me on that?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We can provide  
you with next week.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
And why does it--okay, today's Friday.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes, we can  
provide the list next week.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, Tuesday?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [pause] Uh--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you very  
much.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you, Council Member. [pause] I wanted to circle  
back on the Beacon program. As you know, I am--my

1 self as Chair but also the entire Council is  
2 incredibly please with the growth of the Beacon  
3 Programs. It's something we've been advocating for.  
4 Last year, we gave them an increase that they haven't  
5 seen in decades. It's no secret I was a Beacon  
6 Director for six years. I know the incredible  
7 blessing that it is for parents and families. I also  
8 know the challenges that many directors face. One of  
9 the hardest things is to tell a family we're at  
10 capacity, and I would think most of our Beacon  
11 programs are at capacity. I ran an elementary school  
12 Beacon. So I understand the challenges that latch  
13 key kids face. Elementary school is that population  
14 that you can't just send home. They can't just walk  
15 home, and when school ends and most families still  
16 have to work to at least 5:00 if not later. So, with  
17 all that background, one of the questions that I have  
18 is how were the sites for the 11 new Beacon programs  
19 selected? What were you—you know, what was the  
20 envisioning of the Beacon program site location?

22 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, let me  
23 start and then Darryl Rattray will kind of give you  
24 more detail, and Darryl, as you know, is Associate  
25 Commissioner for the Community Centers and Strategic

Partnership and he was himself a participant of the Beacon Program when it first started a quarter of a century ago. In fact, we're about to--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

[interposing] Well, that sounds really bad, a quarter of a century ago. [laughs]

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: In fact, we're about to release a video featuring Mayor Dinkins next week because it was his leadership and Richard Murphy's leadership

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

[interposing] I understand

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --that made the Beacon program possible and he was supposed to speak at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, and he didn't get a chance to speak because he was ill that night. So, I wanted to give him his due. So, we releasing the video, and Darryl was prominently featured, of course, in the video. But let me start with, you're absolutely right. This program has been a stepchild program for 20 years under the previous three administrations. It was cut, cut, cut and the first major increase was done last year, and we're happy with it, and since it's been 20 years since we've

1  
2 added a Beacon, we wanted to be mindful of--of several  
3 things. One is how the population of the city has  
4 shifted, and what boroughs grew, what--which ones  
5 shrank as well as this--this changing landscape in  
6 schools. Beacons were at one point the only school  
7 based program. Now you have SONYC. You have COMPASS.  
8 You have all these other programs. So, we--we looked  
9 at all those factors, and we also understood the  
10 neighborhood has changed. And I went to my old  
11 neighborhood Bensonhurst where I went to--for junior  
12 high school, and it was--my debt was there. I was the  
13 only Chinese student. Half the school is Chinese  
14 now. So, we're fine from all these shifts that  
15 happened in 20 years. So, Darryl, you might walk us  
16 through?

17 DARRYL RATTRAY: Testing. Good  
18 afternoon. So Darryl Rattray, Associate Commissioner  
19 Community Centers and Strategic Partnerships. So, as  
20 the Commissioner mentioned, we took a look at the  
21 changing demographics since the last Beacon RFP was  
22 ten years ago. So, the first criteria we took a look  
23 at was actually youth population across the boroughs,  
24 and then the second criteria that we used, which was  
25 a bit more exhaustive was partnering with DOE to

1  
2 identify suitable schools who didn't already have  
3 programming. So, we had to find school locations  
4 that could support a Beacon program. So that was sort  
5 of the exhaustive second criteria.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay, and  
7 can you walk me through the timeline, and is there  
8 any difference in what we would traditionally call-  
9 see as the Beacon just like the additional funding  
10 wasn't there for decades. The program itself seems  
11 like it's pretty much the same. Does this new RFP  
12 have anything nuanced, or it could be that the  
13 program has worked perfectly and you're just kind of  
14 replicating the existing format?

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: Alright, so-so two  
16 things. One I need to mention that we had several  
17 focus groups with stakeholders, providers, executive  
18 directors, Beacon directors before we even finalized  
19 the concept paper. So, that-so their input went into  
20 the design of the concept paper. Once the concept  
21 paper was released, we then had another series of  
22 focus groups with stakeholders, executive directors,  
23 providers to go over it again, and that input all  
24 informed the Beacon RFP that was released. Now, the  
25 one major change in the RFP for the past two years

1  
2 the Beacons have focused on middle school  
3 programming. What we heard in both the pre-concept  
4 paper focus groups and the post-concept paper focus  
5 groups is that the Beacon programs need to get back  
6 to their roots of having flexibility around who is  
7 served at Beacon location based on the needs of the  
8 neighborhood.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: So embedded in the RFP  
11 is that flexibility. Now, providers can now propose  
12 to us and let us know based on the neighborhood needs  
13 what the make up is of their concentration. So,  
14 whether it be elementary, whether it be middle school  
15 or high school or a combination of those groups  
16 including adults as well.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, you  
18 now, you definitely took me back to my director days  
19 from 3:00 to 6:00 we were very much focused on the  
20 young kids and doing homework help and playing in the  
21 gym and all those support services. At 6 o'clock the  
22 place turned into a community center. I was doing  
23 ESL, GED, you know, team programming, team night,  
24 basketball, soccer like the whole building was being  
25 used.

DARRYL RATTRAY: And—and just to —to add to that, so the disruption of that model which—it was somewhat a positive disruption, but what changed the model in 2007 with the RFP was that concentration on middle school members and knowing that every Beacon had to a certain amount of middle-school kids, a certain amount of hours. It changed the flexibility that they actually had.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well, I think that doesn't work, right like with that—with that.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Exactly, so we're going—we're going back to the ways it was?

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
[interposing] But I'm glad that you're going back to the roots because we've proven that it works. One reality is that often it was mentioned that principals aren't necessarily as welcoming of Beacon programs. Not necessarily because it didn't work, but more so because it was a community group that often was reflective and I think that the advantage we had with these programs is that it is kind of giving a community group that may have—may have cultural sensitivity--

DARRYL RATTRAY: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --that  
the school in the daytime a student doesn't  
necessarily have. I find that a challenge when I am--  
and I'm told that's why I was actually on my phone  
texting and people emailing me, which happens during  
these hearings. People are emailing you and tweeting  
on questions, but-but there's a minimum requirement  
that a school that there is a signed school  
partnership agreement. So, if a principal says you  
know what, I favor one non-profit over another or I  
don't have any after school athletic programs so I'm  
going to find a non-profit that focuses on athletics  
as opposed to one that maybe would more culturally  
sensitive. How do you differentiate by what the  
community needs, not necessarily by what DOE needs.  
Because I know that that the battle has always been  
between DOE wanting to control the Beacon programs  
because it was the one program that was within their  
school that principals didn't have 100% control of.  
And I say this because I don't think that Beacon  
directs should be reporting to principals and if we  
give this authority or this requirement within this

RFP, I find it challenging that that's not something  
that that relationship could eventually evolve into.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Alright, so I'll say  
several angles on the matter. One, so we are working  
with DOE our sister agency closely on this. There's  
been several conversations with principals through  
the DOE, through us. There's another one coming up  
this coming week around the Beacon model what the  
expectations are. To answer some of you questions,  
the directors don't report to the principals but what  
we have embedded in the RFP was for the sort of  
longstanding request from the—from the field is that  
our Beacon directors are now going to sit on the  
Building Councils. Now, going to sit on the school  
leadership teams, and become a part of that planning  
body, if you will at the whole school.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Which—  
which I think is absolutely correct.

DARRYL RATTRAY: What we—what we've found  
in practice is that the School Partnership Agreement  
as a—as a minimum requirement is needed to ensure  
that the right conversations are happening at the  
school level with proposals that are coming in, that  
there's an understanding.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But how do you prevent a principal having influence over your procurement process, your RFP process. If I'm a principal and I have a great relationship with—I don't even want to mention a non-profit because then it will be—but I have a great relationship with one non-profit over another. Now, I believe that that relationship has been tarnished because it's not—it's not necessarily the benefit of the community, which is what I would think I'm challenging you as an agency to do. But now you're looking at well, this school has a great—you know, they have the partnership relationship with the principal. So, therefore, you know, this is going to be the better one. But, in reality the stronger relationship with the community could be non-profit B. So, it's almost like what are you trying to get at? Is that you're trying to service the community by providing a Beacon of hope that the—the center is on as you as a participant, it's the one building in the middle of December when it's 4 o'clock and it's pitch black outside that all lights are on. Or, you now, is it going to be something that's going to benefit the school because they have this—and—and I get the

1 relationship. I had to work closely with my  
2 principal at the time, but the reality is that I had  
3 to really work at that relationship because  
4 originally I was put in broom closet. Right, like  
5 that was my office, and the rest of my stuff was put  
6 in a cage in PS19. And if you go to the Beacon  
7 School right now today, I don't want to say PS19  
8 because she's a lovely principal and we love her and  
9 it wasn't her. But, the office where the Beacon is  
10 in a cage in the cafeteria right, and we have  
11 challenges at schools that are in expansion. So, I'm  
12 hoping the office will be relocated. This is not--  
13 please don't Tweet me. I'm not talking about PS19.  
14 I love my principal, love my Beacon program. But,  
15 I'm saying--I'm giving this as an example. So, when  
16 you're asking this question and there is supposed to  
17 be transparency in this RFP, I am concerned that  
18 taking the Principal Linkage Agreement, which is what  
19 we used to call them, right, as a-- You know, I  
20 guess how much do you weight the linkage agreement--

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: Right.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --in  
23 choosing the school site or the non-profit site?  
24  
25

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well let me just add some perspective. So, for the last three requests for proposals that DYCD has done for school based programs, the requirement for the School Partnership Agreement was--was there. We did it in--in 2011 in the previous administration. We did it in 2014 with SONYC and we did it 2015 because we recognized from experience and I'm sure you recognize it that for a school based program to succeed whether it's a Beacon, a SONYC a COMPASS the non-profit and the principal have to be on the same page, and it can't be an afterthought. It has--they have to start planning together at the very beginning when they ask for money. So that means that the--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
[interposing] So how much is this weighed when you're making your decision?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: It's a requirement of the proposal because we can't--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
[interposing] So can a principal work with only one group or several groups?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: They--they can choose to work with one, two or three.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But do  
you require principals to be open to work with more--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --than  
one group?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes, the--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: You  
require it?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: No, we say they  
can--they can sign as many agreements as they want to,  
which is the same thing we did with the--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
[interposing] So on average, how many principals have  
varied agreements?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I mean again  
only Beacon sponsor. So, one of the tings that we--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
[interposing] I didn't--I didn't know that. Right,  
one sponsor that gets awarded.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: And---and just--  
and then--and then there's a requirement in the RFP,  
which is actually I think worth 15 points that each  
Beacon has to have three partners.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

3

4

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Because that is important. That was the other part of the original model to the program, which over time eroded is that the Beacon itself whoever gets the Beacon contract can't do it all.

8

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

9

10

11

12

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16

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: They have to be a hub of-of activity and the way to do that is to partner with other local CBOs, other city agencies to bring services into the Beacon. So, we try to balance the importance of a school principal partnership, which, you know, if it-it's-it's like a marriage. You can't force a marriage. It has to be again-

17

18

19

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well, across the country and in the world there are marriages like that.

20

21

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, yes, just work that well.

22

23

DARRYL RATTRAY: [interposing] Well, just-can I just add one more point.

24

25

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well, maybe a not a good example. [laughs]

DARRYL RATTRAY: Our experience, you know, in procuring the—I mean the Community Schools' RFP for DOE we found that and this was a more stringent process where principals had a lot more authority, but we found that with informative discussions with principals around the model that—we found that there was heavy competition, and that principals did sign multiple agreements with providers to give them a fair chance at applying being rated, being awarded and then circling back and working with that whole school.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, I'm going to go off line because obviously speaking about several very clear examples where that is not the case. So, you know, it—it concerns that local non-profits are trying to apply for this opportunity to become representatives and there are larger non-profits from outside of the neighborhood that have an advantage because the principals either have, you know, exposure to them or know them from whatever community district they came from before they were placed in the school, and there is disadvantage if you're from the community and you don't have that relationship with the principal because you've never

1  
2 been in that building. So, we can talk about it  
3 offline, but I—and then I understand you’ve been  
4 doing this for years, but there could be a problem  
5 with representing—representation and diverse, and  
6 cultural sensitivity if we’re weighing just based on  
7 the principal’s opinion because in some cases the  
8 principal’s opinion would be, you know, I don’t want  
9 any after school program in my building especially in  
10 elementary where young people leave things in their  
11 desk. The chairs are smaller. You now, there’s  
12 nuanced things or challenges that are faced by-by  
13 Beacons at an elementary school as opposed to a  
14 junior high school.

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: Alright, and I’ll be  
16 sure to use your testimony about the office space at  
17 PS19, you’re talking for a better space with the  
18 principal.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I know.  
20 I feel so bad now. Oh, my God. She’s a great  
21 principal. Did I say that enough?

22 DARRYL RATTRAY: She is. She is.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay,  
24 very good. So, that was my—my final questions is \$15  
25 million to support to 28–22,800 summer slots, and I

1 know Council Member alluded to some of those, but  
2 that is 5,200 fewer slots than last year, and it  
3 seems like you always set up for this, for this  
4 question, for this group of questioning, and I just  
5 wish you would fund the number that we end up at,  
6 which is the whole point. We always end up having  
7 these conversations, and then you'll tell me, oh,  
8 well, we didn't fill capacity. We're just funding  
9 the capacity, and it's the same thing almost that we  
10 talk with funding a baseline as opposed to funding in  
11 July in June--well, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and the challenge is of  
12 course you're going to have a limited number of  
13 people applying because parents need to know where  
14 they're going to send their kids not July 1<sup>st</sup>. You  
15 can't wake up July 1<sup>st</sup> and say well, thank you, city  
16 of New York for expanding this program. You need to  
17 know some time in May or June where you're going to  
18 have your young person be that summer. So, it's  
19 incredibly frustrating for us to constantly have this  
20 conversation with the administration about under-  
21 funding slots that should be funded at the right  
22 number from the beginning.

24 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, as I said  
25 at the Preliminary Budget hearing, the funding was

1 based on last year's actual enrollment. So, we—we  
2 notified the programs a few weeks ago. We have had  
3 no concerns raised to us about not enough money. So,  
4 we think we're in a good place for this year's summer  
5 SONYC services. Obviously next year the conversation  
6 will continue, but I think the early money made a  
7 difference, and people are doing planning, and I  
8 think the enrollments are going on as we speak.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, you  
11 must be speaking to completely different people that  
12 we're speaking to because we are being told that the  
13 slots need to be filled and that we're short. I have  
14 never—I have yet--

15 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --and  
17 Council Member Chin—I have yet to hear anyone say oh,  
18 we're—we're great. We're at capacity. We don't need  
19 anything else. You know, kids they don't need to  
20 come to the summer program. We figured it out. We  
21 want to be at the number that we were in—by the  
22 handshake, by adoption of last year.

23 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: The number is  
24 that—my understanding is that the money given go us  
25

1  
2 was for 22,000 seats that were actually filled last  
3 summer.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: That is  
5 not--

6 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I understand  
7 you're talking about the number that was that they  
8 adopted, which there was 4,000 that were never  
9 filled.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right,  
11 but they're never filled because it's a challenge  
12 that we have. They're not filled because--

13 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
14 Right.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ---we  
16 wait for adoption. So, we want you to be at what the  
17 real capacity is, and it's like you never get the  
18 real capacity number because we're always adopting at  
19 a later number.

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, I  
21 understand. I mean when we planned this with OMB,  
22 they looked at the actual enrollment. That was what  
23 was in the Preliminary Budget, and that was what the  
24 programs have been notified. I'm sure any program  
25

would always want more seats, but system wide this  
where we were at last summer.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I think  
for next year you should just bring a recording for  
this one question and just play it over and over  
because it's like we're—we're in this circle and I  
wish we could just break the cycle. I wish for you  
so that you don't have to go through this questioning  
that you could just say from the beginning I believe  
there is a capacity that there is capacity to grow  
this program by this number that it's not okay to  
fund it at whatever last year's number for FY18 that  
in FY19 you can say if we grow this program by this  
number, we can fill it, and I—that is what we want to  
hear from you, Commissioner that you can say this is  
a program that has capacity to grow by this number.  
And I know that you can confidently say that.

Because if we were able to—if you were able to get an  
addition 4,000 slots let's say an additional 6,000  
slots in the Preliminary Budget could you fill it?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Given enough  
time anything is possible.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Exactly.  
That's what we want to hear from you. That's—that's

1  
2 the request that we'd like to hear, and the drive  
3 that we want to hear from you. I know you can do  
4 whatever they give you, but it's the waitlist. It's  
5 the anxiety. It's the not having. That's the  
6 leadership that we would like to see in our partner  
7 because you're a partner. So, we want to hear that  
8 in Prelim and then that it's reflected in Executive.  
9 And then we can go fight for more Beacons schools.  
10 Because, again, if we were to do capacity at 20 new  
11 Beacon schools I know every one of those schools  
12 would be filled. We don't want to keep talking about  
13 the same five tings. We like to evolve and be  
14 innovative with you, but if-if we don't have you lead  
15 the charge at creating and expanding programs, which  
16 is the frustration that you get from this side of the  
17 table. I'm trying to take a whole different approach  
18 with you, Commissioner and that is to call on your to  
19 envision the best case scenario agency for expansion.

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I-I, you know,  
21 kind of disagree that, you know, the fact that our  
22 budget has gone up by 81% speaks to how I think when  
23 you say--

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
25 [interposing] How much of that 81% is Council funded?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: No, this was  
baseline 81%. It was not that long ago.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: How much  
of that was in response to Council requests?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I think it's--  
the Beacon expansion was something that was on my  
wish list, and from day-year 1 I've been--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
[interposing] Was it baselined on your wish list?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes, it was  
based--it was baselined and we--and we went from \$336  
to \$400,000 to \$560.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
[interposing] You know, we can go back and forth, but  
I'm going to give you--I'm going to--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]  
So, so, but--

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --do some  
story sharing with you.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I mean I think  
it's a dynamic process. I think the Council  
obviously has a role to play in any agency's budget,  
but I think the fact that our baselined budget has  
gone up 81% speaks to commend the administration.

1  
2 All the—I mean it was not long ago where core  
3 programs subsisted on one-year funding.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Council—  
5 I'm sorry, Chair. I don't even know what to call you  
6 any more. Commissioner, we're going to—we're going  
7 to—we got to—let's—I think it's best if you and I--

8 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Sure.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: --stopped  
10 this conversation here because I don't want to get to  
11 the space that I usually get with you.

12 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: It gets  
14 right here to the core crust of you asking for  
15 funding, and I believe that there is a very big  
16 disconnect while you come and you ask us for funding.  
17 We don't want to have to advocate for your basic  
18 programming. That is not the role of this Council,  
19 but it has become the role and yet your agency has  
20 increased by 81%, correct. A lot of that has been at  
21 the request of this Council and it takes a lot of  
22 blood, sweat and tears and negotiations and pushing  
23 for this administration. We are partners with the  
24 Mayor. We believe and have a lot of shared values  
25 with the Mayor, but it shouldn't require this much

1  
2 for us to be able to get to 81%. So, yes, if we look  
3 at your agency on its books, of course, it does. But  
4 if you look at our advocacy, we have been as much  
5 focused on DYCD than almost—than in any other agency.  
6 And the other one was unfortunately be DFTA. That—  
7 those are two agencies that we compare the most that  
8 we have to come out and fight and increase and come  
9 out again, and fight, and increase, and we are saying  
10 that there is no budget dance, but it seems a little  
11 bit frustrating to be able to say that there is no  
12 budget when we keep on having the same conversations  
13 with you, sir. So, I'm going to let that go because  
14 we get into a very borderline frustrating space you  
15 and I, and I was hoping and praying that this would  
16 be the one hearing that we didn't do that. And I think  
17 if we stay away from this budget 80% conversation, we  
18 can actually get through this without having to get  
19 to that point. So, Chair, if you have your second  
20 round of questions I think this would be a great time  
21 to start.

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I don't have too  
23 many questions, but I just want to—I think on your,  
24 right, when you were talking you mentioned that a  
25 pilot program with 50 youth. Would you please

1  
2 elaborate on that, the pilot program for 50 youth,  
3 and how are you going to recruit those 50 youth and  
4 how long the pilot program will last? Will you  
5 elaborate on that?

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right, so  
7 I spoke about four separate pilots before, and two of  
8 them have 50 young people participating this summer.  
9 There is one around vulnerable youth.

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But disconnected  
11 youth.

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: I'm sorry.

13 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Go ahead, go ahead  
14 of please.

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: There is  
16 one for vulnerable youth and there is one for young  
17 people who worked last year. We actually guarantee  
18 their job with the same employer this year.

19 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay.

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So those  
21 are the two pilots that I referred to before.

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So what about the—  
23 what about the vulnerable youth, the disconnected  
24 youth.  
25

1  
2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So the  
3 vulnerable, well, we don't—we don't define vulnerable  
4 youth as disconnected youth. So vulnerable youth are  
5 those young people who were in the foster care  
6 system. They are justice involved, they're runaway  
7 homeless, or receiving preventative services from  
8 ACS. Yes, there's a pilot for those young people as  
9 well. Fifty young people will be engaged in  
10 community service, project based learning this  
11 summer, and they're going to start working on the  
12 first SYEP, which is July 5<sup>th</sup> all the way through  
13 August for six weeks.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And are they going  
15 to be recruited?

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: The  
17 provider is going to do a deep assessment once they  
18 come. They're going to sit and talk about young  
19 persons to assess if they're work ready or not, and  
20 if they're deemed work ready, then they are placed at  
21 a regular worksite. If not, they're going to be  
22 placed in this community service. It's a project  
23 pilot.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: We know that the  
25 state budget approved the extension, the scope

extension for services for the runaway and homeless youth. How many under this extension, how many young people, youth would be served?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes, we can. (sic)

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Well, is there-is there--

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So your reference to the vulnerable youth option for us.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No, I'm talking about the runaway and homeless youth.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, within SYEP there's 3,000 slots set aside for vulnerable youth, and some of those young people are runaway and homeless youth. So, your question is how many of those--?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: What I'm talking about I'm talking about the expansion to the young people to 24 years instead of 22 years. [background comments] So, if we took advantage of that--that extension.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Oh, are you talking about the runaway and homeless youth there's a change in the state law.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] How  
many youth—how many youth between--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --24 and 20 and 22  
and 24?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So—so let me—  
let me start.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: 22 and 24 will be  
served.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay, so, let  
me give you some context. So everyone knows what  
we're talking about. So, for many years the  
definition of by the state of runaway and homeless  
youth was 16 to 21. So in the budget adopted by the  
state about a month ago, they allowed for each local  
youth bureau to raise the age from 21 to 24 as an  
option. The law does not take effect until January  
of next year, and we're—so no decision can be made on  
whether to add services for homeless youth between 21  
to 24 until the regulations are issued by the state  
because that will determine what the model will look  
like and what costs will be. But what the city is  
doing separately from—whether to add runaway and  
homeless youth services for 21 to 24-year-olds it

three things: (1) as you may know, the-the  
Department of Homeless Services opened up the first  
shelter for homeless gay youth 21 and older up in the  
Bronx actually in Councilman Torres' district and I  
had a chance to thank him when I saw him the other  
day because he actually welcome and encouraged the  
Department of Homeless Services to open the shelter.  
We worked with Project Renewal, which sponsors that  
program. It gets funded by the Homeless Services--  
Department of Homeless Services and we've developed a  
strategy to refer young people who age out of our  
programs so they can go there. And the feedback I've  
gotten from people who have referred young people  
there has been very positive. The second thing we're  
doing to address the needs of young people between 21  
and 24 is as you know the state released about a  
billion dollars for supportive housing. And so,  
we're working closely with HRA for the first time to  
be part of the conversation so that some of the new  
units are built through supportive housing, serve  
young people between the ages of 21 and 24. The  
third thing we're doing is for young people who age  
out at 21, and are able to live independently, we're  
working HRA to streamline the application process for

1 rental assistance vouchers because right now it's not  
2 easily accessible to young people. And so we think  
3 those three things will help expand services for  
4 young people. Who are homeless between the ages of  
5 21 to 24.  
6

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
8 That answered my question. Thank you madam Chair.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
10 you, Chair. Council Member Chin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I have  
12 a follow-up question about the adult literacy  
13 funding. Last year, you know, working with the  
14 administration we were able to put a lot of money in,  
15 \$12 million and now the Council responded we wanted  
16 that money to be baselined, and it didn't happen.  
17 So, how many New Yorkers were served this year, and  
18 then what's going to happen to them next year when  
19 the money--

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, on your  
21 first question Ron Zan would need to answer that  
22 number, but since this was a--additional funding added  
23 in the negotiations during adopted we--we expect this  
24 conversation will continue. Our focus has been  
25 really to enhance existing programs to make sure that

1  
2 we could spend the money. As you may know, I think I  
3 spoke to this at the meeting at the budget hearing  
4 maybe the immigration hearing that the \$12,000 was  
5 more than could be absorbed by the current literacy  
6 providers. So, we exhausted that list. We worked  
7 with the Council to identify some programs that could  
8 be added, new contracts, and then the rest of it was  
9 spend by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to  
10 enhance their educational program as well as to add  
11 services the Formal (sic) Education Community  
12 Schools. So, I can speak to the I think \$7 million  
13 that we or the \$12 million that we spent, and Ron Zan  
14 our Director of Literacy can talk a little bit about  
15 where we're at with the money this year.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, I mean in  
17 this kind of political climate we really have to  
18 continue to support our immigrant communities, and  
19 people who want to learn English and they want to be  
20 able to improve their lives, get a job, become  
21 citizens, and we can't just kind of stop the track.  
22 You know, put money in and get them started and then  
23 we kind of left them out in the cold. If we don't  
24 baseline the funding so that programs can develop,  
25 improve and continue, right. So it doesn't make

1  
2 sense even though you said yes, you know, it was  
3 negotiated back and forth last minute right before  
4 adoption. But the intention was always to get at  
5 baseline.

6 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, I-I-as I  
7 said, I think the conversation about baselining will  
8 continue, but we're focused on spending down the  
9 money this year. I don't think there is any  
10 disagreement about the importance of that-these  
11 services. I know my own experience where my mother  
12 was not literate in-in either English or-or Chinese,  
13 could not read English or Chinese. There is a clear  
14 need for these services. I'm hopeful that it will  
15 continue as we move toward Adopted to have more  
16 clarity and hopefully some final decisions on this.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, we have to  
18 make sure we don't leave the immigrants out in the  
19 cold the people who are like so happy they finally go  
20 into program, and all of a sudden now don't know if  
21 it's going to continue or not. So, can you give me  
22 some number? How many individuals was able to  
23 benefit from the expansion of last year?

24 RON ZAN: Ron Zan, Senior Director for  
25 Adult Education, DYCD. With the additional funds for

1  
2 adult literacy this fiscal year we were able to serve  
3 and additional 5,000—close to 5,400 people through  
4 amending existing contracts and also through the  
5 designation of additional providers from—by the  
6 Council.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: What—what is the  
8 total number that DYCD—the total number that was  
9 served with—with the additional. I mean with the  
10 existing funding from before?

11 RON ZAN: So, we—we were serving about  
12 6,000 people before. So, with the 5,000 additional.  
13 So, it was about 11,000.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, almost—almost  
15 double, right and not even using up all the money  
16 because some of the money went to the Mayor's Office  
17 of Immigrant Affairs, right.

18 RON ZAN: Uh-huh.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, we're helping  
20 5,4000 people. I hope we're not going to tell them  
21 sorry, that's it. Right, so we got to have some  
22 decision to make sure that the funding continues and  
23 continues. So that's why the—the baseline, you know,  
24 advocacy is so critical. Otherwise you're leaving  
25 5,400 people out in the cold, and they're the ones

1  
2 that really struggling to improve their lives, right?  
3 Finding time after work, after long hours they come  
4 to class to make their lives better and then we're  
5 going to reject them?

6 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, as I said,  
7 I—I think this will certainly be one of the things  
8 that will be discussed in the upcoming, you know,  
9 conversations with OMB, and we're hopeful for a  
10 positive outcome. [bell]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, I'm asking you,  
12 Commissioner, you got to like be a little forceful in  
13 advocating and we'll work with you, but OMB needs to  
14 hear that 5,400 people is going to be left out--

15 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I think

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --if we don't  
17 baseline that funding.

18 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --they know the  
19 numbers. I think the impact of every decision not to  
20 fund something has a consequence in the real world.  
21 I think we've made—we're always talking to OMB about  
22 what the impact will be.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Alright, the  
24 discussion continues. Thank you. [pause]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Now we want to call on Council Member Williams for  
questions.

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr.  
Chair. Commissioner, before I proceed (sic) as  
someone prejudice, I need to make sure I can clarify  
what you are saying. It sounded like you were saying  
you cannot try to expand the program. Meaning you  
cannot try to solicit employers who will take  
additional Summer Youth slots or your Work Learn and  
Grow slots until you know exactly how many are going  
to be in the budget? Is that correct?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: No, I—I think  
what—we have a finite number of agencies that do this  
work. So, the \$65,000 that we proposed in the  
Preliminary Budget was based on them telling us this  
is the maximum that they could collectively.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: That's not my—  
my question.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: That's not my  
question.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Can you go out and solicit additional agencies, additional non-profits, additional employers and say would you take additional employees?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We can always increase worksites. That's not the problem.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: But isn't that what the capacity problem is?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: No, no, the-the capacity problem and-and Andre can you tell you that, is really not worksites. It's about having enough non-profits to run the program.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I have heard that there are not enough worksites. I've also heard the issues with the non-profits.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: You're telling me there's no issues with worksites at all?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, so let me just sort of walk through some of the challenges to get beyond the number that we're talking about, right. When we think about worksites, let's think about the younger youth, right. So, as I said before, I'm not sure if you were here, young people

1  
2 ages 14 to 15 providers struggle to develop work  
3 opportunities for those young people particularly  
4 with those employers thinking that they're young.  
5 They're not work ready, and they see that as  
6 babysitting right. So that's why as we think about  
7 this new concept for SYEP, we're moving towards more—  
8 a career exploration, work based on the learning  
9 opportunity for those young people. So that takes a  
10 burden off the providers to seeing about jobs for  
11 them, right.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, the  
13 older. Okay, I'm running out of time. The older,  
14 the older.

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: For the  
16 older youth worksite development is fine.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay.

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: But for  
19 the younger youth, which 30% of allocation that's  
20 always been a struggle.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So what have we  
22 done to expand the opportunity to expand to the slots  
23 that we said we were for the—for those ages that are  
24 not as problematic.  
25

1  
2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: The—the  
3 older youth. We have engaged. WE have done a lot of  
4 TA. We've worked with WPTI, which is a workforce  
5 professional training institute group to really  
6 engage our providers and give them tools to do more  
7 what we call private employer engagement work right.  
8 There's a shift in culture here and I want you—I want  
9 folks to understand that. In the past our providers  
10 typically worked with small mom and pop  
11 organizations, daycare and day camps. What we're  
12 trying to do is to encourage our providers to think  
13 outside of the box and develop jobs outside of those  
14 sectors. Right. It's new to them. It's been—it's a  
15 campaign that we started three years ago. So they're  
16 still learning, and we're trying to provide as many  
17 tools so they could actually develop these jobs.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Right. So this  
19 is the line of questioning, Commissioner that I'm  
20 trying to get at, and I actually don't have time but  
21 I want to dig further down because if [bell] we  
22 either have the capacity or we don't, and what are  
23 doing? And question what did we do since last year  
24 to build their classes. So you answer, the answer  
25 was nothing, and that doesn't make sense, and then I

1  
2 know UPK we solicit the slots before we even have the  
3 money. So, why can't do that here for-for the youth  
4 jobs, and I believe it's because the administration  
5 hasn't yet embraced it the same way we have.

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, I-I  
7 think, Jumaane, I think one thing that's that I think  
8 the Commissioner was trying to explain is what we  
9 have done historically it's been a part of the  
10 process. I was the SYEP Director myself. So I'm  
11 very familiar with this process. We reach out to our  
12 providers at the end of the summer every year. We  
13 talk about what is the number of young people you  
14 could serve to ensure that quality is not sacrificed.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: When you say  
16 provider you're not talking about the worksite?

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: No, I'm  
18 talking about this level (sic) right, and we go back  
19 and forth and we have that seed there and I think  
20 it's a very step to mention when we actually award  
21 the contracts to these groups of provider that we  
22 have now, which is currently 50 unit providers and  
23 101 you need contracts. We awarded 30,000 slots,  
24 right. So these providers have done an amazing job  
25 to scale up to \$65,000 to serve these young people,

1  
2 and I think that's incredible, and we have done along  
3 the way is provide a lot of tea and tools to make  
4 sure that they could get to that number. So, you  
5 know, we have our providers come back to say Andre,  
6 there's no way I'm going to another shot under 200.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: But are the  
8 providers saying that they have—the question of  
9 worksites are there enough worksites?

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: The  
11 providers are responsible for developing worksites,  
12 and we encourage them to develop them for the needs  
13 of the--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [interposing]  
15 Are there enough worksites?

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Are you  
17 saying for this summer or this struggle?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: In general.  
19 Like my question is we—we have agreed in paper or at  
20 lest in—in speech to say we're expanding this, but I  
21 haven't heard what—much is being done to get the  
22 additional worksites online, whether it is government  
23 agencies right now who don't have any summer youth or  
24 additional employees and my—my time is up. So, I wave  
25 off, but I do want to say, commissioner, I feel like

1  
2 and this is to piggyback on what the chair was  
3 saying. I feel like we provide the vision for this  
4 agency on so many other programs and that is your  
5 job, and I feel like that is not happening because  
6 most of these programs that are expanding and the  
7 money is coming from the work that we're doing.

8 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Respectfully, I  
9 disagree, Council Member.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Respectfully, I  
11 don't--

12 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay, can I  
13 ask--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: You can do what  
15 you want.

16 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Can I--can I  
17 respond?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Sure.

19 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So the vision  
20 of expanding the Summer Youth Employment Program are  
21 focusing more on private employers. I announced that  
22 three years ago because the default position for many  
23 years was to send a young person who's 18 years old  
24 summer camp. It's a great experience for a young  
25 person who may be 15 and it's a first job, but for

1  
2 young people who are aspiratious about doing  
3 different things, we needed to do more. It had to be  
4 a better experience for them. So, we launched a  
5 campaign three years ago to expand the number of work  
6 sites that were not summer camp. And so, we now  
7 have--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: That was for  
9 the 30,000 that already existed, not to expand.

10 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: To expand the  
11 number of worksites and then working with the Council  
12 and with OMB getting the number up every year. We're  
13 also mindful that the people who run the program tell  
14 us how many you people they can process. It's a  
15 function of how many staff they can hire, how-and  
16 that is something that we work with them every year  
17 to get the number. Last year-

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
19 [interposing] I'm sorry. I want to interject.

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Go ahead.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: The  
22 provider number, what is the provider number that you  
23 were given?

24 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: The number-

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: What's  
the capacity?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So we--when  
you say we were given a reference from the provider.  
So what we do. Let me walk you through the process  
right so everybody understands what the process looks  
like. At the end of the summer, the SYEP Director  
reaches out to the provider and say okay, Provider A  
last summer you served 300 young people 300 young  
people. As you know, that summer is coming. What is  
your capacity for next summer. Sometimes they might  
even want to reduce that number. We encourage them  
to go beyond what they did last year, and they give  
us that number. We take that spreadsheet, we look at  
the number and based on that assumption then we come  
with what.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: What is  
the number that you got for FY18?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: For this  
summer.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Oh, for  
this summers.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yes.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: 65,000.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Can I just say  
3 and even that number if we hadn't pushed we wouldn't  
4 even have gotten there. So not only do we provide  
5 the vision, you guys come along kicking and  
6 screaming, and so it's very frustrating because if  
7 we're not doing any of the pushing, we're not growing  
8 and then I'm hearing that we don't have enough  
9 worksites, and it's up to the provider. But I'm not  
10 even hearing how we're going to expand the worksites  
11 and if we're saying we're going to expand it we  
12 agreed that we're going to expand. I think we—we  
13 agreed on numbers from different years. I think this  
14 year was 75 or 80,000. How are we going to do that  
15 if you can't tell me what the plan is to do it?

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So there  
17 is a plan in place and that's what we're working  
18 through right now.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: That's amazing  
20 because I was trying to figure that out for about  
21 five or ten minutes now.

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: As we  
23 think about the concept paper, and the RFP, and what  
24 that looks like. So, as we think about the concept  
25 paper, there's going to be two separate RFPs. There's

1  
2 one RFP that's going to be geared towards what we are  
3 calling support services, and that means that there  
4 is going to be funding for evaluation for technical  
5 assistance, for curriculum development. Where the  
6 worksite development piece comes is technical  
7 assistance. We're going to be working with a group  
8 that's going to be awarded a contract to help our  
9 providers develop worksites. So that's the plan.  
10 So, this group is going to be on board to work with  
11 our providers to bring on initial jobs.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I-I appreciate  
13 the extra time I was given. This report probably  
14 should have included some of this instead of shirking  
15 responsibility. I believe that was given to answer  
16 some of these questions that—for a report that was  
17 given three months late, and was supposed to be  
18 before the Prelim so we could avoid some of this back  
19 and forth. And so, I'm anticipating to see this  
20 plan. I'm anticipating to see it articulated in the  
21 way that folks understand because right now, I'm not  
22 really sure, but thankfully this Council is going to  
23 continue—keep pushing and keep providing the vision,  
24 and hopefully you guys will catch up at some point.  
25 Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
you, Council Member and we have no--well, we have  
questions that we'll be sending out to you, Chair,  
Commissioner, and I would hope that you can get them  
back to us expeditiously because we'll be using them  
to negotiate, and it's very likely that your agency's  
budget will increase so that we're letting you know  
ahead of time, but this is something that we are  
leading, and that we are going to be engaging in  
conversations from SYEP to the concerns of baseline  
adult literacy to hopefully addressing some of the -  
Or getting more clarity on the Beacon schools. So,  
we're going to be following up with the things that  
are still pending from--from your end that we'd like  
to get more follow up on. So, I'm hoping you can get  
those back to us quickly. I'll see if I've got my  
statement. Oh, here we go. That concludes today's  
hearing. Thank you to Commissioner Chong for your  
testimony. I'd also like to once again thank our co-  
chairs. Give me one second before you start moving  
Council Member Barron, Eugene and the members of  
their committee. The Committee on Finance will  
reconvene on Monday at 10:00 a.m. in this room with  
Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services to

1  
2 hear from the Fire Department and Emergency Medical  
3 Services. We'll also be hearing on Monday from the  
4 Department of Corrections, the Department for the  
5 Aging and the Department of Environmental Protection.  
6 I want to give another reminder to the public will be  
7 invited to invited to testify on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>  
8 last day of budget hearings at approximately 1:00  
9 p.m. in this room. For any member of the public who  
10 wishes to testify but cannot make it to the hearing,  
11 you can submit your testimony to the Finance Division  
12 on the Council's website  
13 [www.counci.nyc.gov/budget/testimony](http://www.counci.nyc.gov/budget/testimony) and the staff  
14 will make it a part of the official record. I hope  
15 everyone has a great weekend, and with that said,  
16 this hearing is now adjourned. [gavel]

17 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Thank you.  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date June 8, 2017