



David A. Hansell, Commissioner
Testimony to the New York City Council
Committees on General Welfare and Juvenile Justice
March 27, 2018

"New York City Council Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget Hearing"

Good afternoon Chairs Levin and King, and members of the Committees on General Welfare and Juvenile Justice. I am David Hansell, Commissioner of the New York City Administration for Children's Services. With me are Lisa Parrish, Deputy Commissioner of Financial Services, Lorelei Vargas, Deputy Commissioner of Child and Family Well-Being, and Felipe Franco, Deputy Commissioner of Youth & Family Justice. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the ACS Fiscal Year 2019 preliminary budget. I would like to take a brief moment to welcome the members who have newly joined the Committees, and to thank those of you who are returning. I have appreciated ACS's transparent and collaborative relationship with the City Council and the leadership and members of these committees, and I look forward to continuing this relationship as we move ACS forward.

As some of you already know, my career has been dedicated to serving vulnerable communities. There are few missions more important than that of Children's Services, and I am honored to have led the agency in this mission for just over one year now. I remain committed to moving ACS forward and building on the Mayor's historic investment in our agency and our reform agenda. One year ago I shared with the Council my plan to conduct a top to bottom review of the agency's protective and preventive functions, and to implement necessary reforms. Today, I am pleased to share updates on the progress that we have since achieved.

Moving ACS Forward

There have been many exciting changes and significant practice reforms at ACS over the past year, and the voice of our staff has been instrumental in making our system more efficient and effective. Over the course of the last year I have visited almost every ACS office location, met with thousands of our staff, participated in a number of Town Halls with our frontline Child Protective staff and others, and completed the agency's first ever staff engagement survey. Much of my agenda as Commissioner has been driven directly by the input and feedback I've received from the frontline, and I cannot overstate my appreciation for their commitment and dedication to our work.

Our Child Protective Specialists are first responders, charged with keeping children in this City safe, the same way that police and firefighters are first responders protecting us all. Over the last year, we have improved our child protective practice by strengthening accountability, enhancing quality assurance, bolstering investigations in the highest-risk cases, and deepening our relationships with governmental and nongovernmental partners.

While making these key improvements to our child-protection work, we also recognize that getting families the help they need to overcome challenges—including trauma, poverty, isolation, mental health issues, and domestic violence—is critical to keeping children safe. Over the last year, we've expanded the support we provide to children and families through preventive services, and taken major steps to strengthen our network of preventive providers. ACS has steadily increased the availability of

evidence-based prevention programs that are shown to reduce rates of maltreatment and improve overall child and family wellbeing. Thousands of families are receiving intensive counseling tailored to their needs, and thousands of parents are receiving parenting coaching to help them cope with the pressures they face and raise healthy children. Last year, Casey Family Programs noted that New York City is now at the forefront nationally in providing evidence-based preventive programs to support families.

We're seeing strong, positive outcomes from our preventive work. ACS's unprecedented investment in preventive services has continued to allow the agency to serve increased numbers of families through preventive services, while reducing the number of children placed in foster care. The number of children in foster care is now under 9,000—a momentous shift from the nearly 50,000 children in care 25 years ago.

Because we believe so strongly in prevention, we are taking that work even further. In September, we announced the creation of the new Division of Child and Family Well-Being, making ACS the first child welfare agency in the country to spearhead a new “primary prevention” approach, which seeks to reach families proactively with services, resources and educational messages that can support healthy children, families and communities.

Our Division of Youth and Family Justice has also made significant strides to improve the lives of children and families involved in the juvenile justice system, with a special focus on keeping young people strongly connected to their communities. We

are proud to say that fewer young people are being arrested and fewer young people are entering our juvenile justice system than ever before. Overall admissions to juvenile detention have decreased significantly year over year, dropping 32% from FY 2014 to FY 2017, and we have also successfully lowered the census of Close to Home residential placements by 20% from FY 2014 to FY 2017. Further, we developed and are instituting a number of enhancements to the Close to Home initiative that focus on improving youth monitoring and accountability, enhancing oversight of staff and providers, and increasing inter-agency partnerships.

As you know, only weeks after I started at ACS, the State enacted the long-awaited Raise the Age legislation. Since then, ACS has been working nonstop with the Mayor's Office and our sister City agencies on planning to implement the initial requirements of the Raise the Age legislation by October 1, 2018.

We've also made structural changes at ACS over the last year to help strengthen agency operations that support all of our programmatic work. Early in my tenure, I created a new Office of Accountability to centralize and strengthen all of our internal and external accountability functions. Our Chief Accountability Office reports directly to me and works closely with all of our program divisions and oversight entities. And more recently, we've created an Office of Organizational Effectiveness, to coordinate our efforts to streamline operations, improve business processes, and enhance overall agency efficiency.

State Budget Impact

We have done a great deal in the last year to strengthen ACS and improve outcomes for children in New York City, and we know there is always more to do. As we work to advance the programs and practices that have positioned New York City as a national model for child welfare and juvenile justice reform, we are deeply concerned by the threats posed by the proposed Executive Budget for State Fiscal Year 2019. The Governor's budget proposes to:

- Impose an arbitrary cap of \$320 million in State child welfare funding—a cap that would apply to New York City only—resulting in what we have calculated to be a \$129 million cut in 2019, based on programs and services currently in place and budgeted for next year. Last week, the Independent Budget Office reported that, with modified commitments in the January plan, the reduction in funding to the City would increase to \$161 million. This funding supports protective and preventive programs—core services that keep children safe and support families in New York City.
- Eliminate all State funding for our very successful Close to Home program, just when the number of youth in Close to Home is expected to more than double once Raise the Age is implemented; and
- Effectively exclude the City from accessing funding for Raise the Age. The City projects the costs of Raise the Age to be approximately \$200 million, and the Governor's budget would leave New York City to shoulder these costs without aid from the State.

These proposed state budget cuts would be the most drastic cuts to child welfare in New York City in decades. The last time the State made such drastic cuts to New York City's child-welfare system in the 1990s, the results were disastrous—the number of children admitted to foster care in New York City increased by 57%, and the average caseload of frontline child-protection workers swelled to 24 (double the current level).

It's important to note that these cuts would seriously jeopardize our significant progress and leadership within New York State. From 2010 to 2017, the number of children in foster care in New York City declined by 38.4%, while the number in the rest of New York State declined by 13.9%. The reason that foster care is declining almost three times faster in NYC than in the rest of the state, we believe, is the scope and scale of investments and improvements we've been making in New York City, particularly in our preventive programs that are helping keep families together.

I respectfully ask you to join us in urging the state to remove the child welfare cap, restore funding for Close to Home, and allow the City access to appropriate funding for Raise the Age. We stand by and fully support the Mayor and the City Council in fighting against any detrimental impacts the state budget may pose to New York City children and families.

As an agency dedicated to serving children and families through a wide continuum of services, ACS is uniquely positioned to help create a stable, more equitable foundation of opportunity for those we serve. I will dedicate my remaining testimony to highlighting core areas of our work.

Child Protection

Our Child Protective Specialists carry out some of the toughest, most challenging work in this city, so it is imperative that our staff is well equipped and fully supported in their work. With this in mind, we have made significant investments in tools, trainings and technology that frontline staff needs to increase safety and enhance their work with children and families.

Quality Assurance and Oversight

The most immediate reforms we made last year focused on strengthening quality assurance in our protective work. We restructured and reinvigorated our ChildStat model as a core part of the agency's quality improvement program. Now, child protective "zones" with defined geographic responsibilities across the City participate on a rotating basis to review their performance in relation to borough- and city-wide standards, and develop concrete recommendations to strengthen protective and investigative practice. Since the re-launch in May 2017, we have held more than 45 ChildStat review sessions, resulting in recommendations for zone-based and system-wide improvement.

To help strengthen case practice within the Division of Child Protection, we also created a new Quality Assurance team to provide frontline staff with real-time feedback on safety assessments, decision-making, and service provision.

We've worked closely over the last year with the State-appointed independent monitor, Kroll Associates. In December, Kroll released its monitoring report, outlining

eleven recommendations for strengthening our protective and preventive practice, all of which we have accepted, and we're well underway in implementing many of the reforms, including enhancements to our training, investigation protocols, and oversight mechanisms.

Investigative Consultants & NYPD Collaboration

ACS's Investigative Consultants have for many years assisted our child protective specialists with particularly challenging investigations and reviewed sensitive cases alongside other experts, including medical personnel, clinicians, and current law enforcement officials. Since the end of 2016, ACS increased the number of Investigative Consultants on staff by 28% and expanded our partnership with the NYPD in several ways:

- *Cross-training with NYPD:* Beginning in 2017, child protective frontline staff are now training alongside police investigators at the NYPD Police Academy, taking courses that include Forensic Interviewing and recognizing evidence and resources available to assist in investigations. In turn, NYPD staff attend specialized ACS training to deepen their understanding of child welfare issues, investigative process, and safety and risk assessment.
- *Instant Response Team Expansion:* Law enforcement is deeply involved in ACS investigations when there is reason to believe that there has been physical abuse, sexual abuse, or other criminal activity. In 2017, ACS and the NYPD made 5,579 Instant Response Team joint responses on investigations, and

police were brought into hundreds of other ACS investigations to provide support and expertise.

- *Neighborhood Coordination Officers:* In many neighborhoods, frontline child protective staff began working more closely with NYPD officers in 2017 at the precinct level, through its Neighborhood Coordination program. Many child protective workers have direct relationships with and access to precinct patrols in routine and emergency situations, rather than relying solely on 9-1-1 calls to summon police support.

Heightened Oversight Protocol

Under a new Heightened Oversight Protocol (HOP) that ACS put in place in 2017, an Investigative Consultant supervisor and a Child Protection manager or supervisor conduct a joint case review prior to initiating an investigation on all State Central Register reports where the maltreated child is 3 years old or younger, and the report involves a fatality, or alleges serious physical injury and/or sexual abuse. Under this new protocol, Investigative Consultants remain involved in cases and participate in further reviews in the course of the investigation, to provide enhanced support in these most serious cases.

Child Protection Caseload

In 2017 we hired over 600 new CPS, and we are on track to hire another 400 by the end of the fiscal year. With more frontline staff on board, we have been able to reduce the average investigative caseload from 14.8 in May 2017 down to 12 as of February 2018. Although ACS has some of the lowest caseloads among major child

welfare jurisdictions, we also know that the caseload metric doesn't always reveal the full story. There is nothing more important to our success than making sure we are doing everything possible to support our frontline CPS workers. By taking into account all of their job-related duties, we can better assess the real impact of our staffing and case management levels.

To that end, we are launching an innovative pilot program to help address CPS workload, in which Case Aides will provide hands-on support for CPS staff in a few Child Protective Units in the DCP Bronx North Borough Office. The Case Aides will carry out case-supportive tasks such as reaching out to collateral contacts, obtaining medical records and supervising visits. Staff Development Coordinators will assist with the planning and arrangements for CPS on-the-job training and other staff training coordination. This is an important initiative that we hope will demonstrate its value in supporting CPS in their work.

Training Expansion

More than 4,000 frontline child protective staff and supervisors received training in 2017 to strengthen their practices. The curricula includes a new Safety and Risk module to assist in developing stronger safety plans for children and an implicit bias module currently under development. The curriculum now also reinforces the importance of treating all families equally regardless of race, ethnicity or other irrelevant factors.

Supervisory and managerial training is also being enhanced, and to ensure continuity from the training academy to the field, ACS began in Fall 2017 to deploy Staff Development Coordinators and “coaches” in DCP borough offices to bridge the transition and reinforce the extensive up-front training program. We thank the Council for supporting these enhancements in the enacted FY2017-18 budget.

Mobile Technology

To strengthen CPS’s ability to conduct and document investigations, in April 2017, ACS provided all child protective staff with internet-activated smartphones with relevant apps and tools. Several hundred frontline staff are also part of a pilot project to use tablets in the field, and all frontline staff will have tablets within the next several months. This will strengthen CPS’s ability to conduct and document investigations by enabling CPS to download case information when and where needed, and upload case notes in the field, in court, or elsewhere.

Food Pantry

We’re also expanding the role of our Division of Child Protection in providing services to families. In December 2017 ACS collaborated with Food Bank for NYC to launch our first-ever emergency food pantry for families involved with ACS. It is located in the ACS Bronx South DCP Borough Office, where there is a high concentration of families struggling with food insecurity and we are thrilled that our child protective staff can connect families in the Bronx to healthy and nutritious food resources when they are in need.

Preventive Services

FY18 Investments in our preventive services helped us to implement critical changes to ensure providers can implement the best possible service models to support families and are appropriately compensated for doing so. Last March, ACS had a backlog of almost 500 families waiting months for preventive services that had been recommended for them following a child protective investigation. After an aggressive implementation of business process improvements, we eliminated that backlog by September 2017 and restored our ability to provide timely matching of families to preventive services. Since then, we've continued to improve the quality and consistency of services with additional system improvements.

Model Budget

The goal of preventive services is to help at-risk families develop skills to manage crises, maintain safety and stability within the home, and strengthen their ability to thrive within the community. Our non-profit partner provider agencies are among the best in the nation and they do extremely challenging work, so it is imperative that our providers receive the supports they need to do it well. Most of ACS's contracts with preventive agencies have been in place since 2007, with minimal budget increases. By early 2017, many providers were facing critical staff shortages because of inadequate salaries, which reduced capacity and contributed to the service backlog that I just mentioned.

Last spring ACS began a model contract review process, in close collaboration with many of our preventive providers, to assess where additional resources were

needed, and in the City budget for FY 2017-18, ACS received more than \$26 million in increased funding to develop a quality model budget to assist providers in raising salaries; retaining staff; strengthening training, supervision and quality assurance; and improving the delivery of services to children and families. ACS announced the model budget components in January of this year and we are in the final stages of amending provider contracts to implement the enhancements.

New Models for Preventive Services

We've launched a number of new program models and service protocols in the last year, in order to connect families with services that can most effectively meet their needs.

In 2017 ACS launched the Group Attachment Based Intervention (GABI) initiative, which provides access to trauma-informed, intensive attachment-focused therapy for our hardest to reach families, namely parents and very young children (ages 0-3) who have experienced significant trauma, housing instability, mental illness, domestic violence, and other challenges. GABI provides group settings where parents can connect with others experiencing similar challenges—and seeks to improve children's development, decrease their exposure to trauma and maltreatment, reduce parental stress, and boost parental social support and mental health.

In January 2018, ACS announced a protocol for expanded services to protect families at risk of, or experiencing, domestic violence. Under the new protocol, ACS's Investigative Consultants work on cases with families receiving prevention services when there are domestic violence risk factors and/or criminal history, a new adult has

been added to the household or has taken on a caretaker role, and there are children under 7 years of age in the household. In April 2018 ACS will also procure a demonstration project to test new methods for working with families experiencing domestic violence. This demonstration project will serve 100 families and 400 individuals experiencing domestic violence, who are under court-ordered supervision, or are referred to or seek ACS prevention services. The service model will allow families to receive both preventive services and a clinical therapeutic intervention for domestic violence.

Beginning this Spring we are also rolling out new preventive services focused on supporting families that have very high service needs, in particular those under Court-Ordered Supervision or at risk of court intervention. We will add more than 1,000 additional slots—including in evidence-based clinical models such as Functional Family Therapy and Child-Parent Psychotherapy—when this service model is fully implemented in FY2019.

All of these very intensive services will be located in all five boroughs and will require careful coordination between preventive programs and our ACS child protection teams assigned to work with families under court orders. By cultivating strong collaboration, we will improve the experience for parents and children in these especially urgent cases, while applying more resources to stabilizing families.

Child and Family Well-Being

ACS's new Division of Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) aims to help families much earlier—to engage families before they ever reach the child welfare system, with resources and services to help them thrive. This new Division focuses on the factors that contribute to family wellbeing, including health, education, employment, and culture and uses place-based and population-based approaches to engage families and communities. CFWB's scope includes the agency's Community Partnerships Program networks, Safe Sleep Initiative, early care and education, primary prevention services, and a new Office of Equity Strategies that works to identify strategies to reduce inequities, implicit bias, and other factors that contribute to disparate outcomes for the families and communities we serve.

Safe Medication Campaign

One of the first major initiatives of the new Division was the Fall 2017 launch of ACS's Safe Medication campaign, an effort to help parents and caregivers ensure that medications and potentially dangerous household items are stored out of children's reach. In addition to this information campaign, we will distribute Medication Lock Boxes and Bags to families engaged with ACS and we will eventually share them across city agencies, as well as with programs that provide in-home services. Lock Boxes and Bags are easy and effective ways to keep medication accessible to parents, but out of children's reach.

Family Enrichment Centers

In the first half of 2018, ACS is helping launch an innovative new model for providing comprehensive, community-focused support to families, known as Family Enrichment Centers (FEC). FEC is a family-centered primary prevention strategy that is designed to reduce rates of child maltreatment and increase family stability and well-being. Everything about each Center—from the name, to the physical layout, to the services offered—is co-developed with families and the community. The FECs will be open to all families in their communities and will provide a range of services that support healthy child development. The first pilot Center is now open in the Hunts Point neighborhood of the Bronx, and two additional pilot Centers will be located in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

EarlyLearn NYC

The foundation of the Division of Child and Family Well-Being is early care and education. Since 2012, ACS's EarlyLearn NYC has provided high quality, full-day early care and education each year to over 30,000 children from birth through five-years-old. We are proud that this program has become a pillar for promoting healthy childhood development, while also providing wraparound support to families—a hallmark of EarlyLearn NYC.

As part of the Mayor's commitment to early education, ACS's EarlyLearn NYC contracts will be transferred and integrated into the DOE's Division of Early Childhood Education in early 2019. This integration will build on the important work done by EarlyLearn programs today, strengthening birth-to-five care and education in New York

City and creating a more seamless experience for children and families into elementary school and beyond. The transfer of EarlyLearn will also support the Mayor's 3K For All initiative, which will ultimately offer free, high-quality early education services to all three-year-olds in NYC.

As EarlyLearn NYC transfers to DOE, ACS will continue to administer the City's child care voucher system. We will continue our efforts to bolster the quality of care in this system, which serves 29,000 children under the age of 5, in collaboration with the Human Resources Administration (HRA), the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and DOE. And we are committed to continued efforts to make child care available to some of the most vulnerable families in NYC, including many of whom are involved in our child welfare system.

Foster Care

NYC Interagency Foster Care Task Force

ACS remains focused on improved outcomes for young people in foster care, and we are heartened by the City Council's equal commitment to this priority. We thank the Council for its leadership and partnership in this effort and would like to acknowledge Chair Levin and Public Advocate James for their roles in shaping the work of the NYC Interagency Foster Care Task Force, which was established through City Council legislation in 2016. The Task Force, which is chaired by ACS, first convened in June 2017 with the goal of developing recommendations to improve services for youth in foster care and outcomes for those aging out of care. Last week, the Task Force

released a report containing actionable recommendations, several of which we are already moving to implement. ACS is committed to doing all that we can to advance these recommendations, and we look forward to working with the City Council, the Public Advocate, our sister agencies, providers, youth, parents, and advocates on these critical initiatives.

Foster Care Strategic Blueprint

The recommendations of the Foster Care Task Force are aligned with and build upon our Foster Care Strategic Blueprint, released in 2016, and the progress report issued last year, which identify ACS's key priorities and strategies for improving case practice and results for children and families in the foster care system—including family reunification, kinship placement, adoption, and supporting older youth. This focus, combined with the unprecedented investments by the de Blasio administration to strengthen child welfare, is yielding promising results.

Through our No Time to Wait initiative, ACS is implementing a range of strategies to improve permanency outcomes for children and youth in foster care. Last year, we partnered with Casey Family Programs to conduct "Rapid Permanency Reviews" (RPRs), which examined the cases of 2,500 children who had been in foster care for more than two years. These reviews identified case-, agency-, and system-level barriers to permanency. Based on the RPR findings, ACS is streamlining administrative processes and providing targeted technical assistance to foster care agencies to help reduce time to reunification and accelerate adoption and kinship guardianship (KinGAP) where appropriate.

In FY 2018 and scaling up through FY 2020, ACS and the Dave Thomas Foundation have established an \$11 million partnership to expand the Wendy's Wonderful Kids child-focused adoption recruitment model to increase the number of older children and children with special needs who exit foster care to a forever family through adoption and KinGAP.

The majority of children who enter foster care in New York City return home to their families. In Fiscal Year 2017 more than 2,000 children were reunified, 899 children were adopted, and 378 children exited foster care to KinGAP. While there is more work to be done, we are making solid progress toward our goal to connect children and youth in foster care to permanent, safe, and loving families.

Fostering College Success Initiative

We have expanded the Fostering College Success Initiative over the last year, helping more young people transitioning out of foster care to pursue higher education. In partnership with CUNY, we now have almost 100 young people enrolled in college classes, living in CUNY dorms at Queens College, College of Staten Island, and City College. We continue to work in close collaboration with CUNY to expand the program further in FY 19.

Juvenile Justice

Raise the Age

As you are aware, extensive planning is underway to prepare for the implementation of the initial requirements of the Raise the Age legislation by October 1,

2018. A citywide Steering Committee, chaired by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and including representatives from multiple city agencies and the State Office of Court Administration, has been working to guide the overall city-wide planning effort. As you might imagine, this is a significant undertaking. Given the very aggressive timeline for implementation of this important legislation, ACS is working to quickly expand our continuum of community-based preventive services for youth who are at risk of delinquency, and we are working with the NYC Department of Probation and others to increase diversion and Alternatives to Detention programs throughout the City. We are working in close collaboration with the NYC Department of Correction and in compliance with State Specialized Secure Detention requirements to bring new 16- and 17-year-olds and Rikers youth into our juvenile detention facilities and to develop program models and services at these facilities that meet the developmental needs of older adolescents. We are partnering with our provider agencies to prepare for post-adjudication 16- and 17-year-olds in Close to Home, and building upon our continuum of Alternative to Placement (ATP) services offered through ACS's Juvenile Justice Initiative, the largest ATP program in the City.

Close to Home

Close to Home is a juvenile justice reform that has allowed New York City youth to be placed in juvenile justice residential care near their home communities, rather than large institution-like settings upstate. Most youth in Close to Home spend approximately six months in small residential facilities around the City, and then are reunited with their families under ACS supervision through aftercare. In the five years since Close to

Home's launch, we have seen that the success of a young person's reintegration into the community rests largely on the strength of the aftercare supports they receive. With this in mind, we have initiated a set of enhancements to our aftercare program to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth and bolster public safety. Through these reforms, ACS will improve the transition from residential placement to aftercare, strengthen supervision to ensure that young people attend school and participate in other important programming, and follow up more aggressively in the rare instances where public safety issues arise.

Cure Violence Initiative

As you know, the City Council awarded \$250,000 to ACS in FY '15 to implement the Cure Violence Crisis Management Initiative, and has since increased the allocation to \$450,000. ACS adapted this initiative to tap into the network of Cure Violence providers to reduce the likelihood of gun violence in the City and enhance borough-based support for ACS youth in neighborhoods that are most at risk by addressing the underlying contributors to violence. Cure Violence providers engage youth in detention and placement through workshops and individual meetings, and support youth as they re-enter the community. Currently, ACS funds two additional Cure Violence contracts between our two secure detention sites through an intra-city agreement with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice.

Strengthening Interagency Collaboration

The progress we're making in both our protective and preventive practice is partly the result of increased collaboration across City agencies over the last year. We all share a responsibility for protecting children and supporting families, and I'm pleased to report that we've expanded our interagency partnerships.

In March 2017, we executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to share information between agencies about children and families in the shelter system. The MOU requires ACS and DHS to notify each other at critical points in a family's case, such as when a family ACS serves enters shelter, when there is a plan for a family to change shelter, and when there is a change in a child welfare case that may require a different level of intervention by DHS. In addition, the agreement also requires shelter providers to issue vital information to families, such as information on availability of child care and safe sleep practices for infants. All staff at 162 shelters citywide have been trained on the new protocol.

In August 2017, ACS and the Department of Education hosted a joint training for our staff on a new tiered-response protocol to share information about excessive absences that may suggest underlying child welfare concerns. Under this protocol, attendance records are more closely reviewed, and there is a clear process for quickly flagging cases where there may be issues of safety or educational neglect.

Last week, we announced that ACS and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) have entered a two-year MOU to increase the

number of youth in foster care participating in after-school programs that can enhance their academic achievement and social skills. This is a direct response to a recommendation from the Foster Care Task Force I mentioned earlier. We anticipate a number of additional interagency initiatives in response to other Task Force recommendations.

Budget Overview

ACS's proposed FY 2019 preliminary budget plan provides for operating expenses of \$2.57 billion, of which approximately \$789 million is city tax levy. Since the beginning of the de Blasio Administration the City has made, at full implementation, a \$218 million annual investment in ACS, including \$172 million to strengthen and improve outcomes for children and families in our Child Welfare system. The funding has bolstered ACS's training capacity for our staff and for provider agencies, drove a historic expansion of preventive services, supports much needed technology updates for our frontline staff and has fueled the launch of several groundbreaking innovations in service provision for children and families in the City.

Conclusion

As I reflect on my first year at ACS, I remain honored and humbled to serve the children and families of our City as ACS Commissioner. The work that ACS and our partner agencies are tasked with and carry out every day is nothing short of extraordinary, and I want to take a moment to express my profound gratitude to the

thousands of individuals who keep our children safe. I look forward to working with all of you over the coming years, and I welcome your questions.



Human Resources
Administration
Department of
Homeless Services

**Department of
Social Services**

**Testimony of Steven Banks, Commissioner
Department of Social Services**

**Before the New York City Council General Welfare Committee
The DSS Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget**

March 27, 2018

Good morning. I would like to thank the City Council's General Welfare Committee and Chair Stephen Levin for giving us this opportunity to testify today about the Department of Social Services' Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget and our ongoing efforts to serve low-income New Yorkers.

My name is Steven Banks and I am the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Social Services (DSS). In this capacity I oversee the Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS). Joining me today are DSS First Deputy Commissioner Molly Murphy, HRA Administrator Grace Bonilla, DHS Administrator Joslyn Carter, DSS Chief Program Planning and Financial Management Officer Ellen Levine, and DSS Chief of Staff Scott French.

Just four years ago, I appeared before this Committee at the Executive Budget hearing in 2014 and announced a series of major reforms at HRA to implement policy changes that this Committee and many in the audience had long called for. These changes involved a substantial number of reforms that would enable HRA to address poverty and income inequality more effectively than the agency had been doing during the prior two decades. One of the ways we moved forward with these reforms was to self-fund increased staffing needs by repurposing approximately 550 central administrative positions to front-line client service delivery positions.

And in April 2016 following the 90-day review of homeless services and in March 2017 following the release of the Mayor's *Turning the Tide* plan, I announced significant managerial and policy changes to reform how the City had approached homelessness during the past four decades; these changes reflect the fundamental reforms that have been needed for a long time. At the core of these reforms are maximizing a prevention-first focus to avert homelessness whenever possible and transforming the City's approach to the provision of shelter and homeless services.

The Preliminary Budget for the Department of Social Services, including both HRA and DHS, includes continued major investments in social services and homeless services programs that have been missing in the past. In this testimony, we will discuss some of the crucial investments and reforms. As this testimony will highlight, our investments are beginning to show signs of progress, but we know that we have much more work to do to address the problems that built up over many years.

At the outset, I want to provide the context in which DSS serves three million clients each year. Poverty and homelessness are often attributed to individual decision-making and individual circumstances, rather than underlying structural inequality. However, structural inequality is a reality for the families and individuals we serve every day. Between 2000 and 2014, the median New York City rent increased by 18.3 percent in real dollars and household income increased by only 4.8 percent in real dollars. Furthermore, between 1994 and 2012, the city suffered a net loss of about 16 percent of the total rent-regulated housing stock, amounting to approximately 150,000 units. Combined, these and other trends meant that by 2015 the city had only half the housing it needed for about three million low-income New Yorkers. And while the city's overall rental vacancy rate of 3.5 percent poses a problem for people across all incomes, renters who are only able to afford an apartment costing \$800 or less must search in a market with a vacancy rate of a mere 1.15 percent in 2017, down from 1.8 percent in 2014.

Roughly three out of every ten of New York City's renters are severely rent-burdened, meaning that they spend more than 50 percent of their income on rent. Many of these individuals and families facing rent burden are also those who cycle in and out of poverty, living just one personal crisis away from homelessness. In fact, an ongoing longitudinal study suggests that nearly half of all New Yorkers lived in poverty at some point between 2012 and 2014 (the three-year period studied), unable to manage the experience of this income volatility.

As a result of these structural economic factors, today's face of homelessness has changed – 70 percent of today's DHS shelter census now consists of families, of which more than one-third of the families with children have an adult who is working. At the same time, domestic violence is one of the major drivers of homelessness, with some 30 percent of the families with children in the DHS shelter system having a history of domestic violence.

Lastly, for nearly a decade our single adult census has been growing by approximately 1,000 individuals a year, fueled in recent years by direct discharges from State prisons.

Making HRA Benefits More Accessible

Let's begin by focusing on one of our most significant reforms over the past four years – the reduction of counter-productive public benefits case closings and adverse case actions that resulted in unnecessary State administrative fair hearings and subjected the City to a potential \$10 million annual State financial penalty. Now, as a result of a change in State Law in 2016 for which we advocated, HRA no longer imposes durational public benefits sanctions, meaning that clients do not lose essential benefits necessary to keep them in their homes and feed themselves and their children. Clients are also not churning on and off the case load. And administrative costs, as well as staff resources are no longer being diverted, as the number of unnecessary State fair hearings is going down. Consistent with State law, we now afford clients the opportunity to comply with requirements so they can immediately "cure" a sanction without losing their benefits.

By addressing counterproductive policies and procedures that led to punitive actions, including sanctions associated with negative outcomes for clients, such as homelessness, we have transformed the way clients interact with HRA. We also removed duplicative and unnecessary administrative

transactions that adversely affect staff workload, as well as our clients. As a result of these reforms, State fair hearings have declined by nearly 40 percent — from 396,196 in Fiscal Year (FY)14 to 247,253 in FY17 — and the City is no longer subject to a potential \$10 million annual State financial penalty for unnecessary State hearings.

Our approach has been straightforward — make it easier for clients to obtain and keep benefits for which they are eligible.

The Employment Plan

As a part of our December 2014 State Office of Temporary Assistance and Disability Assistance (OTDA)-approved Employment Plan, effective December 31, 2016, HRA eliminated the Work Experience Program (WEP) and replaced it with other more effective work activity initiatives, including additional Job Training Program (JTP) slots as well as other education and training programs. These additional JTP positions and wage increases for various JTP positions have been funded at \$12 million in FY18. Following a procurement process that included extensive consultation with stakeholders, in April 2017, HRA launched a comprehensive new approach to help approximately 70,000 New Yorkers on Cash Assistance who are able to work find the right opportunities that match their skills, needs, and career goals. These clients on our caseload who are able to work include approximately 24,000 clients who are already working, but do not earn enough to move out of poverty and off our caseload.

Our new approach leaves behind the one-size-fits-all approach of the past to offer services that take into consideration the individual needs of clients, while providing specialized services for youth and other groups with more specific needs. The new approach offers more meaningful opportunities to clients, including education and training as permitted under federal and state law.

These programs began in April 2017 and we are seeing promising results in less than a year. These include:

- Clients have enrolled in Alternative Engagement, which are opportunities for clients to access education and training programs external to HRA and its contracted providers with organizations such as BronxWorks, Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, Per Scholas, Brooklyn Education Opportunity Center, St. Nick's Alliance, and Agudath Israel.
- Financial counseling has been a very successful tool for engaging YouthPathways clients. To date, 1,232 YouthPathways participants have engaged in financial counseling services, and 519 outcomes have been achieved relating to opening safe bank accounts, increasing credit scores, reducing debt, increasing savings, and taking financial steps toward enrollment in a training/education program.
- 3,914 clients have enrolled in education and training offered directly by our contracted providers.

In FY18, we were funded at \$278 million (\$103 million tax levy) for employment and related support services such as transportation, and the Preliminary Budget continues these investments.

Customized Assistance Services: Reasonable Accommodations for Clients with Disabilities

Another area of significant reform and investment is enhancing services for clients with disabilities. HRA's Customized Assistance Services provide both direct and contractual clinically-oriented services and expertise in the areas of health, mental health, substance use, and rehabilitation for clients served through HRA's programs. The program is budgeted at \$97 million annually.

In order to improve our services for clients with disabilities, we settled the *Lovely H.* class action lawsuit that was filed in 2005. Working with an expert consultant, HRA developed and is now using tools to assess whether clients need reasonable accommodations as the result of physical and/or mental health limitations or other impairments. HRA then provides the appropriate accommodations, including referrals to HRA's Wellness, Comprehensive Assessment, Rehabilitation and Employment ("WeCARE") program or other services designed to assess and meet the needs of clients with disabilities.

For example, WeCARE has had success in helping New Yorkers with disabilities achieve their personal highest level of independence through obtaining and retaining employment or securing federal disability benefits. So far in this fiscal year, there have been increases in key service areas: a 12 percent increase in federal disability awards for clients and an 8.4 percent increase in the number of clients with disabilities placed in employment.

Benefits Reengineering

In January of 2012, this Committee held a hearing on long lines and overcrowding at HRA Job Centers and SNAP Centers and reported long wait times at our centers. Beginning in 2014, we invested in significant reforms to begin to address this problem. As a result, SNAP in-center foot traffic has declined 32 percent since 2014. The percent of SNAP applications submitted online increased from 23 percent in 2013 to 78 percent in 2018 and the percent of SNAP application interviews conducted by phone increased from 29 percent in 2013 to 83 percent in 2018. In December 2017, the citywide average wait time was 53 minutes for Job Centers and 32 minutes for SNAP Centers.

We built on the initial technology allocations of the prior Administration with two primary goals for our continued modernization efforts – improve the client experience and optimize operational efficiency. By removing real barriers to access and creating a self-directed service model for clients we now permit applicants and clients to conduct a broad range of transactions with the Agency without the burden of having to physically come to an HRA location. And over time these investments are helping to reduce our physical footprint and save on expensive lease costs while making it easier for clients to apply for and maintain their benefits. Our investment in benefits reengineering through FY17 was \$159.2 million.

The implementation of ACCESS HRA is the cornerstone of our modernization efforts. For a full summary of ACCESS HRA, you can review our testimony at January's Hunger Hearing, but here are a few key highlights:

- As of February 2018 there were more than 1 million ACCESS HRA online accounts for SNAP/food stamps households.

- We now receive over 24,000 online applications each month and continue to implement on-demand interviews for SNAP/food stamps applicants and clients.
- Today, all SNAP recertification eligibility interviews can be conducted at a client's convenience by phone, rather than in a rigid four-hour window under the old system, or clients can choose to come into a center and wait for an in-person interview.
- In October 2015, before the implementation of the on-demand call center, only 52percent of the completed SNAP recertification interviews were conducted via telephone. We now have 76percent of the interviews held by phone – a 46percent increase.

On-demand interviews for SNAP recertification have been fully in place for more than a year and now on-demand interviews for new SNAP applicants are beginning to be phased in. Following our implementation of this service for Brooklyn clients last year, we have just announced an expansion that enables new Manhattan and Staten Island SNAP applicants to complete their eligibility interview using on-demand services. The Bronx and Queens will be next; we anticipate having these services fully available to our clients in these boroughs by the end of this calendar year.

We have also rolled out the HRA Mobile App, a self-service mobile app to give clients the ability to use their mobile device to better manage their cases by having immediate access to case details and the ability to submit required documents from their smartphones. Since the application's launch in March 2017 clients have uploaded more than two million images.

In addition, we've modernized our centers by providing on-site self-services. For clients who prefer to access our services inside one of our centers, we now have a suite of self-service tools, which include self-service check-in kiosks and PC Banks to utilize ACCESS HRA and self-service scanning of documents.

In sum, by providing an enhanced client experience, these lower-touch service models free up our eligibility workers' time so they can focus on those clients who need more support and assistance.

HASA For All

In partnership with the Speaker, prior to his assuming this new office, we have made two major reforms to expand services for clients with HIV/AIDS.

First, in the State's Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget, we successfully advocated for a 30 percent rent cap to be applied for HASA clients and then implemented this critical policy change expeditiously based on OTDA eligibility instructions, with the City covering 50 percent of the rental assistance costs. Second, on August 29, 2016, we expanded the medical eligibility criteria for the HASA program to permit all financially-eligible New York City residents with HIV to seek and obtain HASA services so clients with HIV do not have to wait until they have AIDS to get help from us. New York City is implementing this program with only 29 percent reimbursement from the State.

As of January 2018, HASA provides services for 33,772 cases, which include 34,354 clients and 10,289 associated case members, 3,822 of which were newly eligible pursuant to our HASA for All expansion.

As part of our implementation of this HASA for All initiative, we are working with Housing Works to implement and evaluate a series of pilot programs to help us modernize our client services.

The FY19 Jan Plan allocates \$185 million (\$90 million tax levy) for HIV/AIDS housing and support services this year.

Additional Investments

Examples of other key reforms and investments for our social services programs include:

- Adding 239 emergency beds and 54 transitional units to our domestic violence shelter system, with more on the way so that we can increase our capacity to help 13,300 children and adults a year, an approximately 50 percent increase over the prior level of 8,800 individuals served annually – the first increase in domestic violence shelter capacity since 2010.
- Participating as a member of the Food Collaborative in the first evaluations of food distribution, capacity, and food equity to identify gaps and address ongoing Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) needs in the FY19 budget.
- Increasing baseline funding for legal assistance for immigrants from \$7 million in FY13 to \$29.7 million in FY18, which enabled immigrant New Yorkers to receive legal aid in approximately 15,000 cases in FY17, as a result of the four-fold increase in the City's overall commitment to immigration legal assistance programs since FY13.
- Operating the IDNYC program, which as of December 2017, issued more than 1.2 million cards.

Addressing Homelessness

One year ago, we announced our *Turning the Tide* plan to transform the City's approach to providing shelter. Our plan puts people and communities first. It does this by ending the use of decades-old stop-gap measures, like cluster shelter sites and commercial hotel rooms, and instead opening a smaller number of new borough-based shelters to help families and individuals stay connected to the anchors of life—such as schools, jobs, health care, families and houses of worship—as they get back on their feet.

As the lawyer who sued four Mayors and five Governors to enforce the right to shelter under our State Constitution, I understand the legal, and, yes, the moral responsibility we have toward our neighbors who do not have homes. I understand the basic human pain New Yorkers feel when we see someone living on the street. So does Mayor de Blasio. After all, he knew my résumé when he hired me. We stand by our moral and legal obligation to provide shelter to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness on any given night and keep people off the streets—and we won't let them down.

Over the past year, we have been implementing our transformation plan through significant new investments. The plan has four core pillars: preventing homelessness in the first place whenever we can; bringing people in from the streets 24/7; rehousing people who become homeless; and transforming the haphazard approach to providing shelter and services that has been used over the past nearly four decades.

The average monthly census for DHS shelters increased 115 percent from 1994 into 2014 —rising from 23,868 men, women, and children in January 1994, to 31,009 in January 2002, and reaching 51,470 in January 2014. Without the initiatives that we have been implementing, the current DHS census would be in excess of 71,000 instead of at the 60,000 level where it is today. In fact, a recent Furman Center study found that the year-over-year shelter census growth from calendar year 2015 to calendar year 2016 was the lowest increase since 2011, the year the Advantage rental assistance program ended, leading to a 38-percent increase in homelessness. The DHS shelter census for 2017 remained roughly flat compared to 2016 — this is the first time in more than a decade that the DHS census has remained level. And during the first four months of Fiscal 2018 compared with the same period in the prior year, the number of families with children entering the DHS shelter system declined by 15.1 percent and adult family entrants declined by 10.8 percent.

We know that our efforts and investments are beginning to work — but we also know that we have more work to do.

Pillar One: Prevention First

Our first priority is stopping homelessness in the first place. We have implemented three key prevention initiatives to do this — an expansion of the network of Homebase neighborhood-based prevention offices in all five boroughs, increased access to rent arrears grants, and universal access to counsel in Housing Court to prevent evictions.

The Homebase program remains at the center of New York City's homeless prevention efforts. Homebase's community-based prevention program has expanded to ensure that Homebase is the first point of entry for those at risk of homelessness and that people can be served in their home borough. We expanded Homebase from 11 providers across the City to 16 providers operating at 23 locations and we will be expanding to 25 locations by the end of FY18, more than doubling the program's funding. In FY18, we increased funding to include community-based Aftercare and other services, for a total budget of \$59 million. At our Homebase locations, New Yorkers are assessed to determine the prevention and diversion tools for which they are eligible, including: onsite processing and triage for public assistance and rental assistance, landlord and family mediation, educational advancement, employment, and financial literacy services.

Through January of FY18, the Homebase program enrolled 12,865 Families with Children, 621 Adult Families, and 3,296 Single Adults. Compared to the previous two complete fiscal years, enrollments were 1.2 percent higher for Families with Children, 28.7 percent higher for Adult Families, and 30.4 percent higher for Single Adults.

Since 2014, we have provided an increased level of emergency rent arrears assistance, both to cover the increasing costs of rent as well as serving more people so that more New Yorkers are able to stay in their homes. To date, this Administration has provided emergency one-time rent arrears assistance to 217,000 households from FY14 through FY17. The annual FY17 expenditures for this assistance program were \$210 million. We also made the payment process more efficient and quicker by replacing the old system of generating checks at each individual HRA Job Center with a centralized rent arrears processing

unit. Moreover, we have implemented an electronic benefits payment system for Housing Authority rent arrears payments and we are developing a similar payment system for private landlords. Using ACCESS HRA, clients can confirm that the rent was paid to their landlords, a reform now codified in State law.

We have also exponentially increased access to counsel in Housing Court, first through a series of pilot initiatives in all five boroughs and now through implementation of the universal access to counsel local law passed by Council and signed by the Mayor. We increased funding for legal assistance for tenants facing eviction and harassment from \$6 million in FY13 to over \$77 million in FY18 – a more than twelve-fold increase – and \$93 million has been allocated for FY19. When the universal access to counsel law is implemented fully in five years, the annual funding will be \$155 million to handle a projected 125,000 cases that will benefit 400,000 New Yorkers each year.

The legal services programs are leveling the playing field for tenants in Housing Court across the five boroughs. So far, HRA's tenant legal services programs have successfully contributed to an increase in legal representation for tenants facing eviction in Housing Court from one percent of tenants represented in court in 2013 to 27 percent in 2016, while 99 percent of landlords had legal representation. HRA's tenant legal services programs have provided more than 180,000 New Yorkers with legal services since 2014.

The impact of these expanded prevention efforts is already being felt by New Yorkers who are receiving these services. Residential evictions by marshals declined 27 percent since 2013, when there were nearly 29,000 evictions annually. The number of evictions in 2017 was 21,074 compared to 22,089 in 2016. That means evictions decreased 5 percent in 2017 alone, representing a total of 1,015 households and an estimated 3,000 New Yorkers across all five boroughs who were able to remain in their homes. Over the last four years, an estimated 70,000 people have remained in their homes as a result of the 27 percent decrease in evictions.

Pillar Two: Addressing Street Homelessness – Bringing People Inside

HOME-STAT

Through increased investments and program reforms, since the launch of HOME-STAT in the spring of 2016, the City has helped 1,480 people come in from the streets into transitional programs or permanent housing and provided assistance so that they have remained off the streets.

Our HOME-STAT (Homeless Outreach & Mobile Engagement Street Action Teams) program encapsulates all of New York City's street homeless outreach efforts. HOME-STAT is the nation's most comprehensive outreach program, which includes 24/7/365 citywide outreach efforts, through which hundreds of highly-trained not-for-profit outreach staff, including licensed social workers, proactively canvass the streets to engage homeless New Yorkers. Each borough has a dedicated provider – the Manhattan Outreach Consortium, led by CUCS in partnership with Goddard-Riverside and Breaking Ground, in Manhattan; Breaking Ground in Brooklyn and Queens; BronxWorks in the Bronx; Project Hospitality on Staten Island; and Bowery Residents' Committee (BRC) in the subways. These providers offer services

and assistance, and work daily to build relationships and gain the trust of individuals with the goal of addressing the underlying issues that may have caused or contributed to their street homelessness, in order to ultimately help these individuals transition off the streets.

Since 2015, through our new investments, we have doubled and are now tripling to more than 1,700 the number of low-threshold beds to better serve our street homeless population, up from the roughly 600 beds that existed at the beginning of this Administration. We have also more than doubled the number of outreach staff canvassing the streets and working to engage New Yorkers who are experiencing street homelessness from 191 in 2014 to nearly 400 outreach staff today.

Overall we have more than doubled the City's investment in street homeless programs, increasing by more than \$53 million (119percent) from \$44.6 million in FY14 to \$97.6 million in FY18.

Through this investment, we built the City's first-ever by-name list of individuals known to be homeless and residing on the streets to improve delivery of services – and this new approach is now codified in local law. Through this by-name list initiative, outreach teams now know more than 2,000 individuals by name who are confirmed to be homeless and living on the streets and are actively engaging more than 1,500 other individuals encountered on the streets to evaluate their living situations and determine whether they are homeless as well as what specific supports they may need.

Pillar Three: Rehousing

The DHS Commissioner in 2011 warned that the end of the Advantage program would result in the need for 70 new shelters, as the census of Families with Children was anticipated to increase by 13,000. What we know today is that by 2014 after the City and State ended the Advantage rental assistance program, which had offered short-term subsidies for people in shelters if they took part in job training, the shelter population increased by 38 percent, or by approximately 14,000 people.

To fill the gap left by the elimination of the City's rental assistance program and other rehousing programs from 2011 to 2014, we created and implemented a variety of rental assistance programs and developed associated incentives in order to address the fears of landlords who were concerned that the new rental assistance programs could be eliminated in the future as Advantage was. We also formed a Source of Income Discrimination (SOI) unit at HRA to address the problem of individuals and families being discriminated against because of the source of their rental income. So far the unit has responded to referrals of possible SOI discrimination, including successful interventions that reversed landlord refusals to accept security vouchers from our clients; reversed a management company's decision to reject electronic rental payments mandated by the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program; reversed a co-op board's decision to deny a sublet to a voucher holder; and reversed a management company's refusal to rent to a HASA program client.

This Administration also restored Section 8 and New York City Housing Authority priorities that had been eliminated prior to 2014.

As a result of our restoration of rental assistance and rehousing programs, over 81,124 children and adults have moved out of, or averted entry into, shelter through December 2017. In FY18, the budget for rental assistance is \$165 million, and in FY17 our expenditures were \$138 million.

We have also made the single largest municipal commitment to Supportive Housing by announcing the creation of 15,000 units over 15 years in NYC 15/15. From decades of research, we know that this plan will benefit New Yorkers in need, including homeless veterans, domestic violence survivors, and street homeless individuals. This cost-effective approach to deliver stable and permanent housing to New Yorkers struggling with mental illness, homelessness, and substance use is worth the investment – Supportive Housing is a proven model and reduces our reliance on homeless shelters, hospitals, mental health institutions, and incarceration.

Since the beginning of this Administration, HPD's Housing NY Plan has funded 3,017 supportive units by leveraging a variety of City, State, and Federal funding sources including NYC 15/15. In less than two years, since the release of the first NYC 15/15 supportive housing RFP in August 2016, HRA, using NYC 15/15 resources, has made 1,426 awards to providers, 406 of which are congregate units that have closed on financing and are included in the 3,017 units in the HPD production pipeline. And to date, NYC has moved or is in the process of moving 488 clients into supportive housing, funded by the Mayor's NYC 15/15 plan.

Pillar Four: Transforming the Approach to Providing Shelter and Services

We have committed to getting out of 360 cluster shelter and commercial hotel sites in order to reduce our overall DHS shelter system footprint by 45 percent across the city, and also committed to opening 90 new borough-based shelters across all five boroughs. To date, we've already gotten out of 100 locations bringing our shelter footprint from the 647 buildings we reported in the *Turning the Tide* plan a year ago to our current use of 547 buildings – a 16 percent reduction in one year.

Our new approach will allow us to maintain a vacancy rate to ensure the flexibility necessary to give homeless New Yorkers, who come from every community across the five boroughs, the opportunity to be sheltered in their home boroughs, as close as possible to their support networks and anchors of life, including schools, jobs, health care, families, houses of worship, and the communities they called home, in order to stabilize their lives and return to living in the community as quickly as possible.

We've committed to a notification process that provides a minimum notice of 30-days to elected officials and community leaders before opening a new permanent shelter. And to date, with the 17 shelters we've notified on since the announcement of our plan a year ago, we've averaged 65 days notice to communities. We have already opened 11 of those 17 sites and they include a shelter for women with special needs, the City's first dedicated site for homeless seniors, and DHS's first dedicated site for LGBTQ young people—all thanks to New Yorkers' fundamental compassion and understanding.

Getting Out of Clusters and Commercial Hotels: Since January 2016, when we were using a high point of 3,600 cluster units citywide, we have closed more than 1,500 cluster units, including transitioning over 300 cluster units to state-certified shelters. This represents a more-than 42 percent reduction

citywide in this 18-year old cluster shelter program. We recently announced our plans to transition another 800 cluster units into permanent affordable housing using eminent domain if necessary, which covers more than a third of the remaining cluster units. As we announced when we released the plan last year, we have prioritized ending the cluster program, and we are on pace to end the use of cluster units as shelter by our 2021 deadline.

Consistent with our legal and moral obligation to provide shelter every night to families and individuals who are homeless, including during the extreme cold weather this winter, we have increased our use of commercial hotel locations to meet *immediate* nightly capacity needs, with these locations serving as a bridge while we bring new borough-based shelters online. The City's periodic use of commercial hotel locations is not new – in fact, it dates back to the 1960s. While we are deeply committed to the goal of eliminating this use, the hard truth is that our transformation of the shelter system will take time. We anticipate that it will take five to seven years for our plan to be fully implemented, as the new borough-based shelters are developed and opened and the use of commercial hotels is then fully phased out.

Having litigated about hotel conditions and the need for client services for decades at the Legal Aid Society, I agree that waking up in a hotel, far from home, without wraparound social service support, is not the way forward. We know our homeless neighbors deserve better.

That's why, while we are using hotels in emergency situations during the phase-out period, we are improving that experience for homeless New Yorkers and getting a better deal for taxpayers. In the past, the City rented most of these hotel rooms on a per-day basis, which made controlling costs and providing services and security challenging. To offer better access to social services and security for these families and individuals and keep costs down, we initiated a Request for Proposal competitive bidding process to place all of the hotel rooms we are using under contract.

Earlier this month, the City's Budget Director Melanie Hartzog provided the Council with a monthly snapshot of City funding for homeless New Yorkers. The monthly spending is \$32 million for commercial hotels, \$2 million for the remaining clusters, and \$96 million for actual shelters. We monitor the spending and costs of sheltering our homeless neighbors on a monthly basis. And to control costs more effectively, the City entered into \$364 million in annual contracts to shelter homeless New Yorkers in hotels on an emergency basis over the next three years. Actual spending will be based on the fluctuating emergency needs of the families and individuals who turn to us for help, including weather conditions, the different demographics of households, level of services and security required, and types of shelter settings available, among others. Moving to competitively bid contracts allows us to both hold contractors accountable and fulfill our legal obligations to provide shelter on any given night.

That's a significant commitment of resources, but it's a better deal for both homeless New Yorkers and for New York taxpayers than renting rooms on a per-night basis. We're making fewer dollars go farther and getting more guarantees on services, with better mechanisms for locking in room rental rates and ensuring quality control.

Under these contracts, the average nightly rate for a hotel room has been \$174, and no room costs more than \$250 on any given night. The quality of client services at these sites has been enhanced, and

we will be able to hold service providers accountable for delivering the same types of social services found at contracted shelter sites, including case management, assistance with public benefits, help finding permanent housing, and job training and counseling.

It is true that even under contract, rates may sometimes exceed what you or I might find online for a night or two—and that's because we're providing more than a roof over people's heads. We require accommodations for caseworkers, microwaves, refrigerators, bedding, and 24/7 security to ensure we are giving New Yorkers experiencing homelessness a safe, secure, and supportive environment. We require that our providers have on-site social services so that clients can receive individualized assessments and referrals to meet their needs through their Independent Living Plans.

As we work to phase out the use of cluster apartments first, followed by commercial hotels, and revamp the shelter system with our new borough-based approach, we are asking communities to come forward and help us identify sites for new shelters. It's better for our homeless neighbors and it's better for taxpayers, and could save the City a total of \$100 million per year if we utilize only shelters and end the practice of using hotels.

Addressing Underinvestment in Maintenance, Security, and Services: At the beginning of the 90-day review in 2016, there were three urgent problems that we needed to address: the cumulative impact of years of underinvestment in shelter maintenance, security, and client services. Significant progress has been made to raise the bar for clients in each of these areas.

First, we have conducted more than 34,000 shelter inspections in 2016 and 2017, thanks to the work of the Shelter Repair Squad, an aggressive multi-agency task force launched in December 2015 to systematically identify and address shelter conditions that had been previously left unaddressed for decades. The number of outstanding violations within traditional shelters has dropped 84 percent since January 2016, with many of the remaining repairs involving capital projects.

Second, the NYPD now oversees and manages shelter security. We have partnered with the NYPD to implement an NYPD Management Team at DHS overseeing shelter security citywide, including providing 200 hours of enhanced training developed by the NYPD to all new and in-service DHS Peace Officers, and implementing a new DHS Peace Officers tactical training facility at the Bedford Atlantic Men's Assessment Shelter, all while doubling previous investments in DHS shelter security, with a total annual security budget of \$240 million for fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

Third, we dedicated an unprecedented amount of funding to reform the rates not-for-profit social service providers' receive to ensure our not-for-profit partners are appropriately funded to deliver the services our homeless clients rely on as they get back on their feet.

In 2016, we announced we would rationalize payment rates for shelter providers, through a model budget exercise to reform the rates providers had been paid for years. Through this process we are addressing the need for contracted shelter programs to be funded to provide consistent and high quality services and maintain their facilities in accordance with City and State standards for operations.

DHS is making a \$236 million dollar investment in our not-for-profit sector which will result in better facilities and services for our clients. This investment is in addition to the \$163 million we spend annually for health and mental health services. We spent this year working with providers in focus groups to develop the model budgets, which we are now in the process of implementing and which will result in less variability across providers. This investment included rationalizing caseload ratios, resources for specialized services and the facilitation of housing placement, real-time maintenance and repairs, security and funding for health and safety standards, and support staff. Overall, one-third of DHS's increased shelter budget is largely attributable to the social services, maintenance, and security enhancements that we have put in place to address years of underinvestment.

The last few slides in our power point present a number of additional reforms we implemented over the last year, some of which we have already discussed at prior hearings. We have accomplished a great deal over the past year, and we will continue with our reform initiatives during the coming year because we know that much more needs to be done.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify and I welcome your questions.

Department of Social Services Preliminary Budget Testimony

Steven Banks, Commissioner

March 27, 2018



Human Resources
Administration
Department of
Homeless Services

REFORMS

ADDRESS
POVERTY

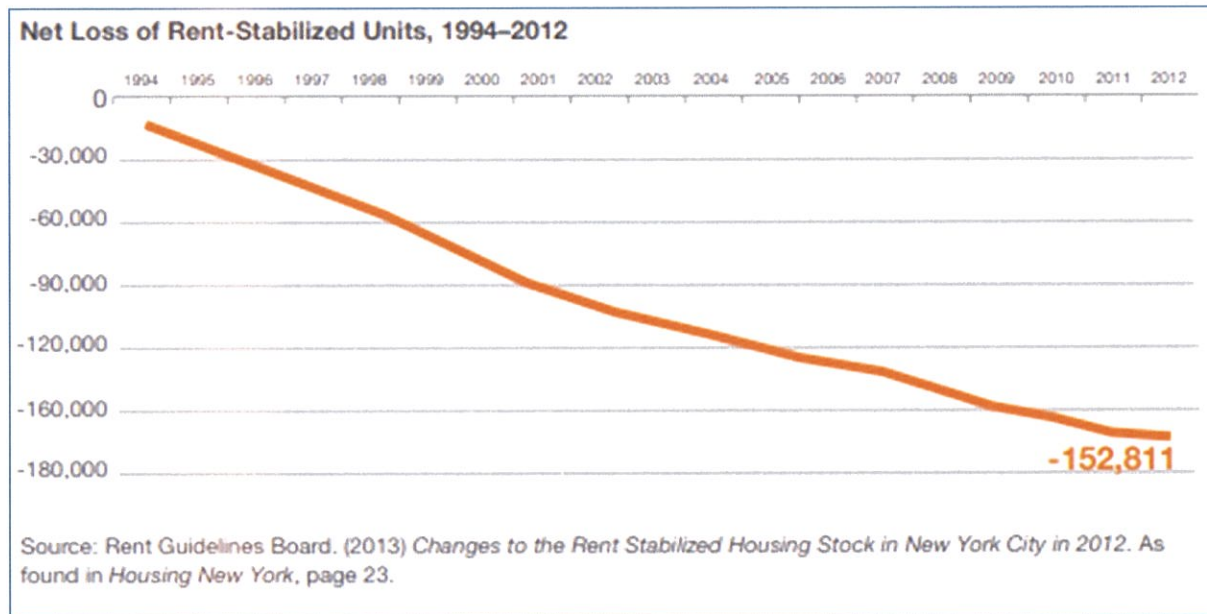
REDUCE
INCOME
INEQUALITY

PREVENTION
FIRST
FOCUS

TRANSFORM
THE APPROACH
TO SHELTER

The Rise of Homelessness

- Between 2000 and 2014, the median New York City rent increased by 18.4 percent in real dollars and household income increased by 4.8 percent in real dollars.
- Between 1994 and 2012, the city suffered a net loss of about 16 percent of the total rent-regulated housing stock, some 150,000 units.



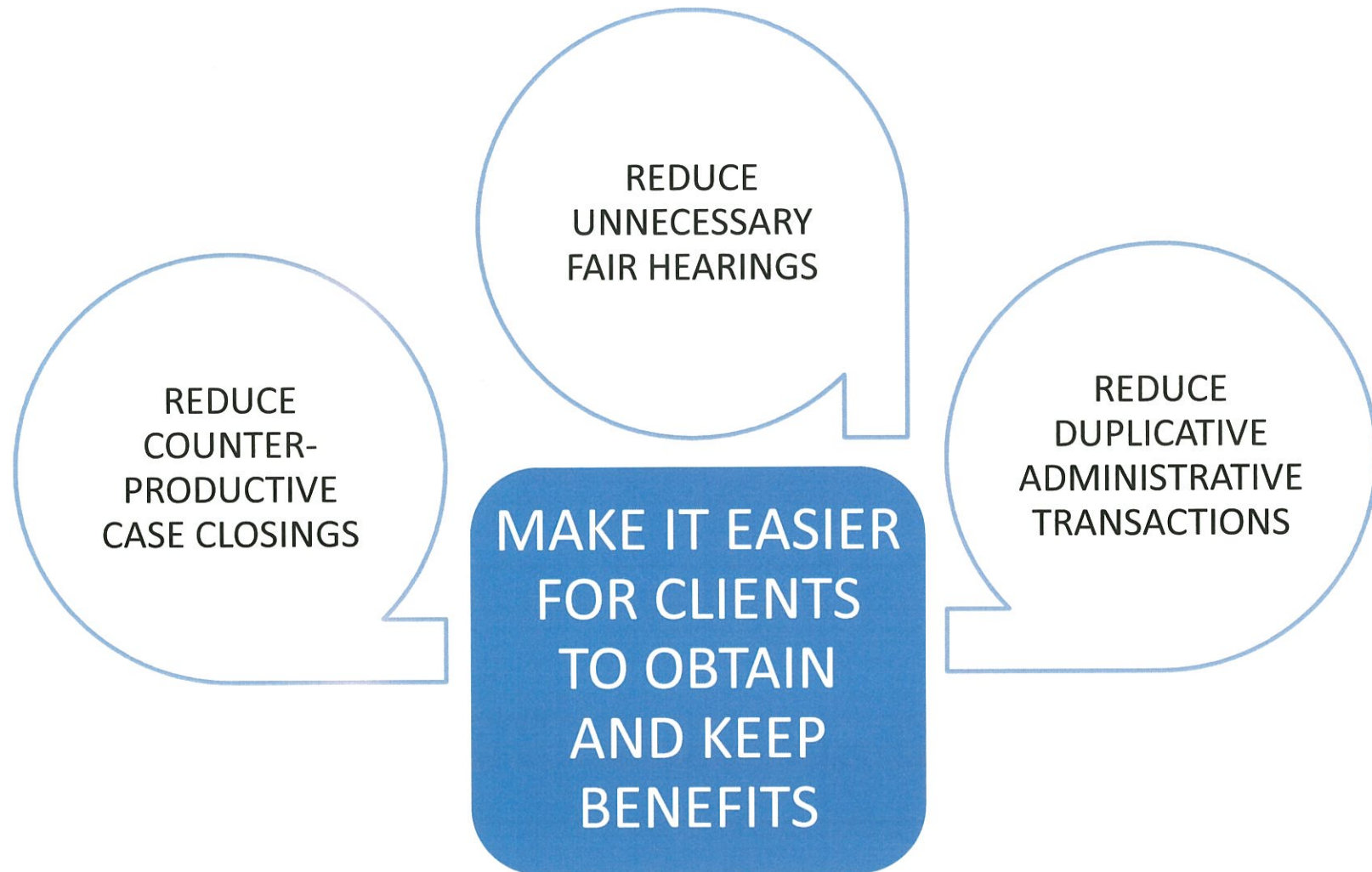
The Rise of Homelessness

- Combined, these and other trends mean that by 2015 the city had only half the housing it needs for about three million low-income New Yorkers.
- Renters who are only able to afford an apartment costing \$800 or less must search in a market with a vacancy rate of a mere 1.15 percent.

Drivers of Homelessness



MAKING HRA BENEFITS MORE ACCESSIBLE



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- We are seeing promising results:
 - Clients have enrolled into Alternative Engagement, which are opportunities for clients to access education and training programs external to HRA.
 - To date, 1,232 YouthPathways participants have engaged in financial counseling services, and 519 outcomes have been achieved relating to opening safe bank accounts, increasing credit scores, reducing debt, increasing savings, and taking financial steps toward enrollment in a training/education program.
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- Two primary goals for our continued modernization efforts – improve the client experience and optimize operational efficiency.
- We now permit applicants and clients to conduct a broad range of transactions with the Agency without the burden of having to physically come to an HRA location.
- These investments are helping to reduce our physical footprint and save on expensive lease costs while making it easier for clients to apply for and maintain their benefits. Our investment in benefits reengineering through FY17 was \$159.2 million.

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- The percent of SNAP applications submitted online increased from 23 percent in 2013 to 78 percent in 2018.
- The percent of SNAP application interviews conducted by phone increased from 29 percent in 2013 to 83 percent in 2018.
- In December 2017, the citywide average wait time was 53 minutes for Job Centers and 32 minutes for SNAP Centers.

ACCESS HRA

- As of February 2018 there were more than 1 million ACCESS HRA online accounts for SNAP/food stamps households.
- We receive over 24,000 online SNAP applications each month.

English

Español


العربية


中文

Kreyòl Ayisyen


한국어

русский

**Apply Now**
Start New Application / Recertification

**Log In**

Create Account

**ACCESS HRA**
YOUR WAY

Welcome to HRA's new online portal. Just one of the ways HRA is changing for you!

Apply online for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Cash Assistance, Medicaid renewal.

[No Title] Manage your benefits online. Read agency notices.

ACCESS HRA- Home Screen

“My Cases”

provides the client with case details alleviating the need for a center visit or phone call.

“My Documents”

allows the user to view documents the agency has received and electronically filed to their case.

Draft Applications

AHRA will display any recent draft applications not yet submitted.

The due date provided alerts the user to submit prior to expiration of the application draft.

Submitted Applications

To prevent duplicate application submissions AHRA displays any applications submitted by that user to date.

NYC

Welcome, Bianca36

English Español العربية 中文 Kreyòl Ayisyen 한국어 русский

Log Out

ACCESS HRA - My Home

Apply Now
Start New Application / Recertification

View My Cases
Track Benefits

My Documents
Track Documents and Notices

My Activity

Draft Applications 0
You have no in-progress applications.

Submitted Applications 1

✓ SUBMITTED
SNAP (Food Stamps): You submitted a SNAP application on 3/27/20

View Applications

What's New

IDNYC is the new, free identification card for all New York City residents, which will give all of us the opportunity to show who we are—New Yorkers. To learn apply go here

Benefits Reengineering: On Demand

- SNAP recertification eligibility interviews can be conducted at a client's convenience by phone.
- In October 2015, before the implementation of the on-demand call center, only 52 percent of the completed SNAP recertification interviews were conducted via telephone. We now have 76 percent of the interviews held by phone – a 46 percent increase.
- Following our implementation of this service for Brooklyn clients last year, we have just announced an expansion that enables new Manhattan and Staten Island SNAP applicants to complete their eligibility interview using on- demand. The Bronx and Queens will be next.

Benefits Reengineering: HRA Mobile App

- A self-service mobile app to give clients the ability to use their mobile device to better manage their cases by having immediate access to case details and the ability to submit required documents from their smartphones.
- Since March 2017 clients have uploaded over two million images.
- We now have a suite of self-service tools, which include self-service check-in kiosks and PC Banks to utilize ACCESS HRA and self-service scanning of documents.

HASA for All

- In the State's Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget, we successfully advocated for reinstatement of the a 30 percent rent cap to be applied for HASA clients.
- On August 29, 2016, medical eligibility for the HASA program expanded so as to permit all financially-eligible New York City residents with HIV to voluntarily seek and obtain HASA services.
- The financial requirements remain unchanged, an applicant need no longer have AIDS or be "symptomatic" in order to be eligible for HASA services.
- As of January 2018, HASA provides services for 33,772 cases, which include 34,354 clients and 10,289 associated case members, 3,822 of which were newly eligible pursuant to our HASA for All expansion.
- The FY19 Jan Plan allocates \$185 million (\$90 million tax levy) for HIV/AIDS housing and support services this year.

16

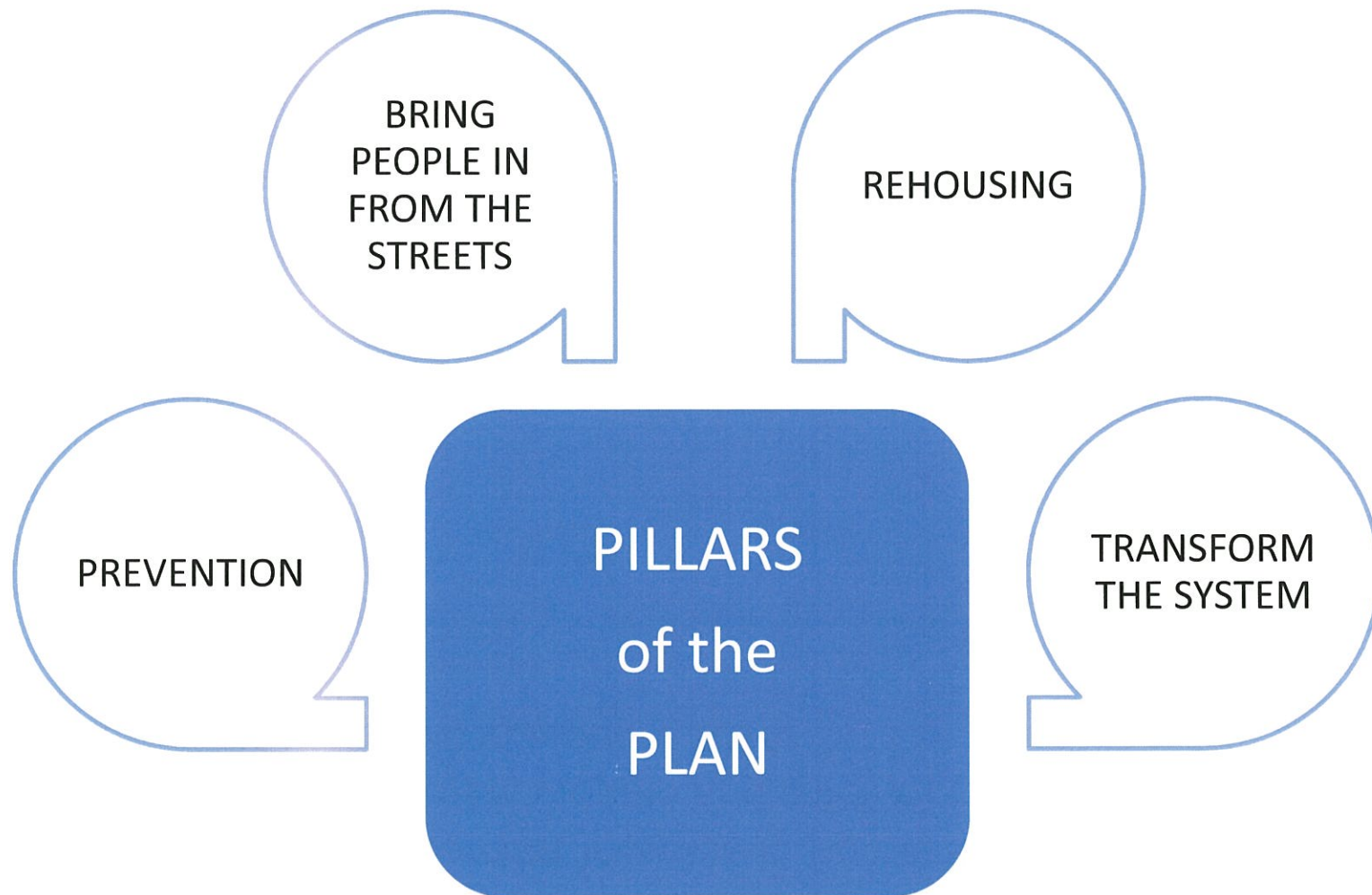
Additional Key Reforms

- Adding 239 emergency beds and 54 transitional units to our domestic violence shelter system – part of increasing our capacity to help 13,300 children and adults a year, an approximately 50 percent increase over the prior level served annually – the first increase since 2010.
- Participating as a member of the Food Collaborative in the first evaluations of food distribution, capacity, and food equity to identify gaps and address ongoing EFAP needs.
- Increasing baseline funding for legal assistance for immigrants from \$7 million in FY13 to \$29.7 million in FY18, which enabled immigrant New Yorkers to receive legal aid in approximately 15,000 cases in FY17, as a result of the fourfold increase in the City's overall commitment to immigration legal assistance programs since FY13.
- Operating the IDNYC program, which last year issued its one millionth card, and as of the end of 2017 had issued over 1.2 million cards.

Addressing Homelessness

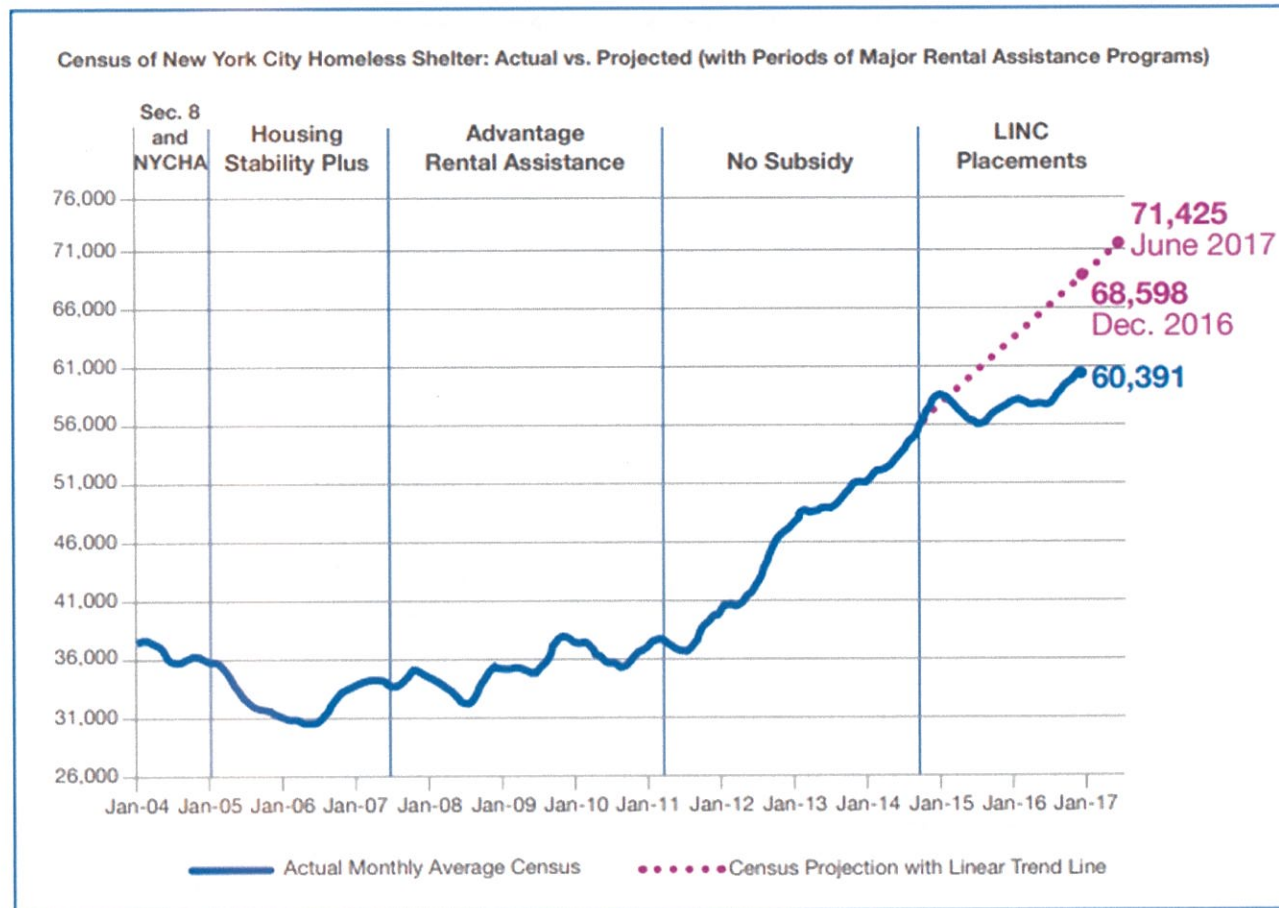
- *Turning the Tide* puts people and communities first.
- Commitment to ending the use of decades-old stop-gap measures, like cluster shelter sites and commercial hotel rooms.
- Help families and individuals stay connected to the anchors of life—like schools, jobs, health care, families, and houses of worship—as they get back on their feet.

Addressing Homelessness



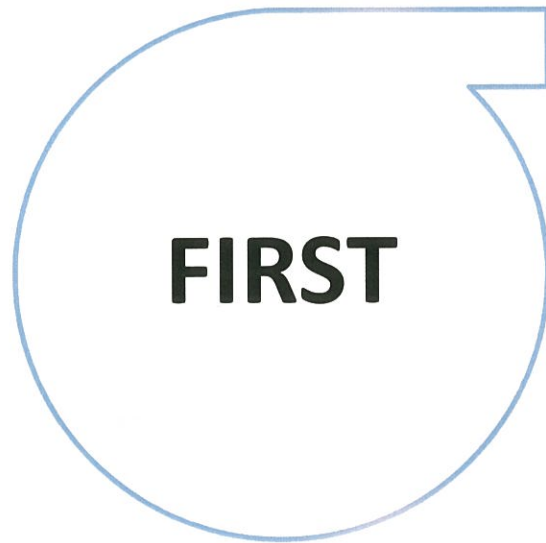
The Rise of Homelessness

- There has been a 115 percent increase in homelessness over the past two decades – from 23,868 men, women and children in January 1994 to 31,009 in January 2002 to 51,470 in January 2014.



Addressing Homelessness

- Without the initiatives that we have been implementing, the current DHS census would be in excess of 71,000.
- A recent Furman Center study found that the year-over-year shelter census growth from calendar year 2015 to calendar year 2016 was the lowest increase since 2011, the year the Advantage rental assistance program ended, leading to a 38-percent increase in homelessness.
- **The shelter census for 2017 remained roughly flat year over year for the first time in more than a decade.**



PREVENTION

Doing more to keep people in their homes by stopping evictions, helping families and individuals remain with family members in the community, and making housing more affordable.

Homebase

- Homebase's community-based prevention has expanded to ensure that Homebase is the first point of entry for those at risk of homelessness and that people can be served in their home borough.
- We expanded Homebase from 11 providers across the City to 16 providers operating at 23 locations and expanding to 25 locations by the end of FY18, more than doubling the program's funding.
- In FY18 we increased funding to include community-based Aftercare and other services, for a total budget of \$59 million, compared to \$39 million at the adoption of the FY16 budget.
- Assessments to determine what prevention and diversion tools clients are eligible for, which include: onsite processing and triage for public assistance and rental assistance, landlord and family mediation, educational advancement, employment, and financial literacy services.

23

Homebase/Rent Arrears

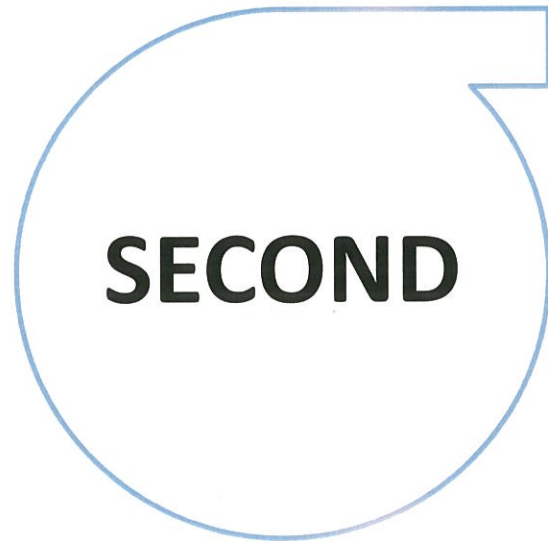
- Through January FY18, the Homebase program enrolled 12,865 Families with Children, 621 Adult Families, and 3,296 Single Adults.
- Since 2014, we have provided an increased level of emergency rent arrears assistance, both to cover the increasing costs of rent as well as serving more people so that more New Yorkers are able to stay in their homes.
- To date, this Administration has provided emergency one-time rent arrears assistance to 217,000 households from FY14 through FY17.
- The FY17 expenditures for this assistance program were \$210 million. We also made the payment process more efficient and quicker by replacing the old system of generating checks in each individual HRA Job Center with a centralized rent arrears processing unit.

24

Legal Services

- Implementing the universal access to counsel local law passed by Council and signed by the Mayor.
- We increased funding for legal assistance for tenants facing eviction and harassment from \$6 million in Fiscal Year 2013 to over \$77 million in Fiscal Year 2018 – a more than twelve-fold increase – and \$93 million has been allocated for FY19.
- When the universal access to counsel law is implemented fully in five years, the annual funding will be \$155 million to handle a projected 125,000 cases that will benefit 400,000 New Yorkers each year.
- Residential evictions by marshals declined 27 percent since 2013, when there were nearly 29,000 evictions annually.
- Over the last four years, an estimated 70,000 people have remained in their homes as a result of decreased evictions.
- HRA's tenant legal services programs have provided more than 180,000 New Yorkers with legal services since 2014.

25



Bringing People Inside

Continuing to enhance our HOME-STAT program to bring people in from the streets.

26

HOME-STAT

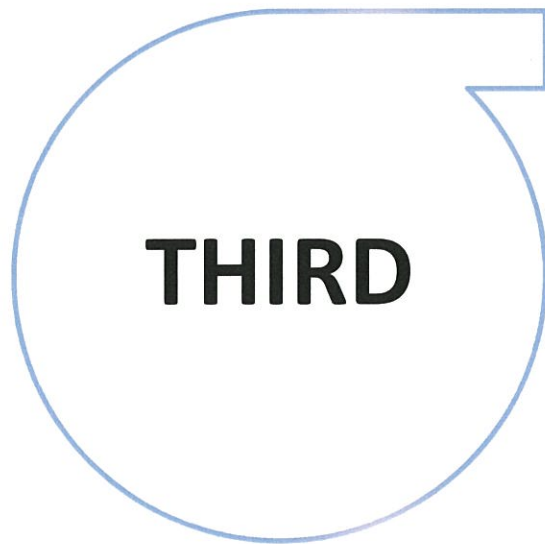
- Since the launch of HOME-STAT in the Spring of 2016, the City has helped 1,480 people come in from the streets into transitional programs or permanent housing and provided assistance so that they have remained off the streets.
- The nation's most comprehensive outreach program which includes 24/7/365 citywide outreach efforts, through which hundreds of highly-trained not-for-profit outreach staff, including licensed social workers, proactively canvass the streets to engage homeless New Yorkers.
- We will have over 1,700 low-threshold beds to better serve our street homeless population, up from the roughly 600 beds that existed at the beginning of this Administration.
- We more than doubled the number of outreach staff canvassing the streets working to engage New Yorkers who are experiencing street homelessness from 191 in 2014 to nearly 400 outreach staff today.

27

HOME-STAT

- We've more than doubled the City's investment in street homeless programs, increasing by more than \$53 million (119 percent) from \$44.6 million in FY14 to \$97.6 million in FY18.
- We built the City's first-ever by-name list of individuals known to be homeless and residing on the streets to improve delivery of services.
- Outreach teams now know more than 2,000 individuals by name who are confirmed to be homeless and living on the streets.
- Outreach teams are actively engaging more than 1,500 other individuals encountered on the streets to evaluate their living situations and determine whether they are homeless as well as what specific supports they may need.

28



Rehousing

We created and implemented a variety of rental assistance programs and restored Section 8 and New York City Housing Authority priorities.

29

Rehousing

- We created and implemented a variety of rental assistance programs and developed associated incentives in order to address the fears of landlords who were concerned that the new rental assistance programs could be eliminated in the future like Advantage was.
- We formed a Source of Income Discrimination (SOI) unit at HRA to address the problem of individuals and families being discriminated against because of the source of their rental income.
- We restored Section 8 and New York City Housing Authority priorities that had been eliminated prior to 2014.
- As a result of our restoration of rental assistance and rehousing programs, over 81,124 children and adults have moved out of, or averted entry into, shelter through December 2017. In FY18, the budget for rental assistance is \$165 million.

30

Rehousing: Move-Outs

FY15, FY16, FY17 & FY18 (thr. December)		
	Total Households	Total Individuals
DHS LINC 1	1,806	6,193
DHS LINC 2	772	2,663
DHS LINC 3	628	2,181
DHS LINC 4	3,045	3,424
DHS LINC 5	1,604	1,767
DHS LINC 6	107	342
HRA LINC 3	590	2,039
CFEPS	6,435	21,741
NYCHA	6,749	22,906
SECTION 8	2,174	7,017
SEPS	3,730	4,210
HOME TBRA	447	1,397
421a	291	749
TOTAL	29,768	81,124

Supportive Housing

- We made the single largest municipal commitment to Supportive Housing by announcing the creation of 15,000 units over 15 years in NYC 15/15.
- This cost-effective approach to deliver stable and permanent housing to New Yorkers struggling with mental illness, homelessness, and substance use is worth the investment.
- Since the beginning of this Administration, HPD's Housing NY Plan has funded 3,017 supportive units by leveraging a variety of City, State and Federal funding sources including NYC 15/15.
- In less than two years, since the release of the first NYC 15/15 supportive housing RFP in August 2016, HRA, using NYC 15/15 resources, has made 1,426 awards to providers, 406 of which are congregate units that have closed on financing and are included in the 3,017 units in the HPD production pipeline.
- To date, NYC has moved or is in the process of moving 488 clients into supportive housing funded by the Mayor's NYC 15/15 plan.

32



FOURTH

Transforming the Approach to Providing Shelter and Services

Our new approach will allow us to maintain a vacancy rate to ensure the flexibility necessary to give homeless New Yorkers, who come from every community across the five boroughs, the opportunity to be sheltered in their home boroughs, as close as possible to their support networks and anchors of life, including schools, jobs, health care, families, houses of worship, and the communities they called home, in order to stabilize their lives and return to living in the community as quickly as possible.

33

Transforming the Approach to Providing Shelter and Services

- We have committed to getting out of 360 cluster shelter and commercial hotel sites in order to reduce our overall DHS shelter system footprint by 45 percent across the city, and open 90 new borough-based shelters across all five boroughs.
- To date, we've already gotten out of 100 locations bringing our shelter footprint from the 647 buildings we reported in the *Turning the Tide* plan a year ago to our current use of 547 buildings – a 16 percent reduction in one year.
- We've committed to a notification process that provides a minimum of 30-days' notice to elected officials and community leaders before opening a new permanent shelter.
- To date, with the 17 shelters we've notified on since the announcement of our plan just over a year ago, we've averaged 65 days' notice to communities.
- We have already opened 11 of those 17 sites so far and they include a site for women with special needs, the City's first dedicated site for homeless seniors, and DHS's first dedicated site for LGBTQ young people—all thanks to New Yorkers' fundamental compassion and understanding.

Getting Out of Clusters

- Since January 2016, when we were using a high point of 3,600 cluster units citywide, we have closed more than 1,500 cluster units, including transitioning over 300 cluster units to state-certified shelters, representing a more-than 42 percent reduction citywide in this 18-year old cluster shelter program.
- We recently announced our plans to transition another 800 cluster units into permanent affordable housing using eminent domain if necessary, which covers more than a third of the remaining cluster units. As we announced when we released the plan last year, we have prioritized ending the 18-year cluster program, and we are on pace to end the use of cluster units as shelter by our 2021 deadline.

Getting Out of Commercial Hotels

- The average monthly spending is \$32 million for commercial hotels, \$2 million for the remaining clusters, and \$96 million for actual shelters.
- To control costs more effectively and improve client services, the City entered into \$364 million in annual contracts to shelter homeless New Yorkers in hotels on an emergency basis over the next three years.
- The average nightly rate for a hotel room has been \$174, and no room costs more than \$250 on any given night.
- The quality of client services at these sites has been enhanced, and we will be able to hold service providers accountable for delivering the same social services found at contracted shelter sites, including case management, assistance with public benefits, help finding permanent housing, and job training and counseling.

Getting Out of Commercial Hotels

- We require accommodations for caseworkers, microwaves, refrigerators, bedding, and 24/7 security to ensure we are giving New Yorkers experiencing homelessness a safe, secure and supportive environment.
- We require that our providers have onsite social services so that clients can receive individualized assessments and referrals to meet their needs through their Independent Living Plans.
- As we work to phase out the use of cluster apartments first, followed by commercial hotels, and revamp the shelter system with our new borough-based approach, we are asking communities to come forward and help us identify sites for new shelters. It's better for our homeless neighbors and it's better for taxpayers, and could save the City a total of \$100 million per year if we utilize only shelters and end the practice of using hotels.

37

Invest in Maintenance, Security, and Services

- At the beginning of the 90-day review in 2016, there were three urgent problems that we needed to address:
 - the cumulative impact of years of underinvestment in shelter maintenance,
 - security, and
 - client services.
- Significant progress has been made to raise the bar for clients in each of these areas.

Invest in Maintenance: Shelter Repair Squad

- Launched the Shelter Repair Squad, an aggressive multi-agency task force in December 2015 to systematically identify and address shelter conditions that had previously been left unaddressed for decades.
- We conducted more than 34,000 shelter inspections in 2016 and 2017.
- The number of outstanding violations within traditional shelters has dropped 84 percent since January 2016, with many of the remaining repairs involving capital projects.

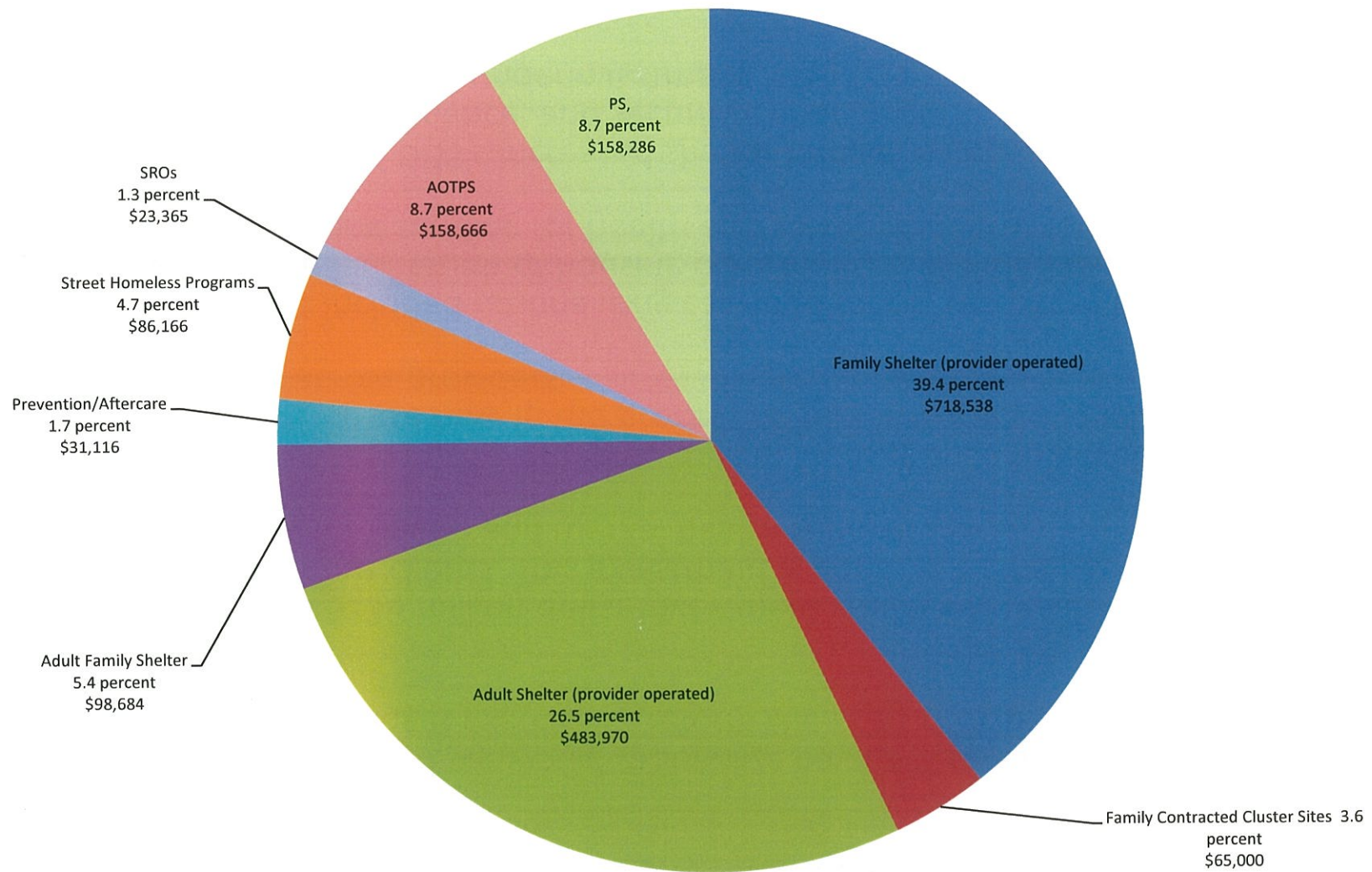
Invest in Security: NYPD and DHS

- The NYPD now oversees and manages shelter security. We have partnered with the NYPD to implement an NYPD Management Team at DHS overseeing shelter security citywide.
- This includes providing 200 hours of enhanced training developed by the NYPD to all new and in-service DHS Peace Officers, and implementing a new DHS Peace Officers tactical training facility at the Bedford Atlantic Men's Assessment Shelter.
- We doubled previous investments in DHS shelter security, with a total annual security budget of \$240 million for fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

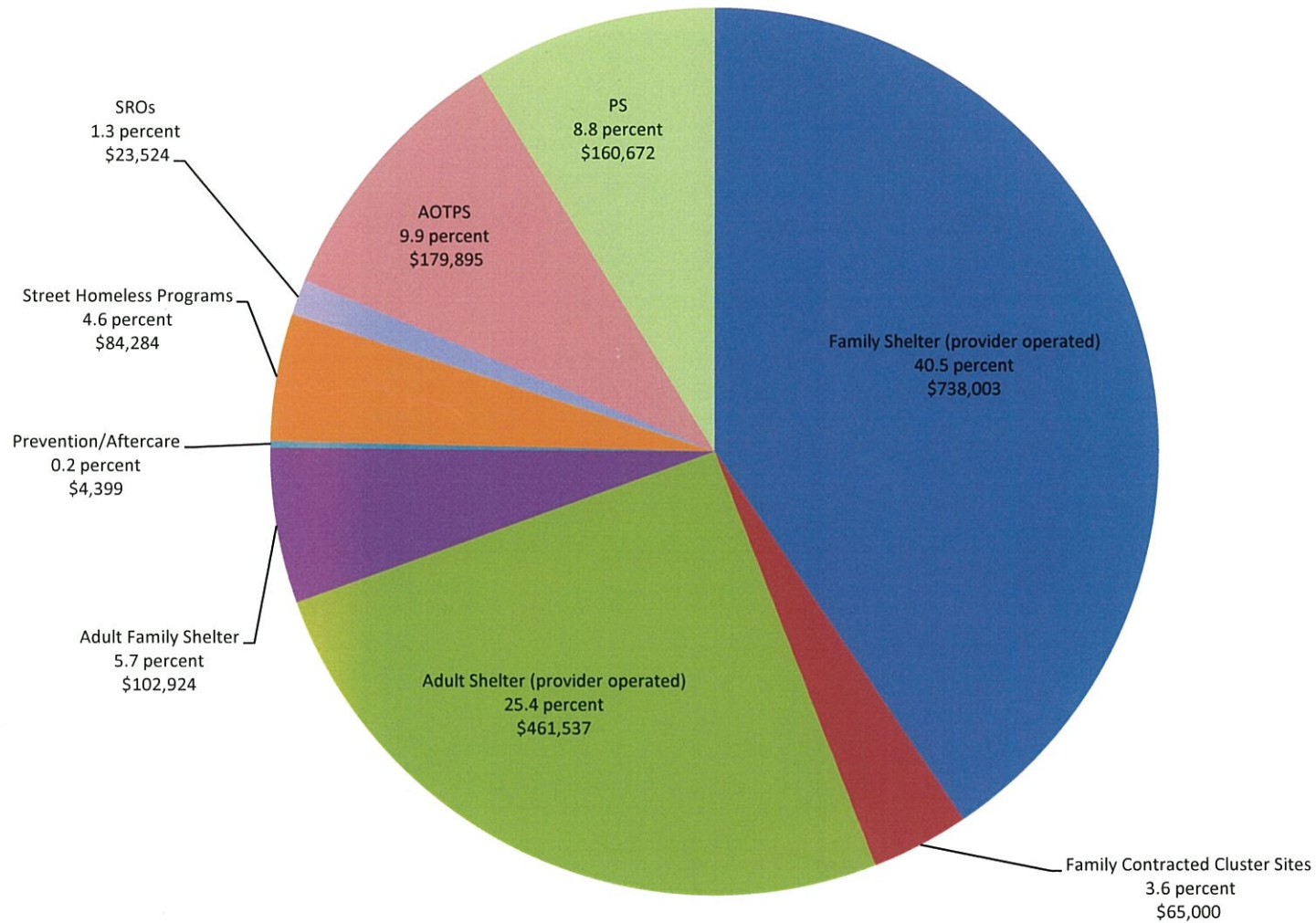
Invest in Services

- We dedicated unprecedented dollars to reform the rates not-for-profit social service providers' receive.
- In 2016, we announced we would rationalize payment rates for shelter providers, through a model budget exercise to reform the rates providers had been paid for years.
- DHS is making a \$236 million dollar investment which will result in better facilities and services for our clients. This investment is additive to the \$163 million we spend annually for health and mental health services.
- We spent this year working with providers in focus groups to develop the model budgets, which we are now in the process of implementing and which will result in less variability across providers.
- This investment included rationalizing caseload ratios, resources for specialized services and the facilitation of housing placement, real-time maintenance and repairs, security and funding for health and safety standards, and support staff.
- Overall, one-third of DHS's increased shelter budget is largely attributable to the social services, maintenance, and security enhancements that we have put in place to address years of underinvestment.

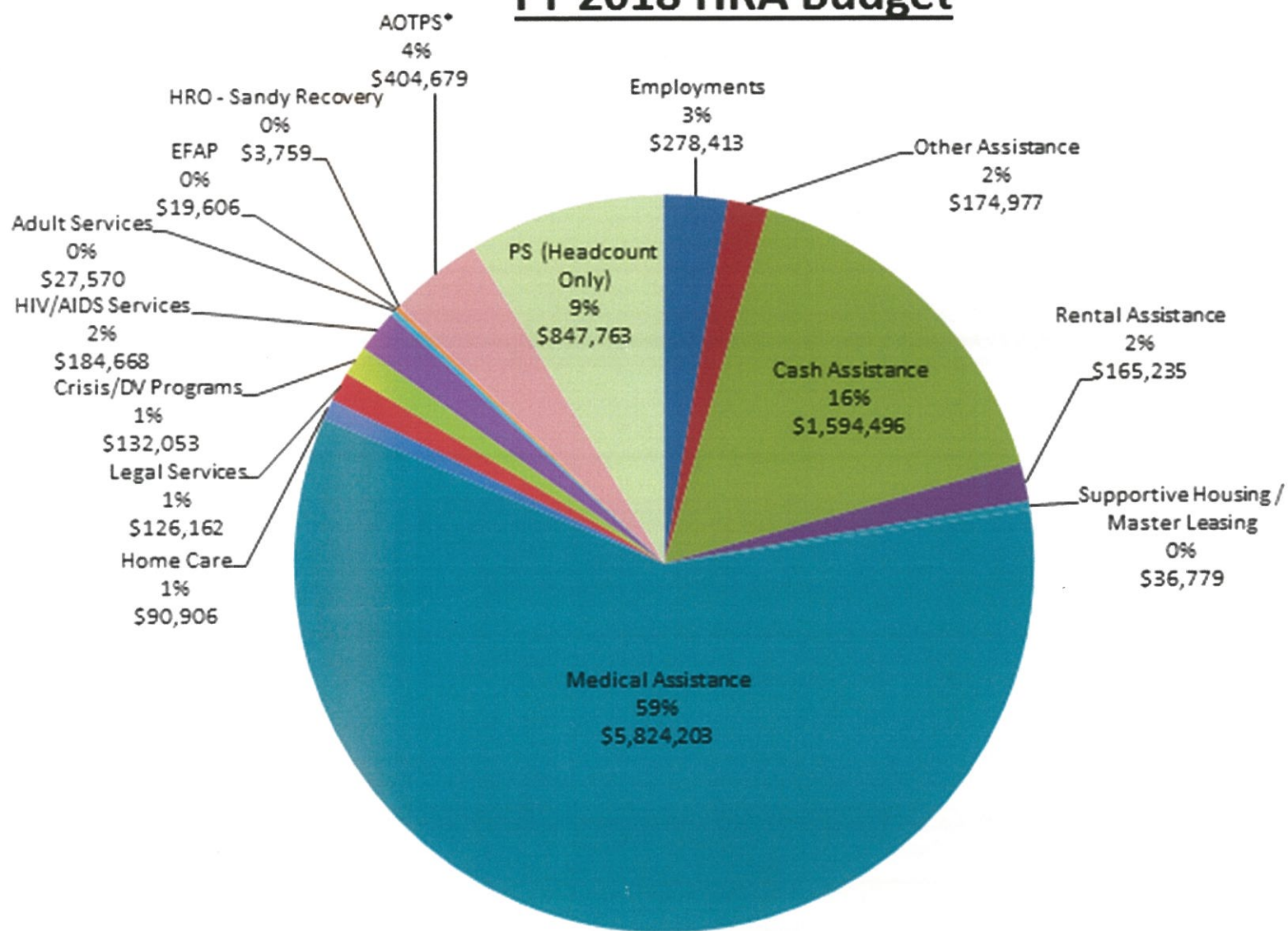
FY 2018 DHS Budget



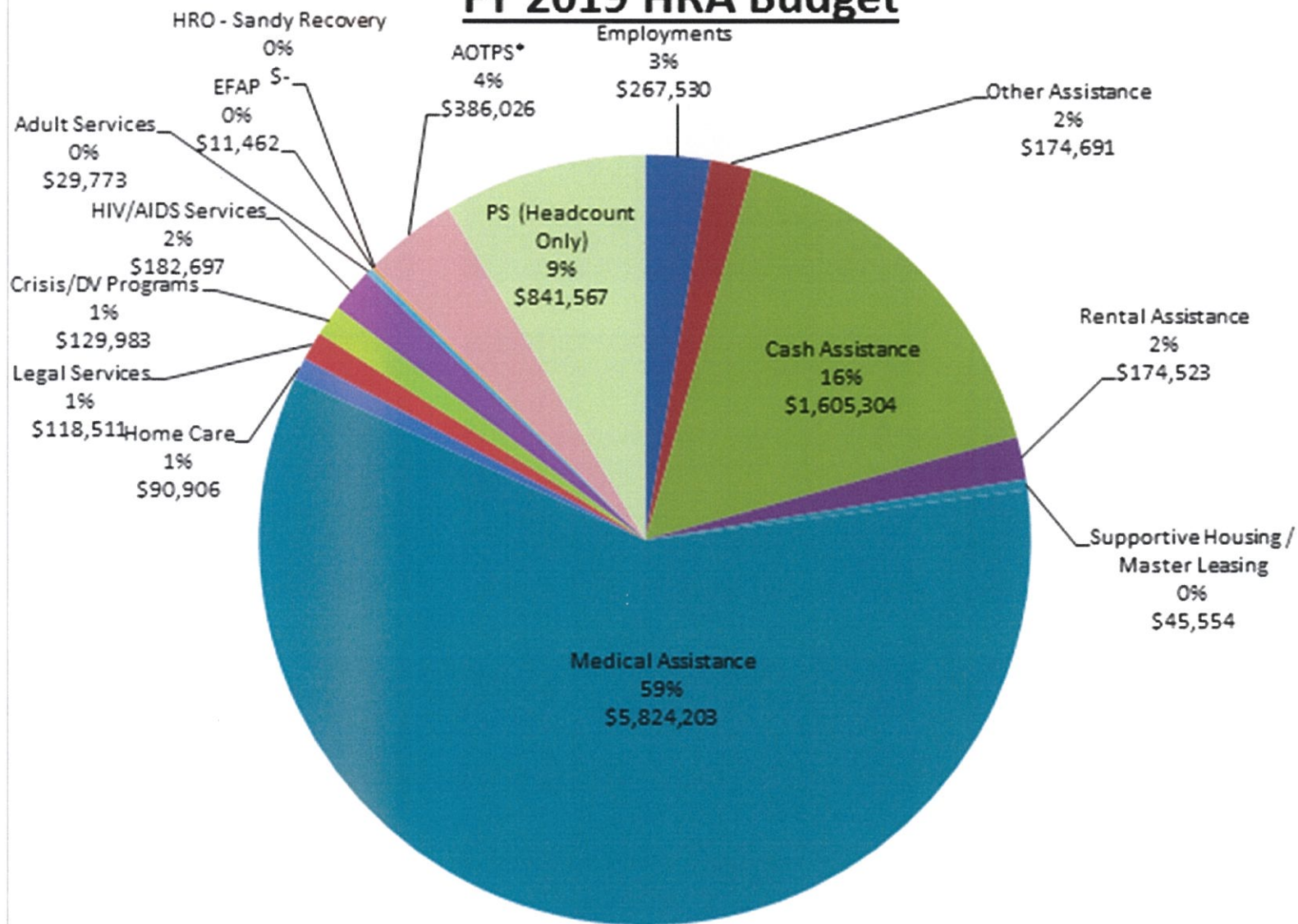
FY 2019 DHS Budget



FY 2018 HRA Budget



FY 2019 HRA Budget



Recent HRA Reforms

Implemented HRA's Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (OOPP) to prevent overdose deaths of HRA clients

Implemented the Pay It Off Program during the month of August 2017, which provided a match to noncustodial parents (NCP) who paid a minimum amount toward debt owed to HRA. NCPs also received an additional reduction in debt owed to HRA if they enrolled in the Arrears Credit Program

Partnered with CUNY Hunter College's Silberman School of Social Work to develop and implement a curriculum emphasizing the important role that fathers play in a child's life and the value of the child support program in reducing child poverty

On Demand application rollout in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Staten Island which allows SNAP clients to submit their applications online and then call an "On Demand" service agent for an interview

Launched HRA Express Demonstration Site - which allows for better client experiences and will assist clients receive and keep their benefits

Released the second annual OCJ report including a five year plan which outlines the next five years of legal services in the city

Created a newly developed centralized unit to receive applications, review cases, and make eligibility determination for all FHEPS applications

Developed and launched the first unified city-sponsored supportive housing website

Replaced VendorStat with CareerStat to focus more on program performance and service delivery

Recent HRA Reforms

Enhancements to ACCESS HRA functionality including: SNAP Periodic Report in ACCESS HRA, eNotices, My Cases, and My Documents (added to ACCESS HRA assists SNAP clients in accessing HRA services through a mobile application)

Increased DV residential service system size

Trained and initiated the use of the Interview for Abilities (IDA) by APS social workers and nurses

Developed new training curriculums for APS vendors and community Guardian vendors

Successfully decentralized Shelter and Senior cases – clients transferred to centers in the communities where they reside

Trained all HASA eligibility staff to review non-citizen applications for public benefits

Expanded existing employment and educational opportunities for HASA clients by implementing a contract to assist in obtaining employment

Expanded the Problem Solving Court Model to the Bronx

Launched a homelessness prevention initiative with the Administration for Children's Services

Recent DHS Reforms

Targeted outreach to doubled-up families with school-aged children

Fully launched HOME-STAT to address street homelessness, helping nearly 1,500 homeless New Yorkers off the streets who've remained off the streets and subways since its launch, while moving to triple the number of beds dedicated to supporting these individuals

In 2017 alone, the City opened and added 315 beds across 8 locations dedicated to supporting New Yorkers experiencing street homelessness comprised of 265 beds across 5 Safe Haven sites as well as 3 stabilization locations, bringing our current operating total to 1283, more than double what we had at the start of the Administration

Implemented a more extensive reporting system for critical incidents that occur in shelters

Expanded Shelter Repair Squad 2.0 Operations

Increased coordination among shelter inspectors

Implementing a DHS capital repair program

Eliminated the requirement for school-age children to be present at PATH for multiple appointments

Aligned access procedures for adult families with procedures for families with children

Recent DHS Reforms

Streamlined access to DYCD shelter for homeless youth through the deployment of youth liaisons at DHS entry points

Deployed social workers to assist families found ineligible who are returning to a community resource to provide on-the-spot assistance

In 2017, 2,323 DHS staff and clients were trained and 2,861 naloxone kits were dispensed by DHS. A total of 777 clients were trained by DHS, DOHMH and NYU.

Communicated more information to clients through flyers, posters and other media to provide information about available assistance and programs

Developed and implemented a procedure to bypass intake for Youth aging out from DYCD and coming to DHS shelter

Added ThriveNYC in Adult Mental Health Shelters

Increased safety in shelters through an NYPD management review and retraining program

Ended the use of more than 1,500 cluster units as shelter, reducing citywide cluster use by 42 percent and counting

Announced 17 high-quality borough-based shelters, 11 of which have already opened their doors, offering New Yorkers in need the opportunity to get back on their feet nearer to the anchors of their lives

Thank you!



THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

59 East 4th Street - New York, NY 10003

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Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

March 27, 2018

City Council Hearing on General Welfare

CB 3 is home to over 15 shelters and many supportive housing sites. They are all part of our community, and we have supported all that have come before the Board. However, we believe that the best security should go hand-in-hand with the shelters. For the past several years CB 3 has had as # 2 Expense Budget Priority to "increase DHS funding for DHS Peace Officers and include Third St Men's Shelter as a designated shelter requiring peace officers (see attached). But we are told that this shelter is "not one of the worst" and therefore there is not enough funding. Only shelters managed directly by DHS or MICA shelters have DHS Peace Officers as well as a few others in response to political pressure.

We should not have to host "one of the worst" in the City to have proper security for the community and for the men in the shelter. I have seen a man OD from K 2 in front of the shelter—it was very frightening. We had two 3rd Street shelter residents testify at a CB meeting about the horror of drugs in the shelter. Three years ago a resident died after an altercation between two residents. There is open drug dealing on the block victimizing the shelter residents and there are quality of life problems reported by businesses and neighborhood residents. We have had police and outreach workers report that street homeless men refuse services at a regular shelter and stay on the street until they can get a bed in a safe haven for safety reasons. We do not blame the shelter for this—it is run by very dedicated and caring people. It is the nature of a large facility (with its neighbor Kenton Hall, the population can reach 340 adult males) such as this and deserves the best protection.

We are thankful that the current administration has greatly increased services to the homeless. Many of our previous budget priorities such as case management for all street homeless have been implemented. However, we need more transparency and input into how money is being used. Not all programs are effective. Pinching pennies in the wrong way has not proven effective in resolving the street homeless problem, which increased 40 % in the last published Hope Count. Many communities are NIMBY about hosting shelters. Not providing the best security will not reassure them. Many street homeless don't feel safe in shelters and remain on the street for safety. Saving money by not providing the best security at men's shelters is not effective for the City in the long run. Community Board 3 has been advocating, and will continue to advocate, for DHS peace officers at the Third Street Men's Shelter which requires increased funding for DHS to implement this. DHS has increased funding for private security, but I have a list of 11 actions that can be performed by DHS police and not private security. Private security by law can only *observe, detect, and report*.

Below are 11 ways that DHS officers can provide safety by actions not allowed for private security.

1. DHS officers are managed by the NYPD and all instruction for training is certified by the NYPD. Private security does not have the same level of training.
2. The DHS officers are deemed New York State Peace Officers and therefore have the ability to effect arrests. Private security does not.
3. As peace officers, the DHS officers are equipped with non-lethal weapons. DHS officers ALL are trained, possess and are proficient in the use of pepper (OC) spray, asp and conductive energy devices (CED). Private security is not.
4. DHS officers are trained in verbal de-escalation ("verbal judo"). Private security is not provided with this type of training.

5. As peace officers, DHS officers carry and are proficient in the use of handcuffs, giving them the ability to immediately neutralize a client who has become violent or is a threat to themselves/others. Private security does not.
6. DHS officers have the ability to arrest and then transport a client from the shelter to the nearest precinct for arrest processing. There is no need to call the NYPD. Private security does not.
7. DHS officers have the ability to detain and/or arrest a client who it has been determined is currently wanted by law enforcement authorities. Private security does not.
8. In an agreement with the NYPD, DHS officers not only have sole responsibility at the access area of the shelters in which they supervise, they also have the ability to patrol and make arrests on the ENTIRE block of the shelter they are employed at. From corner to corner, the DHS officers can approach and ask that clients refrain from congregating, issue summonses for clients that violate penal law, i.e., public urination, trespassing, disorderly conduct, etc. Private security does not.
9. DHS officers – with adequate probable cause – can stop and search clients (both inside and outside the shelter) who they believe are in possession of illegal contraband. Moreover, they can conduct a complete locker search of the entire shelter if it has been determined that a weapon(s) or large amounts of contraband have infiltrated the shelter facility. Private security does not.
10. DHS officers also carry and are proficient in the use of walkie-talkie radios that have direct communication with the NYPD and/or the EMS which significantly expedites notification in emergency situations. Private security does not.
11. As peace officers, DHS officers have the ability to compose NYPD police reports once a crime has been committed and can input that information electronically so that the client could be arrested once he/she reenters the facility. Private security does not.



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Jamie Rogers, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

FY '19 Expense Priorities

1. Baseline funding for city funded NORCS (DFTA)

Explanation: NORCs in CD 3, of which there are six, provide Supportive Services Programs to maximize and support the successful aging in place of older residents. Many of the City's NORCs can access health and social services in their own buildings, building complexes or locally within their neighborhoods. These programs are a model for bringing necessary care and support to seniors living in age-integrated buildings or neighborhoods.

2. Increase DHS funding for DHS Peace officers and include Third Street Men's Shelter as designated shelter requiring Peace Officers (DHS)

Explanation: CB 3 is home to over 15 shelters, among the highest in the City. Project Renewal Third Street Men's Shelter is a large shelter that needs more effective security for the safety of both shelter residents and neighbors. DHS peace officers are urgently needed for this facility. NYPD reported decrease in calls and incidents when a police car was assigned to this block, but lack of funding for overtime ended this program.

3. Increase DFTA funding for social services for senior affordable housing (DFTA)

Explanation: Approximately 8200 seniors (65+) in CB 3 live below the poverty line, which is approximately 33% of seniors in the District. Many of these seniors rely on affordable housing. An increase in DFTA funding would ensure a social worker at each facility along with other needed senior services.

4. NYCHA Staffing: Housing maintenance staff: ground and building maintenance and skilled trades (NYCHA)

Explanation: There is a serious backlog of repairs and maintenance. Building maintenance has dramatically deteriorated as repair wait-times have become intolerably long, well below NYCHA's service response goals

5. Fully fund senior centers – increase funding for over-utilized senior centers (DFTA)

Explanation: Many senior centers in CB 3 have experienced a recent increase in membership without an increase in funding. This is in addition to centers that have historically been over-utilized and under-funded. A large number of senior centers are currently funded by DFTA with each DFTA funded senior center being contracted for a specific number of meals and other services. However, the senior centers that do not receive enough funding go to the City Council. DFTA should fully fund all senior centers and more equitably allocate resources to meet service needs in over-utilized centers.

6. Increase funding for Runaway Homeless Youth (DYCD)

Explanation: Runaway and homeless youth need protection and help reuniting with their families whenever possible. According to Safe Horizon, there were over 1,600 homeless youth under 24 years old in NYC in 2016. Funding is needed for programs that provide services such as drop-in centers, crisis shelters, transitional independent living programs, and street outreach and referral services. Funding is also needed for specialized programming for runaway and homeless pregnant and parenting youth, as well as LGBTQ youth.

7. Increased HASA funding for supportive housing (HRA)

Explanation: In 2016, the HASA program was expanded. Now, all NYC residents with HIV or AIDS who meet financial need requirements are eligible. This eligibility expansion guarantees a rental subsidy to low-income people living with HIV regardless of if they are HIV+ or have an AIDS diagnosis. It has a significant impact on addressing the number of HIV+ people who are homeless.

8. Cornerstone Programs (DYCD)

Explanation: CB 3 currently has four Cornerstone Programs, which provide engaging, high-quality, year-round programs for adults and young people that enhance skills and promote social interaction, community engagement, and physical activity. CB 3 programs are run by Chinatown YMCA, Henry Street Settlement, University Settlement, and Grand Street Settlement.

9. Compass Programs (DYCD)

Explanation: CB 3 is home to more than 20,500 children under 18 years of age, many of whom need programs like the Comprehensive After School System of NYC (COMPASS), which is made up of over 800 programs serving K-12. Many programs in the Lower East Side have waitlists and there is a lack of funding particularly for neighborhood-based elementary as well as high school slots that need to be increased.

10. Increased funding for social workers in family shelters (DHS)

Explanation: There are 362 social workers in 72 families with children sites. CB 3 has social workers in only 2 facilities.

11. Increased funding for Chamber on the Go (SBS)

Explanation: SBS deploys specialists to small businesses. CB 3 would like this expanded to our district.

12. Park Maintenance Staff (DPR)

Explanation: Additional funds are needed to increase year-round workforce for parks maintenance so that there is less of a need to rely on temporary or seasonal staff.

13. Playground Associates (DPR)

Explanation: Playground Associates provide seasonal recreation activities for children.

14. Funding for in-house synthetic fields and purchase of materials and installation (DPR)

Explanation: In-house installation of synthetic turf will allow installation to be done much more quickly and less expensively. There are not adequate recreational fields in CB 3, creating need for installation of new fields.

2016 RADIUS INDEX

Incidents within 0 feet of searched-on address.
Event Date: between Jan 1, 2016 and Dec 31, 2016
For Street Number: 8 and Street Name: East 3 Street
Intersection Street: and Cross Street:

Arrest

28

Pct	Date	Time	Arrest Number	Full Name	Birth Date	NYSID	Location	Top Charge
009	1/5/2016	19:30 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	1/17/2016	14:58 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	GR LAR 4TH:PROPERTY FRM PERSON
009	1/22/2016	20:55 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	1/30/2016	16:34 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	2/6/2016	13:44 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	POSS/TRANS TOBACCO-TAX UNPAID
009	3/10/2016	23:10 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	MENACING-2ND:WEAPON
009	3/14/2016	00:59 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET FL 3	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	4/1/2016	14:58 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT-2: INJURE VIC 65 OR OLDER
009	4/2/2016	00:05 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	4/8/2016	16:28 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	4/18/2016	23:47 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIM CONTEMPT-1ST:PHY CONTACT
009	5/12/2016	16:45 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	5/15/2016	09:19 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	C/P MARIJUANA-STH:PUBLIC PLACE
009	6/21/2016	17:30 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	7/19/2016	22:51 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	8/5/2016	16:18 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	C/P MARIJUANA-STH:PUBLIC PLACE
009	8/9/2016	19:44 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	8/17/2016	17:52 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CPCS-3RD:NARC DRUG INT/SELL
009	8/19/2016	00:02 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSE PH INJ W/WEAP
009	10/14/2016	17:54 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	10/20/2016	16:08 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	POSS/TRANS TOBACCO-TAX UNPAID
009	10/24/2016	16:52 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	11/1/2016	20:01 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSE PH INJ W/WEAP
009	11/1/2016	20:01 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET 32	ASLT W/INT CAUSE PH INJ W/WEAP
009	11/16/2016	04:03 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	BAIL JUMPING-2ND DEGREE
009	12/1/2016	16:18 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CPCS-3RD:NARC DRUG INT/SELL
009	12/1/2016	16:18 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	12/1/2016	16:18 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG

Complaint

62

Index Crimes

Pct	Complaint Number	Date	Time	Location	Key Code Description
009		8/18/2016	23:36 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	FELONY ASSAULT
009		11/1/2016	18:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	FELONY ASSAULT
009		11/1/2016	18:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	FELONY ASSAULT

RADIUS INDEX

Incidents within 0 feet of searched-on address.
 Event Date between Jan 1, 2016 and Dec 31, 2016
 For Street Number: 8 and Street Name: East 3 Street
 Intersection Street: and Cross Street:

Other Complaints

Pct	Complaint Number	Date	Time	Location	Key Code Description
009		1/1/2016	22:45 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		1/2/2016	18:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		1/15/2016	05:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET 3026	PETIT LARCENY
009		1/17/2016	18:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		1/17/2016	08:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		1/23/2016	18:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		1/30/2016	18:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		8/13/2016	08:28 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		2/21/2016	08:20 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		3/10/2016	22:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		3/2/2016	22:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET 6FL	PETIT LARCENY
009		3/14/2016	08:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET FL 3	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		4/1/2016	18:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER
009		4/1/2016	22:36 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		4/7/2016	21:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		4/10/2016	08:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		4/18/2016	22:19 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	MISCELLANEOUS PENAL LAW
009		4/21/2016	22:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		4/24/2016	01:40 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		5/9/2016	18:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		5/13/2016	12:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		5/15/2016	08:18 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	DANGEROUS DRUGS
009		5/14/2016	15:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		5/15/2016	12:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF & RELATED OF
009		5/19/2016	16:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		5/29/2016	22:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		6/9/2016	12:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		6/22/2016	08:45 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		7/3/2016	08:01 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		7/19/2016	21:51 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		7/19/2016	22:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		7/22/2016	20:50 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		7/27/2016	08:50 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		7/27/2016	01:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		7/31/2016	18:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	DANGEROUS DRUGS
009		7/9/2016	08:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		7/30/2016	20:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		8/5/2016	18:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	DANGEROUS DRUGS
009		8/9/2016	18:20 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		8/9/2016	12:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY

RADIUS INDEX

Incidents within 0 feet of searched-on address.

Event Date between Jan 1, 2016 and Dec 31, 2016

For Street Number: 8 and Street Name: East 3 Street

Intersection Street: and Cross Street:

Pct	Complaint Number	Date	Time	Location	Key Code Description
009		8/14/2016	10:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		8/28/2016	5:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		8/28/2016	10:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		9/4/2016	2:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		9/9/2016	13:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		9/14/2016	6:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		9/19/2016	16:53 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET 6FLR	PETIT LARCENY
009		9/19/2016	11:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET SFLR	PETIT LARCENY
009		9/7/2016	19:59 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	MISCELLANEOUS PENAL LAW
009		10/20/2016	15:45 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	MISCELLANEOUS PENAL LAW
009		10/23/2016	13:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET 41	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		11/14/2016	16:40 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		11/16/2016	13:50 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	MISCELLANEOUS PENAL LAW
009		11/19/2016	16:50 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		11/19/2016	22:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		11/26/2016	15:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		12/11/2016	21:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		12/8/2016	16:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		12/20/2016	14:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES

C-Summons

Pct	Date	Time	C-Summons #	Full Name	Birth Date	Location	C-Summons Description
009	Jan 12, 2016	2:00:00 AM	851			8 EAST 3 STREET	URINATING IN PUBLIC
009	Jan 31, 2016	7:15:00 PM	739			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
009	Jan 31, 2016	7:15:00 PM	760			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
009	Jun 5, 2016	2:05:00 AM	953			8 EAST 3 STREET	URINATING IN PUBLIC
009	Jun 13, 2016	8:20:00 PM	576			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
009	Jun 20, 2016	8:50:00 AM	650			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
009	Aug 6, 2016	5:30:00 AM	108			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
009	Oct 21, 2016	9:41:00 AM	080			8 EAST 3 STREET	DISCON: OBSTRUCT: PEDESTRIAN
009	Nov 16, 2016	12:00:00 PM	533			8 EAST 3 STREET	URINATING IN PUBLIC
009	Nov 18, 2016	12:53:00 PM	516			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
009	Dec 30, 2016	8:25:00 PM	578			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

NITRO

2017 RADIUS INDEX

Incidents within 0 feet of searched-on address.
Event Date between Jan 1, 2017 and Dec 31, 2017
For Street Number: 8 and Street Name: East 3 Street
Intersection Street: and Cross Street:

34

Arrest

Pct	Date	Time	Arrest Number	Full Name	Birth Date	NYSID	Location	Top Charge
009	1/4/2017	14:24 hrs	----				8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	1/5/2017	17:15 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009	1/9/2017	18:25 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	1/16/2017	10:07 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	GR LAR 4:VALUE PROPERTY >\$1000
009	1/25/2017	05:30 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	C/P MARIHUANA-5TH:25 GRAMS
009	2/13/2017	21:39 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSE PH INJ W/WEAP
009	2/16/2017	16:00 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ROBBERY-2ND:AIDED BY ANOTHER
009	3/2/2017	17:49 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	3/8/2017	16:14 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	3/23/2017	19:57 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	POSS/SELL UNSTAMPED CIGARETTES
009	3/25/2017	20:41 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	3/25/2017	20:41 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	4/11/2017	16:38 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	4/11/2017	16:38 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	4/11/2017	16:38 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	4/19/2017	18:24 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	4/21/2017	16:18 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	4/21/2017	16:18 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	4/21/2017	16:18 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	8/26/2017	16:55 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	8/28/2017	01:29 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	MAKING GRAFFITI
009	8/28/2017	07:18 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIM MIS:INTENT DAMAGE PROPRTY
009	8/29/2017	20:58 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009	9/11/2017	06:51 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	VIOL OF LOCAL LAW VIOL
009	9/21/2017	23:35 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ASLT W/INT CAUSES PHYS INJURY
009	9/26/2017	18:45 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT 2ND
009	10/4/2017	16:36 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	10/4/2017	16:36 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG
009	10/6/2017	13:25 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CPCS-3RD:NARC DRUG INT/SELL
009	10/7/2017	19:51 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIM POSS WEAP-4TH:FIREARM/WEAP
009	10/7/2017	19:51 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIM SALE MARIHUANA-4TH
009	12/7/2017	02:20 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIM SALE MARIHUANA-4TH
009	12/20/2017	00:51 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	BURGLARY-3RD
009	12/20/2017	16:45 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ROBBERY-2ND:AIDED BY ANOTHER
							8 EAST 3 STREET	CSCS-3RD:NARCOTIC DRUG

Complaint

69

RADIUS INDEX

Incidents within 0 feet of searched-on address.

Event Date between Jan 1, 2017 and Dec 31, 2017

For Street Number: 8 and Street Name: East 3 Street

Intersection Street: and Cross Street:

Index Crimes

Pct	Complaint Number	Date	Time	Location	Key Code Description
009		2/13/2017	21:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	FELONY ASSAULT
009		2/13/2017	00:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ROBBERY
009		4/7/2017	22:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	FELONY ASSAULT
009		8/1/2017	08:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET 507	ROBBERY
009		9/6/2017	08:49 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	BURGLARY
009		12/6/2017	11:20 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	BURGLARY
009		12/19/2017	23:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ROBBERY

Other Complaints

Pct	Complaint Number	Date	Time	Location	Key Code Description
009		1/4/2017	13:50 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		1/12/2017	04:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		1/27/2017	16:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		1/25/2017	04:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	DANGEROUS DRUGS
009		1/29/2017	19:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		2/15/2017	07:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		2/25/2017	02:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		3/2/2017	17:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		3/15/2017	22:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		3/19/2017	12:10 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		3/23/2017	19:33 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	OTHER STATE LAWS (NON PENAL LA
009		3/25/2017	20:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		3/25/2017	20:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		3/30/2017	21:40 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		4/2/2017	06:45 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		4/3/2017	03:45 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		4/3/2017	09:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		4/14/2017	07:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		4/14/2017	16:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		4/6/2017	05:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		4/16/2017	05:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		4/24/2017	02:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		5/1/2017	21:40 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		5/8/2017	11:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		5/8/2017	07:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		5/7/2017	08:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		5/16/2017	09:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		5/21/2017	01:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY

RADIUS INDEX

Incidents within 0 feet of searched-on address.
 Event Date between Jan 1, 2017 and Dec 31, 2017
 For Street Number: 8 and Street Name: East 3 Street
 Intersection Street: and Cross Street:

Pct	Complaint Number	Date	Time	Location	Key Code Description
009		5/20/2017	07:50 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	OFF. AGNST PUB ORD SENSBLTY &
009		5/25/2017	06:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		5/22/2017	23:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	OFF. AGNST PUB ORD SENSBLTY &
009		5/26/2017	06:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		6/7/2017	09:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		6/14/2017	08:45 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		6/12/2017	14:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		6/17/2017	14:20 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		6/25/2017	20:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		7/3/2017	02:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		7/10/2017	10:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		7/12/2017	15:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		7/20/2017	13:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		8/6/2017	06:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		8/10/2017	07:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		8/26/2017	16:50 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF & RELATED OF
009		8/28/2017	01:22 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF & RELATED OF
009		8/28/2017	07:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		8/26/2017	16:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF & RELATED OF
009		8/29/2017	02:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		8/29/2017	16:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		8/29/2017	07:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		9/11/2017	06:51 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		9/21/2017	11:20 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		9/22/2017	14:05 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ASSAULT 3 & RELATED OFFENSES
009		10/3/2017	07:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		10/6/2017	13:18 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	DANGEROUS WEAPONS
009		10/11/2017	17:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		10/13/2017	03:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	GRAND LARCENY
009		10/29/2017	09:29 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	PETIT LARCENY
009		11/4/2017	11:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	HARRASSMENT 2
009		11/21/2017	20:15 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS ONLY
009		11/27/2017	17:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	NYS LAWS-UNCLASSIFIED FELONY
009		12/17/2017	07:30 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF & RELATED OF

C-Summons

Pct	Date	Time	C-Summons #	Full Name	Birth Date	Location	C-Summons Description
009	Jan 12, 2017	12:10:00 PM	617			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

RADIUS INDEX

Incidents within 0 feet of searched-on address.

Event Date between Jan 1, 2017 and Dec 31, 2017

For Street Number: 8 and Street Name: East 3 Street

Intersection Street: and Cross Street:

Pct	Date	Time	C-Summons #	Full Name	Birth Date	Location	C-Summons Description
009	Jan 30, 2017	4:00:00 PM	212			8 EAST 3 STREET	CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
009	Mar 17, 2017	8:20:00 PM	505			8 EAST 3 STREET	URINATING IN PUBLIC
009	Apr 28, 2017	5:40:00 PM	769			8 EAST 3 STREET	MARIJUANA, POSSESSION OF
009	Oct 14, 2017	4:00:00 PM	083			8 EAST 3 STREET	DISORDERLY CONDUCT
009	Oct 14, 2017	4:00:00 PM	097			8 EAST 3 STREET	DISORDERLY CONDUCT

2018

RADIUS INDEX*Incidents within 0 feet of searched-on address.*

Event Date between Jan 1, 2018 and Jan 15, 2018

For Street Number: 8 and Street Name: East 3 Street

Intersection Street: and Cross Street:

Arrest

Pct	Date	Time	Arrest Number	Full Name	Birth Date	NYSID	Location	Top Charge
009	1/5/2018	20:11 hrs					8 EAST 3 STREET	ROBBERY-3RD

Complaint**Index Crimes**

Pct	Complaint Number	Date	Time	Location	Key Code Description
009		1/5/2018	21:00 hrs	8 EAST 3 STREET	ROBBERY

New York City Council Fiscal Year 2018
March 27, 2018
Preliminary Budget Hearing – General Welfare Committee

FOR THE RECORD

Chairman Levin, Chairman King, and Members of the Council Committees on General Welfare and Juvenile Justice. My name is Brandi Mathis and I am here today on behalf of Carnegie Hall, the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG), and the city's cultural community at large to discuss the role of arts and culture in advancing the missions of New York City's human service agencies.

In 2017, the CIG and other stakeholders from the cultural community collaborated with the City as it designed and produced CreateNYC, the City's first cultural plan. One of CreateNYC's eight areas of focus is Citywide Coordination—in particular, to promote collaborations between cultural organizations and city agencies to effectively deliver services to New Yorkers.

Two inspiring examples of Citywide Coordination in action are Carnegie Hall's longstanding partnerships with the NYC Administration for Children's Services and the Department of Homeless Services.

- 1) In partnership with ACS, Carnegie Hall brings songwriting workshops to court-involved young people in detention and placement facilities in Brooklyn and the Bronx. These projects nurture talents, broaden horizons, build resilience, and encourage youth to visualize brighter futures. We celebrate their accomplishments onstage at Carnegie Hall showcase concerts and bridge connections to afterschool music workshops, mentoring, and internship opportunities as they transition out of the justice system and towards productive lives. With Raise the Age implementation in Fall 2018, we have the opportunity to serve even more justice-involved young people.
- 2) Also, in partnership with both ACS and DHS, Carnegie Hall offers Lullaby Project songwriting workshops and song circles for clients in shelters, health care centers, mother/child foster care facilities, and at Riker's Island. Writing lullabies supports maternal mental health and early childhood development, while also strengthening the bond between parents and children. In FY19, ACS and DHS Lullaby Project partnerships will reach over 100 NYC families—positively impacting their health and well-being through the power of music.

These two examples—and there are many, many more I could highlight from our colleagues across the city—demonstrate that the cultural community is the City's partner in delivering its services and achieving its vision. Additional funding for arts and culture in FY19 could help to expand these and many other programs.

Therefore, in FY19 New York City's cultural community requests: 1) baseline the \$10M received in FY18, using the same distribution model (\$4.5M to CIGs, \$5M to program group colleagues, half of a million to CUNY Cultural Corps), and; 2) an additional \$20M in FY19, divided equally between the CIG and the program groups, to support our efforts to enact the goals laid out by the City in the Cultural Plan.

Thank you again to the Members of both Committees, and to the Council and City at large, for your ongoing partnership. My colleagues and I look forward to working with you to enrich the lives of all New Yorkers and fulfill the vision of CreateNYC.

Please join us at upcoming events to see in person the impact of programs. We've included a calendar of events as well as some photographs from past events in this testimony. Thank you.





Mothers and children sing lullabies together at a Lullaby Song Circle at the Bronx Library Center on October 21, 2017. Photo by Jennifer Taylor.

Upcoming Events:

- **Song Circle: Queens Library at Ridgewood**
Thursday, April 12 at 12:00 and 1:00 PM

- **National Lullaby Project Spring Concert**
Friday, June 1 at 2:00 PM | Resnick Education Wing



Young people from Belmont Academy rehearse to debut their original song written during songwriting workshops for A Time Like This: Music for Change on March 11, 2018.

- **Studio 57 Live with Belmont Academy**
Saturday, April 28 at 12:00 PM | Resnick Education Wing

- **Belmont & Bronx Hope Spring Showcase**
Wednesday, May 16 at 6:00 PM | Resnick Education Wing

**Written Comments of Kate Rubin, Youth Represent
New York City Council
Committee on General Welfare
Committee on Juvenile Justice
Preliminary Budget Hearing: General Welfare & Juvenile Justice
March 27, 2018**

Youth Represent provides holistic re-entry legal services for court-involved youth 24 years old and younger. Since we opened our doors in 2007, Youth Represent has advocated for 16 and 17 year olds to be treated as children in the justice system. We played a pivotal role in the passage of Raise the Age legislation and we appreciate the Council's long-term partnership and support for Raise the Age. While the enacted Raise the Age legislation leaves significant work to be done, we are thrilled that New York has taken this crucial first step. We thank the Committees on General Welfare and Juvenile Justice for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Our comments today address budget issues as they relate to implementation of Raise the Age in New York City, and more generally to justice involved youth.

- 1) **Specialized Secure Detention (SSD).** We have serious concerns about the City's plan to remove 16 and 17 year olds from Rikers Island only to have them supervised by DOC staff in "Specialized Secure Detention." We implore the Council to work with the City to develop alternatives that will ensure the safety of teenagers and of our juvenile detention facilities.
- 2) **Monitoring of Outcomes for Youth.** The City must monitor, analyze, and report on the intake and outcomes for all 16 and 17 year olds who enter the justice system, whether they are ultimately categorized as Juvenile Delinquents or Adolescent Offenders.
- 3) **Allocation of Funds for Programming and Aftercare, Including Supportive Housing.** The City must ensure high quality programming for all 16 and 17 year olds in juvenile detention facilities, and for older youth who remain on Rikers Island. In recognition of the fact that stable housing is critical for successful reentry, the City should expand investment in supportive housing for justice involved youth.

Specialized Secure Detention

Among the most important achievements of Raise the Age legislation is the promise of finally ending adult incarceration of 16 and 17 year olds in New York. Removing these teenagers from Rikers Island only to have them supervised by DOC Correction Officers in juvenile detention undermines the spirit and the intent of Raise the Age. It risks not only transferring the violent culture of Rikers Island to Specialized Secure Detention, but allowing that culture to permeate juvenile detention facilities and effect younger children.

The violent culture of Rikers Island is longstanding and well-documented. In 1969 the Bronx District Attorney launched an investigation to “look into the suicides, beatings, sexual abuse and drug trafficking taking place on Rikers Island.”¹ Over four decades later, the same issues persist. Most notably, the worst abuses are often at the hands of Correction Officers and even supervisors. In 2014 the United States Department of Justice released an investigation report on Rikers Island, concluding:

*[T]he New York City Department of Correction systematically has failed to protect adolescent inmates from harm... This harm is the result of the repeated use of excessive and unnecessary force by correction officers against adolescent inmates [16, 17, and 18 year-old detainees], as well as high levels of inmate-on-inmate violence.*²

The Department of Justice investigation report, along with the *Nunez v. City of New York* Consent Judgment, commenced sweeping reforms governing how Correction Officers interact with 16 and 17 year olds. These reforms included: periodic independent investigations of Correction Officers’ use of force, prohibition on the use of solitary confinement for 16 and 17 old detainees, and the requirement to utilize “Enhanced Supervision Housing” instead of solitary confinement, along with significant investment in mental health resources for youth.³ In spite of these and other reforms, the culture of violence at Rikers Island continues. The Fourth Report of the Nunez Independent Monitor, which covers January - June of 2017, found:

*While the Department has made significant gains in safely managing the Young Inmate population, described in more detail below, serious and problematic issues involving Staff use of force continue in an unabated fashion. The Department has a deeply entrenched culture of managing troublesome and/or potentially dangerous inmates with an iron fist. This ingrained propensity of Staff to immediately default to force to manage any level of inmate threat or resistance continues to produce high monthly incident numbers, especially in the absence of timely accountability for such misconduct. The cultural dynamic that permeates so many encounters between Staff and inmates in DOC is quite simply a consequence of Staff actions and behaviors that too often engender, nurture, and encourage confrontation.*⁴

¹ Rikers Island Timeline: jail’s origins and controversies. (2017, March 18). *New York Daily News*. Retrieved November 30, 2017, from <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/rikers-island-timeline-jail-origins-contraventions-article-1.3001976>

² Bharara, P., Samuels, J., Powell, J. K., & Daughtry, E. E. (2014). *CRIPA Investigation of the New York City Department of Correction Jails on Rikers Island*(pp. 1-79, Rep.). New York City, NY: U.S. Department of Justice. doi:<https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/usao-sdny/legacy/2015/03/25/SDNY%20Rikers%20Report.pdf>

³ United States District Court Southern District of New York . *Nunez v. City of New York – Consent Judgement*. 1 July 2015, [sites.ed.gov/underservedyouth/files/2017/01/Rikers-Consent-Judgment.pdf](https://www.uscourts.gov/underservedyouth/files/2017/01/Rikers-Consent-Judgment.pdf).

⁴ The Nunez Monitoring Team. *Fourth Report of the Nunez Independent Monitor*. The Nunez Monitoring Team, 2017, *Fourth Report of the Nunez Independent Monitor*, assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4173501/Fourth-Monitor-Report-as-Filed-Nunez.pdf.

Jails are notoriously violent places. But the levels of violence at Rikers are put into stark perspective by comparison to other county jails in New York State. The New York State Commission on Corrections recently released a report finding that from January 2016 - November 2017, Rikers personnel assaulted over 500 detainees, while correctional personnel in all other county jails combined reportedly assaulted 3 individuals.⁵ Based on this statistic alone we should ensure that DOC staff are not in the same building with children between the ages of 13 and 17, let alone supervising any of them.

To their credit, the City and DOC have implemented progressive reforms at Rikers, particularly related to the youngest detainees. These reforms include significant investments in programming and training. Youth Represent currently partners with the City, as part of the Youth Reentry Network, to provide legal services to youth at Rikers. But these reforms have been limited in their power to curb conflict, escalation, and physical abuse by staff of young people. These limitations make clear that even with the best of intentions, utilizing DOC Correction Officers in juvenile detention will import the culture of DOC into ACS facilities, and that culture will be impossible to roll back.

Raise the Age legislation requires creation of “specialized secure detention” for 16 and 17 year olds who are being tried as adults, operated by ACS “in conjunction with” the DOC. The Raise the Age legislation does not mandate the presence of New York City Department of Corrections staff, nor does any legislative history or directive suggest that this is a requirement. The provision to remove youth from Rikers Island in the state legislation specifically states:

Prohibition on the custody of youth in Rikers Island facilities. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no youth under the age of eighteen shall be placed or held in Rikers Island correctional facility or any facility located on Rikers Island located in the City of New York ... in no event after October First, Two Thousand Eighteen and such youth shall be taken to and lodged in places certified by the Office of Children and Family Services in conjunction with the Commission of Correction and operated by the New York City Administration for Children's Services in conjunction with the New York City Department of Corrections as a Specialized Juvenile Detention facility for that purpose.⁶

At the most fundamental level, the mission of the Department of Correction is to maintain custody and control of adults. The mission of the Administration for Children's Services is to “protect and promote safety and well-being of New York City's children and families.” Teenagers belong in a youth justice system developed to meet their needs, staffed by people trained in that system. The City has the power to ensure that this is the case, and to end adult incarceration of 16 and 17 year olds. **We urge the Council to provide funding and support necessary to realize this goal** whether through an expedited hiring process to increase ACS staffing, a short-term contract with a non-profit to provide interim staffing during the ACS hiring process, or another creative solution.

⁵ New York State Commission of Corrections . “Report: The Most Problematic Local Correctional Facilities of New York State .” *Report: The Most Problematic Local Correctional Facilities of New York State* , New York State Commission of Corrections , Feb. 2018. www.scoc.ny.gov/pdfdocs/Problematic-Jails-Report-2-2018.pdf.

⁶ New York State Senate Bill S2009-C, New York State, 2017, pp. 210–253.

Monitoring of Outcomes for Youth

Over the last ten years, several states have raised the age of criminal responsibility, including Connecticut (2007), Illinois (2010), Mississippi (2010), Massachusetts (2013), New Hampshire (2014), Louisiana (2016), South Carolina (2016).⁷ Thus far there have been direct correlations between raising the age of criminal responsibility and a decrease in both arrests and incarceration of 16 and 17 year olds.⁸ That said, policy changes often create unintended consequences, and given the complexity of New York's Raise the Age legislation, actual outcomes for youth are difficult to predict.

New York's Raise the Age legislation requires the creation of a "Raise the Age implementation taskforce" tasked with monitoring the effectiveness of Raise the Age on the state level.⁹ In 2016 more 16 and 17 year olds were arrested in New York City alone (14,500), than in the rest the state combined (10,125).¹⁰ Therefore, we strongly recommend that the City implement a similar monitoring body, comprised of researchers, advocates, service providers, and directly impacted youth and families, to analyze and monitor the impacts of Raise the Age with an analysis keen on New York City.

As advocates for our communities, we want to work with the City to ensure that New York follows the national trend of decreased confinement and decreased arrest rates for youth after raising the age of adult prosecution. To this end, we need New York City to prioritize the monitoring and reporting on demographics and outcomes of 16 and 17 year olds who come in contact with the justice system. This will allow for the identification of any changes needed to better serve the young people in their custody, or to better manage or allocate funding to particular sectors of the juvenile justice system. Most importantly, creating a monitoring and reporting system will inform both the City and the public if there is any increase in detention as an unintentional consequence of Raise the Age.

The data monitored, analyzed and published, should include:

1. Compiled data from the New York City Police Department and the Office of Court Administration.
 - a. Demographics of 16 and 17 year olds arrested: age, race, ethnicity, gender, housing status, county and location of arrest, and county of residents
 - b. Offense/criminal charges at arrest and at arraignment

⁷ The Justice Policy Institute. *Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System*. The Justice Policy Institute, 2017, pp. 4, *Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System*.

⁸ The Justice Policy Institute. *Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System*. The Justice Policy Institute, 2017, pp. 1–14, *Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System*.

⁹ United States, New York State Senate, et al. "S2009-C." *S2009-C*, New York State, 2017, pp. 210–253.

¹⁰ United States, Criminal Justice Statistics, and NYS DCJS.

"www.criminaljustice.ny.gov." *Wwww.criminaljustice.ny.gov*, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, 17 Feb. 2017. www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/youth-arrests/allcounties.pdf.

- c. For felony offenses, rates of transfer to family court, broken down by demographics
 - d. Disposition of case and sentence requirements
2. Complied data from Department of Probation.
 - a. Detailed data on DOP risk assessment evaluation, disaggregated by age, race, ethnicity, gender, housing status, county of residents, and classification (e.g. Juvenile Delinquent, or Adolescent Offender)
 - b. Rates of successful adjustment
 - c. Number of youth who violate Probation
 - d. Number of youth who complete Probation
 3. Complied data from the Administration for Children Services.
 - a. Duration of pretrial incarceration
 - b. Duration of sentenced incarceration
 - c. Use of force by staff
 - d. Programming provided, including but not limited to: mental health, re-entry, legal, and aftercare services
 - e. All above data disaggregated by age, gender, classification (e.g. Juvenile Delinquent, or Adolescent Offender), and Probation risk assessment classification

Our proposed monitoring body would not only review and analyze relevant data but would solicit input from youth and families directly impacted by Raise the Age, for instance through surveys and focus groups. Based on data and input, it would assess overall and demographic trends in arrests, charging, transfers to family court, pre-trial detention, utilization of diversion and alternatives to incarceration, dismissals, incarceration, conditions of confinement, and access to programming. Without this monitoring, New York City will not be able to innovatively, effectively, and humanely implement Raise the Age.

The state of Illinois provides an illustrative case study. Illinois took a gradual approach towards altering their juvenile justice system.¹¹ After passing initial legislation, it took “further steps to refine its juvenile justice approach by passing laws to reduce the use of confinement and narrow other legal pathways allowing transfer of youth to the adult system.”¹² Illinois was able to alter their juvenile justice approach after passage of their first Raise the Age legislation due to the monitoring requirement included in the legislation.¹³ **We strongly urge New York City to create a robust monitoring body that can assess real outcomes of Raise the Age legislation for youth and make recommendations for necessary changes in the administrative and legislative arenas.**

¹¹ The Justice Policy Institute. *Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System*. The Justice Policy Institute, 2017, pp. 1–14, *Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System*.

¹² The Justice Policy Institute. *Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System*. The Justice Policy Institute, 2017, pp. 1–14, *Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System*.

¹³ United States, Illinois State Senate, and Illinois General Assembly. “Public Act 095-1031.” *Public Act 095-1031*, Illinois General Assembly, 2009.

Allocation of Funds for Programming and Aftercare, Including Supportive Housing

Finally, we must emphasize the importance of funding and creative partnerships to provide incarcerated youth with high quality programming and reentry services focused on youth development, mental health, education, employment, housing, and legal services. Given that NYC is required to remove 16 and 17 years olds from Rikers Island, the funding that has been used to house and provide programming for 16 and 17 year olds in Rikers Island in the past should be transferred with those adolescents.

However, youth moved to ACS must also have access to existing programming at ACS that was designed in the context of a youth justice system. Even when groups of youth are kept separate, it can cause tension in facilities when there are real or perceived differences in access to programming. In addition, it is equally critical that funding continue at DOC for programs for older youth. Neurological research suggests that the brains of 19 and 20 year olds are more similar to those of 15 and 16 year olds than they are to those of 25 year olds. Moreover, comprehensive programming is a best practice for a person of any age who is incarcerated. As important as it is to fully implement Raise the Age, it is equally important to ensure that Raise the Age does not undercut programs and opportunities for older youth who remain at Rikers.

Finally, while we don't yet have enough data to fully understand the problem, we know from our experience providing legal services to youth currently incarcerated and recently released from Rikers Island that lack of stable housing is one of the greatest barriers to successful reentry. While some of the young people we work with identify as "homeless," a much larger—and alarming—number lack stable housing. Some are barred from going home because of a fight with a parent or other family member. Some are not welcome at home because of their sexual or gender identity. Others are on good terms with parents, but those parents lack stable housing. Still others have been permanently excluded from their family's NYCHA apartment, and find themselves bouncing between friends and extended family, sleeping on couches and trying not to overstay their welcome. In all of these cases the likelihood of re-arrest is much higher, and the path to opportunity much more difficult when a young person faces constant uncertainty about where they will sleep at night. All of these problems are exacerbated even further for young parents caring for small children.

Youth Represent applauds and supports the significant investment in Runaway and Homeless Youth Drop-In Centers reflected in the Mayor's FY19 preliminary budget. We also strongly support and thank the Council for passing legislation raising the age of eligibility for youth shelters to 24, developing a plan for housing all runaway and homeless youth, and extending the maximum duration of stay for youth in crisis centers and transitional independent living. **However, we wish to underscore the need for more housing resources, including long-term supportive housing, specifically tailored to justice-involved youth** in order to address the intersection of justice involvement and housing instability.

**Testimony of Cathy Kim
Program Director, Most Vulnerable Populations
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.**

**To the New York City Council
Preliminary Budget Hearing- General Welfare**

March 27, 2018

My name is Cathy Kim and I lead the Vulnerable Populations program for Enterprise Community Partners, a non-profit affordable housing organization that has worked to create and preserve affordable housing here and nationwide for over 30 years. On behalf of Enterprise, thank you, Chair Levin and the Committee on General Welfare for your dedication to addressing family homelessness, promoting supportive housing, and ensuring that social safety nets exist for all New Yorkers.

I would first like to acknowledge the City's significant resources and efforts committed to the family homelessness crisis. Access to Counsel, the expansion of HomeBase, and the increase in the Family Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement rental subsidy all ensure that families and their children can remain in their homes. The new *Housing New York 2.0* plan, the breadth of rental assistance programs, and the NYC 15/15 Supportive Housing Program all ensure housing and services exist for homeless families and children. The Mayor's plan to address homelessness, *Turning the Tide*, aims to end the practice of placing homeless families in cluster sites and hotel rooms by creating new service-rich shelters that will enable more appropriate placement for children and their families when shelter is unavoidable. Finally, the City's commitment to developing a Coordinated Assessment and Placement System will help ensure that the lengths of shelter stay are minimized and that families are matched to the right resources. All of these actions demonstrate the City's commitment to addressing the family homelessness crisis in our city.

Despite these significant efforts and investments, there remains an overwhelming number of families with children that live in the shelter system. Over 23,000 children, coming from nearly 15,000 families across the City's shelter system, will sleep in a shelter on any given night. We urgently need more housing and service solutions that are appropriate for *families with children* who are at risk of and are experiencing homelessness.

To help combat the family homelessness crisis, Enterprise operates a direct intervention program and co-leads a coalition to help drive policy and systems changes. In 2014, Enterprise launched Come Home NYC (CHNYC), a program that connects families to permanent affordable housing by providing one-on-one assistance to both applicants and landlords through the housing application process. The program also built in connections to Single Stop so that families have a resource to turn to in their new neighborhoods.



Landlords are given a \$3,000 guarantee fund, which inspired DHS's LINC guarantee fund used by landlords across the city today.

At any given moment, approximately twenty-five to thirty percent of CHNYC families require greater advocacy and/or assistance as they transition out of shelter and into permanent affordable housing, a service which Enterprise has provided out of necessity to prevent a return to shelter. This has demonstrated the need for intentional aftercare services for families moving into independent, non-supportive affordable housing.

In 2016, Enterprise partnered with Citizen's Committee for Children and New Destiny Housing to co-convene the Family Homelessness Coalition. Together with 40 organizations, we released a report urging the city to prioritize homeless families with children with innovative preventive and aftercare services, approaches that ensure the well-being of children who live in shelter and the creation of more housing resources.

I would like to highlight a few of the Task Force's recommendations today:

1. Homelessness Prevention and Aftercare of Families with Children:

- Domestic Violence: domestic violence is one of the leading causes of family homelessness today. As such, the City should develop safe alternatives to shelter for families headed by domestic violence survivors or rapid rehousing programs when shelter is unavoidable.
- Service Enriched Housing: while NYC 15/15 aims to provide housing paired with services, most homeless families with children are not eligible for the program. At the same time, many families need longer-term support after an episode(s) of homelessness. A solution to this service gap is service-enriched housing, which integrates service coordination into the operation and management of affordable rental housing for special-needs and/or low-income residents.

2. Family and Child Well-Being

- Education access and continuity: there needs to be improved interagency collaboration to ensure education continuity for school-aged children, reduced absenteeism, and increased enrollment of small children in early childhood education and early intervention programs. Hotel Conditions: the average length of stay in shelter for families is now over a year. Over half of these children and their families live in Tier II shelters with the other half living in commercial hotels or cluster sites where they do not have access to kitchens, laundry or recreational space. We urge the city to modify the living conditions in hotels to be more livable. We believe this will provide a significant quality of life improvement for families who are currently in shelter and waiting for affordable units to become available.

3. Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing

- 15 Year Project-Based Subsidy: to help increase the supply of affordable housing, the City should create a project based subsidy. This will enable the



City to stretch its scarce capital resources to develop additional affordable housing and incentivize more developers to dedicate units in their developments to homeless families.

- Homeless Set-Asides: homeless set-asides should be non-negotiable for developers. This would ensure that the percentage of homeless set-aside units for all new development remains at least 10% and that is not used as a leverage point between city council members, the community and developer.

Lastly, Enterprise developed and is testing a neighborhood-based housing and service coordination model called Enterprise Communities Plus (EC Plus). EC Plus provides prevention services to help families address housing issues before they become a crisis. Residents of affordable housing are connected to an EC Plus service coordinator who helps address a family's issues through service linkages, which can include workforce development, financial counseling, child care and/or adult education. Some residents are also offered the opportunity to participate in a savings match program and/or a "rent to build credit" program. It is our hope that this is one model that can help strengthen the social safety nets of New York City neighborhoods. Enterprise thanks the City Council for its discretionary funding support, which enabled us to develop a proof of concept.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with you and the City to ensure that all New Yorkers have the safety and security that an affordable home provides.



FOR THE RECORD

First, I want to thank the Council for allowing me the opportunity to testify, and for the leadership this council has displayed in changing the tide of the overdose crisis. My name is Will Robertson, and I am a VOCAL-NY community leader, a Recovery Coach at Harlem United, and active member of the Peer Network of NY.

I used to use drugs to escape the pain I was going through losing my significant other in my arms, my son, my mother, and my father back to back. For me, it wasn't until I met someone who could truly identify what I was going through, and met me where I was at with my usage, that gave me the possibility to see that I can live again. There are times I wonder where my life would be today if it wasn't for that person being there loving me more than I love myself. Today, as a recovery coach at Harlem United, I am able to meet my clients where they are at in their drug use.

We know that the city is in an overdose crisis, and I am here today to say that City Council needs to allocate funding to solve this crisis. While I may not have time to tell you all of the programs City Council should fund, I did bring our Memo for you all.

- **Funding for Council Member Torres' Local Law 225:** Local Law 2017/225 requires shelter staff to be trained in naloxone administration, and develop a plan on how to train shelter residents. Through discussions with Department of Homeless Services and HIV/AIDS Services Administration, it is evident that both entities do not have adequate funding and resources to successfully implement the law. For example, HASA has one Overdose Prevention Specialist for its whole organization. I have even volunteered for the Peer Network of NY to help DSS in training people on naloxone. **Funding must be allocated to DSS to provide all the needed resources.**
- **Reallocation of HealingNYC Funds from NYPD to Public Health Interventions:** Evidence shows that investments in public health versus criminalization are significantly more successful in preventing overdose deaths, linking people to treatment, and supporting long term wrap around services for people with an opioid use disorder. These fund should be **redirected to the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DOHMH) and Department of Social Services (DSS)** to successfully implement, and continue the innovative public health solutions proposed by the DOHMH and the city.
- **Funding Dedicated to Safer Consumption Spaces (SCS):** Overdose mortality data from New York City and elsewhere indicates that one of the greatest predictors of death is unobserved overdoses – overdosing in a private or public space where no witness is present and able to provide critical aid in time. Safer consumption spaces have emerged

as a compelling option to increase the likelihood that overdose events are witnessed and promptly responded to by trained observers. Substantial research has demonstrated the broad public health and public safety benefits of these services, and not one fatal overdose happened in the over 100 sites that exist throughout the world. Furthermore, SCS are effective at linking people to treatment. Insite (Vancouver's well-studied SCS) saw a 30% increase in detoxification use among participants in the first year it opened. New York City should be a national leader on safer consumption spaces, and city funding should be allocated to support these sites.

- ***Expanding access to buprenorphine:*** Public health experts have long pointed to medicated assisted treatment as a vital tool in combating overdose, and opioid dependency. While New York City has many points of access to methadone, many barriers remain to accessing buprenorphine. The DOHMH is taking steps to expand access, but more must be done. Increased funding must be allocated to the DOHMH and the DSS to expand access to people struggling with opioid dependency.

We envision a world where people who use drugs are not stigmatized, driven into the shadows, and threatened by even their President the death penalty. New York is a city of dreams, and allowing those dreams to become reality by linking people to care and keeping them alive should be our duty. We urge the Council to help create this vision with us.

Thank you,

Will Robertson



**ADVANCING OUR
COMMUNITY**

Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc. (CPC)

150 Elizabeth Street New York NY 10012 (212) 941- 0920 fax (212) 966-8581

www.cpc-nyc.org

FOR THE RECORD

**Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
Testimony at the New York City Council General Welfare Committee
Honorable Stephen Levin, Chair
March 27th, 2018**

Thank you Chair Levin and the Members of the City Council for the opportunity to testify today. The mission of the Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc. (CPC) is to promote social and economic empowerment of Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities. CPC was founded in 1965 as a grassroots, community-based organization in response to the end of the Chinese Exclusion years and the passing of the Immigration Reform Act of 1965. Our services have expanded since our founding to include five key program areas: Early Childhood Education, School-Age Child Care, Education & Career Services, Senior Services, and Community Services.

CPC is the largest Asian American social service organization in the U.S., providing vital resources to more than 60,000 people per year through more than 50 programs at over 30 sites across Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. CPC employs over 700 staff whose comprehensive services are linguistically accessible, culturally sensitive, and highly effective in reaching low-income and immigrant individuals and families. We serve over 300 low income children and families each year through our early childhood education programs.

To that end, we are grateful to testify about issues that impact these children and families and the people that serve them. We are grateful to the Council for their leadership on these issues.

The early childhood workforce in community based organizations provide care and education to children throughout New York City including many of the City's poorest children, and many children who's classes are their first introduction to the English language. Yet the teachers that are charged with providing these linguistic and developmental foundations are paid much less than their similarly qualified counterparts in public schools. The salary disparities are stark and grow over time.

For example, a certified head teacher in a 3 year old classroom in a community based organization has a starting salary of \$46,920 while a certified teacher in a public school starts at \$61,894. After time, these disparities grow wider. With eight years of experience, a public school teachers' annual salary will have grown to slightly over \$81,042 while a teacher in a community based program will be earning just \$48,920. And CBO teachers work longer hours since community based programs are open during the summer. Salary disparities cause instability for programs who lose staff who cannot afford to stay at their jobs. This impacts the families we serve who need the services provided in community based organizations.

Our teachers across our 6 early childhood education centers work incredibly hard to provide high quality, culturally competent, linguistically sensitive programming for the children they serve. In our Queens based Lois E Lee Early Childhood Education Center, for example, we do dual language reading in 8 different languages. Not just serving the children, these teachers help the parents with language access to critical information about how the school system works and how to best support their children. Yet these teachers make so much less for the great work that they do, and as costs of living increase, it becomes harder and harder for us to keep them. To ensure a quality education for ALL New York City's children, the City should take immediate action to achieve salary parity for the early childhood workforce.

This brings us to another critical point, which are the non-profit organizations that would love to pay their well deserving staff competitive wages, but have contracts that are so deeply underfunded that they are in danger of insolvency.

Last year saw an important investment in human services provider organizations that hold City contracts. With your help, we secured \$300m of our \$500m ask to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

There are two areas of human service nonprofit operations that need special attention in FY19 - costs associated with indirect rates and fringe and escalating occupancy and insurance costs. We are suggesting funding parameters that set a floor of 15% for indirect in all human services contracts and are requesting a 10% increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance to cover escalating costs in these areas. Additionally, the City uses an outdated formula for calculating employee fringe benefits. We are also asking for consideration of a 37% fringe rate in all human service contracts to reflect a generally accepted industry standard and that, coincidentally mirrors the fringe rate used by the City for its own employees.

We urge the City to respectfully requests that the New York City Council include in its March Response a \$200m ask for FY19 to address these critical funding shortfalls.

Lastly, as ACS is now transferring Early Childhood Education to DOE, it is important to address the issue of the budget only paying for 7.5 hours for a 10 hour day. This issue needs to be addressed especially now that the Governor's mandate has become strict in regards to adult supervision and administrative supervision. The program is 10 hours a day, but each person is paid for 7.5hrs which includes the duty free hour. Therefore out of the 10 hours, employees are meant to be working for 6.5 hours plus take their lunch break. However, per Article 47 such schedule is not advisable because they could lose their job if they truly worked the schedule stated within their collective agreement. A CPC early childhood educator explains:

"I am paid for 38 hours a week without overtime. There is no budget for overtime, for a second person to cover the DCC at the end of my shift. The DCC is expected to have a certified person onsite without teaching duties at all time but there is no money for such person on the budget. There is no money for when I need to take vacation to have someone sit in my office to cover for me while I am away. For me I don't see it as an option to work beyond the 38 hours but as an obligation if I want to keep my center from being closed due to lack of supervision by an administrator."

We urge the City Council to push for the Early Childhood contracts to be fully funded for actual hours required by the program in the transfer to DOE.

CPC appreciates the opportunity to testify on these issues that so greatly impact the communities we serve, and look forward to working with you on them.

If you have any questions, please contact Carlyn Cowen at ccowen@cpc-nyc.org

Testimony of District Council 1707
Joint Hearing on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for FY2019
Committee on General Welfare
Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 10am
Council Chambers at City Hall

On behalf of executive director Kim Medina and all of our members, I thank you for taking the time to hear the issues of concern of our union.

My name is G.L. Tyler and I am the political director for District Council 1707 AFSCME, whose members include some 28,000 non-profit workers providing critical human services to our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Our members include direct care workers, home care workers, social workers, home care and child care educators and providers that deliver care and support for the developmentally disabled, the aged, the indigent and those struggling with addiction or illness.

Despite being a highly skilled and educated workforce, the non-profit human services sector is remarkably underpaid and undervalued. Given the high demand for those workers, we should be making every effort to offer competitive wages to those willing to provide services in the nonprofit care industry. Today, as the council meets to discuss the Mayor's FY 19 Preliminary Budget, we will address two issues of concern to our members.

Also, I must add that District Council 1707 and its members are appreciative of the continued funding for public center-based day care and Head Start that helps thousands of children in communities of need.

Teacher Wage Gap:

Currently, there is considerable **wage gap** between certified teachers at public child care centers and those certified teachers in New York City in public schools. With the same experience, degrees and NYS certifications, public school teachers in New York City earn as much as \$40,000 or more than group teachers in center-based public day care and Head Start centers.

This disproportionately impacts women since titles like assistant teachers, teachers' aides, support personnel and other teaching related titles are held by predominantly women. Many are dedicated professionals who are women of color, are also heads of households. They find it challenging to raise their families on their current wages.

Public center-based teachers and other employees have proven for more than 50 years that working with the city's blossoming young population takes dedication and enthusiasm. Some centers, largely in communities-of-need, struggle to remain open due to the difficulty in hiring and retaining qualified teachers with advanced degrees as required by NYS regulations. New York State and the City of New York must step up and provide wage parity for public child care personnel with equal qualifications.

DC 1707 Vacation Pay

When Early Learn was introduced in November 2012 by the Bloomberg Administration, many employees in public center-based day care centers (who are also members of Day Care Employees Local 205) had yet to received their rightfully-earned vacation back-wages from the contractually-maintained vacation bank provided by ACS after the program was suspended without union agreement. According to our estimate approximately \$12 to \$15 million was owed to our members at that time in the form of banked vacation wages.

The system used to maintain these wages was placed in suspended and a considerable number of these employees have never received their contractually-earned vacation wages. Local 205 members were allowed to maintain up to 60 vacation days in the "bank" that was overseen by ACS and the employers did not have access to this funding at that time.

When the vacation wage bank was placed in abeyance, ACS hired a woefully small team of auditors to perform final audits of more than 300 centers, including centers that closed. Vacation wages were to be paid based on the audits, but the union never received exact or timely information from 2012 as to which centers and employees were paid. To date, the union has not received a complete list of centers funds were paid and which employees were properly reimbursed.

The Union has demanded ACS send the audit findings for centers that are closed and for the centers that remain open to the union as soon as possible. We are aware that some of the centers that are owed back vacation wages are now closed. The Union is ready to contact theses employees to inform them of the back wages due to them.

The Union has had several meetings with and sent correspondence to city officials including the former ACS Commissioner Gladys Carrion and Office of Labor Relations Commissioner Bob Linn. There has been no movement from ACS to make members whole.

The reason for ACS' stall is incomprehensible and irresponsible. DC 1707 would like to have a hearing or bill from the City Council to make these members whole as well as a complete audit from ACS of which employers received this funding and the lists of employees who received funding from the centers they worked is necessary to resolve this long-standing grievance.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with you on these issues.



Children and Family Services

Testimony delivered by
Elizabeth McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer
Prepared for the NY City Council Education Committee on General Welfare
Preliminary Budget Hearing – General Welfare
March 27th, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Elizabeth McCarthy and I'm the Chief Executive Officer for Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services. I am joined by Shelley Anderson, Group Teacher in one of our Pre-K for All classrooms. Thank you Chair Levin and members of the New York City Council Committee on General Welfare for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Sheltering Arms is one of the City's largest providers of education, youth development, juvenile justice, child welfare, and community and family wellbeing programs for the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. We operate 11 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers located in some of our poorest neighborhoods in the City, and serve a total of 1,500 children through those centers and Family Day Care.

The future of these centers are at risk because city contracts pay our teachers tens of thousands of dollars less per year than teachers in DOE-run programs, despite the fact that teachers in nonprofit centers like ours provide services for 8 hours per day, year-round, while teachers in DOE programs only provide 6 hours of services per day and get winter, spring, and summer breaks off. Let me reiterate: Teachers in nonprofit programs receive tens of thousands of dollars less while working significantly longer hours. This unconscionable disparity has become a crisis for Sheltering Arms and for other community-based organizations who educate and care for our community's youngest and most vulnerable students. This inequitable system impacts not only the teachers in our centers, but the low-income communities of color we have a mandate to serve.

We are here to urge the Committee and the City Council to require the Mayor's administration to deliver salary parity for ECE teachers in EarlyLearn centers so that they equal to their comparably credentialed teachers in public schools.

There has been no response and no action from the Mayor to our consistent call for equal pay for equal qualifications. We now urge the Committee on General Welfare to hold hearings into these completely unjustifiable disparities and to hold the administration accountable. The public deserves an explanation. The families and teachers impacted by these blatant inequities are your constituents.

Sheltering Arms, like other community-based providers, has experienced an exodus of qualified teachers from our centers. CBOs across the city continually train high-quality teachers, who then leave for better benefits and higher pay at DOE. It then takes us, on average, seven months to hire a qualified teacher for these programs. Without correction, CBOs like us will continue to invest in new teachers only to lose their talent to the DOE. The impact of this chronic disparity is clear: We are forced to close classrooms in order to maintain staff ratios, leaving low-income children and families without the early education opportunities that they so desperately need.

This exodus has only been exacerbated by the Mayor's expansion of Pre-K for All and 3K for All. The introduction of Universal Pre-K meant that the City opened classrooms in even the wealthiest districts, creating more teaching positions in DOE-run programs. Teachers then left our centers for shorter days, shorter years, and more pay. The poor kids in centers like ours have been left in the gap as we're forced to close classrooms despite waiting lists.

Honestly, I am surprised we have any teachers in our centers. We've asked this women-of-color-led workforce to shoulder a financial burden that the city that is purported to be the fairest big city in America should cover. It's time for New York City to step up and pay all its Early Childhood Education teachers fair salaries, and provide equitable education to all of its children.

The City Council has proven itself an ally of the human services sector. We urge you to take a leadership role on this issue: to hold a hearing into this unjustifiably inequitable system, and demand that the Mayor provide the necessary funding to eliminate these salary disparities. Thank you.

**New York City Council
Committee on General Welfare, Chair, Council Member Levin
March 27, 2018
Preliminary Budget and Oversight Hearing**

LiveOn NY thanks Chair Levin and the Committee on General Welfare for the opportunity to testify on the ways the city can make New York a better place to age. With a base of more than 100 community-based organizations that serve over 300,000 older New Yorkers annually, LiveOn NY's members provide core services, many through the Department for the Aging (DFTA) that allow older adults to thrive in their communities, including senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, affordable senior housing, elder abuse prevention services, caregiver supports, transportation, NORCs and case management. In addition, affordable senior housing providers will provide services in the future through the Human Resources Administration (HRA) new Senior Affordable Rental Apartments (SARA) program, which provides funding for services for formerly homeless seniors in senior housing buildings.

LiveOn NY also administers a citywide outreach program that targets older adults in the communities where benefits are most underutilized. This program educates thousands of older adults, including those who are homebound, about food assistance options, and screen and enroll those who are eligible for SNAP, SCRIE and other benefits. LiveOn NY also staffs a call hotline (212) 398-5045, staffed by a professional client services team that assists older adults and caregivers with benefits screenings and applications, serving approximately 1,000 clients per quarter.

Aging creates momentum. Older New Yorkers continue to strengthen our city and contribute using the momentum they've built over a lifetime by powering up local economies, engaging in civic activism, contributing countless hours of volunteerism, and caregiving to both peers and younger generations. In effect, the *inability* for government to enable seniors to age in their communities would not only have a negative impact on each individual's lives, but would tear at the fabric that makes New York's neighborhoods so vibrant and cohesive.

Aging also creates challenges. A lack of fair funding for aging services puts the entire system at risk. Even with the historic gains last year, the most in decades, we know that senior services still experience waiting lists, staff turnover, and lack of a safety net for seniors. While LiveOn NY recognizes and greatly appreciates the FY18 investments in DFTA in the "Year of the Senior" and the human services sector increases related to indirect rates and COLAs, we know that this is only a starting point for investments in a dynamic system that needs a continued support to meet the needs of older New Yorkers.

With that in mind, we ask you to envision the system you see for today and for the future. To make this vision a reality New York City needs sound investments and fair funding to ensure it can be culturally competent, innovative, flexible and sustainable to serve New York today and for years to come. LiveOn NY's priorities for funding for core senior services are attached to our testimony, and we want to highlight a few areas here.

Administrative Baseline Funding

1. Expedite "Model Senior Center Budget" Funding by FY20

LiveOn NY thanks DFTA, OMB and the Administration for their efforts through the "model budget"

process. Through this process currently rolling out, the city allocated \$10 million in FY18 for senior center direct staffing and programming, and has promised an additional \$10 million by 2021. We recognize these important investments as a positive first step. We must continue to work together to ensure that senior centers receive full funding for the complete contracts for costs that were not allocated in the “model budget” process for things such as meals, rent, OTPS and other associated costs. Expediting the \$10 million in funding by FY20 as opposed to the proposed 3-year rollout will have a hugely positive impact on the operations of these programs. As the “model budget” funding applies only to personnel and programs, we will continue to monitor this funding and advocate for other funding as needed to ensure senior center providers are adequately reimbursed for the full cost of providing services. Allocating these funds is extremely important with the projected next RFP for senior centers to be released in calendar year 2020. In addition, we encourage the city to continue to build the infrastructure and staff within DFTA so that the city is able to expeditiously and efficiently work with providers with the shared goal of high quality service delivery. **LiveOn NY recommends the city allocate the full “model budget” funding by FY20 instead of the proposed FY21.**

2. Add \$12.1 Million for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals

For many older New Yorkers, food insecurity remains a harsh reality of daily life. In the U.S., it is estimated that 1 in 6 seniors are currently struggling with hunger. Further, with 250 million meals needed to reach food security for the entirety of New York City, and seniors making up an estimated 19% of the overall population, the demand for nutrition services among seniors is likely substantial.¹ For older adults, inadequate nutrition can exacerbate existing conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease or osteoporosis.² It has been found that the risk of hunger is not equal among all populations, as seniors with disabilities, African Americans, and other minorities are more at risk of hunger.

These statistics highlight the incredible need for nutrition services geared towards the senior population. For many seniors, congregate meals offered at their local senior center serve as the vehicle to not only meet a senior’s nutritional needs, but also helps to prevent isolation and enhance the individual’s overall quality of life. For older adults with mobility impairments, case management services screen seniors to begin receiving life sustaining home-delivered meals. This daily, hot-meal delivered to a homebound senior’s door is more than a meal, for many it is the only human interaction experienced each day.

However, providers are not receiving the full cost for each contracted meal, and the city has not increased reimbursement rates in several years. Further, providers are required to offer culturally-competent meals, such as kosher or halal, both of which have higher costs, and currently result in a deficit to nonprofits upon each meal provided. The city must fully fund contracts taking into account the services required.

LiveOn NY requests that the city increase the reimbursement rate by \$1 to both congregate and home delivered meals, for a total of \$12.1 million in new funding be baselined. This funding increase is a reasonable first step to cover the actual costs of meals.

¹ Food Bank for York City, 2014

² Department for the Aging, Annual Plan Summary, 2019

3. Add New Funding for EISEP Case Management and Homecare

There are over 1,100 seniors on case management waitlists citywide and over 200 on waitlists for homecare. We must continually build this system to serve today's need and the needs of the future. Additional funding is needed to ensure that caseloads don't go higher than 65. Funding is also needed to serve frail, homebound seniors on waiting lists so that a social worker is available to visit them at home, assess their needs and provide ongoing services. Qualified and multilingual staff needs to be funded to ensure there is a professionally trained social worker who can work with immigrant and diverse populations and complex situations. Funding growing need and agency infrastructure are cornerstones to strengthening the case management system citywide.

EISEP Homecare also offers vital supports for seniors, including help with bathing and dressing and light housekeeping that allow seniors to remain at home with the care they need to remain independent. EISEP is also a key program that services seniors that are not Medicaid eligible but still need these services, and it is vital to sustain this program. **LiveOn NY recommends adding \$2 million for Case Management and \$1 million for Homecare.**

4. Additional Continued Investments in Vital Senior Services

LiveOn NY recommends the following continued investments that allow seniors to age in their communities:

- **\$1 million increased Transportation services for aging services organizations.** Vans bring seniors to programs, take them food shopping and other chores, to medical appointments, on cultural/recreational trips and other purposes. Transportation is the cornerstone of remaining independent.
- **\$500,000 to increase outreach and awareness for Elder Abuse Prevention services.** DFTA's Elder Abuse Services are a critical resource to address this crisis, in which only one out of every 24 cases is reported.
- **\$500,000 for Caregiver Supports to continue outreach & expand services,** including support groups and respite. Access to affordable elder care and support for caregivers are the workforce issues of the 21st century. Caregivers statewide provide \$32 billion of free care to loved ones. Workplace flexibility and caregiver supports go hand in hand.

5. Restore Council Investments in Senior Services Through Schedule C

City Council has long been a staunch supporter of city and district wide senior services programs through allocations in Schedule C. We thank you for your investments and advocate for full restoration and continued investments for all Senior Service Programs funded in Schedule C. These include NORCs, Support our Seniors, SuCasa, Senior Centers for Immigrant Populations, Health Aging Initiative, Social Adult Day, and others.

6. Add \$200 million for Critical Investments in the Human Services Sector

LiveOn NY is a member of the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), a group of nine membership organizations representing 2000 human service provider organizations across the City to secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of provider organizations holding City HHS contracts.



Last year saw an important investment in human services provider organizations that hold City contracts. With your help, we secured \$300m of our \$500m ask to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

There are two areas of human service nonprofit operations that need special attention in FY19: 1) costs associated with indirect rates and fringe and 2) escalating occupancy and insurance costs. We are suggesting funding parameters that set a floor of 15% for indirect in all human services contracts and are requesting a 10% increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance to cover escalating costs in these areas. Additionally, the City uses an outdated formula for calculating employee fringe benefits. We are also asking for consideration of a 37% fringe rate in all human service contracts to reflect a generally accepted industry standard and that, coincidentally mirrors the fringe rate used by the City for its own employees. ***Thus, LiveOn NY respectfully requests that the New York City Council include in its March Response a \$200m ask for FY19 to address critical funding shortfalls.***

Further, as a general rule, we advocate that the core principles around city contracting should be flexibility, transparency, responsiveness and accountability. Specifically, City agencies should allow contracted providers to suggest spending modifications in line with their budgets on a case-by-case basis. Further, agencies should actively communicate with providers whenever necessary in order to understand the methodology behind every model budget process. City agencies should increase responsiveness to help contracted providers meet the needs of the people and communities they serve.

Finally, city agencies must provide reasonable timelines to providers as to when they may expect to receive funds throughout the model budget process and with all future human service contracts.

LiveOn NY looks forward to working with City Council and all city agencies and the Administration to make New York a better place to age through a strong network of community based services.

LiveOn NY's members provide the core, community-based services that allow older adults to thrive in their communities. With a base of more than 100 community-based organizations serving at least 300,000 older New Yorkers annually. Our members provide services ranging from senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, affordable senior housing with services, elder abuse prevention services, caregiver supports, case management, transportation, and NORCs. LiveOn NY advocates for increased funding for these vital services to improve both the solvency of the system and the overall capacity of community-based service providers.

LiveOn NY administers a citywide outreach program that supports seniors in communities where benefits are most underutilized. This program educates thousands of older adults, including those who are homebound, about food assistance options, as well as screens and enrolls those who are eligible for SNAP and SCRIE/DRIE.

LiveOn NY is also proud to administer the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program for the entire state, which works to prevent Medicare fraud and its associated healthcare expenses. SMP is modeled around recruiting and actively engaging senior volunteers to promote peer counseling, education and assistance on how to protect, detect, and report Medicare fraud. SMPs empower beneficiaries to reduce healthcare costs caused by errors, abuse, and fraud.

Solvency for Senior Services

Fair Funding for Senior Centers

FY19
New Needs

NYCHA Senior Center Improvements	\$5,000,000	Ensure the nearly 100 DFTA controlled NYCHA Senior Centers have proper facilities & supports
Congregate Meals	\$7,600,000	Increase reimbursement rate by need & ensure cultural competency flexibility

We request that the \$10,000,000 in funding promised through the "model budget process" be expedited to be fully allocated by FY20, as opposed to the proposed 3 year rollout. The "model budget" funding applies to personnel and programs.

As such, we will continue to monitor this funding and advocate for increased funding as needed to ensure senior center providers are adequately reimbursed for the full cost of providing services.



Keeping Seniors in their Communities

FY19
New Needs

Home-Delivered Meals	\$4,500,000	Increase reimbursement rate by need & ensure cultural competency flexibility
Case Management	\$2,000,000	Address waitlist & growing demand associated with a rising senior population
Homecare	\$1,000,000	Address waitlist & growing demand associated with a rising senior population
Transportation	\$1,000,000	Increase transportation support
Elder Abuse Prevention	\$500,000	Increase prevention & awareness of supports
Caregiver Supports	\$500,000	Continue outreach & expand services

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Restore Aging Discretionary Funding

We ask for continued investment in all Senior Services Council Initiatives, found in Schedule C, in FY19

Here are just a few examples of Senior Service initiatives funded by City Council:

LiveOn NY supports raising NORC funding to \$5 million

NORCs
\$3,850,000



Fosters aging in place among areas of dense senior populations

Support Our Seniors
\$3,060,000



Supporting Senior Services across the City

SU-CASA
\$2,550,000



Creative Aging art programs at senior centers throughout NYC

Senior Centers for Immigrant Populations
\$1,500,000



Supports NYC's diverse older adults in a culturally competent manner

Healthy Aging Initiative
\$1,810,000



Support for various health-promotion programming

Social Adult Day Enhancement
\$1,055,556



Additional support for seniors with higher levels of need

Thank you to the New York City Council for your consistent support of these programs and all senior services

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Testimony of Christa Perfit, Senior Manager, Healthy Retail, City Harvest

New York City Council Hearing of the Committee on General Welfare

March 27, 2018

Thank you, Chairperson Levin and members of the Committee on General Welfare for holding this hearing. I am Christa Perfit, the Senior Manager of Healthy Retail at City Harvest.

I testify today to state our continued concern for those hungry in the communities we serve. At a time of mounting uncertainty regarding support at the federal level, we look to the City to remember the many low-income New Yorkers striving to balance food security, personal well-being, and costly housing. The need for food assistance in New York City is staggering: Per our partners at the Food Bank for New York City, currently 16% of NYC residents rely on a food pantry or soup kitchen. 20% of New York City residents Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. The SNAP program brings millions of dollars into New York City to support families facing food insecurity and the retail businesses where they shop. Every SNAP dollar that households redeem expands the economy by about \$1.80. The Trump administration proposing to drastically reduce the budget for this program over ten years is a stark reminder of the need for local support.

Background

City Harvest began rescuing food in 1982 and, this year, will collect 59 million pounds of excess food to help feed the nearly 1.3 million New Yorkers struggling to put meals on their tables. Through relationships with farms, grocers, restaurants, and manufacturers, City Harvest collects nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste and delivers it free of charge to 500 soup kitchens, food pantries and other community food programs across the five boroughs. In addition, our *Healthy Neighborhoods* initiative addresses long-term food insecurity through community partnerships that work to increase access to affordable and wholesome food.

From 2011 to 2016, City Harvest dramatically grew our impact to respond to a new reality of sustained hunger in New York City. We increased our annual food deliveries from 29 million to 55 million pounds, expanded our Healthy Neighborhoods initiative to all five boroughs, and raised more than \$130 million to support this growth. In the fall of 2016, City Harvest studied the state of hunger in New York City and developed a new strategic plan to address it over the next five years. The plan's roadmap charges City Harvest to:

- Grow to distribute 75-80 million pounds of food annually
- Focus on underserved neighborhoods and customize strategies for each
- Connect New Yorkers to the food they need through direct distribution and other platforms
- Increase the composition of fresh produce in our deliveries and emphasize variety
- Advance our holistic approach to hunger and nutrition, Healthy Neighborhoods

We at City Harvest know we cannot tackle hunger in NYC alone. We look to both public and private partners to collaborate on this critical issue

New York City Support is Needed

New York City is one of few local municipalities in the country that directs funds to emergency food. In the Mayor's FY 19 Preliminary Budget, the Human Resource Administration (HRA) budget shows a baseline of \$8.2 million to EFAP, which serves about 500 soup kitchens and food pantries or "EFAP agencies." This \$7.3 million reduction equates to cutting approximately 6.8 million meals. Due to consistently high demand, we are now using EFAP at our Mobile Markets and would like to see that program grow. **We request the EFAP funding be brought up to \$22 million for FY 19 in order to address citywide food inflation, poverty, and insufficiency of the emergency food supply.**

In addition to emergency food, we believe efforts to address hunger should always include improving access to healthy, affordable food in the retail space. Existing programs like Health Bucks and various healthy retail programs work to tackle these issues. City Harvest is a founding member and co-chair of the Healthy Food Retail Action Network (HFRAN). **We have recently created a campaign to ask for City support to help improve healthy food access. This campaign includes focus on SNAP, Healthy Financing Food Initiative, and Health Corner Store programming.** In the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, echoing the American Heart Association's ask, we request the city to invest in three key programs that aim to increase access to healthy, affordable food and while bolstering the local neighborhood economy. We ask the City:

- 1) To pay special attention to SNAP by committing an additional \$15 million to help New Yorkers afford fresh fruits and vegetables by expanding SNAP incentives such as Health Bucks in locations beyond farmer's markets like brick and mortar retail,
- 2) To launch a Healthy Financing Food Initiative by investing \$10 million to generate a local program to support healthy food access and strengthen local economies, and finally
- 3) To commit \$3 million to Healthy Corner Store Initiatives, allowing the program to expand or be supplemented by community-led initiatives in order to provide grants and free equipment to corner stores as well as support community-led initiatives.

Finally, alongside Feeding America, we oppose stricter time limits to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Strict rules are already in place for people who do not have children or dependents (able-bodied adults without dependents or ABAWDs) to get food assistance through SNAP. We should not make the existing harsh rules even worse by taking away state flexibility or exposing more people to time-limited benefits. Allowing the USDA to deny state waivers for easing SNAP time limits and expanding the people these strict rules apply to will only increase the number of people facing hunger in our city and country.

Conclusion

On behalf of City Harvest and the HFRAN, we remain optimistic and eager to work with the Administration and support its genuine efforts to alleviate hunger for all New Yorkers. Food insecurity is not only destructive on a personal level; the ripple affect can cause lasting social and economic damage throughout the community. Thank you for your earnest determination to address the pervasive hunger that continues to threaten our great City.



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**Testimony of Catherine Trapani, Executive Director, Homeless Services United, Inc.
Before the NYC Council Committee on General Welfare
March 27, 2018**

Introduction

My name is Catherine Trapani, and I am the Executive Director of Homeless Services United (HSU). HSU is a coalition of approximately 50 non-profit agencies serving homeless and at-risk adults and families in New York City. HSU provides advocacy, information, and training to member agencies to expand their capacity to deliver high-quality services. HSU advocates for expansion of affordable housing and prevention services and for immediate access to safe, decent, emergency and transitional housing, outreach and drop-in services for homeless New Yorkers.

Homeless Service United's member agencies operate hundreds of programs including shelters, drop-in centers, food pantries, HomeBase, and outreach and prevention services. Each day, HSU member programs work with thousands of homeless families and individuals, preventing shelter entry whenever possible and working to end homelessness through counseling, social services, health care, legal services, and public benefits assistance, among many other supports.

Background

Faced with record high homelessness, the de Blasio administration has made important investments in homeless services. They have expanded street outreach programs and the HomeBase homeless prevention network, invested in housing subsidies for persons exiting or trying to avoid entering shelter, introduced mental health services into the family shelter system and have begun to replace poor quality cluster site shelters with purpose built, service rich shelters. In addition to these service expansions, as part of the new investments for Fiscal Year 2018, the administration announced that they would reform rates paid to shelter providers to finally reflect the true cost of responsibly operating shelter programs through a rate reform effort that came to be called "model budget implementation".

"Model Budget" Implementation

When the effort was announced, shelter providers had high hopes that model budget implementation would finally adjust rates paid for services that had remained unchanged since the birth of the modern shelter system in the late 1980s and 90s. This investment was viewed as critical by all concerned. In many cases conditions at shelters had deteriorated due to chronic underfunding of maintenance and audits by the State Office of Temporary Disability and Assistance and the NYC Comptroller documented unacceptable conditions. In addition, salaries for case managers, housing specialists and other direct service staff had been budgeted at amounts so low, that turnover is an ongoing problem resulting in frequent vacancies that translate to higher caseloads and less individualized attention and support for residents. The strain on programs coping with unmet direct program expenses such as these has been exacerbated by the failure to adequately fund administrative overhead that supports the infrastructure of nonprofits.

Real Investments

Because of the urgency surrounding poor shelter conditions, DHS has worked with providers to approve funding to make necessary repairs and clear violations. Further, the “model budget” includes substantial increases to shelter maintenance funding levels to ensure that we are never again in the position where conditions are allowed to deteriorate to the degree we experienced in the last several years. **HSU applauds the Council for working to secure this investment and the work that was done in collaboration with DHS and providers to correct violations and improve shelter conditions.** Because of this work, violations in non-cluster site shelter programs are down over 80%. In some cases, there are still major capital improvements necessary to remedy years of disinvestment or to simply replace systems that require upgrades due to age – these types of repairs require going through a separate budget approval process - but, for general maintenance, things have already greatly improved and we anticipate that this progress will continue with the new investments coming into the system once “model budgets” are fully implemented. In addition to right-sizing budget lines for maintenance, DHS has created a new contingency valued at up to 10% of a contracts value that will allow providers contract authority to pull down additional funds to address a one time “new need” for a facility issue such as a boiler replacement to quickly address problems as they arise. **HSU would like to thank DHS for working with us on this issue; we believe this added contract authority will greatly enhance providers’ ability to address shelter conditions quickly and efficiently.**

In addition to increases in maintenance, DHS chose to bundle contract amendments for “model budgets” with other new investments to the human services sector as a whole such as funding for the second year of a multi-year COLA at 2%, and a much needed increase to the administrative rate up to 10%.

Unfunded Mandates and Liabilities

Unfortunately, enhancements to maintenance and promised funding for the COLA and overhead is where much of the good news about model budgets ends. Despite our optimism, the process has been plagued with delays and missed opportunities. New investments have been limited to what I’ve described above; what was called a “model budget” did not actually include many cost categories that are essential to effective program implementation such as:

- 1) Establishing salary parity across programs
- 2) Addressing wage compression to adjust salaries impacted by the increase to the minimum wage
- 3) Any increase to the fringe rate providers could charge to their DHS contracts above the arbitrary cap of 26% of program costs excluding rent even though the average rate is 37% and DHS’s own fringe rate substantially higher than that
- 4) Enhancements to security budgets
- 5) Increases to program budgets to lower caseloads and enhance services offered to residents
- 6) Rent and other occupancy charges (such as real estate taxes in triple-net leased properties)
- 7) Enhancements to the administrative rate were limited to increases up to 10%, an improvement over the existing rate but still far short of actual expenses

Continued failure to fund these essential components of shelter budgets leave shelter providers scrambling to cover basic costs, make it harder to attract and retain high quality staff and, limit our ability to innovate and enhance services to homeless families and individuals despite new challenges emerging every day such as coping

Catherine Trapani Testimony p.3

with the opioid overdose crisis and providing essential services like medical care, employment assistance and trauma-informed services to residents. **But for the Council's own commitment to quality programs funded by initiatives like the Children and Families in NYC Homeless System and discretionary grants, these kinds of services would go without government support despite the clear need.** I want to thank the Council for supporting this kind of work and request your continued investment in initiative funding until we are able to successfully scale programs and integrate best practices system-wide.

Administrative Processes Must Be Overhauled to Ensure Timely Contracting and Cash Flow

In addition to the problems associated with the "model budget" being incomplete and continuing to underfund critical services, in what is by now likely a familiar refrain coming from HSU, **DHS contract and amendment registration delays continue to plague providers and are expected to continue into Fiscal Year 2019.** While many organizations have seen and improvement in the timely registration of underlying contracts, amendments for COLAs, administrative overhead and model budgets have not been processed for the vast majority of providers. In fact, due to residual delays with registration of amendments from last fiscal year, **many agencies are still awaiting payments for services rendered in FY2017, some are still waiting for payments for services rendered even earlier.** This situation is unacceptable and threatens the viability of our sector.

HSU has worked with Commissioner Banks and his team to address these delays and have launched a finance committee to work through some of these issues but, even though much of the original backlog has been cleared, the slow pace of "model budget" implementation has placed DSS in a position where they must rush through FY2019 budget submissions before model budget negotiations are to complete in the hopes of having registered contracts by the first of fiscal year to avoid another cash flow crisis. In practice, this means that providers are being forced to submit budgets based on existing approved funding levels that date from as far back as 1988 in order to ensure there is a contract registered on July 1st so they can pull down an advance to operate their programs. Once they get the advance, we are told an amendment will be processed to implement the "model budget" but because no one knows what those funding levels will actually be, providers are in a situation where they can't make an informed choice on whether or not they can responsibly continue operating their programs.

HSU is not optimistic this problem will be avoided since "model budgets" have only been approved for 5 homeless services providers; the rest of the community is in some stage of preparing to submit templates, revising previous submissions, waiting for a response or meeting with DSS to discuss it or some other stage of review or approval. This process could be sped up significantly if DHS were to release parameters for what the agency regards as reasonable rates or at least sector-wide averages for cost categories to allow providers to better understand the realm of the possible when filling out the templates provided. Instead, providers are left guessing, submitting, revising and resubmitting templates over and over again until an agreement can be reached never knowing if they are over or underestimating what the agency is willing to fund. The result is a continued cycle of uncertainty and yet another fiscal year when we don't know if we will have sufficient resources to operate our programs.

Additional Investments in Client Centered Services Are Necessary

If we are to truly help the New Yorkers who come to us for assistance to resolve their housing crisis, we must be prepared and equipped to help meet their needs. This means a reliable contracting process where we know how much funding we are working with and, a shift from a "one size fits all" mentality of shelter and re-housing of the past years. **With the Mayor's commitment to invest in high-quality, purpose-built shelters, we must return to a**

client centered model of service delivery. Shelters must be equipped with the funding and resources to deliver a diversity of services to match diversity of causes that lead the client's homelessness. This includes:

Medical Services

Some shelters for adults and families with children have medical clinics co-located with programs. The co-location model allows shelter residents to easily access care, lowering barriers to engagement with medical providers and making treatment for health issues, including opioid addiction more accessible to those most in need. Recently, DHS has tried to move away from this model suggesting that H+H could increase capacity to take on this function. This move deprives clients with an option to receive care on-site and ignores the fact that H+H has no record of providing care of this kind to homeless clients while the existing network of providers is already doing good work. At a time when homeless deaths are on the rise, it is a mistake to move away from proven treatment models. Medical services should be a core component of shelter budgets.

Employment & Education

Employment specialists and education and GED specialists provide a unique connection for our clients to see a permanent way out of homelessness. In FY11, as part of a PEG exercise, DHS (now DSS) removed employment specialist from shelter budgets. It was counterproductive and counter intuitive to cut the staff services that directly impact the likelihood that a client, who is able to work, will obtain a job that enables them to move from shelter. We are still waiting for this PEG to be restored.

Recreation Services

Due to a FY10 PEG, we saw the final chipping away of critical recreation services for adults and families. Prior to entry into adult or family shelters, many clients have had few positive experiences with socializing and participating in a healthy community. Shelter recreation programs are a relatively low cost investment in homeless people that provide healthy socialization and communication skills that benefit clients in shelter and when they exit. Recreation programs address cycles of violence and create safe forums for disclosure and exploration of alternatives to lives consumed by abuse, violence and shame. Despite recent investments in shelter, this funding was never restored either.

Rental Assistance and Other Permanent Housing Programs

While not a part of shelter budgets, it cannot be overstated how essential viable pathways to permanent housing are to the success of shelter programs. HSU applauds the City's investment in creating subsidy programs like LINC, CityFEPS and SEPS to move people out of shelters and into permanent housing however, preliminary budget documents seem to show a decrease in funding allocated to rental assistance programs targeted to single adults even though rates of homelessness for this population remain at record highs. In addition, despite promises made over a year ago to streamline rental assistance programs to make them easier to navigate and market to landlords and to extend eligibility to homeless young people using the DYCD Runaway Homeless Youth shelter system remain unfulfilled and unfunded. While we've waited for this "streamlining" to take place, voucher levels have remained stagnant and are no longer competitive in the current market. As a result, families and individuals often find it difficult to locate suitable apartments that they can afford with the voucher amounts provided. The City must deliver on the promise to "streamline" these programs and ensure that funding levels are robust enough to allow shelter residents to afford housing available on the market in NYC today.

Supportive Housing is another critical resource for homeless people living in shelters and on the streets. The New York 15/15 initiative promises 15,000 supportive housing units to be created in 15 years. The first awards have been announced and progress is being made but, there are disparities in rates for scattered site and congregate housing models that could mean that residents of scattered site housing programs won't have access to the level

Catherine Trapani Testimony p.5

of services necessary to remain stable and avoid a return to shelter. Rates for these contracts must be adjusted to ensure that a sufficient number of units are produced with services available to meet the needs of those who will live in them.

Housing financed by HPD also needs to be affordable to and set aside for homeless households. The Mayor's *Housing New York 2.0* plan commits to creating or preserving an ambitious 300,000 units of affordable housing. Unfortunately, just 15,000 or 5% of those units will be made available for homeless households. Furthermore, most of the 15,000 set-aside units will be preservation of existing occupied units and thus not available for move-in by homeless families currently living in shelters. HPD predicts no more than a few hundred units will be available for occupancy by homeless families each year through the life of the Housing New York 2.0 plan. This is unacceptable – HSU is calling for an increase to the total number of housing units for homeless households under this plan to 30,000, with 24,000 of these units financed and created as new construction.

Finally, more needs to be done to fully fund the capital backlog for NYCHA Public Housing so that residents in NYCHA developments have access to high quality homes and to ensure that vacant units can be repaired and leased to families on the waiting list, including homeless households in need of a permanent home.

Additional Investments in Nonprofit Infrastructure Are Necessary

In addition to these investments in housing and services, in order to ensure nonprofit homeless services providers can function. Investing in the true costs of operating nonprofits will shore up the safety net and avoid the need to navigate labor intensive model budget exercises. HSU strongly supports the following investments in FY19:

- Going forward, the City should include trend factor/cost escalation formula (including cost-of-living adjustments) in all new human service procurements for the duration of the contract to ensure rates keep pace with expenses over time
- Develop a framework to increase all Health and Human Services contracts and all new procurements up to minimums detailed below:
 - 15% indirect cost rateⁱ
 - 37% fringe rateⁱⁱ (including a 15% increase for employee health insurance)
 - 10% increase for occupancy costsⁱⁱⁱ
 - 10% increase to casualty and liability insurance^{iv}

We are asking that the City Council include the parameters described above in its March Response to the Mayor's Financial Plan.

Thank you for your time and commitment to addressing the needs and concerns of homeless and at-risk New Yorkers and those who serve them.

ⁱ NRC KPMG report due out soon will clarify and standardize the city's position on indirect; meanwhile we recommend 15%

ⁱⁱ Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics December 2017 Guidance

ⁱⁱⁱ NRC KPMG report due out soon; meanwhile we recommend 10%

^{iv} See endnote iii



Testimony of

Stephanie Gendell
Associate Executive Director
Policy and Government Relations

Before the
New York City Council
General Welfare, Women's Issues and Juvenile Justice Committees

Regarding the
New York City
Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget

March 27, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Stephanie Gendell and I am the Associate Executive Director for Policy and Advocacy at Citizens' Committee for Children. CCC is a privately supported, independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe. I would like to thank Chairs Levin, Rosenthal and King, as well as the members of the City Council Committees on General Welfare, Women's Issues and Juvenile Justice for holding today's hearing regarding the City's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

CCC is incredibly grateful to the City Council for its long-standing commitment to the needs of the vulnerable families who interact with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Human Resources Administration (HRA) and Department of Homeless Services (DHS). Your relentless efforts to protect child care and preventive service capacity from cuts, pass a legislative package to strengthen the foster care system, invest in services to improve the lives of homeless New Yorkers, and increase funding so that children and families have access to healthy affordable food, have helped countless children and their families.

Similarly, we appreciate the efforts the de Blasio administration has made to improving the lives of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, including his plan to build 90 new homeless shelters while phasing out cluster sites and hotels, improving training for protective and preventive staff, creating new preventive services capacity and expanding free pre-kindergarten to three-year olds.

But there is much more work to be done. Many of the provider agencies working with ACS, HRA and DHS, be they preventive providers, shelter providers, foster care providers, child care providers, or Close to Home providers (or some combination) are struggling due to the long-standing underfunding of human service programs. In addition, many New Yorkers are struggling, with immigrants fearing ICE, over 27,000 children living in homeless shelters (many of whom are living in hotels and/or missing school), nearly 1,000 youth aging out of foster care without a family, and thousands of low-income families struggling to find safe, affordable child care.

Administration for Children's Services (ACS)

The Preliminary Budget did not include any new initiatives or new funding for the Administration for Children's Services. Given the precarious situation that ACS is facing at the state level, with proposed budget cuts of close to \$200 million, we understand the need for the City to be prudent about ACS's budget while this horrendous situation is being negotiated. CCC remains committed to advocating against these state budget cuts and urges our City Council colleagues to do the same.

Ordinarily, we would be concerned that the Preliminary Budget failed to include any new resources or initiatives for ACS, in child welfare, juvenile justice or early education. We look forward to seeing new investments in the upcoming Executive Budget.

CHILD WELFARE

ACS has been making tremendous strides in the past year, in large part due to investments in prevention and protection. Foster care is at an all-time low, with less than 9,000 children in care and the use of preventive services continues to increase.

ACS has made a number of key investments this past year. This includes training for preventive services staff, increased preventive services capacity for families with open court cases, the opening of 3 family enrichment centers, the creation of a child well-being division, and created a heightened risk protocol for the highest risk child protection investigations.

The Mayor also signed into law Council Member Levin's legislation to create an Interagency Foster Care Task Force, which CCC was pleased to be able to participate on. This Task Force made 16 recommendations, 2 of which ACS is working to implement immediately: expanding the use of kinship care and increasing the number of foster children participating in after-school programs.

CCC is concerned about the state budget proposal to cap and cut child welfare services to New York City, which would result in a \$149-\$161 million cut in FY19, that would theoretically grow every year if the City continues to make new investments to strengthen child protective and preventive funding. While we hope to convince the Governor and the State Legislature to reject this harmful proposal, we also urge the City to maintain ACS's programming by adding resources in the Executive Budget to hold ACS harmless, if necessary.

CCC appreciates all of ACS's efforts amidst the challenges ACS faces. We respectfully request that ACS include funding for the following additional investments in the Executive Budget so that it can further strengthen its ability to keep children safe and support families:

1) Add \$5 million in the Executive Budget to ensure all foster children in need of busing to school can have access.

Two federal laws, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015), require local school districts and child welfare agencies to collaborate on a plan to provide, arrange, and fund transportation so that students can remain in their school of origin when they enter foster care or change foster homes, if it is in their best interests to do so. For a number of foster children who are not placed near their school of origin, this requires busing.

For some children in foster care, New York City is fulfilling its obligation. Students in foster care who have special transportation recommended on their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) typically get door-to-door busing between their foster placement and their school. For other students in foster care, the Department of Education (DOE) will only provide bus service if the student is in kindergarten through sixth grade and can easily be added to an existing bus route. We have been informed that the Office of Pupil Transportation only approves approximately 50% of the requests it receives for foster student transportation.

If no existing bus route is available, transportation is left up to the foster parent or foster care agency. Often, foster parents and foster care case planners are unable to transport children to and

from school every day. Transporting one child to and from a school located far away from the foster home (which may be far away from the foster care agency as well) could easily take a case planner four hours per day, transforming their job into one of a transportation chaperone and making it impossible to perform all of their other required tasks.

Without bus service, many young children in foster care are forced to transfer schools even though such a transfer is not in their best interests. When students are removed from their homes and families, school is often the only source of stability in their lives. We urge the administration to meet the legal requirements and do what is best for these students by adding \$5 million to ensure busing is available to every foster child in need of busing to and from school.

2) Ensure all children and youth have been discharged from foster care through KinGAP (Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program) receive subsidy until age 21 when they meet statutory requirements

Last year, CCC along with many of our child welfare colleagues, advocated for a state law to strengthen and expand KinGAP. This law passed in June and became effective on March 12, 2018.

KinGAP is a permanency arrangement whereby children and youth in foster care can live permanently with a relative who obtains legal guardianship and still receives a subsidy, like adoptive parents and foster parents do. This is a beneficial arrangement for families where reunification and adoption are not options. Relatives and youth sometimes prefer guardianship to adoption because it does not require termination of parental rights.

The law passed last year expanded the definition of kin to include close family friends and neighbors—people who are like kin but are not related by blood, marriage or adoption. In addition, the law now enables the subsidy be provided until the child turns 21, regardless of the age at which the guardianship proceeding was concluded. Under the prior law, those whose KinGAP agreement was finalized before age 16 only received the subsidy until age 18.

CCC understands that the current financing arrangement results in the state not providing the city with any support for KinGAP because the subsidy payments come out of the foster care block grant. We have spent many years advocating for a separate funding line, with state support, for KinGAP. We will continue to do this.

While the state law only requires the subsidy to continue until age 21 for all youth after the effective date of March 12, 2018, the statute regulations give localities the discretion to amend the agreements to continue the subsidy until age 21 for those who entered an agreement under age 16 before the new law went into effect. While we would of course appreciate state support, we urge New York City to take this option and provide KinGAP until age 21 for all eligible youth.

3) Implement Additional Recommendations of the Foster Care Task Force

CCC is grateful to the City Council, ACS, and all of the members of the Interagency Foster Care Task Force, especially the youth and parents, who worked collaboratively to develop critical and important recommendations to improve the well-being of children in foster care. CCC stands ready to help at the City level and advocate at the State level to ensure all 16 recommendations

are implemented. This will include continuing to advocate for statutory enhancements to the child welfare housing subsidy bill, for ACS and DHS to collaboratively find ways for foster children to visit their parents living in homeless shelters, and to expand foster youth and former foster youth access to behavioral health services.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

CCC appreciates the City's leadership in helping to advocate for the passage of legislation to Raise the Age of criminal responsibility and in implementing the effective Close to Home program. We understand that the State budget is currently threatening to cut all funding for Close to Home (\$41.4 million) while also failing to provide the City with any new resources to implement Raise the Age despite an estimated cost of \$200 million to implement (not all costs would be borne by ACS). As with the proposed child welfare cut, CCC is advocating as strongly as possible that the City receive state support for its juvenile justice system, which will shortly include 16 and 17-year olds.

We know that the de Blasio administration and ACS have been working very hard and collaborating with many partners, including CCC, on the implementation of this very comprehensive law. We are grateful to the City for all of this effort. That said, we are deeply concerned with the City's plan is to use both ACS and Department of Corrections (DOC) staff to supervise 16 and 17 year olds in ACS detention facilities for approximately two years.

While CCC appreciates that ACS will have case-planning responsibilities and that ACS and DOC are jointly creating a vision for the operation of the facility with the intent of a youth-centered model, these measures cannot mitigate the risks of using DOC staff to oversee 16 and 17 year olds. CCC is concerned that even if ACS transitions to primary staffing after 24 months, the negative culture that dominates at Rikers will be replicated in the new facilities, a damage that will be extremely difficult to undo and which risks contaminating the culture at ACS and the youth they serve, including the younger children.

The mistreatment of adolescents in DOCs is well documented and has not changed. As recently as October 2017, the independent court-appointed monitor for *Nunez vs. City of New York* documented continued appalling conditions for youth at the hands of DOC staff, including the observation that "serious and problematic issues involving Staff use of force continue in an unabated fashion."¹ The monitor report notes that "[t]he cultural dynamic that permeates so many encounters between Staff and inmates in DOC is quite simply a consequence of Staff actions and behaviors that too often engender, nurture, and encourage confrontation."² Such encounters involved leadership noting a "disturbing" number of captains who were involved "frequently" and "repeatedly" in concerning use of force incidents.³

¹ *Fourth Report of the Nunez Independent Monitor, January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017*. The Nunez Monitoring Team. October 10, 2017. Available at <https://www.npr.org/2017/11/30/559846083/despite-scrutiny-rikers-islands-culture-of-violence-persists-report-says>.

² Id.

³ Id.

One of the core purposes of Raise the Age was to give youth the benefit of a juvenile experience instead of the Rikers experience. All of the great work ACS has done in its detention facilities, is exactly why it is so concerning to bring DOC staff to ACS detention facilities. Removing youth from Rikers Island but failing to remove youth from the direct control of Rikers Island staff would be a terrible misstep. In short, we do not want to simply move Rikers to Horizons.

CCC appreciates the need for urgency in planning for the implementation of Raise the Age and we understand the enormous challenge of hiring and training sufficient staff to handle expanded capacity in youth facilities. **CCC urges the City nonetheless in the strongest terms to reconsider its decision to have DOC staff in juvenile detention facilities.**

CCC believes that if the City truly wants to ensure that ACS has juvenile justice counselors employed by ACS by the October deadline, hiring this staff is entirely possible if it is a priority. The City was able to find and train staff in an expedited manner for its prekindergarten classes. In this instance, the City could either put out an emergency test and list or contract out the services to a juvenile justice provider with this type of experience.⁴

CCC urges the City Council to strongly oppose the City moving DOC staff from Rikers to ACS detention facilities and to take steps to prevent the administration from proceeding in this manner.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Access to high-quality early childhood education is critical for all parents, and especially for low-income families so that parents can work and young children can receive the developmentally stimulating well-known success that has been a proven return on investment. CCC appreciates the commitment from the de Blasio administration to ensure every four-year old has access to full day Pre-K and to begin to expand this to three-year olds.

The Preliminary Budget proposes to expand 3-K for All by increasing the number of new districts opening this fall and next, from two to four in both years, which creates 3,166 new seats in the next two years. The Preliminary Budget includes significant increases, starting with \$38.3 million in FY20 for this. In addition, the Preliminary Budget includes a capital investment to create 432 new Pre-K for All seats in Corona and the Upper East Side. CCC supports these investments.

CCC also recognizes that the early childhood system in New York City is in the process of undergoing a large transition, with the EarlyLearn contracted subsidized child care system, serving approximately 33,000 children ages 0-4 in center-based and family-based care. That said, we believe it is critical that addressing the needs of the early childhood system not be delayed pending the transition.

⁴ Westchester County contracts out secure detention to Leake and Watts (and soon Children's Village.)

1) Establish Salary Parity for Early Educators and Ensure a Smooth and Positive Transition of EarlyLearn from ACS to DOE

Perhaps the biggest challenge still facing the early childhood education system is the lack of salary parity between teachers in early Community-Based Organizations (CBO) and DOE teachers. CBO early childhood teachers earn significantly less than DOE teachers with the same level of education, with first-year BA-certified CBO teachers earning approximately \$14,000 less and MA-certified CBO teachers earning approximately \$15,000 less compared to DOE teachers. This salary disparity widens over time. For example, a certified teacher with a BA and eight years of experience would earn \$74,207 at the DOE, but the same teacher would earn \$44,065 in a community-based program.⁵

Notably, the job is the same except that the teachers in CBOs also work from 3-6 PM and during the summer months, meaning that the CBO staff earn less money while working more hours. This has caused challenges for CBOs as their experienced staff continue to leave for jobs in DOE schools. As the administration creates new Pre-K and 3K classrooms in schools (which we in theory want to see), there are more opportunities for CBO staff to work for the DOE, further compounding the problem. It is in the best interest of system stability, the workforce, the children, and communities served to achieve salary parity.

CCC urges the Administration to address income inequality in the early childhood system and by creating salary parity for early childhood professionals.

2) Increase capacity to serve more infants and toddlers and ensure DOE is prepared to serve children 0-3

According to a recent report by the Campaign for Children, using data provided by ACS and analyzed by CCC, ACS only serves 14% of income eligible infants and toddlers and thousands of three-year olds need care.⁶ We appreciate efforts to age down Head Start seats to Early Head Start and encourage the administration to continue to build more seats for infants and toddlers.

3) Make all homeless young children living in shelters categorially eligible for child care.

There is no question that homeless children under 5, living in shelters could benefit from participating in an early childhood education program. While ACS has given eligible homeless children priority for child care, the parents still need to be working or otherwise eligible. Given the instability in the lives of homeless parents and their children, we believe that these children should be categorially eligible by virtue of living in a shelter, which is allowed under federal and state law.

⁵ "Salary Disparities in NYC's Early Childhood Education Workforce." Citizens' Committee for Children. February 2018. Available at <https://www.cccnewyork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/salary-parity-infographic-final.pdf>.

⁶ Campaign for Children. *New York City's Early Childhood Education System Meets Only a Fraction of the Need*. September 2015. http://www.campaignforchildrennyc.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Child-Care-Need-2015_final.pdf

CITY COUNCIL FUNDED INITIATIVES RELATED TO ACS

We also urge the administration to restore and where appropriate baseline the following City Council-funded initiatives related to ACS and its providers:

Child Welfare and Domestic Violence

- \$7.805 million for Domestic Violence and Empowerment (DoVE) Initiative
- \$1.95 million for Supportive Alternatives to Violent Encounters (SAVE)

Criminal Justice Services/Juvenile Justice

- \$6.407 for Alternatives to Incarceration programs
- \$1.4 million for a Bail Fund
- \$1.71 for the Center for Court Innovation
- \$1.35 million for the Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault, which includes child advocacy centers
- \$1.0 million for Support for Victims of Human Trafficking
- \$600,000 for video visitation for incarcerated persons' families in public libraries

Early Childhood Education/Child Care:

- \$9.855 million for Discretionary child care programs
- \$4.242 million for the City's First Readers Initiative (DYCD)

Department of Social Services (DSS, HRA and DHS)

Today's Preliminary Budget hearing comes at a time when homelessness remains at crisis levels in New York City. According to DHS's Daily Report, on March 21, 2018 there were 12,708 families with 22,627 children sleeping in DHS homeless shelters.⁷ Homeless families with children comprise 70% of all of the homeless in New York City.

The only Preliminary Budget proposal to attempt to address homelessness is \$2.16 million for a Basement Apartment conversion program. In addition, the Preliminary Budget includes another shelter re-estimate adding \$150 million for single and family shelters. While we certainly want to ensure that all homeless New Yorkers have shelter, we are concerned that the only significant investment in the Preliminary Budget to address homelessness is more money for shelter.

While we appreciate the administration's commitment to increasing purpose-built shelters (including the creation of 90 additional shelters) and moving to a borough-based placement system, to date only 10 of the 90 new shelters have opened, leaving the City behind schedule.⁸ At the same time, the City has begun to remove cluster site apartments from the DHS shelter system. Thus, with fewer cluster sites and insufficient new capacity in purpose-built shelters, the use of hotels has increased. In response to Council questioning, the City revealed it is spending

⁷ Department of Homeless Services Daily Report. March 21, 2018

<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/dailyreport.pdf>

⁸ The New York Times. *New Homeless Shelters Slow to Open, Despite de Blasio Promise*. January 23, 2018.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/23/nyregion/homeless-shelters-nyc-de-blasio.html>

\$364 million annually on hotel rooms for the homeless.⁹ This is up from \$102 million in 2016.¹⁰ While we do not know how many homeless families with children are living in hotels, we know the number is growing. This is all the more concerning because families with children had an average length of stay of 414 days in FY17¹¹, well over a year.

The dearth of purpose-built shelter capacity results in families being placed far from their communities, schools, jobs, social service providers, friends, families and support systems, even when it is safe and in their best interests to remain in their communities. For school-aged children this removal from their communities of origin has translated into school transfers and/or long commutes, with high rates of absenteeism. For parents this situation means long and complicated morning and evening commutes to access their children's schools, child care, jobs, public assistance appointments and medical appointments. As a result, families experience disruptions in social service supports, as well as the supports from friends and families in their communities.

A recent report by the New York City Comptroller's Office documented that students in homeless shelters had the highest rates of absenteeism.¹² Fifty-eight percent of the DOE's homeless students – 19,000 students – were chronically absent.¹³ These students were absent an average of 41.6 days of the 178-day school year.¹⁴ The DOE is required to contact parents on the first day of each separate absence occasion, but the audit found that the DOE did not attempt to contact the family on the first day for 92% of these students' absences, and the DOE never made an attempt to contact the family in 75% of these absences.¹⁵

A recent report by CCC and Advocates for Children (AFC) provided additional findings and recommendations for homeless students.¹⁶ As we reported, for students living in shelters, 53% missed more than a month of school in unscheduled absences. The educational outcomes for these students are extremely low, with 3rd through 8th grade proficiency rates at 15% for ELA and 12% in math.¹⁷ Additionally, 10% of middle and high school students living in shelters were suspended from school.¹⁸

⁹ Politico. *City Spending \$364 Million Per Year on Hotels for Homeless People*. March 16, 2018. <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2018/03/16/city-spending-364m-per-year-on-hotels-for-homeless-people-318770>

¹⁰ The New York Post. *Homeless Hotels are Costing Taxpayers a Fortune*. January 31, 2018. <https://nypost.com/2018/01/31/homeless-hotels-are-costing-taxpayers-a-fortune/>

¹¹ Preliminary Mayor's Management Report FY18, Department of Homeless Services. <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/pmmr2018/dhs.pdf>

¹² "Comptroller Stringer Audit: Massive DOE Breakdowns Endanger Homeless Students." NYC Comptroller. March 15, 2018. Available at <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/press-releases/comptroller-stringer-audit-massive-doe-breakdowns-endanger-homeless-students/>.

¹³ Id.

¹⁴ Id.

¹⁵ Id.

¹⁶ *Recommendations for Improving School Access and Success for Rising Numbers of Students in Temporary Housing*. Advocates for Children of New York and Citizens' Committee for Children. March 2018. Available at <https://www.cccnewyork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Recommendations-for-Improving-School-Access-Success-for-Students-in-Temporary-Housing-3.2018.pdf>.

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ Id.

In short, this frightening data demands that the administration take additional measures in the upcoming Executive Budget to better prevent homelessness, promote the well-being of children in the shelter system and better support families after they leave the shelter system.

CCC is co-convenor of the Family Homelessness Coalition, which has submitted a number of recommendations to the administration which we hope to see funded in the Executive Budget. These include:

- **Prevent homelessness for domestic violence survivors who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by implementing an alternative to shelter model that assists survivors to remain safely in place by providing supports such as financial assistance and safety planning.**
- **Develop Service-Enriched Affordable Housing Models Targeted to Homeless Families**
- **Create a 15-year project-based rental voucher for homeless families with children, with the possibility of renewal at the end of the 15 year-term.**
- **Invest in trauma-informed care and training for all staff at homeless shelters and intake sites.**
- **Intentionally connect homeless children to Early Intervention, Early Childhood Education, and After-school and summer programs.**
 - Children in homeless shelters would benefit from participation in these programs, but often face numerous barriers to enrollment. The administration has been intentional about reaching out to 4- year olds to enroll them in pre-kindergarten and should follow the same model for all early childhood and after-school programs. In addition, ACS and DYCD recently entered into an MOU to intentionally connect foster children to after-school programs. CCC applauds this and urges the administration to replicate this for school-age homeless children.
- **Take a multi-pronged approach to improve outcomes for homeless students. CCC and Advocates for Children estimate that the cost of the following five priorities would be \$30.3 million – a \$10.3 million restoration and an additional \$20 million.**
 - **Restore and baseline the \$10.3 million for Bridging the Gap support services for homeless students, which includes 43 social workers in schools with high rates of homeless students.** In response to the media inquiries from the Comptroller report and the AFC/CCC report, the administration has tried to explain efforts in place to support homeless students, in large part by explaining the value of the 43 social workers in the schools with high rates of homelessness. It is therefore baffling that the administration has not baselined this funding and has made it subject to the budget dance over the past two years. In addition to the lack of logic in funding this initiative for the past three years one year at a time, it is destabilizing to the social workers themselves to not know whether they will have a job after June and to the homeless students developing relationships with

the social workers to not know if they will be back in the fall. The Bridging the Gap initiative must not be subjected to the budget dance.

- **Expand the Bridging the Gap social worker program from 43 to 100 social workers at schools with high rates of students living in homeless settings.**
- **Create a Deputy Chancellor's Office for Highly Mobile Students.** Currently there is no high-level leadership within the DOE to focus on highly mobile students, such as foster children and homeless children, who need both additional supports and coordination. Creating a Deputy Chancellor level office will help provide the focused attention of DOE leadership to be the champion for this vulnerable population of students.
- **DOE should hire Field Support Center Directors for Highly Mobile Students.**
- **DOE should hire 50 social workers to provide intensive support at shelters to address education-related issues.** Students who live in shelters would greatly benefit from DOE social workers within the shelter environment. These social workers can help address many of the barriers to student success unique to the shelter environment, including addressing barriers to transportation, absenteeism, communication with student and family, and academic support. There are currently approximately 117 DOE Family Assistants who work in shelters, but these Family Assistants are not social workers and cannot provide the type social-emotional support and advocacy that is needed. At a minimum, the DOE should transition the Family Assistant role to social workers as staffing replacements are needed and as new shelters open.
- **In addition, CCC believes that the City could save money by providing parents of homeless elementary school students and pre-kindergarten students with monthly MetroCards rather than weekly MetroCards.** Currently, while transportation is being arranged for homeless elementary school students to attend their home schools, their parents can receive weekly MetroCards. Homeless pre-kindergarten students are entitled to transportation by law, which is currently addressed via MetroCard only (no busing). In both instances, parents must go to a DOE office or find a Family Assistant at the shelter or hotel to provide them with a new MetroCard every week. Four weekly MetroCards is more expensive than 1 monthly MetroCard. We therefore strongly urge the City to alleviate some of the transportation challenges (while saving money) by providing monthly MetroCards to the parents.

- **While we seek to reduce the use of hotels, we must address conditions in them to make them more humane while children and families continue to reside there by:**
 - Eliminating the practice of requiring families in hotels to move rooms every 29 days.
 - Ensure families in hotels have access to laundry.
 - Ensure families in hotels have access to high quality, palatable food that meets the needs of clients with special dietary restrictions. Note that homeless families in hotels do not have kitchens and are unable to store food in their hotel rooms. Creative ways to bring food to families in hotels, such as vans, must be explored.
 - Create space in the hotels for children to play and for families to have visitors during specified hours.
- Restore and where appropriate baseline City Council Initiatives including:
 - \$1.0 million for Children and Families in the NYC Homeless System Initiative
 - \$820,000 total for the Citywide Homeless Prevention Fund
 - \$3.65 million for Community Housing Preservation Strategies
 - \$450,000 for Financial Empowerment for NYC's Renters
 - \$1.0 million for the Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program
 - \$2.5 million for Stabilizing NYC, a citywide coalition to prevent the loss of affordable housing

Food and Economic Security (HRA/DSS)

While SNAP benefits are a critical component of ensuring the food security of New Yorkers, there are many hungry New Yorkers who are not eligible, eligible New Yorkers who are not enrolled, and the federal government has cut SNAP benefits. Thus, unfortunately, many New Yorkers need to turn to emergency food programs (EFPs), such as food pantries and soup kitchens. In addition, federal cutbacks and fears related to immigration will likely increase the need for emergency food programs.

CCC was extremely disappointed that the Preliminary Budget did not maintain the \$7.23 million for the emergency food assistance program (EFAP) that the administration added to last year's adopted budget. This leaves the EFAP budget at a mere \$8.2 million baselined. **CCC renews our call to fund EFAP at \$22 million, which would include a \$7.23 million restoration and an additional \$6.57 million. We urge the administration to include this funding in the Executive Budget.**

We also urge the Administration to restore and where appropriate baseline the following City Council initiatives:

- \$930,000 for Access to Healthy Food and Nutritional Education, which includes restorations for EBTs in Farmers' Markets
- \$725,000 for the Food Access and Benefits Initiative
- \$4.0 million for food pantries
- \$2.8 million for the Anti-Poverty Initiative
- \$3.048 million for Worker Cooperative and Business Development Initiative

Conclusion

In conclusion, while the de Blasio administration has taken some critical steps towards addressing income inequality and the needs of vulnerable children and families, there is much more work to be done. This is especially so given the threats at the state and federal levels. We remain hopeful that the Executive Budget will include many of the restorations and priorities that are raised in this testimony. We hope that the City Council will also support these priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



FOR THE RECORD

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Good afternoon, Chair Levin and thank you to the entire General Welfare Committee for hearing my testimony today. My name is Catherine Shugrue dos Santos and I am the Co-Director of Client Services for the New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP). At AVP, we empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected communities and allies to end all forms of violence through organizing and education, and we support survivors of violence through counseling and advocacy.

LGBTQ people¹ and people of color, particularly those who identify as Black and Latinx, have higher unemployment, homelessness, and poverty rates,² and within LGBTQ communities, these inequalities are echoed, as poverty, unemployment, and homelessness rates increase due to intersecting oppressions. For example, Black lesbians suffer the economic consequences at the intersection of racism and homophobia;³ transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) people experience bias, violence, and legalized employment discrimination, and have twice the national rates of poverty; and TGNC people of color, especially those who identify as Black and Latinx, face the intersecting oppressions of transphobia and racism, experiencing poverty at four times the national average.⁴ Local LGBTQ poverty, homelessness, and unemployment rates are significantly higher, particularly for LGBTQ people of color who live outside Manhattan. As the citywide provider of community-based services for LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence, AVP has seen firsthand the way in economic abuse and dependence on the abusive partner creates significant, often insurmountable barriers to leaving an abusive relationship. For LGBTQ survivors disproportionately impacted by poverty, unemployment, and employment discrimination, economic dependence on abusive partners is especially devastating. LGBTQ youth experience bullying and other violence at school,⁵ high rates of homelessness,⁶ and are over-represented in the child welfare system.⁷

A recent report on hunger⁸ found that more than one in four LGBT adults could not afford to feed themselves or their families at least once in the past year. By comparison, only one in six heterosexual cisgender adults reported a similar crisis. A 2013 report on poverty⁹ found that lesbians, gays and bisexuals may face employment discrimination and higher rates of being uninsured. Along with City Council members and our community partners, AVP conducted forums in every borough with TGNC communities from 2015 into 2017, and consistently heard that employment and housing discrimination, financial instability, immigration, and a lack of safety in mainstream community spaces were primary concerns for TGNC New Yorkers.

¹ Albelda, R, Badgett, M.V.L., Schneebaum, A., and Gates, G. *Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community* (2009). <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Albelda-Badgett-Schneebaum-Gates-LGB-Poverty-Report-March-2009.pdf>.

² US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data, <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsrace2009.pdf>

³ Ramsey, F., Hill, M., and Kellam, C. *Black Lesbians Matter: An examination of the unique experiences, perspectives, and priorities of the Black Lesbian community* (2009). <http://zunainstitute.org/2010/research/blm/blacklesbiansmatter.pdf>

⁴ Grant, Jaime M., Lisa A. Mottet, Justin Tanis, Jack Harrison, Jody L. Herman, and Mara Keisling. *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*. http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/ntds_full.pdf

⁵ GLSEN (2016) *National School Climate Survey*. <https://www.glsen.org/article/2015-national-school-climate-survey>

⁶ Williams Institute (2012) *America's Shame: 40% of Homeless Youth Are LGBT Kids* <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/americas-shame-40-of-homeless-youth-are-lgbt-kids/>

⁷ Anne E. Casey Foundation (2016) *LGBTQ in Child Welfare* <http://www.aecf.org/resources/lgbtq-in-child-welfare/>

⁸ Brown, T., Romero, A., Gates, G. (2016). <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/lgbt-food-insecurity-2016/>

⁹ Badgett, M.V.L., Durso, L., Schneebaum, L. *New Patterns of Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community* (2103) <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies/lgbt-poverty-update-june-2013/>

AVP's direct services work is grounded in our anti-oppressive, trauma-informed, harm reduction approach. We know that LGBTQ and HIV-affected people hold multiple and intersecting identities, and that when one or more of these identities are marginalized, that impacts the way they experience violence and what happens when they reach out for help. In particular, **LGBTQ people of color, LGBTQ youth and young adults, and transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) people all have disproportionately high rates of severe and pervasive violence,¹⁰ which has immediate and long-term negative impacts on survivors' physical, emotional, and financial safety, health, and wellness.** Unsurprisingly, research demonstrates that identity-based violence and barriers to trans-affirming healthcare create significant mental and physical health issues for transgender people¹¹, including high rates of suicide.¹² LGBTQ communities show high levels of unmet need¹³, including great disparities between transgender and non-transgender people around accessible healthcare for mental and physical health issues,¹⁴ yet they face multiple, often insurmountable barriers to support and services.¹⁵

All of this is escalated as LGBTQ people in this country experience heightened rates of violence of all kinds, particularly hate violence in our current socio-political climate. **As much as we pride ourselves in New York City for being a welcoming and affirming city for LGBTQ and all people, rates of violence are at a high here as well.** AVP's bilingual hotline experienced a **34% increase in calls** from survivors of violence in 2017 as compared to 2016, reflecting the turbulent times impacting LGBTQ communities. 2017 was also a year in which nationally we saw an **86% increase in LGBTQ hate violence homicides nationally. Three of those homicides happened on our city's streets.**

Our community members and clients are reporting more incidents of hate violence across the city — at their workplaces, in their homes, in shelters, in schools, on the subways and buses they take every day. Since the Presidential election, not only have we seen a spike in hate violence, we've also seen increases in other kinds of violence: intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and dating violence. Those in our community who are who are the most marginalized -- people of color, immigrants, undocumented people, young people, and TGNC people are disproportionately impacted by violence. Many have told us they have become afraid to travel throughout the city for fear of being attacked or harassed.

Compounding the problem is the fact that survivors often feel they have very few places to turn for support and services. In AVP's report on hate violence in 2016, **only 26% of survivors in New York City reported that they went to the police, representing a 53% decrease in police interaction over two years.** Of those who did interact with the police, 45% reported

¹⁰ National Coalition of Anti-violence Programs (NCAVP) Lesbian, Gay, bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate Violence in 2015, available at: http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ncavp_hvreport_2015_final.pdf and NCAVP Lesbian, Gay, bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Intimate Partner Violence in 2015, available at: http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2015_ncavp_lgbtqipvreport.pdf

¹¹ Seelman, K. et. Al. "Transgender Non-inclusive Healthcare and Delaying Care Because of Fear: Connections to General Health and Mental Health Among Transgender Adults, in *Transgender Health* Volume 2.1, 2017 DOI: 10.1089/trgh.2016.0024

¹² Adams, N. Hitomi, M. Moody, C. "Varied Reports of Adult Transgender Suicidality: Synthesizing and Describing the Peer-Reviewed and Gray Literature," in *Transgender Health* 2017, 2.1 <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/trgh.2016.0036>; CDC (2016) *Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance*. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services.

¹³ Steele, L. et. Al. "LGBT Identity, Untreated Depression, and Unmet Need for Mental Health Services by Sexual Minority Women and Trans-Identified People," in *Journal of Women's Health*, Volume 00, Number 00, 2016, DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2015.5677.

¹⁴ Su, D. et al. "Mental Health Disparities Within the LGBT Population: A Comparison Between Transgender and Non-transgender Individuals," in *Transgender Health* Volume 1.1, 2016 DOI: 10.1089/trgh.2015.0001

¹⁵ National Center for Victims of Crime and NCAVP, *Why It Matters: Rethinking Victim Assistance for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Victims of Hate Violence & Intimate Partner Violence*, <http://www.avp.org/documents/WhyItMatters.pdf>; and McClennen, Joan C., *Domestic Violence Between Same-Gender Partners: Recent Findings and Future Research*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*; 2005, Vol. 20; 149.

indifferent or hostile attitudes from the police. **Too many survivors tell us they would rather sleep on the subway than trust their safety in a city shelter, due to past experiences of physical and sexual violence, based on their LGBTQ identities. Issues and solutions can be found in our policy brief, *Solutions Out of Struggle and Survival*.**¹⁶

AVP not only provides critical services, but helps advocate for our clients so they can receive the services they need outside our offices. Our programs include:

- **A 24 hour Spanish/English crisis intervention hotline.** Last year, we answered over 4,500 calls, that's about one call every two hours.
- **One-on-one Counseling and support groups,** reaching over 1,100 community members in all 5 boroughs.
- **Our Economic Empowerment** program to help survivors deal with the economic impact of violence with individualized sessions and workshops on topics such as taxes, credit repair and debt, resumes and cover letters.
- **AVP's Legal Services** represents LGBTQ survivors of violence in all civil legal matters, including immigration, family, housing, and public benefits. We have seen a 24% increase in overall clients seeking legal services since the 2016 election.
- **Leadership Development,** including job readiness and paid internships, a Speakers' Bureau, and more.
- **Community Outreach, Organizing** activities that reach more than 43,000 people each year in all 5 boroughs with information on staying safe. This includes know-your-rights trainings, bystander intervention trainings, and more.
- **Policy Advocacy** work with City Council bringing together community members to identify policy solutions to violence.

I respectfully ask that you continue the City Council's support of AVP, and that the Committee work with us on these issues so that New York City can become a safer place where our LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities can thrive, with access to culturally responsive, affirming, and inclusive safety, support, and services that address their emotional, physical, and financial safety, health, and wellness.

¹⁶ <https://avp.org/solutions-struggle-survival-tgnc-policy-brief/>



**Testimony by Jesse Laymon,
Policy Director of the New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC)
Before the New York City Council Committee on General Welfare
Chairman Stephen Levin
At the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget Hearing**

March 27, 2018

Good morning and thank you for holding this hearing and doing the necessary oversight of the City's Department of Social Services – Human Resources Administration, the agency most clearly responsible for helping New Yorkers living in poverty. HRA oversees a range of vital services for the most vulnerable New Yorkers, and today I'd like to focus on the services available to help unemployed and underemployed clients climb the ladder out of poverty.

My name is Jesse Laymon, Policy Director for the New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC). The New York City Employment & Training Coalition (NYCETC) supports the workforce development community to ensure that every New Yorker has access to the skills, training, and education needed to thrive in the local economy, and that every business is able to maintain a highly skilled workforce. With over 180 members, NYCETC works with community-based organizations, educational institutions and labor management organizations engaged in New York City workforce development, to improve policy, practices, and outcomes to achieve economic inclusion for the city's workers, job-seekers and employers.

With regard to the Human Resources Administration, we have 3 questions and observations that we hope will guide your oversight of the agency today and in the coming months.

Question 1: How many clients' benefits are at risk if they don't achieve employment?

The longest-term and broadest concern we have with regard to HRA is whether the agency is doing enough to help clients on public assistance gain marketable skills and earn gainful employment that will allow them to exit poverty, and with it public assistance. Our belief is that the unfortunate answer to this question is NO.

One way to begin to understand the scope of the problem is to start by asking how many current clients of HRA are approaching the end of their 60-month lifetime limit on Federal TANF benefits. These clients will either stand to lose benefits or be covered with New York tax dollars if HRA fails to assist them in achieving gainful employment before their Federal benefits expire.

We hope the City Council will be able to get a clear answer from HRA: what is the # of current PA recipients who have reached, or are within 12 months of reaching, the end of their Federal cash assistance?

Question 2: What training or education programs and services are available to HRA clients who are not job-ready today? Are they sufficient?

For a large and growing share of the City's unemployed, and for a very large percentage of the HRA clients who are seeking work, the path to gainful employment is marred by barriers. Lack of a High School diploma, insufficient literacy or numeracy, language barriers, and basic job skills deficits can prevent these clients from finding a job that will pay them enough to support themselves and their family.

Clients such as these are best served by "bridge programs" that focus on clients' key skills deficits and can provide contextualized education to close the gap and bring the clients up to speed for higher education, vocational skills training, or even job placement.

The City Council must ascertain what is happening to these clients today and in the next year. What programs, such as bridge programs, from across City agencies does HRA see serving these clients in need of basic education and skills development?

Question 3: What role is HRA playing in achieving the Mayor's *Career Pathways* goals, and specifically what portion of the \$60 million annual promise for bridge programs will HRA look to fund by 2020?

In 2014, the Administration released its *Career Pathways* vision for workforce development in NYC, which is meant to be the blueprint for all the agencies, including HRA, that help New Yorkers gain skills and jobs.

Career Pathways lent its name to the subsequent set of contracts issued by HRA just over 1 year ago, however not all of the *Career Pathways* practices are being implemented by HRA or covered in HRA's budget.

Most critically, the initial set of concept papers for the HRA *Career Pathways* contracts included a concept called "Career Bridge" that would offer bridge programming for HRA clients, at an annual cost of approximately \$10 million.

However, "Career Bridge" was not included in the final set of budgeted services offered under the contracts now in place.

The City Council should ask how much of the Mayor's promised \$60 million in annual funding for bridge programs in 2020 will be dedicated serving to HRA clients?

and - If HRA does not budget for bridge programs itself in 2019 and 2020, how many of its clients will be left without necessary training and education programs to escape poverty?

Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration, and we look forward to working with the City Council to make sure that the needs of New York City's lowest income jobseekers are addressed by HRA and other agencies through this and future City budgets.

2018 policy platform for workforce development in New York

our principles

no. 1: Upward Mobility

Ensure that every New Yorker gains the skills needed to earn a meaningful income, and create a just and equitable society for everyone of working age.

no. 2: Human Capital

Build strong ties with the business community to invest in employment pathways that grow a diverse & expanded workforce in the new sustainable economy.

our vision

The City of New York must play a central role in preparing workers by focusing its economic development agenda on its human capital. This can be achieved through bold new investments in job training and skills development that expand economic opportunity and promote equality for New York's workers, with a focus on preparing New Yorkers for middle-class careers that are currently beyond their reach. The blueprint already exists: **Career Pathways**. It is our determination that Mayor de Blasio must fund his administration's plan, and re-orient its workforce development system towards developing jobseeker skills, achieving high-quality career opportunities for all.

city budget / legislative priority: implement & fund 'Career Pathways'

Increase Bridge Programs Funding to \$60 Million by 2020, spread across DYCD, SBS, CUNY, HRA & EDC

Bridge programs are designed to provide workers with very limited skills or English proficiency with the supplemental education they need to take advantage of available jobs and training programs. In order to prepare 100,000+ New Yorkers for new jobs, we must fulfill the goal set in the **Career Pathways** plan of **\$60 million in annual funding** for bridge programs by FY 2020, spread across several agencies:

- **\$15+ Million** through **DYCD**, covering bridge literacy programs for youth and adults.
- **\$15+ Million** through **EDC**, linked to careers in growth sectors like tech and life sciences.
- **\$10+ Million** through **HRA**, lifting recipients up out of public assistance.
- **\$10+ Million** through **SBS**, providing training dollars to Workforce1 Community Partners.
- **\$10+ Million** attached to **CUNY**.

Reorient Workforce1 System around Career Pathways goals, and publicly report results for key populations

For the City's workforce development system to combat persistent income inequality, SBS, the City's primary portal for jobseekers, must focus on the **populations who have the highest unemployment rates** and need workforce services the most.

SBS should begin to achieve this by issuing annual public reports on the number of jobseekers it has served (via either job placement or connections to training) who fall in each high-unemployment population: youth, recent immigrants and english-language learners, people with disabilities, with criminal justice histories, or with limited work experience or educational attainment.

- The City Council can play a role by passing legislation to **require SBS to report** on the key demographics of clients who gained employment each year.

2018 policy platform for workforce development in New York

administration priority: embed workforce into all economic development

Economic development initiatives such as 'New York Works' must include workforce training investments

For economic development projects and initiatives sponsored by City entities like the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), all RFPs should include language requiring developers to detail how they'll implement a pipeline connecting local workers to trainings and to jobs. All future economic development proposals by public entities should include workforce training as a funded component. The City should mandate hiring requirements for disadvantaged and local workers on projects involving City resources such as land, tax credits, or direct funding. Finally, the City should designate a monitoring agency (such as WKDEV) to ensure development projects achieve their goals.

The Mayor's Office of Workforce Development must be empowered for Career Pathways goals to be met
The Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (WKDEV) must be able to ensure that key Mayoral priorities such as bridge programs are implemented, either through an independent budget or by having review authority over agency budgets.

We recommend that SBS, HRA, and DYCD at least should have to submit their proposed budgets to WKDEV along with OMB for approval before they are included in the Mayor's FY 2020 Budget.

state budget priority: establish new workforce training investment

New York State should devote new resources to workforce training through the newly proposed Consolidated Funding Application, that prioritizes communities in need and support proven strategies such as bridge programs

The State Legislature should support the proposal in Governor Cuomo's 2018 State of the State for a new \$175 million Consolidated Funding Application for workforce training through the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs). However, it is imperative that the REDCs choose to grant these dollars to programs that include legitimate workforce training provider organizations, and that they prioritize grants to communities of greater need (such as youth, recent immigrants and english-language learners, people with disabilities, with criminal justice histories, or with limited work experience or educational attainment).

For more information or to attend our Monthly Strategy Sessions, contact:
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**TESTIMONY
of
FPWA**

**Presented to:
New York City Council Committee on General Welfare
Stephen Levin, Chair**

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Tuesday, March 27th, 2018

**Prepared By:
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My name is Edline Jacquet and I am the Director of Policy at FPWA, an anti-poverty policy and advocacy nonprofit with a membership network of about 170 human services and faith-based organizations. Thank you, Chairperson Levin and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify here today and for your leadership on that deeply affect New Yorkers.

FPWA has been a prominent force in New York City's social services system for more than 94 years, advocating for fair public policies, collaborating with partner agencies, and growing its community-based membership network to meet the needs of New Yorkers. Each year, through its network of member agencies, FPWA reaches close to 1.5 million New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities, and denominations. FPWA strives to build a city of equal opportunity that reduces poverty, promotes upward mobility, and creates shared prosperity for all New Yorkers.

Human Service & Nonprofit Sector Investments

Human Services Advancement Strategy Group

Human services providers that contract with the city to provide essential services are struggling with underfunded contracts that fail to keep up with the rising costs of doing business and provide inadequate wages and support for the workforce. Just as the city has increasingly become an expensive place to live, it has also become an increasingly expensive place to do business, especially for human services organizations, whose business is caring for people. Without the ability to raise prices on services, and without increases in government funding, nonprofits have been significantly weakened-- from a chronically underpaid and under-resourced workforce, to rising costs for rent, insurance and other expenses, to underfunding of overhead and indirect expenses, and insufficient funding to deliver programs that meet the needs in communities. These challenges play off and exacerbate one another, making service delivery increasingly difficult.

To better address these critical needs, a group of nine membership organizations representing 2000 human service provider organizations across the City, including FPWA, partnered together and created the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), to secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of provider organizations holding City HHS contracts. Last year saw an important investment in human services provider organizations that hold City contracts. With your help, we secured \$300m of our \$500m ask to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

There are two areas of human service nonprofit operations that need special attention in FY19 – costs associated with indirect rates and fringe and escalating occupancy and insurance costs. We are suggesting funding parameters that set a floor of 15% for indirect in all human services contracts and are requesting a 10% increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance to cover escalating costs in these areas. Additionally, the City uses an outdated formula for calculating employee fringe benefits. We are also asking for consideration of a 37% fringe rate in all human service contracts to reflect a generally accepted industry standard and that, coincidentally mirrors the fringe rate used by the City for its own employees.

As a member of the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), FPWA, respectfully requests that the New York City Council include in its Response a **\$200 million dollar ask for FY19** to address these critical funding shortfalls.

In the months since the FY18 budget was adopted we've worked to insure timely disbursement of funds and to identify funding gaps that continue to hamstring human service providers. Getting these funds out to the human services provider community has been slow. ACS, DYCD and DFTA have made the most progress getting funds out the door to providers.

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Access Health NYC

As FPWA envisions being a driving force of building a city of equal opportunity, we believe New York City must reduce health disparities by ensuring that all New Yorkers have health care access and coverage, and that targeted programs and policies are in place to address health crisis that have disproportionately impacted low-income, and disenfranchised communities, such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

FPWA, along with our member agencies, believe that true economic equity can only be realized through a system that eliminates the disparities creating and continuing poverty while equipping and empowering people to sustain themselves, their families and their communities. Health is a critical part of this vision –and in a time where access to healthcare is so uncertain, we believe New York City has the opportunity and responsibility to reduce health disparities. New York can do this by ensuring that all New Yorkers know not only how to access health care and coverage but are empowered to do so. To this end, FPWA is particularly excited for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Access Health NYC, an initiative dedicated to equipping some of the city's most dedicated community-based health educators and providers with the training and resources they need to provide outreach, education, and support to all New Yorkers in need of health coverage and health care.

Access Health NYC is designed to target individuals and families who are uninsured, LGBTQ, formerly incarcerated, homeless, have limited English proficiency, have disabilities, live with HIV/AIDS, and are experiencing other barriers to health care access and information about health coverage and options. Increased access to insurance coverage and primary and preventive care will reduce health care costs for families and safety net providers like our public hospital system, and improve health outcomes for all New Yorkers. Over the last three years, the initiative has had immense impact in connecting New York City residents to health insurance and health services. Based on these results, FPWA **recommends that the City Council enhance the Access Health Initiative to \$2.5 million in FY19.**

Human Services Budget

While FPWA supports initiatives that address the root causes of poverty and economic inequity, we also recognize that there are short-term, immediate needs. FPWA is very concerned about some pressing needs that have not been sufficiently addressed in the budget. These issues affect some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Afterschool and Summer Programs

Afterschool and summer programs provide quality youth development opportunities to school-age children and youth. These programs offer a broad range of educational, recreational and culturally age-appropriate activities that integrate school day experiences. Summer programs prevent summer learning loss while enabling working parents to go to work each day, sure that their child is safe and learning. The Preliminary budget once again cuts the 20.35 million needed to ensure that children enrolled in afterschool programs have a safe and developmentally stimulating place to be while their parents are at work in July and August.

To maintain the strength of these programs, the following must be funded in Fiscal Year 2019:

- **Restore and baseline the \$20.35 million for at least 34,000 middle school children afterschool summer program slots** (FY'18 budget included a one-year restoration of \$15 million for 22,800 children). the \$15.0 million added in the Preliminary Budget for summer programs for 22,800 middle school students.
- **Invest \$15.6 million for Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** minimum wage increase in FY'18 plus additional funding needed for FY'19 minimum wage increase.
- **Restore \$16 million for COMPASS elementary afterschool programs.**
- **Restore \$11 million for the Year-Round Youth Employment Program-** the Council also funded the program with an additional \$8 million for a total of \$19 million in FY'18.

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Mayor de Blasio's Executive Budget maintains his commitment to pre-kindergarten for four-year olds and includes through additional investments in FY'20 of \$38.28 million to expedite implementation of 3K for three-year olds.

While FPWA supports these efforts to increase the quality of early care and childhood education in New York City, we also advocate for the following restorations:

- \$9.85 million for discretionary child care programs
- \$4.25 million for the City's First Readers Initiative through DYCD
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Build Workforce Development Initiatives to Support Shared Prosperity

With increasing economic disparity and stagnated wages nationwide many low-income and immigrant New Yorkers struggle to find employment that affords opportunities for economic advancement. Minimum- and low-wage jobs do not provide these New Yorkers the income, growth opportunities, or stable, quality employment they need to achieve upward mobility.

There are two such programs that the City has created and that provide access to low-income communities to achieve economic advancement and security: worker cooperatives and the day laborer initiative

Worker Cooperatives

Over one in five New Yorkers are trapped in poverty as a result of enduring economic barriers. Minimum and low-wage jobs do not provide these New Yorkers the income, growth

opportunities, or stable, quality employment they would need to achieve upward mobility. Worker cooperatives—small businesses owned and managed democratically by their employees—offer entrepreneurs control over their working conditions and the fruits of their labor by providing higher wages, more benefits and better job stability. Worker cooperatives root wealth in New York City by allowing worker-owners to build both individual and community assets, and they give discouraged workers the opportunity for greater economic mobility. Thanks to the City Council investment of over \$8 million over the past 4 fiscal years, we have achieved significant results in the following impact areas. This investment will have a positive impact on long-term unemployment as well as the growing numbers of underemployed individuals. We project that a total of 37 new cooperatives businesses will be created employing 98 new worker owners in FY'18.

We urge the City Council to continue this positive momentum by enhancing the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative to **\$3.95 million for FY 2019.**

Day Laborer Initiative

Day laborers in New York operate in all five boroughs; on street corners across the city providing essential services to the local construction industry, landscaping businesses, homeowners, and renters. In addition, Day laborers played an important role as secondary responders in the post-Sandy local, state, and federal reconstruction and relief efforts. Day laborers formed reconstruction brigades and they were some of the first volunteers on the ground after the devastation of hurricane Sandy. Even though day laborers are an integral part of the New York City workforce, their contributions often remain invisible and unrecognized. The problems faced by this community are often ignored and their needs often left unmet.

The Day Laborer Workforce Development Initiative came together to address the needs of this underserved population, services that are even more essential now. As members of the city's informal workforce, day laborers experience rampant wage theft, pervasive construction accidents, workforce hazards, lack of access to workforce development training, and lack of infrastructure. The Initiative's goal is to address these issues by linking day laborers to vital services, providing trainings on workforce safety and legal rights, addressing wage theft, providing access to jobs, and, most importantly, creating safe and dignified spaces for day laborers to congregate as they search for gainful work. New York City has the potential to lead the nation in the fight for day laborer rights.

In the first two years of the initiative, in FY16 and FY17, over 2,000 jobs were dispatched from the centers, and a new day labor center was opened its in Staten Island and Williamsburg, Brooklyn. All this work was accomplished through the investment of just over \$1 million from the City Council. In FY18, the initiative has already dispatched close to 800 jobs (by December 2018) and reached more than six hundred day laborers through outreach, trainings, and referrals. Through Initiative support, NMCIR has been able to open a worker center in the Bronx.

And yet, there is still much more work to do to create the infrastructure to support day laborers. We ask that New York City commit to support the expansion and development of Day Laborer Centers across the five boroughs. Consequently, these centers will provide job placement and workforce development services to these neediest of workers. The Day Laborer Workforce Initiative, through the existing day laborer centers in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island and the development of new centers, supports five services:

- 1) Job Referral,

- 2) Wage Theft Legal Clinics
- 3) Know Your Rights Trainings
- 4) Referral Services to Critical Services
- 5) Workplace Development and Safety Trainings

Through an **enhancement to \$2.262 million in FY19**, a total of six day laborer centers will operate in New York by the end of the FY19. We will enhance our services to provide more construction safety and skills trainings, immigration and know-your-rights-workshops, and referrals to legal services. The initiative will also train and equip day laborers to safely and strategically respond when natural disaster strikes the city, by aiding the city and its residents in the clean-up and reconstruction. We are poised to take major steps in addressing the needs of day laborers in FY19 and we need the continued support of the city Council to make these plans a reality.

Rebuilding the Safety Net for Older New Yorkers

Solvency for Senior Services

FPWA envisions New York City as a place where we can all safely remain in our homes and continue to contribute to the diverse social and economic fabric of our communities as we age. To do so, many of us will eventually rely on a solid network of community-based services such as senior centers, transportation, home-delivered meals, homecare, and respite for our caregivers. It's critical for the city to plan for and invest in building up these safety net services as the number of people aged 65 and older rises steadily and rapidly. Instead, funding for the Department for the Aging remains just 2 percent of the city's spending on human services. Decades of underfunding have resulted in growing wait lists for services, sketchy adult day care pop-ups, bare-bones senior centers, and a meager community-based safety net for older New Yorkers. To make matters worse, Council Members must reinforce the inadequate funding for core services every year with discretionary dollars. This is incredibly destabilizing for the organizations providing these services and stifles program innovations and enhancements. The preliminary budget shows no signs of turning this tide.

Rebuilding this safety net so that older New Yorkers can age in place safely will require a robust investment in home-based, neighborhood-based, and caregiver services. Working in coalition with other aging advocates, we've developed a 5-year plan to address current service gaps in the sector and build an infrastructure to meet the increasing needs that we are already seeing. We ask that the City commit to fully funding services for older adults with initial investment of \$60.6 million in FY18: \$15.7 million to baseline discretionary funding for core services and \$44.9 million to fill the gaps in current programs.

Nearly 1.6 million people 60 and older call New York City home. As the range of services indicates, this is not a homogenous population but a diverse demographic group covering a lifespan of 30 years or more. 58 percent of older New Yorkers are women, nearly half are immigrants, and a third have limited English proficiency. The majority of older New Yorkers (71.4 percent) are no longer in the workforce, so fixed incomes are a hard reality for many: the average social security benefit is \$17,211, and 30 percent live below or just above the poverty level.

The number of older New Yorkers has grown rapidly since the mid-2000s, and **by 2030 one in five New Yorkers will be 60 and older**. Yet, over the years there's been no plan to prepare for this demographic shift and the wider-ranging needs that come with a longer lifespan. Instead,

DFTA's budget endured stagnation and cuts, stifling much needed growth and service improvements.

But last year, thanks to the strong support of the City Council the tide started to turn. We are so grateful to the Council and the Administration for clearly demonstrating their commitment to older adults by securing an investment of nearly \$23 million in baselined funding for senior services in FY18, including: \$10M for a model budget for senior centers, \$6.5 million to address the homecare waitlist, \$1.2 million to address the case management waitlist, \$1.2 million for weekend meals, and \$4 million for a new caregiver support program.

We now ask that the Council fight to further stabilize funding, not only to meet current needs but also to shore up the City's safety net infrastructure for older adults, which is threatened by proposed federal cuts. According to our analysis, Trump's budget proposal cuts DFTA's federal funding by nearly \$27 million—more than a third of the agency's federal funding in FY18, or 7.2 percent of its \$372 million budget. DFTA relies on more than a dozen federal grants, several of which are eliminated entirely in the budget proposal. These cuts are in addition to the decimation of direct federal assistance, such as housing, food assistance, and healthcare. Especially now, under this threat to the existing safety net for older adults, a continued, city-led investment in a long-term plan to build this service infrastructure is the right way forward.

In FY19 we encourage the Council to seek an investment of \$22.1 to build up the safety net for older New Yorkers, and push for an expedited process to implement the funding committed by the administration for the model budget for senior centers.

Last year, FPWA worked with other advocates for older adults to determine what the service gaps in the sector were and how we could build an infrastructure capable of supporting the increasing needs we are already seeing. We proposed an investment of \$132.8 million over five years to address current needs and develop an upgraded and expanded infrastructure for each of DFTA's core services: senior centers, homecare, congregate meals, home-delivered meals, case management, social adult day services, NORCs, caregiver programs, transportation, and elder abuse prevention. The Council stood with us, declaring it the Year of the Senior, and demanding that older New Yorkers be included in the city's vision for equal opportunity.

We are grateful for the Council's support and the city's strong commitment to improving senior services in FY18 with \$22.89 million in baselined funding and ask that, in year two of our five-year plan, the administration continue to make progressive improvements to the network of services. **In FY19, we ask for an allocation of \$22.1 million for services** that help keep older New Yorkers in their communities (see chart below).

DFTA Core Service	Description	FY19 New Needs
Congregate Meals	Increase reimbursement rate by \$1.00 and ensure cultural competency and flexibility	\$7,600,000
DFTA-run NYCHA Senior Centers	Facilities improvements and supports for nearly 100 centers located within NYCHA developments	\$5,000,000
Home-Delivered Meals	Increase reimbursement rate by \$1.00 and ensure cultural competency and flexibility	\$4,500,000

Case Management	Address waitlists and growing demand	\$2,000,000
Homecare	Address waitlists and growing demand	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Increase transportation support	\$1,000,000
Elder Abuse Prevention	Increase prevention and awareness	\$500,000
Caregiver Supports	Continue outreach and expand services	\$500,000
TOTAL		\$22,100,000

Of particular importance this year is funding for both congregate and home-delivered meals, neither of which have received increases in several years. Current reimbursement rates are below the national average, according to DFTA. And while culturally appropriate meals such as kosher and halal are mandated by DFTA, they are more expensive, resulting in a deficit to nonprofits that provide them. **Therefore, we request that per-meal reimbursements be increased by \$1.00, at a total cost of \$12.1 million in FY19.**

There are nearly 100 DFTA-funded senior centers located within NYCHA developments. Most of these centers are in dire need of support and stability in order to adequately serve older adults. These programs have unique needs for facility improvements given the long-standing federal disinvestment in Public Housing that has now created a capital backlog. While these centers will receive some funding for staff and programming through the model budget process, facilities and OTPS costs are not included. In order to make these centers safe, inviting spaces, we request \$10 million over two years: \$5 million in FY19 and \$5 million in FY20.

There are over 1,100 seniors on case management waitlists across the city and over 200 on waitlists for homecare. The investments made in FY18 have begun to address the waitlists, but the need continues to grow, along with the population of older adults. We must continually build this system not only to serve today's need, but also future needs. Additional funding is needed to ensure that caseloads don't go higher than 65, per DFTA mandates. We request \$2 million to ensure that services keep pace with the ever-increasing demand.

Funding is also needed to serve frail, homebound seniors waiting for a social worker to be available to visit them at home, assess their needs, and provide ongoing services. Living wages must be funded to ensure there are professionally trained social workers who can manage complex situations, as well as multilingual staff who can work with immigrant populations. Homecare offers vital supports for older adults that allow them to remain at home with the care they need to remain independent. Therefore, we request \$1,000,000 to address the current homecare waitlists.

Funding for transportation services has been stagnant for many years. Vans take older adults to programs and cultural or recreational trips, to run errands like food shopping, and even to medical appointments. Reliable, accessible transportation is the cornerstone of remaining independent as we age. Therefore, we request \$1,000,000 for increased transportation services provided by nonprofit service organizations.

DFTA's Elder Abuse prevention services are a critical resource to address this crisis, in which only one out of every 24 cases is reported. We request \$500,000 to increase outreach and awareness of these services.

Access to affordable elder care and support for caregivers are the workforce issues of the 21st century. Caregivers statewide provide \$32 billion of free care to loved ones. In addition to workplace flexibility, caregiver programs allow people opportunities to manage their own life responsibilities in addition to the caregiving they provide. We request \$500,000 for caregiver supports to continue outreach & expand services, including support groups and respite.

Model Budget for Senior Centers

As part of FY18's historic increase in funding for senior services, the Administration committed to creating a model budget for senior centers. We thank DFTA, OMB, and the Administration for their work over the past year to finalize the details of this model budget. The process has culminated in a determination that, to bring equity into funding for senior centers, an additional investment of \$10 million dollars (beyond the \$10 million allocated in FY18) would be necessary. The city has committed to providing this funding, to be fully implemented by FY21.

This is an important investment focusing on direct staff and programming, and we are very pleased that DFTA has committed to working with each provider individually as they work to amend contracts. However, this is no small feat, and **we urge the administration to ensure that there is enough capacity at DFTA to process these amendments promptly.**

Moreover, **FPWA requests that the Council push to expedite the implementation of the full \$20,000,000 in funding by FY20, rather than the proposed FY21.** This funding will have a hugely positive impact on the operations of these programs. As stated, this funding applies only to personnel and programming, but there are many other upgrades and expansions of the senior center network that are necessary to meet the needs of older adults across the city, especially in new immigrant communities. We urge the Council to prioritize the implementation of this funding so that we can attend to these other needs such as meals, rent, OTPS and other associated costs.

Conclusion

We thank the General Welfare Committee for the opportunity to testify. We hope that you consider our budget priorities and recommendations during this year's negotiation process and encourage you to reach to us with any questions you may have. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure that New Yorkers and their families receive sufficient services needed for them to live and thrive in the City and to create shared prosperity for all New Yorkers.



**TESTIMONY
of
FPWA**

**Presented to:
New York City Council Committee on General Welfare
Stephen Levin, Chair**

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Tuesday, March 27th, 2018

**Prepared By:
Edline Jacquet, Director of Policy**

**Jennifer Jones Austin
Executive Director/CEO**

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My name is Edline Jacquet and I am the Director of Policy at FPWA, an anti-poverty policy and advocacy nonprofit with a membership network of about 170 human services and faith-based organizations. Thank you, Chairperson Levin and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify here today and for your leadership on that deeply affect New Yorkers.

FPWA has been a prominent force in New York City's social services system for more than 94 years, advocating for fair public policies, collaborating with partner agencies, and growing its community-based membership network to meet the needs of New Yorkers. Each year, through its network of member agencies, FPWA reaches close to 1.5 million New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities, and denominations. FPWA strives to build a city of equal opportunity that reduces poverty, promotes upward mobility, and creates shared prosperity for all New Yorkers.

Human Service & Nonprofit Sector Investments

Human Services Advancement Strategy Group

Human services providers that contract with the city to provide essential services are struggling with underfunded contracts that fail to keep up with the rising costs of doing business and provide inadequate wages and support for the workforce. Just as the city has increasingly become an expensive place to live, it has also become an increasingly expensive place to do business, especially for human services organizations, whose business is caring for people. Without the ability to raise prices on services, and without increases in government funding, nonprofits have been significantly weakened-- from a chronically underpaid and under-resourced workforce, to rising costs for rent, insurance and other expenses, to underfunding of overhead and indirect expenses, and insufficient funding to deliver programs that meet the needs in communities. These challenges play off and exacerbate one another, making service delivery increasingly difficult.

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TESTIMONY: UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

New York City Council

Committee on General Welfare, Preliminary Budget Hearing FY 2019

Honorable Stephen Levin, Chair

Submitted by:
Ariel Savransky, UJA-Federation of New York

March 27, 2018

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TESTIMONY: UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK
Committee on General Welfare, Preliminary Budget Hearing FY 2019
March 27, 2018

Good afternoon Chairperson Levin and members of the Committee on General Welfare. My name is Ariel Savransky and I am an Advocacy and Policy Advisor at UJA Federation of New York. On behalf of UJA, our network of nonprofit partners and those we serve, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of maintaining and expanding services for New York City's most vulnerable residents.

Established more than 100 years ago, UJA-Federation of New York is one of the nation's largest local philanthropies. Central to our mission is to care for those in need. We identify and meet the needs of New Yorkers of all backgrounds and Jews everywhere. We connect people to their communities and respond to crises in New York, Israel and around the world. We support nearly 100 nonprofit organizations serving those that are most vulnerable and in need of programs and services.

UJA thanks the City Council for its efforts and commitment in the FY18 Budget to increase the funding for human service contracts. These investments once fully implemented will better allow for human services workers across the city to provide critical services to New Yorkers in need. However, there remain a number of areas that are either unfunded or underfunded that challenge our nonprofit partners as they attempt to serve individuals and families across New York City.

UJA submits the following recommendations for the FY 2019 budget:

Supporting the Human Services Sector

The Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), a group of nine membership organizations that includes UJA, represents 2,000 nonprofit human service provider organizations across the City. HSASG was created to advocate for and secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of nonprofit providers holding New York City health and human services contracts.

In the months since the FY18 budget was adopted, HSASG has worked to disburse funds and identify funding gaps that continue to plague human service providers.

UJA, as a member of HSASG, greatly appreciates the important investment made in City-contracted human services provider organizations in FY18. With the support of the City Council, \$300 million (of a \$500 million funding request) was included in the final budget to help provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

However, there are two areas of human service nonprofit operations that need special attention in FY19 - costs associated with indirect rates and fringe benefits as well as escalating occupancy and insurance costs. We are suggesting funding parameters that set a floor of 15% for indirect costs in all human services contracts and are requesting a 10% increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance to cover escalating costs in these areas. Additionally, the City uses an outdated formula to calculate employee fringe benefits. We are therefore asking for consideration of a 37% fringe rate in all human service contracts to reflect a generally accepted industry standard and that, coincidentally, mirrors the fringe rate used by the City for its own employees.

UJA, as a member of the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group, respectfully requests that the Council include in its March Response a \$200 million ask for FY19 to address these critical funding shortfalls.

Workforce Support

1) Use Career Pathways Blueprint as a Guide to Create a Stronger Workforce

This budget marks the fourth year of a five-year plan to transform the City's workforce development system. The goals of this transformation are to expand access to career-track jobs in fast-growing industry sectors, improve job quality and foster a more cohesive workforce. The Career Pathways model strives to ensure that individuals build skills employers seek, therefore expanding access to high quality jobs and achieving the goal of aligning both workforce and economic development initiatives. However, in order to realize these goals, significant increased economic investment is necessary. We urge the Council and the Administration to work together to resolve the shortfalls in this budget and create a stronger workforce using the Career Pathways blueprint as a guide.

Additionally, the Career Pathways blueprint called for an investment of \$60 million annually by Fiscal Year 2020 in bridge programs that prepare low-skill job seekers for entry-level work and middle-skill job training. The adopted budget for fiscal year 2018 includes only \$6.4 million in funding for these programs. Because of this minimal investment, many New Yorkers are left out of these important programs, including the immigrant populations that would benefit the most. Our agencies work with many immigrant families and communities, providing services to put these New Yorkers on a career trajectory and setting them up to be able to support themselves and their families. In order to be on track to meet this year's goal, the budget should include increased funding across City agencies for these programs.

2) Restore and Baseline the \$12 Million Investment for Community-Based Adult Literacy Programs

We greatly appreciate the commitment of the New York City Council and the Administration to investing in adult literacy programs in New York City, notably for the historic \$12 million investment in educational opportunities for immigrant New Yorkers, a commitment which was renewed for FY 2018. For the 2.2 million adults in New York City – one-third of the adult population – who lack English Language Proficiency, basic literacy skills, or a high school diploma, these programs are necessary tools in teaching these individuals how to read, write, obtain an equivalency diploma, and enter job training or post-secondary education programs.

However, the \$12 million investment in Adult Literacy programs was not included in this year's Preliminary Budget. If the funding is not restored, many English language learners will lose their classes. We urge the Administration to not only restore, but baseline, the \$12 million investment in community-based adult literacy programs.

By baselining the \$12 million investment, more immigrants will be able to access higher education programs as well as jobs and careers that will allow them to take care of themselves and their families. Funding instability means that programs cannot hire full-time staff which results in the most qualified teachers leaving in favor of more stable employment.

Furthermore, single-year funding does not allow the Department of Youth and Community Development to update reimbursement rates and program design because it is not possible to issue a new procurement. Once funding is baselined, we urge the Administration to commit to a new procurement that adequately reflects the true costs of providing high quality, comprehensive adult

literacy classes. Providers currently receive between \$850 and \$1,000 per student annually. However, when factoring in the cost of full-time instructors, preparation time and professional development, intake, testing, data entry, reporting, space costs, instructional materials and other indirect costs, the true cost per slot is much higher. By baselining funding and issuing a new procurement, community-based adult literacy providers will be able to more effectively serve their students.

Food Insecurity

The rates of poverty, food insecurity and hunger remain staggeringly high in New York City. According to the most recent U.S. Census data, the overall poverty rate in New York City is 20% and about 1.4 million people live in food insecure households, with one in five relying on food pantries and soup kitchens. It is essential that the City continue to make the fight against poverty, food insecurity and hunger a top priority in the Executive budget by investing in crucial hunger assistance programs, as well as ensuring that New Yorkers have access to the benefits for which they qualify.

We submit the following recommendations:

1) Continue to Invest in Expanding the Anti-Hunger Safety Net

Many of our agencies work with their clients to help to enroll them in the benefits for which they are eligible. We know that the City administration and the City Council have taken steps to expand enrollment in programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by identifying eligible New Yorkers using Medicaid data matching as well as allowing applicants to submit necessary documents using their smartphones and recertify for benefits over the phone. **We urge the continuation and expansion of efforts such as these so that more eligible individuals can enroll in this program.**

2) Increase Funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)

EFAP provides a vital supply of nutritious food to food pantries and soup kitchens across the City, including for many of our providers that host these services for their communities. Federal cuts to SNAP in 2013 decreased the amount of SNAP benefits that New Yorkers receive each month, resulting in increased reliance on EFAP to get adequate nutrition throughout the month. For families of three, the cut amounted to about \$29 a month.¹ Because of this increased reliance on EFAP, according to a report by the Food Bank for New York City, more than 75% of food pantries and soup kitchens saw increased visitor traffic and an increased number reported experiencing food shortages in September 2017 compared to September 2013.² Additionally, many food pantries struggle to obtain an adequate food supply, especially proteins (meat, poultry and fish).³

Despite the need, the preliminary budget failed to restore the \$7.2 million investment that was made in FY2018, which will result in reduced resources for the food pantries and soup kitchens serving the 1.4 million food insecure New Yorkers.

We urge the administration to not only restore this cut but also increase funding for EFAP to \$22 million to keep up with rising food costs and increased needs of New Yorkers throughout the City. This represents an additional \$13.8 million investment in these crucial services.

¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. *SNAP Benefits Will Be Cut for Nearly All Participants in November 2013*. August 2013. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/snap-benefits-will-be-cut-for-nearly-all-participants-in-november-2013>

² Food Bank for New York City. *Trade-Offs at the Dinner Table: The Impacts of Unwanted Compromises*. November 2017. https://www.foodbanknyc.org/wp-content/uploads/Trade-Offs-at-the-Dinner-Table_FB-Research-Brief_Nov2017.pdf

³ Food Bank for New York City. *Meeting NYC's Need: Bolstering the Emergency Food Network in 2017*. <http://www.foodbanknyc.org/wp-content/uploads/MeetingNYCsNeedNetworkBrief20172.pdf>

3) Increase Access to Meals, Especially Kosher Meals

There are over 500,000 people living in poor or near-poor Jewish households in the greater metropolitan area. The high cost of a kosher meal – which on average is 30 percent more expensive than a not-kosher meal – presents a unique challenge for many of our agencies in their work with clients who observe these dietary laws. SNAP recipients often exhaust their SNAP allotments by the last week of the month, but for those observing kosher dietary laws, benefits may run out much earlier in the month because of the increased cost of kosher food. In addition to expanding access to EFAP which will ensure that our agencies can better fill the gaps when their clients run out of SNAP benefits, **it is essential that the City invest resources in ensuring that food pantries are equipped with enough food to serve their clients, especially culturally competent foods, such as kosher and Halal foods.**

4) Increase the Reimbursement Rates for Home Delivered and Congregate Meals for Seniors

UJA's network of nonprofit partners provides vital food services and supports to all New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs. It is also through our partners that UJA is also the largest provider of kosher food in New York City. As demonstrated by our Digital Choice Food Pantry System, UJA believes in the importance of food choice and access to culturally competent meals. Our Digital Choice Food Pantry System integrates access to kosher food with a central warehouse inventory system that allows clients to order food either at a pantry site, or from the convenience of their own home. Clients are able also to select a pick-up time for their food package, making the system work best for them.

While food insecurity rates among most New Yorkers have declined, rates among older adults have increased. Between 2014 and 2016, almost 200,000 seniors in New York experienced food insecurity, which is a 16.5% increase from 2013-2015 and represents 12.2% of seniors in New York City.⁴

Adequate nutrition is necessary to ensure better resistance to illness and disease as well as increased mental capacity and overall health. As evidenced by the increasing rates of food insecurity among seniors and increased nutritional requirements there is an immense need for access to nutritious and culturally appropriate meals for this population.

Beyond simple meal provision, home-delivered meals provide important social contact for those who are confined to their homes. Meal delivery can act as an access point for other important services, and helps older adults to age safely and in place. However, the high cost of a kosher meal presents a unique challenge for many of our agencies in their work with clients who observe these dietary laws.

Providing culturally sensitive meal services for seniors is a priority for UJA, and we are particularly concerned about reimbursement rates for kosher home-delivered meals. The cost of kosher home-delivered meals is higher than the current DFTA reimbursement rate, and our agencies that provide these kosher meals to the elderly struggle to cover the higher costs. This also makes it difficult for service providers to meet the needs of the diverse senior communities throughout the City. Although increased investment in FY15 alleviated some of this burden, providers of kosher meals continue to feel strained.

UJA urges the City Council to include rate increases that are adequately flexible and culturally competent for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals in the March Response. We request an investment of \$7.6 million for Congregate Meals and \$4.5 million for Home Delivered Meals.

⁴ ⁴Hunger Free America. *Working New York Still Hungry: New York City and State Hunger Report*. November 2017. <http://www.hungerfreeamerica.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/2017%20NY%20City%20and%20State%20Annual%20Hunger%20Survey%20Report%20.pdf>

Supporting Older Adults

1) Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)

Classic NORCs and neighborhood NORCS are multi-age housing developments or neighborhoods that were not originally built for older adults, but now are home to a significant number of older individuals. These supportive service programs provide critical nursing services and promote health and stability among New York's seniors. NORCs provide services and resources that help enable low-middle income older New Yorkers to age in place and thrive in their communities.

DFTA contracts with 28 classic NORCs funded by a \$6.5 million baselined investment. The City Council invests \$3.85 million of discretionary funds to exclusively support 25 classic NORCs and neighborhood NORCs and ensure continuity of service in these communities.

NORCs play a crucial role in helping seniors to continue to live safely at home, allowing them to access supportive services and social programs and avoid hospital stays or costly moves to nursing homes. However, some programs struggle to cover the high cost of health and nursing care associated with the NORC supportive service model. Further, there are many parts of New York City that do not have a NORC program, despite having a high concentration of older adults.

UJA recommends that the City Council increase the NORC Initiative to \$5 million to support discretionary award enhancements, nursing services and/or new pilot programs in underserved parts of New York City.

2) Elie Weisel Holocaust Survivor Initiative

New York City is home to roughly 45,000 Holocaust survivors—almost half of the total population of survivors living in the United States. Approximately 40% of Holocaust survivors live at or below 150% of the national poverty line; many live month to month on meager assistance that does not cover the cost of food, heat, rent and medical expenses. Furthermore, as survivors grow older they require enhanced health and mental health care as the trials of their younger years show dire effects with age. It is crucial to provide specialized care and support services to this vulnerable population and enhance their quality life to allow them to live out their remaining years with dignity.

UJA applauds the leadership of the City Council in its continued investment in New York City's Holocaust survivors. Many of our nonprofit partners have received initiative grants to provide specialized programming and comprehensive services for Holocaust survivors. The estimated average annual cost of care for one Holocaust survivor is \$3,000, excluding home care costs. Grants funded through the Elie Weisel Holocaust Survivor Initiative provide case management services, personal care and assistance, legal services and entitlement counseling, transportation services, end of life care and specialized caregiver supports. As we continue to care for this last generation of survivors, we ask that the City Council continue its compassionate support of this vulnerable population.

UJA respectfully requests that the City Council increase funding for the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivor Initiative and invest \$3.5 million in FY 2019.

3) Salary Parity Across DFTA Contracts

UJA appreciates the efforts of the City Council and Chairperson Chin for securing significant funding increases for DFTA and the human services sector in FY 18. Part of this funding is allocated to support the "model budget" process to right-size personnel and programming in DFTA senior center contracts.

With attention being given to senior center staffing, UJA requests that the City Council further advocate to implement increases in salaries for all DFTA funded contracts. Salaries at NORC

programs, caregiver programs, and other DFTA contracts remain significantly underfunded. Providers are left to wrestle with the inequity of paying different salaries to staff doing comparable work, and the inevitable recruitment, turnover, and morale problems that lowers service access and quality for New York's seniors. For some of our larger nonprofit partners, who provide services to seniors citywide, this cost has amounted to millions of dollars. Competitive salaries are needed in order to retain qualified staff, avoid turnover, and provide uninterrupted service to clients. With the aging population growing at an incredible rate, the City should recognize the ever growing need to attract skilled individuals, interested in the geriatric field.

Youth and Early Childhood Programs

1) Salary Parity Across Pre-K Contracts

Over 60% of the City's publicly funded early childhood programs are in community based organizations (CBOs) working under contracts with NYC Department of Education and NYC Administration for Children's Services. Without community based organizations providing prekindergarten programs, NYC's UPK program would be unable to reach as many children as it has. And yet, teachers, staff and directors at community based organizations earn significantly less than similarly qualified counterparts in the public schools.

The salary disparities are stark and grow over time. For example, a certified head teacher in a three year old classroom in a community based organization has a starting salary of \$46,920 while a certified teacher in a public school starts at \$61,894. After time, these disparities grow wider. With eight years of experience, a public school teacher's annual salary will have grown to slightly over \$81,042 while a teacher in a community based program will be earning just \$48,920. **UJA encourages the Administration, with support of the City Council, to end this unequal payment system and invest in the Pre-K workforce by establishing salary parity for teachers, staff, and directors between DOE schools and CBOs.**

2) Restore funding for COMPASS Elementary After-School Programs

Expanded capacity in middle school after-school programs has allowed these students to access after-school supports while ensuring parents and guardians that their child(ren) are safe when school is out between September and June. Unfortunately, the same investment in after-school programs has not been made for elementary age children. The Preliminary Budget included no funding for COMPASS elementary after-school slots. **We urge the Administration with the support of the Council to restore and baseline \$16 million to maintain current levels of elementary after-school capacity.**

3) Ensure all elementary after-school programs are funded at the same rate

Despite similar services offered across elementary after-school programs, there continues to be two different rates funding each. Programs previously funded by the City Council, before they were baselined at the end of the Bloomberg administration, are funded at a lower rate. **We encourage an \$8.8 million investment, which will increase the rates for these programs allow for all elementary after-school programs to be funded at the same rate.**

4) Restore funding for SONYC Summer Programs for Middle School Students

The Preliminary Budget did not include funding for SONYC Middle School Summer Programs. This means that the middle school students who attend an after-school program will not have access to

summer programs. Without this funding 34,000 middle school youth will be left without a program to attend over the summer months. Furthermore, the absence of funding for middle school summer programs in the Preliminary Budget, delay providers from hiring individuals to staff the programs and developing content. Providers cannot prepare for a program that they are unsure they will be paid to implement. **We request \$20.35 million for SONYC which will allow providers sufficient funding and time to develop and implement quality summer programs for 34,000 middle school students in FY 19.**

5) Include funding for minimum wage increases in the SYEP: \$15.6 million

In FY 2018, the summer youth employment program, (SYEP) was funded at \$68.7 million. This amount funded 70,000 jobs across the city in the summer of 2017. This summer, due to the increase in minimum wage, the \$68.7 million will not be able to fund the same number of jobs. An increase of \$15.6 million must be included to fund increases in minimum wage if 70,000 youth will continue to be employed in the program in FY 19.

Conclusion:

UJA-Federation of New York respectfully urges your consideration and support of these vital programs that assist our city's most vulnerable and neediest individuals and the organizations that serve them. Thank you for your time and if you have any questions please contact me at savranskya@ujafedny.org or 212-836-1360.



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Testimony prepared by

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for the

Committee on General Welfare

on

Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget

March 27, 2018

on behalf of

Food Bank For New York City

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon Chair Levin and members of the General Welfare Committee. My name is Triada Stampas and I am the Vice President for Research and Public Affairs at Food Bank For New York City. Food Bank appreciates the opportunity to present testimony today to the City Council about the Preliminary Budget for the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) for Fiscal Year 2019.

First, Food Bank For New York City thanks the City Council for your continued commitment to addressing the issue of hunger and ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to affordable, nutritious food. We are grateful for the City Council's longstanding leadership on this issue, and pleased to see continued progress on anti-hunger initiatives since we last gathered for this annual hearing. The Council's instrumental role in major recent advances – from three straight years of increases to emergency food funding, the creation of 25

school pantries, and the expansion of universal school meals to all New York City public school students – has been especially appreciated, alongside other robust efforts to support food-insecure New Yorkers.

This year, Food Bank For New York City recognizes our 35th anniversary as the city's major hunger-relief organization, working to end food poverty throughout the five boroughs. Nearly one in five New York City residents relies on our programs and services. Through our network of 1,000 charities and schools citywide, Food Bank's food distribution provides approximately 62 million free meals for New Yorkers in need. Food Bank For New York City's income support services, including SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) enrollment and free tax assistance for the working poor, put more than \$110 million each year into the pockets of New Yorkers, helping them to afford food and achieve greater dignity and independence. In addition, Food Bank's nutrition education programs and services empower more than 50,000 children, teens and adults to sustain a healthy diet on a limited budget. Working toward long-term solutions to food poverty, Food Bank develops policy and conducts research to inform community and government efforts.

Food Bank's work would not be possible without our partnership with the City of New York, particularly with the Human Resources Administration (HRA), forged in the earliest days of our organization's history. This partnership has created numerous opportunities for productive collaboration over more than three decades. For example, Food Bank convenes the SNAP Task Force, which allows government agencies and non-profit organizations that engage in SNAP outreach to jointly examine trends and troubleshoot issues in the SNAP application and recertification processes. In partnership with HRA, Food Bank co-developed a nationally awarded SNAP mediation process, which allows the speedy and efficient resolution of adverse case outcomes. We have collaborated on targeted SNAP outreach initiatives for seniors, jointly deployed public education campaigns, and piloted technologies in community-based settings (including the Paperless Office System and AccessNYC) that have created more opportunities to apply for SNAP than have ever existed before. In addition, Food Bank and HRA have partnered since 1984 to ensure that food pantries and soup kitchens throughout New York City have reliable, year-round access to a full complement of nutritious food through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP).

My testimony today will focus on hunger in New York City and the need for increased funding in the FY 2019 City budget to work towards ending hunger.

NEW YORK CITY'S MEAL GAP: 225 MILLION

SNAP is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. A federal entitlement program, SNAP now provides food assistance to 41.7 million Americans.¹ SNAP is effective and efficient, and it is countercyclical, meaning it has the flexibility to grow to meet rising economic need.

Nearly 1.6 million New York City residents currently rely on SNAP to keep food on the table.² In November 2013, an unprecedented across-the-board reduction to SNAP took effect. Food Bank For New York City analysis finds that, to date, this cut has cost New York City residents more than \$770 million in lost benefits that could have been used to purchase food for more than 223 million meals.³

Despite SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs (like school meals, and the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children, or WIC), **nearly 1.4 million New Yorkers rely on emergency food⁴ – evidence that a meal gap remains.** The Meal Gap is the most sophisticated food insecurity metric available, representing the translation into meals of the financial resources needed by food-insecure households to secure an adequate diet year-round.⁵

New York City's Meal Gap (as of 2015, the most recent year for which data is available) is 225 million meals.⁶ Disaggregated by borough, the Meal Gap for:

- the Bronx is 41.2 million;
- Brooklyn is 87.6 million;
- Manhattan is 40.6 million;
- Queens is 47.4 million; and
- Staten Island is 7.9 million.

As an attachment to my testimony, you will find a visual representation of the Meal Gap by City Council district. I look forward to meeting with individual Council Members to discuss the Meal Gap in your district and ways we can work together to ultimately eliminate it.

¹ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) National Monthly Data, November 2017 (latest available month). United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

² New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) as of December 2017.

³ Trade-Offs at the Dinner Table. Food Bank For New York City. November 2017.

⁴ *Hunger's New Normal: Redefining Emergency in Post-Recession New York City*. Food Bank For New York City. October 2013.

⁵ The meal gap was developed for Feeding America by food insecurity expert Dr. Craig Gundersen of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. When the City Council legislated that the Administration report food insecurity annually as part of its food metrics report, the Meal Gap was adopted by the City of New York as its official food insecurity metric.

⁶ Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap 2017: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America, 2017.

Consistent with trends in poverty and unemployment, the number of food-insecure New York City residents has been in decline in recent years. Since 2009, the number of food-insecure New Yorkers has dropped by seven percent.

While this trend would appear to be inconsistent with continued reports of elevated need at food pantries and soup kitchens, additional data from the Meal Gap analysis helps provide an explanation: the food budget shortfall of those struggling with food insecurity has increased by 29 percent, even as the number of food-insecure New York City residents has declined (see Table 2). This means that the financial resources of those experiencing food insecurity are increasingly insufficient to secure an adequate diet. These data suggest that emergency food providers have been seeing visitors with greater frequency than in times past.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Weekly food budget shortfall per food-insecure NYC resident	\$16.02	\$16.68	\$15.85	\$18.18	\$19.03	\$19.70	\$20.67
% change from prior year		4%	-5%	15%	5%	4%	5%
% change from 2009		4%	-1%	13%	19%	23%	29%

Table 1. Food Bank For New York City analysis of Map the Meal Gap data, 2009-2015.

FEDERAL POLICY PROPOSALS THREATEN ANTI-HUNGER SAFETY NET

Last month, the White House released its Fiscal Year 2019 budget proposal, which includes deep and significant cuts to resources for poor and vulnerable New Yorkers. With multiple assaults on the safety net, this proposal, if enacted, would only increase food insecurity. One of the most significant cuts targets SNAP by implementing structural changes that would slash its funding by \$213 billion over ten years – a reduction of nearly one-third. We expect the proposed SNAP cuts would result in over 40 billion meals lost over 10 years. The changes also undermine the basic dignity that comes from allowing SNAP recipients to shop for their groceries according to their families’ needs and preferences. In addition, the budget proposal eliminates the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides low-income seniors with 145 million meals a year.

While Congress has since passed a budget and spending plan that does not include these provisions, this budget is our clearest indication yet of the direction in which the Trump Administration intends to move federal anti-hunger policy.

These intentions could well find their expression in the upcoming Farm Bill, which is scheduled to be reauthorized by Congress by September 30th of this year. While official proposals are yet to be released by the Agriculture Committees of the House and Senate, recent media leaks have previewed what the House bill could contain: cuts to food benefits that will take away grocery money from families, increase both food insecurity and

administrative costs, while instituting new eligibility restrictions thinly veiled as workforce development mandates.

Risk of Hunger for Jobless New Yorkers

As the Committee may know, in recent years, a provision of welfare law from the mid-1990s requiring states to cut off certain SNAP recipients from their food benefits after three consecutive jobless months has taken effect in parts of our state and city. Called the ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents) provision, it targets nondisabled adult SNAP recipients between the ages of 18 and 49 who do not have minor children or other dependents in their home. Upon the loss of a job, individuals receiving SNAP who meet the ABAWD criteria are subject to a time limit of three months to find a new job of at least 20 hours per week – or, if available, participate in a state-approved employment and training program or volunteer (workfare) program – in order to preserve their benefits.

Federal law gives states the option to request a waiver from the ABAWD time limit during times of high and sustained unemployment. New York is among the states that have requested and received partial waivers for the counties and cities that continue to experience high and sustained unemployment. We appreciate that HRA and the State's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance have worked collaboratively to develop the broadest possible waiver from this time limit for New York. Large portions of our City are waived, with the exception of the borough of Queens (save for Community District 12) and Manhattan south of 110th Street on the West Side and 96th Street on the East Side.

The ability of states to seek a waiver from the ABAWD provision during times of high unemployment and low job availability is one of the threats that has been flagged as one likely threat in this Farm Bill process. For individuals subject to this provision, three consecutive months without a job or other qualifying activity results in a loss of SNAP for three years – irrespective of their need for food, or their ability to afford it. For those who lose their SNAP benefits, a food pantry or soup kitchen might be their only place to turn

We applaud the Council's passage last September of Resolution 1636 of 2017, which takes a strong stand in support of SNAP. We must continue to work together to fight these harmful proposals and help struggling New Yorkers.

OUR EMERGENCY FOOD SYSTEM

When cash, benefits and the generosity of family and friends have been exhausted, the emergency food network is the resource of last resort for those struggling to keep food on the table. Yet the emergency food supply, our last line of defense against hunger, is not sufficient to meet the need.

As referenced earlier, in November of 2013, sweeping cuts were made to SNAP. Three years after the cuts, four out of five (79 percent) food pantries and soup kitchens continue to see increased visitor traffic, while many continue to experience food shortages.⁷

In September 2017:

- **More than half (56 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens reported running out of food**, or particular types of food needed for complete pantry bags or meals;
- **More than one third (35 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens reported having to turn people away** due to food shortages; and
- **Nearly half (46 percent) of food pantries reported reducing the number of meals provided in their pantry bags.**⁸

These statistics speak to a profound insufficiency in the emergency food supply, and the acute operational stress under which food pantries and soup kitchens have been functioning since the cuts. The November 2013 SNAP cuts continue to represent the biggest systemic factor reducing the food purchasing power of low-income people.⁹

It is critical to know who relies on emergency food programs:

- An estimated 1.4 million New York City **residents** rely on emergency food programs, including soup kitchens and food pantries, each year.
- Approximately 339,000 New York City **children** or approximately one out of every five, rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately 604,770 New York City adult **women**, or approximately one out of every six, rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately 204,000 New York City **seniors**, or approximately one out of every five, rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately 70,000 New York City **veterans**, or approximately three out of every ten, rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.¹⁰

POLICY PRIORITIES TO ENSURE NO NEW YORKER GOES HUNGRY

No New Yorker should go hungry: access to adequate, nutritious food is a fundamental human right. Thankfully, the policies and programs to realize this core principle are already in existence, and with the collective commitment of leaders across sectors, we can make

⁷ *Trade-Offs at the Dinner Table*. Food Bank For New York City. November 2017.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ For example, local unemployment, a highly influential factor in seeking food assistance, has been in steady decline in New York City since then.

¹⁰ *Hunger's New Normal: Redefining Emergency in Post-Recession New York City*. Food Bank For New York City. October 2013.

this happen. While cuts to SNAP have intensified the challenge, policy and budget options well within the authority and discretion of City government can considerably improve the lives of New Yorkers who struggle to afford food.

New York City's anti-hunger resources – primarily those that bolster SNAP enrollment and fortify our emergency food system – are more vital than ever. Food Bank For New York City offers these recommendations on behalf of the emergency food network in a spirit of partnership. It is our hope this spirit will be met by constructive engagement by the City Council and the Administration as we take on hunger together. (Attached to the testimony you will also find a complete copy of Food Bank For New York City's 2018 Policy Priorities.)

Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)

New York City's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) is a major source of food for our city's emergency food network. EFAP plays an especially important role because it provides a steady year-round supply of nutritious food for the approximately 500 food pantries and soup kitchens that participate. EFAP provides food from all five food groups, and all EFAP food meets the City's rigorous nutrition standards. In addition, EFAP is an important source of kosher food.

We are grateful that during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 New York City budget process, the City Council made EFAP funding one of its top priorities and helped ensure a significant increase to the program. We are, however, extremely disappointed that the Mayor's FY 2019 Preliminary Budget *cuts* EFAP food funding by \$7.3 million (reducing the baseline amount to \$8.2 million for emergency food). As referenced above, at a time when New York City already faces a Meal Gap of 225 million meals, **this funding reduction would mean a loss of approximately 6.8 million vitally needed meals.** This pattern of eliminating past years' EFAP funding increases in the Preliminary and Executive Budgets, with restoration of those funds (and potentially, increases) after negotiation with the City Council in the Adopted Budget introduces great uncertainty into an emergency food network already struggling to stretch resources as far as possible. At a time when we are facing devastating proposals at the federal level, we need this Administration to support New Yorkers struggling with hunger.

- We urge the City Council to support increasing baseline food funding for EFAP to \$22 million, which would take into account rising poverty and food costs since the start of the Great Recession.
- It would allow pantries to adjust for the current inadequacy of the food supply, which only allows food pantries to provide 5.8 meals in a typical pantry bag – far short of New York State's nine-meal standard.

SNAP

While the November 2013 SNAP cuts have reduced the benefit amounts of those already participating, it remains of utmost importance to ensure that eligible New Yorkers who are

not enrolled in the program avail themselves of the benefit – particularly emergency food participants. Even at the currently reduced benefit amounts, SNAP benefits provide our city about as many meals in *two months* as the entire emergency food system distributes in a year.

SNAP is our first line of defense against hunger, and we are extremely appreciative for the energy and resources that HRA has put into improving access to SNAP for all eligible New Yorkers. We have enthusiastically partnered in promoting HRA's #SNAPHelps campaign to spread the word about the availability of SNAP. We are also pleased that HRA is working to lower barriers to benefits, and taking advantage of technology in new ways to expand access to SNAP.

- We encourage HRA to coordinate SNAP outreach and application with other benefits and services that reach low-income populations, like senior programs, emergency food programs and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.

We also applaud HRA for its work over the last several years in partnership with organizations that provide SNAP assistance to ensure as many New Yorkers who meet the ABAWD definition as possible are aware of the criteria for exemption from the time limit.

- We encourage HRA to prioritize those who are subject to this ABAWD time limit for placement in appropriate workforce development, training and education programs in order to preserve their food benefits.
- We encourage HRA to continue to take advantage of all available federal waivers and options that increase benefit amounts and reduce the burden on applicants and HRA staff. We look forward to working with HRA to improve SNAP access for seniors, students, working parents and others. We encourage the administration to continue efforts to simplify and fully implement online SNAP application and recertification processes.

City Council Initiatives

In previous years, the New York City Council has included vital increases to EFAP, as well as additional funding to food pantries and income support programs, including volunteer tax assistance. We urge the Council to continue to prioritize funding designed to help New Yorkers working to make ends meet by support the following initiatives during the FY 2019 budget negotiations:

- **Food Access and Benefits:** Vital funding will be provided in order to strengthen programming that increases access and connects low-income New Yorkers to a continuum of anti-hunger and anti-poverty services. This includes distribution of emergency food (including fresh produce), free tax preparation to low-income and

workign poor individuals and families, and benefits enrollment (e.g. SNAP) year-round in all five boroughs. Funding will also support ongoing training, techincal assistance, and capacity building for nearly 1,000 netowrk partners that serve low-income families, the working poor, seniors, immigrants, those with disabilities, and other struggling New York City residents. Food Bank's programs and resources are strategically focused in communities with high levels of poverty and food insecurity.

- **Campus Pantries:** Through a partnership with the City Council, Food Bank For New York City was able to support the creation of 25 campus pantries in New York City public schools in FY 2018, an increase from the 16 that this Council initiative helped create the previous year. These 25 campus pantries offer a unique opportunity to provide low-income children in all five boroughs and their families access to a variety of necessities on a regular basis. Families receive access to a variety of healthy food options, as well as menstrual products, and essential personal hygiene and household cleaning items.

School Meals

Food Bank For New York City applauds the City Council for continuing to prioritize school meals each year – expansion would not have occurred without your support and leadership. We celebrated the expansion of universal school meals to all New York City public school students. We also strongly support Breakfast in the Classroom as it has helped reduce the stigma associated with participation and allows students to start the day with a healthy meal instead of an empty stomach.

Income Support & Poverty Reduction Programs

Approximately one in five adults on food pantry and soup kitchen lines is employed - that's almost 200,000 New Yorkers who are working but not earning enough to provide for themselves and their families. Recognizing that there is no surer way off a food pantry or soup kitchen line than a living wage job, there is much our city can do to support working New Yorkers who are earning too little to afford needed food.

We urge the City Council to work closely with the Department of Consumer Affairs to expand free tax preparation services available to low-income New Yorkers throughout our city. Approximately 20 percent of tax filers eligible for the EITC in New York fail to claim it, and the high-quality free tax assistance services available throughout our city can ensure low-income New Yorkers receive every refund and credit to which they are entitled.

We also encourage New York City to develop job creation, training and education strategies that are geared toward poverty reduction and to invest in economic development that both enhances the nutrition landscape and provides opportunities for employment in low-income communities.

CONCLUSIONS

Over the last several years, the Administration and the City Council have continued to express a deep commitment to helping New Yorkers in need. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, every Member of the City Council -- across party lines, boroughs, and districts -- voiced their support for an increase in funding to EFAP because hunger lives in every corner of our city. This is a time of great uncertainty regarding the federal policies and programs that make up the most significant components of our nation's anti-hunger safety net: SNAP, school meals, summer meals, WIC, the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The continued budget dance with EFAP must stop. The people working in our city's food pantries and soup kitchens operate in uncertainty while the well-being of those they serve hangs in the balance. These New Yorkers face disappointment and desperation from their neighbors when food runs out, and they have no answers to the questions from the people who need their help the most. New York City, "the fairest big city in America", can and must do better. We urge the Administration to increase baseline food funding to \$22 million in the FY 2019 budget and to maintain this level of funding at a minimum through the coming years.

This moment calls on us to come together as a city to show a commitment to the principle that no New Yorker should lack access to an affordable, nutritious diet. Let us set a goal of closing New York City's Meal Gap and becoming the first city in the country to end food poverty. Food Bank For New York City looks forward to working together with the City Council and the Administration to develop a plan to ensure no New Yorker goes to bed hungry.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

New York City

Fortify the Emergency Food System

- Increase NYC's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) baseline food funding to \$22 million.
- Continue improvements to food quality by giving programs choice over food selection and by offering more minimally processed, fresh and frozen food.
- Enact a policy of cost-neutral preferencing of kosher and halal products.
- Increase funding for administrative and operational support.

Strengthen, Streamline and Simplify SNAP

- Maximize all federal options and waivers that lower barriers to participation and simplify program administration.
- Ensure employment and training opportunities for all Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) subject to work-related benefit termination.
- Develop a citywide SNAP outreach plan that utilizes all available sources of federal matching funds.
- Continue efforts to simplify and fully implement online SNAP application and recertification processes.
- Continue expansion of community-based sites for outreach and application submission, including emergency food programs and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.
- Continue improvements in SNAP administration, placing priority on the customer service experience.
- Use clear language for SNAP notices, avoiding messages that discourage participation.

Expand Access to School and Summer Meals

- Make Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) an opt-out program for middle and high schools.
- Fund capital improvements for school cafeterias to ensure infrastructure and capacity for full implementation of Universal School Meals (USM) and BIC.
- Increase the number of Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites open for the entire summer.
- Ensure neighborhood access to open SFSP sites in all high-need areas of the city.
- Ensure that the Department of Education publicizes the SFSP program before the end of the school year.
- Engage the reach and capacity of the emergency food network in promoting school and summer meals.

Tackle Poverty to End Hunger

- Enhance the City's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- Expand funding for free tax service programs for low-income New Yorkers.
- Adopt policies that support a living wage with access to medical benefits and paid time off, and that make living-wage jobs more accessible to low-income people.
- Develop job creation, training and education strategies that are geared toward poverty reduction.
- Invest in economic development that both enhances the nutrition landscape and provides opportunities for employment in low-income communities.
- Expand initiatives to increase access to needed non-food items, such as menstrual hygiene products.

New York State

Fortify the Emergency Food System

- Increase funding for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 State budget to \$51 million to adjust for rising food costs and increased need.
- Increase funding for administrative and operational support.

Strengthen, Streamline and Simplify SNAP

- Maximize all federal options and waivers that lower barriers to participation and simplify program administration.
- Allot annual Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) funding to "Heat & Eat" households to maintain SNAP benefits at higher levels.
- Ensure employment and training opportunities for all ABAWDs subject to work-related benefit termination.
- Restore eligibility for all documented immigrants.
- Develop a statewide SNAP outreach plan that utilizes all available sources of federal matching funds.
- Coordinate among multiple benefits so that New Yorkers can apply for several programs and services simultaneously.
- Leverage the health insurance exchange platform to enable screening for SNAP and other programs.
- Expand educational programs and job readiness opportunities covered under SNAP Education and Training.

Expand Access to School and Summer Meals

- Provide funding to help offset any startup costs associated with schools undertaking or expanding USM and/or BIC.

- Provide incentives for schools to increase the number of nutritious meals prepared on-site.
- Ensure that the Education Department publicizes SFSP before the end of the school year.
- Encourage participation in SFSP by New York State park sites.

Protect and Strengthen WIC

- Ensure access to a WIC site in every low-income neighborhood in New York.
- Reject any cuts to State WIC funds, and any proposals that would require WIC to compete with other nutrition assistance programs for funding.
- Promote referrals of eligible WIC participants to SNAP.
- Expedite the transition from WIC coupons to EBT.
- Promote deeper collaboration between the New York State Department of Health and county/municipal social service agencies to provide SNAP outreach and enrollment opportunities at all WIC sites.

Expand Access to Nutritious Food

- Increase farmers' markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects in low-income communities.
- Adopt transportation policies that would facilitate access to local food and make nutritious local food more affordable.

Tackle Poverty to End Hunger

- Enhance the State's EITC.
- Eliminate the use of discriminatory auditing practices for low-income, cash-earning EITC claimants, and implement transparent documentation requirements and auditing practices for EITC claimants.
- Allow New Yorkers to designate all or part of their tax refunds to directly open and fund a 529 college savings account.
- Index scheduled State minimum wage increases to inflation.
- Adopt policies that support a living wage with access to medical benefits and paid time off, and that make living-wage jobs more accessible to low-income people.
- Develop job creation, training and education strategies that are geared toward poverty reduction.
- Invest in economic development that both enhances the nutrition landscape and provides opportunities for employment in low-income communities.

Federal

Support a Farm Bill that Protects and Strengthens the Anti-Hunger Safety Net.

- Reject any cuts to SNAP, or any changes to its entitlement status.
- Restore the ARRA benefit reduction that took effect in November 2013.
- Restore eligibility to all documented immigrants.
- Coordinate among multiple federal benefits to allow individuals to apply for all simultaneously.
- Increase authorized funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), including for Storage & Distribution expenses.
- Introduce a need-based trigger for federal commodities purchases.
- Expand farm-to-food bank initiatives to supply more nutritious food for food pantries and soup kitchens.
- Reauthorize the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low-income seniors.

Expand Access to School and Summer Meals

- Reject any effort to pay for enhancements to child nutrition programs by cutting funding to SNAP or other anti-hunger/-poverty programs
- Promote federal incentives to provide universal, free school lunch in schools.
- Provide increased funding for meal reimbursements.

Protect and Strengthen WIC

- Reverse sequestration cuts to WIC.
- Provide USDA with more funding for WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons.

Tackle Poverty to End Hunger

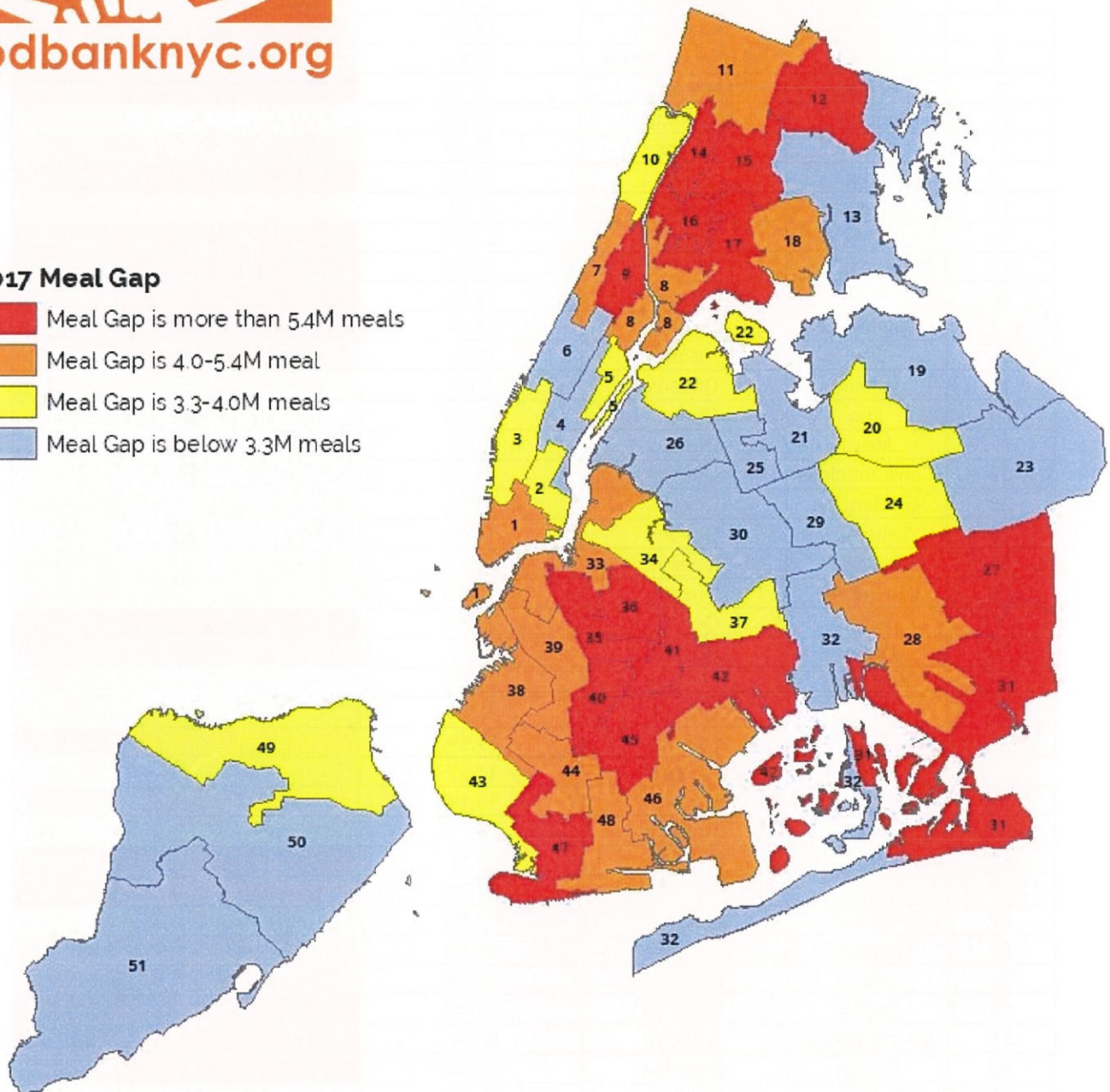
- Enhance the federal EITC.
- Expand funding of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.
- Reject proposals to increase filing requirements for VITA preparers and/or self-preparers claiming an EITC and/or Child Tax Credit.
- Raise the federal minimum wage, and index it to inflation.
- Adopt policies that support a living wage with access to medical benefits and paid time off, and that make living wage jobs more accessible to low-income people.
- Develop job creation, training and education strategies that are geared toward poverty reduction.



Meal Gap by City Council District

2017 Meal Gap

- Meal Gap is more than 5.4M meals
- Meal Gap is 4.0-5.4M meal
- Meal Gap is 3.3-4.0M meals
- Meal Gap is below 3.3M meals



The Meal Gap, New York City's official measure of food insecurity, represents the meals missing from the homes of families and individuals struggling with food insecurity - that is, when household food budgets fall too short to secure adequate, nutritious food year-round.

Food Bank For New York City analysis based on Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap 2017: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2015. Feeding America, 2017.

District	Council Member	Borough	Food Insecurity	2017 Meal Gap
1	Chin	Manhattan	15.2%	3,923,310
2	Rivera	Manhattan	14.5%	3,742,632
3	Johnson	Manhattan	13.4%	3,458,708
4	Powers	Manhattan	10.8%	2,787,615
5	Kallos	Manhattan	14.0%	3,613,575
6	Rosenthal	Manhattan	10.3%	2,658,559
7	Levine	Manhattan	18.3%	4,723,459
8	Ayala	Manhattan/Bronx	19.8%	5,110,628
9	Perkins	Manhattan	28.3%	7,304,584
10	Rodriguez	Manhattan	12.7%	3,278,029
11	Cohen	Bronx	16.3%	4,381,457
12	King	Bronx	23.6%	6,343,705
13	Gjonaj	Bronx	9.9%	2,661,130
14	Cabrera	Bronx	20.1%	5,402,901
15	Torres	Bronx	21.4%	5,752,342
16	Gibson	Bronx	22.9%	6,155,544
17	Salamanca	Bronx	21.2%	5,698,582
18	Díaz	Bronx	17.9%	4,811,539
19	Vallone	Queens	8.8%	2,235,054
20	Koo	Queens	14.4%	3,657,361
21	Moya	Queens	7.5%	1,904,875
22	Constantinides	Queens	13.9%	3,530,369
23	Grodenschik	Queens	9.3%	2,362,046
24	Lancman	Queens	14.4%	3,657,361
25	Dromm	Queens	11.2%	2,844,614
26	Van Bramer	Queens	12.0%	3,047,801
27	Miller	Queens	23.2%	5,892,415
28	Adams	Queens	18.2%	4,622,498
29	Koslowitz	Queens	11.3%	2,870,012
30	Holden	Queens	9.5%	2,412,842
31	Richards	Queens	21.5%	5,460,643
32	Ulrich	Queens	11.5%	2,920,809
33	Levin	Brooklyn	18.1%	4,628,407
34	Reynoso	Brooklyn	15.0%	3,835,696
35	Cumbo	Brooklyn	26.9%	6,878,682
36	Cornegy	Brooklyn	32.3%	8,259,532
37	Espinal	Brooklyn	14.0%	3,579,983
38	Menchaca	Brooklyn	15.4%	3,937,981
39	Lander	Brooklyn	16.0%	4,091,409
40	Eugene	Brooklyn	29.4%	7,517,964
41	Ampry-Samuel	Brooklyn	30.9%	7,901,534
42	Barron	Brooklyn	30.9%	7,901,534
43	Brannan	Brooklyn	14.5%	3,707,840
44	Yeger	Brooklyn	18.0%	4,602,835
45	Williams	Brooklyn	23.4%	5,983,686
46	Maisel	Brooklyn	18.1%	4,628,407
47	Treyger	Brooklyn	22.8%	5,830,258
48	Deutch	Brooklyn	16.9%	4,321,551
49	Rose	Staten Island	12.4%	3,388,597
50	Matteo	Staten Island	9.4%	2,568,775
51	Borelli	Staten Island	7.4%	2,022,227



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**Testimony of United Neighborhood Houses
Before the New York City Council Committee on Education
Honorable Stephen Levin, Chair
At the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget Hearing**

Presented by Gregory Brender, Co-Director of Policy and Advocacy

March 27, 2018

Thank you Chair Levin and members of the Committee on General Welfare for the opportunity to testify. My name is Gregory Brender and I am here on behalf of United Neighborhood Houses. United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) of New York is New York City's association of settlement houses and community centers. Rooted in the history and values of the settlement house movement begun over 100 years ago, UNH promotes and strengthens the neighborhood-based, multi-service approach to improving the lives of New Yorkers in need and the communities in which they live. UNH's membership includes 39 organizations employing 13,000 people at over 650 sites across the five boroughs of New York City to provide high quality services and activities to over 750,000 New Yorkers each year.

Typical settlement house services range from early childhood education and after-school, to youth employment and college access, to adult education and workforce development, to behavioral health services, homelessness prevention and older adult services. Essentially, our members are a front door for serving members of the community—be they children, youth, immigrants, older adults, or working families.

Settlement houses are deeply committed to high-quality early childhood education and play a role in nearly every aspect of the early childhood systems in New York City including:

- Running over 50 EarlyLearn Center Based Child Care programs which provide year-round, full-day programs for children 0-4 years old;
- Operating six ACS contracted Family Child Care Networks which support licensed and registered home based providers;
- Providing DOE-contracted Pre-K for All programs at 21 settlement houses;

- Opening one of the first 3-K for All Programs; and
- Offering training for all unregistered home-based child care providers in the City.

The Future of Early Childhood Education in New York City

In the summer of 2016, UNH anticipated that Administration for Children's Services (ACS) would issue a new Concept Paper and Request for Proposals for child care programs. The system had not gone through a competitive bidding process since the EarlyLearn RFP which started on November 1, 2012. Moreover, the EarlyLearn RFP presented significant challenges for providers and families including an approximately 25% reduction in capacity. Many of these challenges were addressed only with the leadership of and investments from the New York City Council.

In preparing for a new RFP, UNH convened providers to determine what reforms were necessary to make a stronger early childhood education system. These recommendations, developed with the on-the ground experience of UNH's early childhood providers and compiled in UNH's 2016 report: *Starting Strong: The Settlement House Vision for New York City's Comprehensive Early Childhood Education System*, can be divided into four categories:

1. Invest in Early Childhood Educators.
2. Better Serve Families by Improving and Simplifying Access to EarlyLearn Programs.
3. Strengthen Families through Innovative Programs.
4. Fully Fund Contracts for Quality Services for Children and Families.¹

As you know, ACS did not issue a new Concept Paper or RFP for the EarlyLearn system. Instead, on April 24, 2017, Mayor de Blasio announced his goal of creating a unified early childhood education system under the Department of Education. As part of this plan, two major changes were announced:

- 1) The transition of EarlyLearn programs operating with Administration for Children's Services contracts to Department of Education contracts in September 2019 and subsequent re-procurement of EarlyLearn programs in 2020;
- 2) The launch of what is now called 3-K for All- 6.5-hour school year programs that are open to any 3-year old who resides in New York City.

Both goals are laudable. However, neither can be achieved if the City does not address the first and most important step that providers determined was necessary to ensure a strong and stable system- **investing in early childhood educators**. The teachers, staff and directors in community-based early childhood education programs including EarlyLearn, Pre-K for All and 3-K for All, earn significantly less than their similarly qualified counterparts in public schools.

¹ *Starting Strong: The Settlement House Vision for New York City's Comprehensive Early Childhood Education System*. United Neighborhood Houses. October 2016. http://www.unhny.org/Issuu/UNH_starting_strong.pdf

This disparity affects the stability of programs and the morale of staff. Both of those factors ultimately translate into the quality and consistency of services that are available for low-income working families. Today we are asking for the City Council's help in addressing this disparity.

Salary Disparities in Early Childhood Education

For New York City's early childhood educators, whether you work in a publicly-funded community-based organization or in a public school determines how much you earn. The salary disparities are stark and grow over time. For example, a certified head teacher in a 3-year-old classroom in a community based organization has a starting salary of \$46,920 while a certified teacher in a public school starts at \$61,894. After time, these disparities grow wider. With eight years of experience, a public school teachers' annual salary will have grown to slightly over \$81,042 while a teacher in a community based program will be earning just \$48,920.²

Unsurprisingly, due to the high cost of living in New York City, many staff feel compelled to leave community based programs for higher paying jobs with New York City Department of Education. The loss of teachers from EarlyLearn programs was an especially acute problem during the initial rollout of EarlyLearn programs. The competition with higher-paying programs led some centers to be unable to find qualified staff. Centers were forced to adjust to this reality by closing classrooms and in a few cases closing center completely.

This trend is likely to grow worse as the City moves to expand 3-K for All programs to 12 Community School Districts by 2020. The supply of qualified teachers is likely to shrink and this will lead to a further destabilized system and the possibility of more longstanding programs being forced to shut their doors.

As mentioned before, settlement houses offer many different types of early childhood education programs and recognize that different neighborhoods and especially different families have different needs. However, the EarlyLearn system is uniquely important for many of the families it serves because it is the only system publicly funded system that provides the hours during the workday and over the summer that working families need.

Further destabilization of the EarlyLearn system means greater uncertainty for the families who are doing the often low-paying jobs that keep New York running. And it means that their children have less opportunity to access early childhood education programs. As the City seeks to expand access to early childhood education, it must ensure EarlyLearn programs can offer competitive and fair salaries for their staff- salaries that are on par with colleagues working in public schools.

² *Salary Disparities in NYC's Early Childhood Education Workforce*. Campaign for Children and Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, 2018. <https://www.ccnnyork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/salary-parity-infographic-final.pdf>

Moving Forward for Salary Parity in the FY 2019 Budget

The City Council has long been an ally in the fight for salary parity for New York City's early childhood educators. In its response to the Mayor's proposed FY 2017 Budget, the City Council called on the administration to "Create Wage Parity for Child Care Providers" and cited the nearly 3,000 teachers, staff and directors in Early Learn programs who are most impacted by salary disparities. The City Council also called on the administration to invest \$33.5 million in FY 2017 to move towards salary parity.³

Unfortunately, the administration did not act upon the City Council's call to action adequately. The FY 2018 Preliminary Budget projects that funding for salary increases for EarlyLearn staff will rise to \$19.5 million by 2021- four years after the City Council called on the City to invest an initial \$33.5 million.

In order to ensure the stability of the EarlyLearn system and ultimately the success of the Mayor's goal of a unified early childhood education system, we ask the City Council to take two actions:

1. Call on the Mayor to take immediate action to achieve salary parity for the early childhood education workforce;
2. Hold a joint hearing of the City Council General Welfare and Education Committees on the impact of salary disparities in New York City's early childhood education system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to take any questions.

³ *The New York City Council's Response to the Mayor's FY 2017 Preliminary Budget and FY 2016 Mayor's Management Report.* New York City Council. April 4, 2016. <http://nycouncilabs.wpengine.com/budget/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2016/05/FY17-Preliminary-Budget-Response.pdf> page 27



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Testimony of the American Heart Association
Before the New York City Council Committee on General Welfare

March 27, 2018

Robin Vitale, Vice President, Health Strategies
American Heart Association | American Stroke Association
New York City

Good afternoon Chair Levin and Members of the General Welfare Committee and thank you for the opportunity to discuss several key budget priorities the American Heart Association | American Stroke Association believes would benefit vulnerable New Yorkers. The AHA is the largest, voluntary-led and science-based organization focused on the mission to save lives from heart disease and stroke. Specific to the purview of the General Welfare Committee, we encourage the City to dedicate vital funding for city agencies to help promote access to healthy food for all New Yorkers.

Every family should have access to the foods that help support a balanced diet and a healthier life. Yet, as identified by the NY Office of Food Policy, 1.2 million residents of New York City live in lower income communities with limited access to healthy food retail¹. These same neighborhoods often struggle with high rates of unemployment and diet-related chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease. Many more New Yorkers also struggle to be able to afford healthy food.

Without access to healthy food, a nutritious diet and good health is out of reach. In the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, the American Heart Association asks the city to invest in three key programs that will increase access to healthy food and boost the economy, especially for neighborhoods that need it most. Given the uncertainty of the federal and state budgets, now is the time for the city to commit local funding to programs that boost the economy of low-income communities,

¹ <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/foodpolicy/downloads/pdf/2017-Food-Metrics-Report-Corrected.pdf>

have the potential to lower health care costs, and will help New Yorkers lead healthy lives.

First, the city should commit an additional \$15 million to help New Yorkers afford fresh fruits and vegetables by expanding SNAP incentives such as Health Bucks. 1 in 5 New Yorkers receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits², which reduce food insecurity and help households rise out of poverty. It also benefits the economy; every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generate \$9 for the local economy³. Since more food is being purchased through SNAP, it increases the economic activity for both the producers and the systems that deliver the food, including retailers, wholesalers, and transportation. Farmers' markets that offered Health Bucks saw higher daily Electronic Benefits Transfer sales than farmers' markets that did not offer the incentive⁴. Demand and use of Health Bucks has increased over time, and we applaud the city for continuing to innovate in this area. The city should increase funding for SNAP incentives by \$15 million and continue to explore avenues for expanding access not only at farmer's markets but also bodegas and supermarkets, online markets, or other retail venues that allow families to access these resources where they live and shop.

Second, the city should launch a \$10 million Healthy Food Financing Initiative, which will help local grocers to open, expand, and improve grocery stores in neighborhoods that need healthy food and jobs the most. While the city's FRESH initiative provides zoning and tax incentives for grocery stores to open or expand in underserved communities, an HFFI leverages both public and private funding to provide low-interest loans and grants specifically tailored for food establishments that may otherwise struggle to secure needed traditional capital. These low-interest loans and grants support the establishment, renovation, and expansion of permanent facilities for the sale of healthy foods in underserved communities, including supermarkets, farmer's markets, mobile markets, and bodegas. Given the success of HFFI in New York State⁵ and in other regions across the country, New York City should invest \$10 million to launch a local program to support healthy food access and strengthen local economies.

²

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/facts/snap/2002.2015NYCSNAPParticipation.pdf>

³ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/economic-linkages/>

⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/13_0113.htm

⁵ http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/hfhc-final-impacts.original.pdf

Third, the city should increase funding for healthy corner store initiatives to \$3 million as a means to increase the amount of healthy food that is offered in our neighborhoods. Groceries and corner stores are anchors for development in communities; they attract foot traffic and can engage in community development through local programs. Shop Healthy NYC, operated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, is doing important work across the city⁶. And \$3 million would allow the program to expand or be supplemented by community-led initiatives in order to provide grants and free equipment to corner stores as well as support community-led initiatives that will meet the need in neighborhoods across the city.

All three of these programs should use the best available science to set public health-driven goals and involve an evaluation partner identified from the academic research community who is responsible for the collection and annual public reporting of data for evaluation. Healthy food financing and healthy corner store initiatives should be dedicated for projects that will economically benefit low or moderate-income communities that are also identified as most in need of healthy food access.

Investing in SNAP incentives, a Healthy Food Financing Initiative, and support for our corner store programs will bring much-desired affordable healthy food options to underserved communities. As you continue to work on the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, I hope you will ensure every New Yorker has access to healthy food, no matter where they live.

⁶ <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/foodpolicy/help/shop-healthy.page>

Testimony of Andrea Bowen before the Committee on General Welfare
Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) funding needs in FY19
March 27, 2018

Good afternoon, Chair Levin, and members and staff of the Committee on General Welfare. My name is Andrea Bowen, and I'm a consultant working on behalf of what is informally known as the Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (TGNC) Solutions Coalition, which includes the Anti-Violence Project, the Audre Lorde Project, GMHC, the LGBT Community Center, Make the Road New York, Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and the TransLatina Network. These organizations are working in concert to advocate for a series of policy and budget items that, if funded, will improve the lives of the transgender and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) community.

Starting in 2015, these organizations, alongside TGNC community members across the City, organized forums for TGNC people in each of the five boroughs of New York City, following encouragement from New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Caucus of the New York City Council. Five forums were held over the course of a year and a half with 591 participants. While the City government has done much to support TGNC people, greater work and community consultation is needed to identify remaining problems and potential solutions.

Last November, the aforementioned organizations released *Solutions Out of Struggle and Survival*, a brief on policy and budget items drawn from the recommendations of the community forums, bringing attention to TGNC community needs in the areas of education, employment, healthcare, housing, immigration, and policing and violence.

From the many recommendations outlined in *Solutions Out of Struggle and Survival*, we recommend that several receive funding in the FY19 budget of the City of New York. We have presented versions of these proposals to Mayoral and agency staff, but we seek City Council support to put these items in the budget if the Mayor does not. If Council adds this funding, we ask that Council provide this money to agencies in the Adopted Budget, and the agencies will engage in procurement. Regardless of who funds these programs, we want TGNC community members assisting in crafting and reviewing procurements. I will include at the end of this written testimony our complete collection of budget asks, but I will focus on our asks relating to the Committee on General Welfare's purview in this testimony.

TGNC Employment Program
Proposed Agency: HRA and DYCD
Proposed Cost: \$6.46m

TGNC community members face a crisis of unemployment. A 2015 NY health and human services survey showed that 36.8% of TGNC NYC respondents reported having been unfairly not hired, and 26.4% reported being unfairly fired.¹ 16.2% of TGNC NYC respondents were neither employed nor in school, compared to

¹ Frazer, M. S., Dumont, M. S., & Howe, E. E. (2017). Custom Data Request: Transgender and Gender Nonconforming New Yorkers: An analysis of data from the 2015 LGBT Health and Human Services Needs Assessment. Strength in Numbers Consulting Group, Inc.

9.9% of cisgender (non-transgender) LGB respondents. Nationwide, transgender people of color report five times the unemployment rate of the general US population.²

While there are a handful of programs to address youth unemployment, especially for youth who are out of school and out of work, TGNC youth *and adults* face unique challenges. What happens when someone's legal name doesn't match their preferred name? How do you tackle that kind of problem when filling out certain kinds of paperwork for a job? How do you find an employer who will accept you as you are? What happens if you have to go through a background check, and that turns up the fact that someone's preferred name and gender identity do not match the public record? What happens when someone may have presented as one gender to a previous employer, but now, while seeking a reference, has to come out to that former employer as *another* gender? What happens if someone has only ever worked in the street economy—how does someone convert skills in that environment to employment within the world of taxable income? An employment program that specifically focuses on TGNC people could help community members navigate these issues.

Thus, we seek funding for a program that can work with TGNC youth and adults (in separate cohorts, given unique needs of both populations), and prepare them for careers. Staff will connect program participants to employment programs or job openings. Staff will also provide orientation on soft skills needed in the employment field, orientation on issues that are specific to TGNC people when in jobs, and cultivation of employers and other employment programs that are safe and affirming referrals for TGNC people seeking employment. Staff will have to act as advocates for TGNC people in navigating jobs, ensuring nondiscrimination, and creating safe work environments. Funding includes \$1.83m for staffing (which can be broken into a staff for the youth program and a staff for the adult program), \$4.4m for subsidized wages, \$183,000 for evaluation, and \$50,000 for advertising. There must be a TGNC community consultation process to review responses to RFPs for this program, and preference should be given in awards to smaller organizations that can demonstrate a long-standing connection to the community. This program should also reach undocumented people, the formerly incarcerated, and especially vulnerable TGNC people.

TGNC Rental Assistance Program Pilot

Proposed Agency: HRA

Proposed Cost: \$4.1m

Housing insecurity and injustice affects TGNC people in a myriad of ways, from TGNC youth being thrown out of their homes, to inability to afford housing. TGNC people, as with many New Yorkers, are priced out of rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. The 2015 health and human services survey showed that 29.4% of TGNC NYC respondents reported ever having been homeless, compared to 16.2% of cisgender LGB respondents. Community members who took part in TGNC forums asked for greater access to affordable housing, and support for TGNC people experiencing housing discrimination.

Therefore, we request funding for a pilot program to provide a special rental assistance program for TGNC people, given the community's disproportionately high homeless rates. This would pay for 200 TGNC people

² James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality. Available at <http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS%20Full%20Report%20-%20FINAL%201.6.17.pdf>

to use a special category of rental assistance focused on TGNC people, and it would also pay for 20 case managers to help participants find housing, deal with any potential discrimination issues that may arise with landlords, and assist with other wraparound needs. Outyear costs may be modified in line with demand for the program. This program should also reach undocumented people, the formerly incarcerated, and especially vulnerable TGNC people.

Funding for these programs should be baselined so training can expand and staff can be retained through at least four years.

We appreciate your attention to this issue. If you would like to discuss it further, you can contact me at andy@bowenpublicaffairs.com or 917-765-3014.



Expanded-upon policy and budget solutions for transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) New Yorkers

March 16, 2018

After our brief on policy and budget solutions for TGNC New Yorkers, *Solutions Out of Struggle and Survival* (available at avp.org/solutions), we—a coalition composed of the Anti-Violence Project, the Audre Lorde Project, GMHC, the LGBT Community Center, Make the Road New York, Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and the TransLatina Network—have focused on 6 proposals that we want to focus on funding in the FY19 budget of the City of New York. We have presented versions of these proposals to staff in City agencies, but we seek City Council support to put these items in the budget. If Council adds this funding, we ask that Council provide this money to agencies in the Adopted Budget, and the agencies will engage in procurement. Furthermore, we want TGNC community members assisting in crafting and reviewing procurements. All proposed programs should reach undocumented people, those who have experience with police, jails, and incarceration, and other especially vulnerable TGNC people.

TGNC Employment Program

Proposed Agencies: DYCD and HRA

Proposed Cost: \$6.46m

Funding for a program that can work with TGNC youth and adults in separate cohorts, and prepare them for careers. Staff will connect program participants to employment programs or job openings. Staff will also provide orientation on soft skills needed in the employment field, orientation on issues that are specific to TGNC people when in jobs, and cultivation of employers and other employment programs that are safe and affirming referrals for TGNC people seeking employment. Staff will have to act as advocates for TGNC people in navigating jobs, ensuring nondiscrimination, and creating safe work environments. Funding includes \$1.83m for staffing (which can be broken into a staff for the youth program and a staff for the adult program), \$4.4m for subsidized wages (including stipends where necessary), \$183,000 for evaluation, and \$50,000 for advertising. There must be a TGNC community consultation process to review responses to RFPs for this program, and preference should be given in awards to smaller organizations that can demonstrate a long-standing connection to the community.

TGNC Rental Assistance Program Pilot

Proposed Agency: HRA

Proposed Cost: \$4.1m

A pilot to provide a special rental assistance program for TGNC people, given the community's disproportionately high homeless rates. This would pay for 200 TGNC people to use a special category of rental assistance focused on TGNC people, and it would also pay for 20 case managers to help participants find housing, deal with any potential discrimination issues that may arise with landlords, and assist with other wraparound needs. Outyear costs may be modified in line with demand for the program.

TGNC Immigration Lawyer Training

Proposed Agency: MOIA

Proposed Cost: \$100,000

Funding for a pilot number of 5 non-profits (with grants of approximately \$20,000 each) to conduct training, geared for immigration attorneys, that educates about TGNC people and the means of attaining specialized visas (e.g., U Visas, which are for survivors of crimes that inflicted physical or mental abuse) that are most useful in helping undocumented TGNC people maintain safe residence in the US.

TGNC Immigration Lawyer Staffing

Proposed Agencies: MOIA and HRA

Proposed Cost: \$715,000

Funding for 5 non-profits (each receiving \$143,000 to cover wage, fringe, and overhead costs of hiring one attorney) to hire lawyers that are knowledgeable of both the visas that TGNC undocumented people need, and TGNC community needs. Grants should be made to cover the cost of a staff member.

TGNC Healthcare Liaison Program

Proposed Agencies: HHC and DOHMH

Proposed Cost: \$820,000

Funding for staff at city hospitals that can act as case managers and advocates for TGNC patients, to help enforce peoples' rights within the health care system and make sure every part of their care team is in communication to make the best possible health care outcomes. The TGNC Healthcare Liaisons should also work on issues that are not TGNC-specific, e.g., diabetes, pulmonary care, etc. This should also include an extra \$50,000 for advertising the service to the community.

Training/Evaluation on NYPD/TGNC Community Issues

Proposed Agency: CCRB

Proposed Cost: \$50,000

TGNC organizations should once again take part in the training process of NYPD officers, and make changes to NYPD training as soon as possible. Furthermore, funding should be provided for an evaluation of this new training with TGNC-led organizations taking a major role in the evaluation process (\$25,000), and \$25,000 should be provided to community organizations to inform the TGNC community about their rights in interactions with police.



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Testimony to the New York City Council
Committee on General Welfare

March 27, 2018

Good morning. My name is John Sentigar and I am a member of the advocacy team at Covenant House New York, where we serve runaway and homeless youth, ages 16 to 24. I would like to thank the Committee on General Welfare for the opportunity to testify today.

Covenant House New York (CHNY) is the nation's largest, non-profit adolescent care agency serving homeless, runaway and trafficked youth. During this past year, CHNY served over 1,600 young people in our residential programs. On a nightly basis, we provide shelter to approximately 250 young people, including pregnant women and mothers with their children, LGBTQ youth, and commercially sexually exploited youth and trafficking survivors. Our youth are primarily people of color and approximately a third of our youth have spent time in the foster care system. Many of our youth have experienced abuse or neglect at the hands of parents or other caregivers, and a disproportionately high percentage of our youth struggle with the pervasive impacts of trauma, mental health issues, and substance abuse. We provide young people with food, shelter, clothing, medical care, mental health and substance abuse services, legal services, high school equivalency classes and other educational programs, and job-training programs. All of these services help young people overcome the trauma of abuse, homelessness, and exploitation and move toward stability.

We strongly support and applaud the New York City Council's passage of Int. Nos. 1699 and 1706. The passage of these bills, when signed by Mayor de Blasio, will better serve the



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needs of runaway and homeless youth. These important bills address long-standing barriers that have prevented youth from fully accessing the help they desperately need and we are grateful to the City Council for passing these measures. The ability to serve more youth who desperately need services is an incredible opportunity for CHNY and many other providers across New York City. However, increasing available contract funding and bed capacity must go hand in hand with the passage of these bills.

1. Create 100 DYCD RHY beds for youth ages 21-24 years old.

We support New York City taking a stand for homeless young adults by allowing them to remain in RHY shelters until their 25th birthday in order to access age-appropriate services. This is something that both young people and their advocates have been working on for many years. While we are very much in support of this change, we want to emphasize the need for additional funding in order to adequately serve this new population.

As a member agency of the Coalition for Homeless Youth, CHNY supports its request for the addition of 100 new beds for RHY youth. CHNY's emergency shelter was at or near capacity almost every night in 2017. In order to continue to offer our shelter and wraparound services to a full range of young people, ages 16-24, we need the space and resources to do so. New shelter bed availability at RHY programs will ensure that the new population of RHY does not take away from beds that have already been funded for the 16-20 year old population. Most importantly, these new beds will allow us to continue to offer the opportunity for shelter, and ultimately permanent housing, to any young person who comes through our door.

2. Increase 24-hour drop-in services to the Bronx and Brooklyn



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We also support an increase in accommodations for 24-hour drop-in services in the Bronx and Brooklyn . 24-hour drop-in services provide a refuge from the streets and services for young people who may not otherwise seek services through shelter.

3. Add Housing Specialists to serve runaway and homeless youth.

CHNY staff work very closely with all young people who come to us in need of services. We offer immediate shelter, wraparound services, and also offer transitional and supportive housing programs to provide a roadmap to achieving the long-term goal of permanent housing. We know, however, that homeless young people rarely transition directly from a shelter setting to their own independent housing, and struggle to find permanent affordable housing when leaving transitional living programs. Our case management staff, in addition to their many other responsibilities, attempt to assist youth in finding appropriate permanent housing options. In this challenging housing market, Housing Specialists are especially needed to assist youth in identifying and applying for housing opportunities, understanding and applying for appropriate housing assistance, and understanding their rights and obligations. In order to ensure that RHY can successfully transition to permanent housing, we support CHY's request for the addition of 15 Housing Specialists who can work with RHY providers to ensure comprehensive support for residents to successfully obtain safe and long-term housing.

4. Align current contract amounts with the real cost to run a program.

CHNY applauds New York City for increasing funding to new DYCD contracts. While this will greatly improve our ability to continue to offer comprehensive and robust services to young people in need, we are asking that contract funding amounts continue to rise with the real



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cost of running a program. For many years, RHY providers operated programs with less than adequate funding and staff salaries that did not keep pace with the cost of living. Recent increases, while helpful, have not yet brought our program funding and staff salaries even with current costs. With a 7% general contract increase in funding, RHY providers will be able to improve programming, deliver service interventions in new and innovative ways, and foster an environment that inspires not only our young people, but also our dedicated staff members who work tirelessly to help those in need. Increased contract funding will provide a more livable wage, decrease staff turnover, and improve morale across our programs. This will naturally improve the services we offer to young people.

In addition to needed across the board increases, CHNY is also requesting increased funding for several items that will bolster our continued efforts to serve RHY to the best of our ability:

MetroCards: We are seeking \$50,000 to pay for MetroCards for the homeless youth that we serve. As the young people of CHNY work to create better futures free from poverty, they cannot stay in our shelter all day. Instead, our youth are travelling to job interviews, doctor appointments offsite, high school and college classes, and places of employment. Whenever possible, CHNY gives youth MetroCards for these purposes, however, we receive no free or low cost MetroCards from New York City, and we serve close to 2,000 youth per year. Because of this, we are often running low on MetroCards. When a homeless youth does not have the \$2.75 to pay for a MetroCard, but needs to be somewhere, he or she often feels they have no choice but to jump the turnstile. In a random survey of 204 young people at CHNY, over half had received



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citations from the MTA. These citations result in heavy fines that can lead to problems later on with credit. Rather than saddling young people with fines they cannot pay, it makes more sense to ensure that they have the ability to pay the fare in the first place. For this reason, CHNY is requesting funds for the distribution of round-trip MetroCards for youth in our main shelter and our off-site programming, including Mother/Child and our Anti-Trafficking Safe House.

Legal Services: Increased funding for our legal services department will enable us to hire a second attorney to provide on-site, direct representation and advice and counsel to help homeless young people address barriers to employment, housing, and long-term stability. This is especially important in today's uncertain political climate, as many of our youth, including immigrant youth who may be afraid of deportation, and youth of color and LGBTQ youth who feel especially marginalized, need crucial assistance and information about their legal rights and remedies. The new attorney would work on a wide array of legal issues affecting our young people, including immigration, domestic violence, broken adoptions (when adoptive parents continue to collect an adoption subsidy despite having kicked youth out of their home), consumer issues, public benefits, and more. With our main attorney often in court, it is essential we have a second attorney who can handle emergencies and client walk-ins.

Workforce Development: CHNY is seeking overall support for our workforce development program so that our young people can be prepared for today's highly competitive job market. This program includes high school equivalency classes, specialized training courses including janitorial, certified nursing and security guard training. It also offers scholarships to colleges and provides youth with practical job seeking skills. We have a dedicated team of employment



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specialists who help our young people not only find jobs but also maintain employment at those jobs. Almost all of our young people residing in shelter program attend a two-week class where they gain a foundation on how to apply for a job by learning to write a resume and practice interviewing as well as discuss professionalism and on-the-job decorum. Our team also works hard to develop relationships with employers so that our youth have a range of job choices and can be ready for the ever-changing job market.

Anti-Human Trafficking Transitional Living Program: CHNY is also requesting funding for the Anti-Human Trafficking Transitional Living Program that would directly support our young trafficking survivors residing in our safe house. This requested funding would serve six female-identified survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Since many people escape trafficking situations with only the clothes on their backs, they also need money for food and clothing. In many cases, the pimp or exploiter has controlled all of their finances, often leaving them with no financial knowledge or resources. Some of this funding request would be put toward an incentive program for survivors and also allow us to match a certain percentage of their own savings, thereby encouraging them to save money for when they are on their own. Finally, because our anti-trafficking safe house is changing its location, we will be renting a non-furnished apartment and need funding for furniture. We hope to make this new environment look like a home where our young people can feel safe and comfortable.

Increased funding commitments from New York City are vital to the continued success of RHY programming. A greater investment in the FY19 budget on behalf of runaway and homeless young people can help save a generation of vulnerable youth from becoming



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chronically homeless adults. As a long time member of the Coalition for Homeless Youth, we support its request of a \$10.2 million increase in contract investments in FY19. We appreciate that advocates, City Council, and DYCD are all in agreement that every runaway and homeless young person deserves a bed in a youth shelter and have worked to make this the law. However, it is imperative that sufficient funding is available to ensure every youth seeking help can be served in a DYCD shelter. We would like to thank the Speaker of the New York City Council, Corey Johnson, for urging the passage of recent legislation and for being a champion for our youth. We thank the entire New York City Council for their support in the fight against youth homelessness and hope that increased funding will support the recent passage of the bill package last month, making New York City a continued leader in supporting runaway and homeless youth.



Testimony by

Nancy Rankin, VP for Policy Research and Advocacy
Community Service Society of New York

Before the New York City Council Committee on General Welfare
New York City Council Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Nancy Rankin. I am Vice President for Policy Research and Advocacy for the Community Service Society of New York, a nonprofit organization that works to advance upward mobility for low-income New Yorkers.

I am here today speaking on behalf of 65 economic justice, labor, transit, women's rights, legal and faith groups that have joined together to urge the City to provide half-price discounts on bus and subway fares for the poor, like we already do for seniors and the disabled. Our proposal is known as Fair Fares.

And I am here today speaking on behalf of 800,000 working age New Yorkers who are struggling to get ahead on incomes that leave them below the federal poverty threshold of \$24,858 for a family of four. They rely on buses and subways to get to work, commute to college, get needed medical care, pick up their kids, and come home to their families after a long day. But too many cannot afford the MetroCard that is their ticket to literal and economic mobility.

These New Yorkers are looking to the Council for urgently needed relief. We thank Chairman Levin and the majority of Council Members for their letter to the Speaker, released yesterday, advocating for including funds for Fair Fares in the Council's response to the Mayor's preliminary budget.

While Mayor de Blasio has embraced half-fare discounts for low-income New Yorkers, he has proposed paying for it through an increase in the millionaires' tax. But why make Fair Fares—one of the few important things New York City has the legal authority to do on its own, without

Albany's approval—contingent on getting the state to pass a tax increase that virtually everyone but the mayor acknowledges has little chance of being enacted?

Moreover, tying specific programs or services to a dedicated revenue stream is often bad public policy. A specific tax or fee is unlikely to generate precisely the right amount of funds needed for a given purpose. The revenue will fluctuate from year to year, producing either too much or too little in needed resources, so the government will be forced to add other funding or violate the promise of what the tax or fee was supposed to be used for. Since dollars are fungible, often these dedicated revenues amount to smoke and mirrors, simply allowing the government to shift funds it otherwise would have spent to something else.

It's far better public policy to raise revenues through equitable, progressive means, and then spend our resources based on our priorities as public needs change.

Most city initiatives—from ThriveNYC to affordable housing to adding police officers—are paid for out of growing city revenues or by finding savings elsewhere in the budget. We don't require a dedicated new funding stream to pay for them. Surely in a proposed budget of \$88.67 billion we can find \$200 million to reduce economic inequality by making public transit more affordable?

These costs will be partly offset by significant savings. The City's Human Resources Administration currently spends upwards of \$48 million providing limited use free MetroCards to public assistance recipients to enable them to travel to certain appointments. But such ad hoc cards do little to meet the broader transportation needs of the poor.

In addition, aggressive turnstile policing combined with unaffordable fares amounts to criminalizing poverty. Brooklyn Defender Services estimates that in 2015, we spent about \$51 million on fare evasion prosecutions. Rather than punish people for being poor with arrests and fines they cannot pay, why not make it easier for them to afford public transit? Fair Fares is a better use of our resources.

Fair Fares is not a subsidy for the MTA. It is a subsidy for low-income New Yorkers.

It would save poor New York City transit riders \$726 annually off the cost of 12 monthly passes. That would make a real difference in their lives. It would be one of the most effective ways of reaching all the city's poorest. Unlike the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), for example, benefits would go to workers whose employers pay them off-the-books, the unemployed trying to find jobs, homeless Veterans and many who are hustling hard to make ends meet cleaning houses, walking the streets with a bucket and sponge to wash shop windows, or working at other jobs that don't provide a regular, official paycheck. New York City's own poverty measure, which differs from the official federal poverty rate by taking into account non-cash income supports and deducting nondiscretionary expenditures, shows that commuting costs raise the

city's poverty rate by two percentage points, nearly as much as payroll taxes and more than the impact of child care costs.

How can we argue that the city should not subsidize fares for the poor, when we currently subsidize fares for seniors, the disabled and students and forego tax revenue by providing pre-tax commuter benefits targeted to higher earners?

In his State of the City Message just last month, Mayor de Blasio proclaimed his goal of making New York City the "Fairer Big City in America". Mr. Mayor we agree. But lofty rhetoric alone will not lift up low-income New Yorkers. We urge the Council to include funding to make half-fare on public transit a reality for low-income New Yorkers in its budget response and a priority in the final budget negotiations.

Thank you.

Fair Fares Campaign Supporters- updated 3/27/18

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East 32BJ SEIU New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) RWDSU TWU ALIGN Association of Community Employment- Programs for the Homeless (ACE) The Black Institute Bronx Defenders Brooklyn Defender Services Brooklyn Movement Center CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities CASA Citizen Action New York Collegiate Congress Community Voices Heard Covenant House Emergency Rent Coalition Fast Food Justice Fifth Avenue Committee 5-Boro Defenders Fiscal Policy Institute	FPWA Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition Housing Conservation Coordinators Jews for Racial & Economic Justice Jewish Labor Committee Judson Memorial Church LatinoJustice PRLDEF Legal Aid Society Lenox Hill Neighborhood House LISC New York City Make the Road-NY Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty MoveNY National Action Network (NAN) NYC Employment & Training Coalition NYC Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) New York Communities for Change NorthWest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow Picture the Homeless	Planned Parenthood of NYC Police Reform Organizing Project (PROP) Pratt Center Project Hospitality Red Hook Initiative Regional Plan Association Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York Straphangers Campaign The Street Vendor Project (Urban Justice Center) Strong Economy for All Coalition Theater of the Oppressed NYC Transportation Alternatives Tri-State Transportation Campaign UPROSE VOCAL-NY The West Side Commons Women's Center for Education & Career Advancement Women's City Club of NY Win (Women in Need) Working Families The Workmen's Circle
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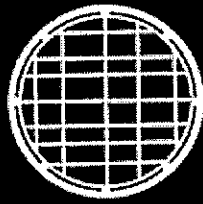
Elected Officials

Letitia James, Public Advocate
Scott Stringer, New York City Comptroller
Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President
Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President
Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., Manhattan District Attorney

New York City Council Members

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SAFETY NET ACTIVISTS

Supported by the Safety Net Project at the Urban Justice Center

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION
&
THE CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT HOMELESS SERVICES
3/27/18**

My name is Wendy O'Shields I am testifying as a New York City Welfare and Homeless Rights Advocate. I am a member of the Urban Justice Center Safety Net Project/Activists.

HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION

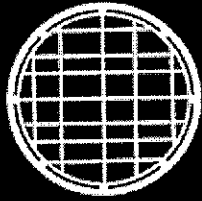
Please ensure that each SNAP and Job Center office are adequately staffed. HRA applicants and recipients often wait hours to see customer service and typically lose an entire day trying to resolve a single issue. Phone lines are not answered and voicemails are full because the HRA centers are not adequately staffed. Staff frequently works mandatory overtime until 9, 10 pm, or later. This is no good for all concerned.

Please increase the HRA budget to hire more frontline support staff to immediately process paperwork. New York State licensed Social Workers should be hired to interview HRA applicants and recipients this will allow professional interviews, complete, and uninterrupted.

New Yorkers that visit HRA Centers seek vital life sustaining services. During the benefit qualifying period please process applicants for emergency SNAP, a onetime cash benefit, and a clothing voucher at the application interview. This will help provide some necessities during the 30 to 45-day application process.

Additionally, there are resources in the NYC community that can help the HRA applicant or recipient when their food, clothing, and other necessities are low. Consider handing out the below information to New Yorkers especially during the application period. See the attached documents.

1. The Citywide Guide to Food Assistance by Hunger Free America
2. Your Guide to Welfare in NYC a joint project between Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), the Urban Justice Center Safety Net Project (SNP), & Safety Net Activists (SNA)
3. The Access HRA Mobile App
4. Access NYC apply with 1 application for 30 programs
5. NYC Housing Portal
6. Housing Court Help by Housing Court Answers
7. Getting Ready for Court by Housing Court Answers



SAFETY NET ACTIVISTS

Supported by the Safety Net Project at the Urban Justice Center

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION
&
THE CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT HOMELESS SERVICES
3/27/18**

**THE DEPARTMENT HOMELESS SERVICES
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DHS**

There are significant variations between the amount of help that residents get depending on which shelter they reside. Some shelters don't have Housing Specialists and some have them but residents do not have appointments scheduled. If there is a Housing Specialist often there are not enough and they are not well trained in locating NYC apartments.

What is the job description of a City of New York Department of Homeless Services Housing Specialist? Are your DHS Nonprofit Homeless shelter vendors required by contract to employ a "Housing Specialist?" How many Housing Specialists are required per 25 DHS shelter Homeless residents? How are the Housing Specialists accountable for placing DHS shelter Homeless residents in independent permanent housing?

Please clarify the role of the DHS shelter Homeless Resident Housing Specialist. Please increase the DHS budget to hire specifically Housing Specialists with the proper training in locating independent permanent housing. The ratio of 1 Housing Specialist per 25 DHS shelter Homeless Residents will begin to Turn the Tide On Homelessness in the City of New York.

I thank you for considering my suggestions to assist HRA & DHS with their accountability to New Yorkers.

NEW YORK

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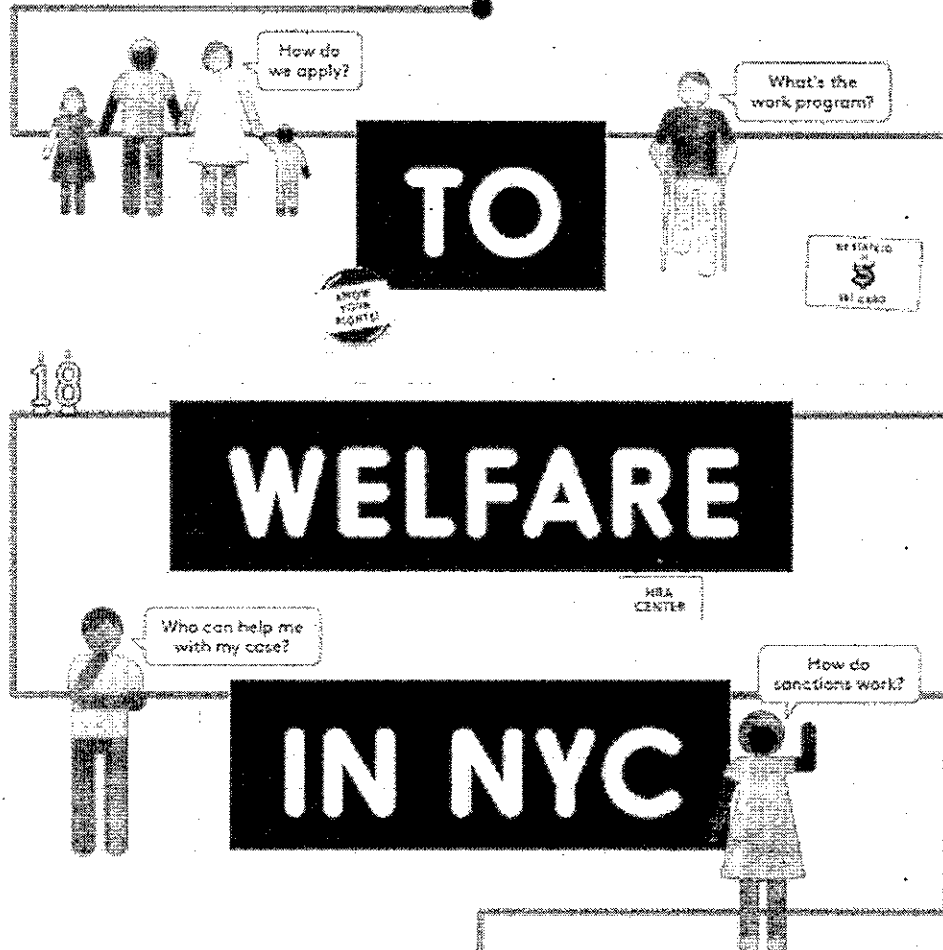
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YOUR GUIDE



**FIND OUT HOW TO GET—
AND KEEP—YOUR BENEFITS!**

**MAKING
POLICY
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MAKING POLICY PUBLIC
 is a program of the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP). CUP partners with policy advocates and graphic designers to produce foldout posters that explain complicated policy issues, like this one, <http://welcometocup.org>.

COLLABORATORS
 CUP: Christine Casper, Clara Aronson, David Hult, Urban Justice Center's Safety Net Project, Denise Miranda, Ego, Edwin Ortiz, Helen Shorn, All Other Services, Kevin Wade Shaw, Joel Salzman

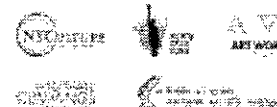
CUP
 THE CENTER FOR URBAN PEDAGOGY (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement. welcometocup.org

ALL OTHER SERVICES
 is a civil-minded graphic design studio. All Other Services develops visual and strategic direction for brands, publications, and websites that positively impact communities. allotherservices.info

URBAN JUSTICE CENTER
 THE SAFETY NET PROJECT protects due process rights and provides direct legal services for low and no-income New Yorkers while engaging the greater community in creating a wider, freer safety net for economic justice and human dignity. safetynetproject.org

BIG THANKS TO
 Mark Torrey, Genevieve Delaney, Sandra Carter, Eric Kelly, Lee Lightbourne, Wendy O'Shields, Marissa Norcia, Jon Pepper, William Stanford, Jr., Samantha Layler, and Safety Net Project staff

Support for this project was provided by the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, A Blade of Grass North Star Fund, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



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IF YOU NEED HELP

CONTACT HRA

To apply for benefits or get help with your case, visit an HRA Center. To find one:



FOR MORE HELP AND INFO

If you have trouble with your application or need more help, get in touch with one of these organizations:

• **THE SAFETY NET PROJECT**
 The Safety Net Project offers free legal clinics that operate at soup kitchens, food pantries, and other locations in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. Staff can advise you on cash assistance rules and Fair Hearings. They may also be able to represent you in Fair Hearings.

For locations, directions, and hours, visit www.safetynetproject.org or call 646.482.3043.

• **PROJECT FAIR**
 Project FAIR can give you information on fair hearings, benefits, and community services. They also offer referral services.

Visit the Project FAIR Help Desk in the main waiting area at 14 Beasly Plaza, 1st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201. It's open Monday–Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

HOW TO GET A FAIR HEARING

If you have problems with your case, talk to HRA first. If the problem isn't fixed, contact the Office of Administrative Hearings to request a fair hearing.

- Online: oah.ny.gov
- Visit: 14 Beasly Plaza, 1st Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11201
- Phone: 800.542.3334
- Fax: 516.475.6735
- Multi New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 1910, Albany, NY 12201-1920

**LOOK INSIDE TO LEARN
ABOUT CASH ASSISTANCE:
WHO IT'S FOR, HOW TO
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Human Resources Administration

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[SYEP is currently accepting applications for this summer.](#)

Apply for Pre-K for All

[New York City families with a child born in 2014 can apply to Pre-K from February 5 - March 30, 2018.](#)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> report a housing complaint | <input type="checkbox"/> find shelter quickly |

Or search by keyword(s)

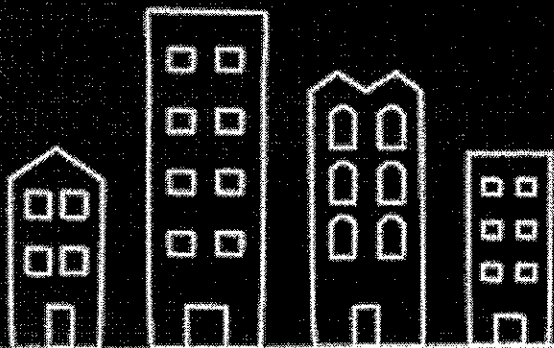
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HOUSING COURT HELP

A TENANT'S GUIDE TO NEGOTIATING WITH YOUR LANDLORD



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TERMS FOR TENANTS

JUDGMENT - when the court officially decides that you owe money or need to move out. If you "consent" or agree to a judgment in your stip and don't pay on time, the judgment allows your eviction to go forward. It's a good idea to get a judgment taken out of your stip. If that's not possible, add "paid judgments will be vacated" to avoid potential long-term consequences to your credit.

WARRANT - an order from the court that lets a marshal evict you. If you consent (agree) to "the immediate issuance of a warrant" in your stipulation agreement, a marshal can come evict you from your home if you don't pay on time.

WAIVE - to give up a right. Make sure you understand and agree to any right you are waiving.

CONSENT - to agree. "The respondent consents to" means you, the tenant, agree to whatever follows.

DEFAULT - the words "upon default" come before the description of what will happen if you don't pay or move by the deadline.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE or OSC - a request to the court. You can use an OSC to ask the judge for a new court date for more time to pay or move, or for some other change after your hearing.

ABATEMENT - a reduction in the rent you owe because of repairs that weren't made, or services that weren't provided like heat or hot water.

Good Afternoon, Chair Levin, members and staff of the Committee on General Welfare. My name is Jackson Wolf. I'm a 29 year old Transman that was raised in New York City. I am a member at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project in Manhattan. We organize for the rights of Trans people. I struggled with being homeless for many years because I was pushed out and didn't have family support. I currently reside in a DHS shelter but in all of the ones I've been in I've experienced safety, privacy and discrimination issues especially involving the bedrooms and bathrooms. If I was able to access the rental voucher I would be able to get myself out of the shelter system but instead I have experienced harassment and violence. I don't get support from my case managers or shelter directors and even had to leave the shelter for my own safety and mental health.

Employment in general has been a continuous issue for me especially as I transition. One issue is that, I don't have my name changed as of yet. Therefore, my physical appearance vs my identification does not match. As a result, it has raised anxiety and frustration when seeking employment or any kind of services. If there was a program that specifically provided the services that I needed it would make a huge impact not only on me but others like me and more to come. We just want what everyone else does, housing, employment and to live a normal and stress-free life as much as possible. I greatly appreciate you taking the time listening to me and other members and leaders in our community.



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Greg Berman, Director

**Center for Court Innovation Testimony
New York City Council
Committee on Juvenile Justice
Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2018**

Good Morning Chairman King and members of the Committee on Juvenile Justice. My name is **Olivia Dana** and I am the **Project Director of the Staten Island Justice Center**, a project of the Center for Court Innovation. Thank you for this opportunity to speak today.

I am here to urge the City Council to support the Center for Court Innovation as it seeks to strengthen and expand alternative-to-incarceration, youth diversion, and access to justice programs through \$1,000,000 in support from the City Council in fiscal year 2019. This includes a \$500,000 continuation of funding for ongoing operations. It also includes a \$500,000 enhancement, which will serve the goal of preparing the Center's youth diversion programs for Raise the Age, which is starting on October 1st, 2018. Today's written submission includes a summary and supporting materials that reflect this request.

Support from the Council is crucial to the continuation of our alternative-to-incarceration programs throughout the five boroughs. Our programs—which include the Red Hook Community Justice Center, Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, Midtown Community Court, Bronx Community Solutions, Queens Youth Justice Center, and Staten Island Justice Center—have been documented by independent evaluators to improve safety, reduce incarceration, and enhance public trust in government. We work with tens of thousands of New Yorkers each year at these project sites, and the vast majority of the people we serve are LGBTQ, youth, immigrants, low-income, or people of color. Through our ongoing partnership with the City

Council, we have worked to reduce incarceration and made New York City neighborhoods safer for all.

The Center is also committed to improving outcomes for young people impacted by the justice system. With expanded support from the Council, the Center's youth diversion programs will be a vehicle for the successful implementation of Raise the Age. The Center's diversion programs in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island currently serve thousands of young people each year through counseling, academic support, and workforce development. As an example of the success of this work, in 2017, the Staten Island Justice Center worked with 210 young people facing charges in Criminal Court, and diverted them from the justice system. Our compliance rate for these participants was 84%. Support from the Council will enable Center programs to serve an estimated 30% more youth by providing meaningful off-ramps to detention wherever possible. Without expansion funding, we may struggle to accommodate the expected influx of alternative-to-detention cases due to Raise the Age. Additionally, 16-17-year-olds have a unique set of needs that will require different programming than our current youth population. This requires additional staffing, training, and program materials.

The City Council's support has been invaluable to the success of the Center for Court Innovation. The Center looks forward to continuing to work with the Council to reduce incarceration and to enhance youth justice. We respectfully urge you to continue to support our work and I thank you for the opportunity to speak. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Fiscal Year 2019 Citywide Speaker Funding Request

Discretionary Application Reference No. 57488

The Center for Court Innovation seeks to strengthen and expand our alternative-to-incarceration, youth-diversion, and access-to-justice programs through \$1,000,000 in support from the City Council in fiscal year 2019. This includes a \$500,000 continuation of funding for ongoing operations and a \$500,000 enhancement, which will help us advance the City Council's goals of improving fairness and working toward the closure of Rikers Island.

Council support will allow for the continuation and expansion of our work in the following areas:

Continuing Support

We work with tens of thousands of New Yorkers each year. The vast majority of the people we serve are LGBTQ, youth, immigrants, low-income, or people of color. Our programs—which include the Red Hook Community Justice Center, Crown Heights Community Mediation Center, Midtown Community Court, Bronx Community Solutions, Queens Youth Justice Center, and Staten Island Justice Center—have been documented by independent evaluators to improve safety, reduce incarceration, and enhance public trust in government.

Youth Justice

Our diversion programs in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island currently serve thousands of young people each year through counseling, academic support, and workforce development. Looking forward, with expanded funding, these programs can be a vehicle for the successful implementation of Raise the Age reforms, serving young people who will no longer go through criminal court. Our goal is to offer meaningful off-ramps, allowing participants to avoid detention wherever possible. We have developed a particular expertise in working with young women and LGBTQ survivors of exploitation and trafficking, offering trauma-informed mental health services. Expanded funding would allow the Center to serve hundreds more from these vulnerable, at-risk populations.

Access to Justice

The Center for Court Innovation is making a deep investment in improving access to justice. Our Harlem Community Justice Center works to resolve disputes between tenants and landlords, providing mediation, benefits assistance, and social services to local residents. With the Council's support, we can extend the reach of the Justice Center by close to thirty percent. Additionally, our Legal Hand program serves Crown Heights, Jamaica, and Brownsville residents facing housing, immigration and employment issues. Legal Hand trains local residents to empower their neighbors with legal information. Council support would allow us to expand this program to three new communities by hiring additional supervising attorneys, which will serve hundreds of additional low-income New Yorkers.

The Center for Court Innovation looks forward to continuing its partnership with the City Council in the next fiscal year. Please support our crucial work.

For more information, please contact Dipal Shah—shahd@courtinnovation.org or 646.386.3820.

FY 2019 Enhancement Request

Youth Justice and Access to Justice

Issue Area		Target Population	Program Description	Location	Served Annually	FY19 support would allow us to serve up to
Youth Justice	Alternatives to Detention	Young people to be charged with delinquency in Family Court.	After the initial implementation of “Raise the Age” on October 1, 2018, the Queens and Staten Island Youth Justice Centers will offer young people charged with delinquency community-based alternatives to detention. These programs provide comprehensive stabilization and support services including case management, family support, educational advocacy, and vocational training and placement.	Brooklyn Manhattan Queens Staten Island	878	30% more young people.
	Trauma-Informed Mental Health Services	Young women and LGBTQ survivors of exploitation and trafficking.	In response to a spike in the number of sexually exploited youth, the Queens Youth Justice Center will offer young women and LGBTQ survivors of trafficking and exploitation specialized, trauma-informed advocacy to serve this population’s unique challenges and needs.	Queens	30	50% more young people.
Access to Justice	Housing Justice	Litigants in Housing Court.	To promote increased access to housing justice for Harlem residents, the Harlem Community Justice Center will serve an additional number of residents in the Harlem Housing Court through the provision of dispute resolution, benefits assistance, and social service provision.	Manhattan	598	30% more people.
	Civil Legal Support	New York City community members with potential civil legal disputes.	To address the gap in civil legal service provision for low-income New Yorkers, the Legal Hand program will expand to additional New York City communities and provide information to residents with civil legal issues.	Bronx Brooklyn Manhattan Queens	10,015	50% more people.



FOR THE RECORD

**Testimony of
Chris Widelo, Associate State Director
AARP New York**

**New York City Council
Committee on General Welfare**

Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget

March 27, 2018

**City Hall
New York, New York**

Contact: Chris Widelo (212) 407-3737 | cwidelo@aarp.org

Good morning Chairperson Levin and members of the Consumer Affairs Committee. My name is Chris Widelo and I am the Associate State Director at AARP NY. On behalf of our 800,000 members age 50 and older in New York City, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

New York City's population is aging. Nearly one-third of residents in the five boroughs is over the age of 50 and that group is expected to grow by nearly 20 percent by 2040. The growth for the 65-plus age group is projected to be even more dramatic, with a whopping 40% increase.

And, our city is not just aging, we are becoming more diverse. African Americans, Blacks, Hispanics, Latinos, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 62 percent of New York City residents 50-plus and half of all those 65-plus living here were born in a foreign country.

We know from our recent report, *Disrupting Racial and Ethnic Disparities: Solutions for New Yorkers Age 50+*, developed in partnership with New York Urban League, NAACP, Hispanic Federation and Asian American Federation, that people of color over the age of 50 experience stark disparities in the areas of health, economic security, and the ability to live and remain in their communities.

All this means we must make meeting the needs of older New Yorkers a bigger priority. We are grateful to the increased and baselined funding increases made to the DFTA budget last year, but aging is not just a DFTA issue.

That is why we are here today along with some of our 850,000 New York City members. And that is why we plan to attend budget hearings for a host of agencies. It is time for the needs of aging New Yorkers to be addressed across city government.

After all, meeting the needs of aging residents and helping them to stay in their neighborhoods is critical to retaining their tremendous economic, social, cultural and family contributions. And, it is also the right thing to do.

Helping our older neighbors to continue to live in the neighborhoods they call home is partially the responsibility of the General Welfare Committee.

The fact of the matter is that too many seniors live in poverty.

According to a report released last year by Comptroller Stringer, over 40 percent of New York City senior-headed households depend on government programs, including Social Security, for more than half of their income, while more than 30 percent depend on these programs for three-quarters of their income. And seniors are more likely to benefit from government programs like nutrition assistance and Supplemental Security Income than the total population.

In our own research, including our High Anxiety report, found that financial concerns weigh heavily on New Yorkers 50+. They haven't saved enough, don't make enough, are concerned about ever being able to retire, and most troubling, many don't expect they will be able to continue to afford to live here. The statistics, not surprisingly are worse for black, Latino and Asian residents.

Yet, despite these facts, we are missing opportunities to help ends meet.

For example, we need to enroll seniors in all the benefits for which they qualify. The Age-friendly NYC initiative recommended increasing SNAP participation among seniors to help them put food on the table. Still too many senior who qualify, don't access SNAP, or for that matter, SCRIE, HEAP and more. What more can be done to help seniors access the benefits they need?

Related, for a number of years, AARP and the Public Utility Law Project have been concerned about the difficulty seniors and New Yorkers above 50 face in paying their electric bills. In our last joint study, we found 41% of NYers over 50 had trouble paying utility bills, and Con Edison continues to shut off tens of thousands of households each year. We believe seniors and the groups that work with them need more knowledge about their utility rights and assistance with leveraging them to get better outcomes. We're not just about ensuring seniors can afford to live here, we're also worried about their ability to stay in their homes safely as they age. Caregivers make that possible.

In New York State nearly 2.6 million unpaid family caregivers help older adults and other loved ones to live independently at home—where they want to be. The care they provide is worth an estimated \$31 billion. Yet, they are stretched to the limits – financially, mentally and physically.

According to the Age-friendly NYC initiative, the city was developing a plan, based on survey of unpaid caregivers, to address the caregivers' needs. Was a plan developed? What did it recommend and where are we?

These are the issues we believe the General Welfare Committee and other City Council Committees and City Agencies should be working to resolve. Aging issues are all our issues – after all, we are an aging city.

We hope that all the discussion that will happen here today and at all budget hearings will consider the needs of aging New Yorkers. Let's disrupt aging together and help ensure all New Yorkers can age safely and happily in the city they love.



Testimony delivered by
Shelley Anderson, Group Teacher
Prepared for the NY City Council Education Committee on General Welfare
Preliminary Budget Hearing – General Welfare
March 27th, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Shelley Anderson. I am a Group Pre-K Teacher at Sheltering Arms' Mother Hale Learning Center in Central Harlem. I earned my Masters in early childhood education from Hunter College in 2015, then obtained NY State Initial Teacher Certification.

Part of my repayment for my full scholarship is a requirement to teach in a community-based ECE center for three years. This has brought me to Sheltering Arms, where I have been teaching young children now for three-and-a-half years.

Teaching pre-k has been amazing. I get to see how young children learn about their community and themselves through their experiences, exploration, and play; how they explore with sensory activities and see, touch, smell, and sometimes even taste the world around them. It is rewarding to see my classes develop academic learning, social skills, and self-expression. I also love being part of a multi-cultural community, speaking Spanish throughout the day to support learning and to develop relationships with families from Santo Domingo, West Africa, Jamaica, China, and Eastern Europe.

Teaching pre-k, however, has also been the most challenging job I have had. The hours, the commitment, and the responsibilities are significant for all teachers, but burden those of us working for community-based organizations more than our peers in the DOE. I perform their same academic responsibilities, however for less salary and benefits. My work days are far longer than theirs, starting at 8:00 AM with children until 6:00 PM, and our school year is for 12 months without any time off for summer, winter, or spring breaks. In addition to teaching and maintaining the health and safety of the children, there is a mountain of administrative responsibilities, documentation, reporting, student observations, and parent meetings. Most of this work is done after our already extended school hours, at home and on the weekends.

The salary and benefit discrepancies between me and my peers at DOE are unfair enough, but this disparity of work makes the issue downright shameful. There is little reason why a teacher would choose to work in a community-based program instead of the DOE. Without my scholarship requirements and year-end incentives to stay (which are largely self-funded by Sheltering Arms), I don't know that I would have continued teaching in a community-based ECE center as long as I have. The City should not put me in a position to choose the DOE over my current classroom. They're our city's children. I'm our city's teacher. Pay our teachers equitably. Thank you.



PICTURE THE HOMELESS

Testimony of Maria Teresa Waller
General Welfare Committee Budget Hearing

March 27, 2018

My name is Maria Teresa Waller. I am a leader with Picture the Homeless. I am testifying this afternoon regarding how the shelters are run as a business, and are not serving the residents to get the help they need to get out and into permanent housing. The money you invest for a shelter should be used for housing.

I know the system is like a revolving door. I was in the system twice. The first time, I was in the system with my family but unfortunately things changed and I went in again with my husband, as an adult couple. I got accepted for the Advantage Program but the program only lasted two years. I had to go back into the shelter system after the government discontinued the program.

My husband and I stayed in the system for four years until we finally got our place. During that time, the city was spending between \$3,000-4,000 per month for our shelter stay. That adds up to almost \$170,000—enough to have paid my rent on a monthly basis, furnish an apartment, or even buy a home.

But that's just my example—let's look at the cost for everyone else that's going through this. I am going to do the math for you. In a shelter housing 40 families, where DHS spends roughly \$5,000 a month per family, the cost of the shelter would be around \$200,000 a month.

It is incredible that it costs that much—but why?? We know how the money is being spent and used. I know there are guidelines that shelters have to follow but they are not doing it. For example, shelters are supposed to provide metrocards to households on public assistance to make it to appointments, but they are not doing that. They are also supposed to provide toiletries to shelter residents, but all I ever received was a roll of toilet paper every month or every other month. My shelter had mice running around in the basement, but the shelter operators would get upset when I told them about violations. If an emergency happened at night, no repairs would be made, because after ten or eleven o'clock there was no maintenance worker on site. I was lucky to have a really great case worker who made sure I made it to all of my appointments, but I know that that's not the case for everyone.

We are asking that instead of investing the funding into shelters that provide temporary housing, we should be putting this into permanent housing. For the amount we are spending on shelters, we could house people in an apartment.

We need housing, not shelters!

Testimony of Mary Crosby
Picture the Homeless
Metropolitan Council on Housing

Before the NYC Council General Welfare Committee

March 27, 2018

Thank you Chairman Stephen Levin, the Committee on General Welfare - all of you who advocate for the homeless. That hard work is much appreciated even by those who cannot be here today.

My name is Mary Crosby and I am a member of Picture the Homeless and the Metropolitan Council on Housing.

Picture the Homeless has researched the homelessness crisis and its relationship to housing in NYC. The team has done an outstanding job documenting their findings with the report "The Business of Homelessness" which they released today. I urge you to read it and consider its findings. Thank you also for the financial report you presented today which is also very illuminating. Illumination is what is needed most of all.

Today, I want to reinforce these two reports by saying that we need to increase transparency and accountability from DHS and HPD as much of these operations remain a black box mystery. Increased scrutiny and oversight is required because without complete information appropriate remedies cannot be found to what all agree is an ever-growing crisis. Here is some intel from my own experience.

When I entered the shelter system in 2015, I was given a required physical, including blood tests, and was told that my health was excellent and my tests results were remarkable for a woman my age – 69 at the time. Now nearly three years later I have gained 10-20 lbs., have high blood pressure, graying hair and increasing hair loss, skin problems, eye problems, allergic reactions, reduced mobility, and my nervous system is shot. This is in large part due to the constant 24/7 stress of shelter living where it is challenging to get a good night's sleep and maintain a healthy diet. I hope to recover once I ^{get} out of the system.

But I am not alone. We can be sure that equally serious issues, and worse, affect the 60K+ other residents in the shelter system - men, women and yes, children.

In my experience, residents have heart attacks while living in a shelter. Some survive, some do not. Yes, people die in shelters. Shelter life is tough and, as they say, only the strong survive. This is the human cost of warehousing the homeless.

The cost to the taxpayer for shelter warehousing is approximately \$1.4 billion.

The City is paying approximately \$100 per day for my stay in the shelter which comes to approximately \$36,500 /year or approximately \$3000 per month. My LINC IV voucher has an apartment allowance of \$1268 and this amount has not increased since 2015 although the asking rent in NYC is up 33% over approximately the same time period according to the latest Housing Vacancy Survey.

The media spin on homelessness is that a majority of the homeless are mentally ill or drug addicted and that this is the reason for the inability to move the homeless into permanent housing. That has not been my observation.

In 2015, a social services supervisor told a room full of shelter residents that they had "no rights" because they did not "pay rent" and did not "pay taxes".

Did you recognize the clerk at the store who helped you, the bank teller who cashed your check, the waitress, the nurse's aide, the security guard at your building, the cleaning crew at your office, the teacher of autistic children, the former librarian, or the former manager of a shelter, as being homeless? Perhaps not...These are some of the men and women I have met while in a shelter - all are homeless NY taxpayers who cannot afford the luxury housing being built in NYC.

This is why we need stronger rent laws to prevent the further erosion of existing affordable housing in addition to greater transparency at DHS and HPD. And yes, we also need greater accountability from HPD, the City's lead housing agency which controls tens of thousands of affordable apartments.

We need enforcement of current housing laws and an investigation into the Housing Connect lottery system and MIH program which appear to discriminate against the homeless instead of making housing the homeless a priority. Keep in mind these programs are connected to taxpayer subsidies given to builders and developers with dollars coming out of the pockets of even the low wage working homeless living in shelters. Let's stop the giveaways and rezoning plans which incentivize predatory equity and drive up the cost of housing.

I applaud the Council for their efforts to exercise greater oversight and consider stronger measures to insure the needed transparency and attention to the housing needs of the homeless.

My experience applying for HPD Senior housing

Last summer I applied for HPD senior housing through Housing Connect and asked a housing specialist to recommend me for these two buildings as per the Mayor's announced inclusion of the homeless set-aside program. My previous shelter had pursued this opportunity for their residents. The housing specialist later reported that she had "reached out" to inquire about these buildings but she apparently met a brick wall. When I asked who she had spoken to, she either could not or would not tell me who she had spoken with, but emphasized that she would not pursue any further housing recommendations on my behalf through the lottery system because it would take too long. She said that she does not know anything about the Mayor's program for including the homeless in his affordable housing plan.

This is a part of the "black box."

The buildings involved were constructed through the ELLA program and the HPD Senior Program:

ESSEX CROSSING SITE 6 - 99 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS AT 175 Delancey Street

55 years +

This building is being constructed through the **ELLA/ Extremely Low & Low-Income Affordability and Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Programs of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD)** with additional funding from the New York State Low Income Housing Tax Credit program (SLIHTC) from the New York State Home & Community Renewal (HCR).

Preferences

Residents of Manhattan Community Board 3* (50%) ^ Former Site Tenants of the Seward Park Extension Urban Renewal Area (SPEURA) receive priority for 50% of the Community Board preference units.

DRAPER HALL APTS - 51 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED / REHABILITATED UNITS AT 1918 FIRST AVE

62 years +

This building is being constructed through the LAMP Program of the New York City Housing Development Corporation and the **HPD Senior Program of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.**

Preferences

Applicants who live in Manhattan Community Board 11 receive a general preference for lottery apartments.

Fine print from Housing Connect term sheets sometimes says -

This building is being constructed through the Inclusionary Housing Program and is approved to receive a Tax Exemption from the 421a Program of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

*** Up to half of CB preference units may be allocated through referrals of applicants from city agencies**

*Does this phrase refer to "the homeless" or is it code for "someone's brother-in-law from Kalamazoo"?

It would be helpful if you could look into what is happening with including the homeless in HPD buildings and under the MIH program. Are they in compliance and free of cronyism? What is the referral procedure?

HPD testimony in November 2017 appeared to indicate that they work with the builders and developers on this rather than assuring that the homeless are included in these programs.

While I agree with the general recommendations of the PTH report, i.e., to take NYC fungible dollars from the shelter budget and apply them to affordable housing, my concern is that dollars taken from shelters may be given to HPD without reform. Although NYC's primary housing mechanism, HPD is an agency which has not shown itself to be a responsible steward of public interests, tenant protections or building code enforcement. In my view, it must first prove itself law abiding and free of corruption before additional funding is warranted. If safeguards can be established, HPD might be a vehicle to rehouse the homeless.

Many new ideas are being proposed and I believe this is a time when breakthrough solutions will be found to make permanent affordable housing for the homeless and other low income New Yorkers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.



PICTURE THE HOMELESS

Testimony of Jose Rodriguez, General Welfare Committee Budget Hearing

March 27, 2018

Good morning my name is Jose Rodriguez and I am a member of Picture the Homeless. I am here to talk about PTH's "Business of Homelessness" report, our finding and recommendations, and to ask the New York City Council to utilize this year's General Welfare budget to provide homes instead of shelters for New York City's homeless residents.

As a formerly homeless person I have personally experienced the waste and dysfunction of shelters, city run and contracted alike. When I lived in a contracted shelter on 126th street, I was told that I didn't qualify for any housing assistance, even though I suffered from a range of severe medical issues. In my experience, counselors are not trained in accessing housing providers who allocate housing for homeless people in shelters. I was able to find housing on my own, through a state affordable housing program my counselor had no information about. It's been my experience that some counselors were able to refer people to appropriate housing on a regular basis, and others counselors appeared to have no training. People that complained that they were not receiving housing assistance were often transferred to other shelters even though they had no behavior issues.

I suffer from diabetes, and when I was at Bellevue, when my sugar was low in the evenings, staff provided me with snacks. But when I was at a nonprofit contracted shelter, when my sugar was low they told me that all they could do was call EMS. Food was not allowed in the facility. It appears that contracted shelters do not comply with DHS protocols and rules concerning severe medical issues or they use there judgment.

The "Business of Homelessness" report was conceived with the belief that despite the multiple funding sources provided to maintain the shelter industrial complex, these valuable resources can be better spent to create permanent homes for the most vulnerable New Yorkers living in shelters, on the street, doubled up in some one's home, as well as those about to lose their homes.

PTH made recommendations in the "Business of Homelessness" report in order to shift funds, to prioritize and provide truly affordable homes for low income New Yorkers, and to better manage existing shelters and train staff appropriately.

More and more people are calling shelters there home at great public cost and personal loss. Shelters were designed to be a safety net, however they are becoming homes for the most vulnerable low income New Yorkers. I'm here to ask the New York City Council to please find ways to make housing the priority, not shelters!



PICTURE THE HOMELESS

Testimony of Scott Andrew Hutchins General Welfare Committee Budget Hearing

March 27, 2018

My name is Scott Andrew Hutchins, and I have been living in the New York City shelter system since May 25, 2012. I spent much of 2011 in housing court, unemployed with a physical challenge and unable to pay my rent. The city refused to help me stay in my \$1,075.18 apartment as long as I was not in a job that paid enough to pay the rent going forward. But now that I am in the shelter system, they are willing to pay around \$1,300-\$2,000 more than that, plus \$300 a month on a storage unit, plus restricted SNAP benefits, so that I can have a wiry cot wrapped in vinyl and a locker in a room full of other men, and eat food that has had a negative impact on my health, in a system that doesn't work for anyone except for shelter providers.

Our report shows that the city's spending on shelters is unsustainable at over \$2 million per day. The cost to build permanent housing for every homeless person will be exceeded by shelter spending in only seven years. It therefore cannot be reasonably argued that it is too expensive to house every homeless person rather than put them in shelters, it is simply an issue of political will.

We learned in our research that many shelter executives are raking in six-figure incomes while leaving homeless people in squalor. This suggests either a system of cronyism or a lack of oversight in how shelter money is spent. The shelters within the DHS system are poorly regulated, inconsistent in character, and have very little oversight. In addition, shelters know weeks in advance when inspections that are supposedly a surprise are coming. The shelters should be required to support their spending with outcomes, and the city should have for corrective actions for shelters that do not meet expectations.

Unlike the federal money that goes into family shelters, the adult shelters and adult family shelters are 82% and 69%, respectively, funded with city money, which is fungible, and can therefore be spent on housing. This money should be reapportioned into spending on housing for people making 10, 15, 20, and 30% of area median income. The voucher program should be revamped into a universal program with specific training for those in housing specialist positions to actually help get people into housing.

As homeless people, we found the solutions to homelessness in the city's own data. We would like to see the funds used to help us in a way that helps us rather than keeps us in second class housing for years at a time.



TESTIMONY

New York City Council
Committee on General Welfare
Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2018

Submitted by
Michelle Jackson
General Counsel
Human Services Council of New York

Introduction

Good afternoon, Chairperson Levin, and good afternoon to the members of the New York City Council General Welfare Committee. My name is Michelle Jackson and I am the Deputy Director and General Counsel of the Human Services Council, a membership organization representing over 170 human services providers in New York City. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. We deeply appreciate your continued leadership and partnership in addressing issues that affect the health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers.

About the Human Services Council of New York

HSC is a membership association representing New York's leading nonprofit human services organizations, including direct service providers and umbrella and advocacy groups. HSC strengthens New York's nonprofit human services sector, ensuring all New Yorkers, across diverse neighborhoods, cultures, and generations reach their full potential. Our members provide essential supports to a broad spectrum of New Yorkers, including children, the elderly, the homeless, people with disabilities, individuals who are incarcerated or otherwise involved in the justice system, immigrants, and individuals coping with substance abuse and other mental health and behavioral challenges. We serve our membership as a convener, a coordinating body, and an advocate. We are also an intermediary between the human services sector and government, fostering cross-sector collaboration. We help our members better serve their clients by addressing matters such as government procurement practices, disaster preparedness and recovery, government funding, and public policies that impact the sector.

State of the Human Services Sector

The nonprofit human services sector continues to play an essential role in the daily lives of millions of New Yorkers. These vital community services, ranging from homeless services, senior care, and employment training, assist approximately 2.5 million New Yorkers annually. Unfortunately, our sector has been historically underfunded, leaving many providers in dire financial situations. In fact, a recent report by SeaChange Partners found that 30 percent of human services community-based organizations (CBO) have cash reserves that cover less than one month of operating expenses. Additionally, more than 40 percent of human services CBOs lack liquidity to meet their short-term financial obligations. As leaders of the human services sector, we are witnesses to the continuing financial challenges facing providers each day.

Last year saw an important investment in human services provider organizations that hold City contracts. As a result of last year's Sustain Our Sanctuary Campaign, the City made commitments to three areas of nonprofit human services sector in its Adopted Fiscal Year 2018 New York City Budget: 1) Indirect costs to bring indirect cost reimbursement rates to 10 percent 2) Model budget processes that will better align costs for preventive services, senior centers, services for runaway and homeless youth, and adult protective services and 3) Cost-of-living adjustments for the human services workforce at a rate of two percent per year over the next three years. With your help, we secured \$300 million of our \$500 million ask to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

Despite the City's notable commitment last year to the sector, many human services organizations continue to face numerous administrative barriers that have restricted their ability to receive the funding. Recent outreach to our members that hold contracts with the City revealed that many providers still have not received any City funds allocated for indirect costs and cost-of-living adjustments. Furthermore, model-budget processes have been particularly difficult for providers to manage. Due to each City agency adhering to different conditions, timelines and restrictions, HSC has observed an extremely slow rollout of the model budget process. Contracted providers have reported varying degrees of progress and expressed an overall sense of frustration regarding the City's ability to coordinate and streamline the entire process.

Fiscal Year 2019 Goals and Priorities

If the City intends to make significant progress in its fight against homelessness, mental health and other important human services issues, it must strengthen its commitment to the very organizations that do this critical work every single day. This begins by adhering to several core contracting principles that should apply to every City agency, regardless of the specific services rendered. First, all funding should be responsive to the most critical needs of contracted providers and the clients they serve. Second, City agencies must remain accountable and provide reasonable timelines to providers as to when they may expect to receive funds. Third, agencies should seek more transparency and actively communicate with providers throughout the funding process. Human services providers that fully understand the methodologies behind all budgeting and contracting decisions will be better equipped to fulfill their contractual obligations. Finally, City agencies must allow for reasonable flexibility in contracting decisions and allow for exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

Indirect Costs

Last year's Executive Budget began to address the prolonged underfunding of indirect costs in human services contracts, but more investment is needed. In order for contracted nonprofits to provide essential public needs such as homeless shelters and food pantries, their financial needs extend far beyond their ability to simply pay for direct programming costs. Nonprofit providers must also be able to pay for the basic administrative costs necessary to keep their organization open for business. These inadequate cost rates have contributed significantly to the destabilization of the sector and immediate investment in this area is still urgently needed. HSC believes that all human services contracts must compensate indirect costs at rates that are reasonable, logical and consistent across the entire sector. We are suggesting funding parameters that set a floor of 15 percent for indirect in all human services contracts.

Furthermore, special attention must be placed around the issues of occupancy costs and casualty and liability insurance. Nonprofit organizations, like every other business, contend with rising costs that are often beyond their control. While provider rents and insurance costs have skyrocketed in the past decade, long-term City contracts have consistently failed to keep pace. As a result,

reimbursement levels have struggled to meet the nonprofits' needs to cover necessary and legitimate costs. HSC is asking City Council for a 10 percent increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance. Funding to address rising rent and insurance costs will demonstrate the City's continued concern for a fair and equitable system that delivers quality human services to the greater community.

Fringe Rates

Human services providers report that the issue of fringe benefits such as employee health insurance and unemployment compensation remains one of the most significant barriers to long-term operational sustainability. The rates around fringe benefits - the additional compensation provided to employees by their employer - have been historically underfunded, and often arbitrarily capped in the City's human services contracts. As a result, many providers are forced to re-evaluate their ability to take on new RFPs as well as serious changes to existing contracts. HSC is asking for consideration of a 37 percent fringe rate in all human services contracts to reflect a generally accepted industry standard. By providing a reasonable fringe rate, the sector stands a fighting chance in attracting quality talent and convincing employees to stay. Those working on the front-lines in the human services sector providing essential services, and they deserve appropriate compensation that properly reflects their valuable work and contributions.

As a member of the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), HSC respectfully requests that the New York City Council include in its March Response a \$200 million ask for FY19 to address these critical funding shortfalls. An investment of this size will go a long way towards addressing the programmatic areas important to the City Council and the Mayor.

Human Services Advancement Strategy Group

We have created the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), a group of nine membership organizations representing 2000 human services provider organizations across the City to secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of provider organizations holding City HHS contracts.

In the months since the FY18 budget was adopted we've worked to insure timely disbursement of funds and to identify funding gaps that continue to hamstring human services providers. Getting these funds out to the human services provider community has been slow. ACS, DYCD and DFTA have made the most progress getting funds out the door to providers.

Conclusion

We urge the Council to continue investing in the historically underfunded contracts held by human services providers. The provision of human services by community-based organizations is the key to healthy, safe and diverse neighborhoods. With a continued commitment by the City towards our community's human services ecosystem, we can avoid the need to implement more costly interventions in the near future. Thank you again for providing me with this opportunity to testify, and for your partnership on all the issues impacting our community.



PICTURE THE HOMELESS

Jasmine Edmonds testimony, General Welfare Budget Hearing

March 27th, 2018

ON THE RECORD

My name is Jasmine Edmonds, and I am a member of Picture the Homeless. I am originally from Washington D.C., and my husband and I came to NYC in Feb. 2014. We entered into the Adult Family Shelter for Married couples the same month we came to the city. We sat in the system for 2 ½ years before we were given a LINC 5 voucher for working families. I had to find my own broker and had no luck finding an apartment with the LINC voucher what so ever.

The city spent thousands of dollars for the two years we spent into the system. My husband and I have slept on trains, in subway stations, in parks around East Harlem. Currently my husband and I are sleeping on the streets, with nowhere to go.

There is really no cure when it comes to ending homeless in the city if you don't make more reasonable housing options available. We are HOMELESS not HELPLESS. It angers me and breaks my heart, that these landlords and brokers don't want to be bothered with these city programs such as LINC, SEPS, SOTO etc., due to the amount of paper work that is needed to process their payments for their help.

HRA is spending thousands and thousands of dollars a year placing people in shelters, when that money can be used to put people and families in permanent housing, supportive housing, or rent stabilized apartments. How much more fighting is needed to have equal housing?

This is supposed to be the city of dreams and hope. Not struggles and troubles. NYC is more a business city than anything. I just want my piece of the big apple. You can keep the rest.

Lastly, place yourself in my shoes, imagine having to sleep outside in the cold with your epileptic spouse, constantly waking up to make sure they are alright and not seizing.

Thank you God for keeping us safe, and thank you God for our Picture the Homeless family.
Thank you for your time.



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DAY CARE COUNCIL OF NEW YORK
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
Committee on General Welfare
March 27, 2018

My name is Lisa Caswell and I am the Senior Policy Analyst for the Day Care Council of New York. For seventy years, our non-profit members have maintained quality early childhood education programs for families across the five boroughs. At this time more than 200 of these centers are contracted with the Administration for Children's Services under EarlyLearn. We support them with a range of services that include labor relations and mediation, policy and advocacy, an early childhood career ladder, an employment initiative, and a professional training institute. We are also the lead agency for the state funded Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium. As such, we are uniquely positioned to comment on issues of early childhood education in this year's budget.

Utilization and the Expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten

Like all educational advocates, we support the development of a birth to eighteen, full day system, but our support is conditional upon the Administration's recognition of the value of the non-profit early education sector. Our members are struggling to maintain capacity in the midst of the Department of Education's continuing recruitment of UPK children whose parents have chosen to place them in non-profit settings. One provider had to re-seat her UPK classroom four times last fall because parents were receiving phone calls from the DOE where they were promised kindergarten seats the following year. We cannot build one part of this system at the expense of another, particularly one that has such a powerful track record.

The Need for Certified Teachers

We represent our membership in collective bargaining with two unions: the Council of Supervisors and Administrators and District Council 1707. In January of 2016 we released a policy report which substantiated a long standing concern; 51% of our members had teachers who had left their positions for the Department of Education. Although we spent a year negotiating with the City Administration for salary parity for our members' certified teachers, we were not awarded increases that matched the Department of Education's starting salaries or longevity steps. The launch of Pre-K for All has further exacerbated this issue. The starting salary for certified teachers with a Master's degree in the UFT union is \$13,784 higher than that of a similarly qualified teacher in DC 1707. After 5 years of service, DOE certified teachers with Master's degrees will make approximately \$15,413 more than their counterparts in DC 1707.

Child Care Facilities

We recently met with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to discuss the new state rating system that will impact all early education settings. We raised concerns over ongoing fines that our members in NYCHA facilities receive when DOHMH sites them for violations that they are not authorized to address. Our members can only make small repairs, so major repairs end up being significantly delayed, which could impact the grade they receive in this new rating system. We must develop a system of communication between City agencies that ensures that non-profits in NYCHA facilities get the prompt attention they need.

Child care programs located in privately owned buildings, where the rent is paid in full by the City, continue to be negatively impacted by gentrification. Unfortunately, private landlords in many neighborhoods will make more money creating housing for middle and upper income families, instead of leasing to non-profit providers. Why isn't the City using its leverage to make sure that new housing deals include the construction of affordable, quality child care onsite? If we do not act, the cost of space will soon be higher than the cost of operations.

Health Benefits

Fortunately, the recent labor negotiations resulted in more affordable health care benefits, but many workers are struggling to find health care providers within the Health and Hospitals network. In February of this year, we conducted a survey of our members which revealed that 46% of them have some employees who have opted to enroll in Medicaid, instead of MetroPlus. The fact that they are income eligible for Medicaid is disturbing enough.

Early Childhood Career Ladder

We have received funding to establish an Early Childhood Career Ladder scholarship fund, with a very positive response from the workers. Many child care providers indicated in our most recent survey that they would like more professional development and continuing education opportunities. The continuing lack of salary parity poses the single greatest threat to the non-profit early education sector. It is absolutely necessary to continue to fund our Career Ladder, so our teachers have the opportunity for economic mobility.

Conclusion

Without ongoing input from parents, child care providers, and advocates, we will not see the system we are all fighting so hard to build. We would like to thank the New York City Council for its strong support of DCCNY membership over the years. We stand ready to assist you should there be further need of our expertise.



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Teacher Salary Comparison: UFT vs. DC 1707

Prepared by Mai Miksic, Senior Research Analyst

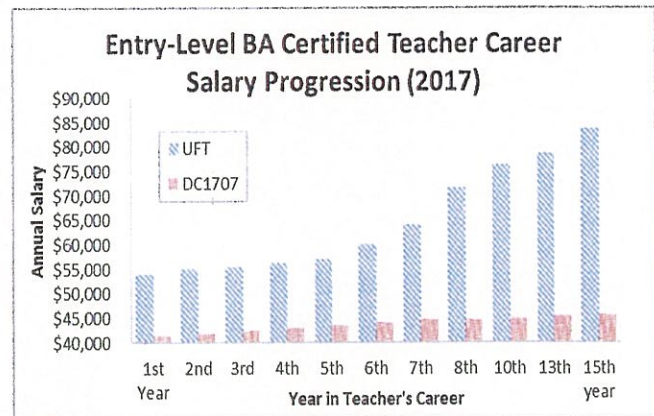
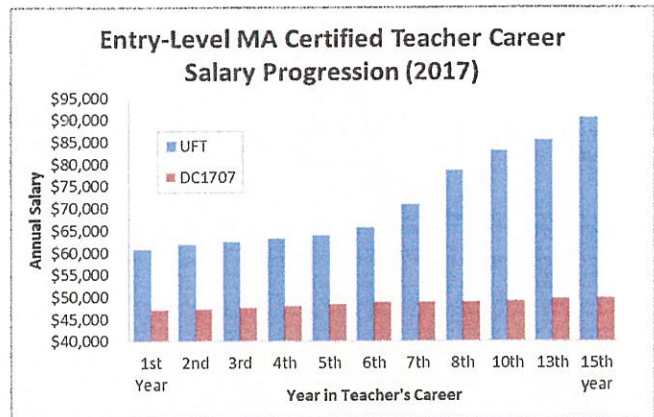
The Salary Disparity

These charts compare the earning potentials over the lifetime of a career for a certified teacher with a Master's degree and a Bachelor's degree in the UFT union versus a teacher in the DC 1707 Local 205 union. The teachers in both unions have to have exactly the same level of education.

The salaries are based on the current UFT contract, which goes from 2008 to 2018, and the DC 1707 contract, which goes from 2016-2020.

These charts include all longevity and education bonuses and are current as of May 1, 2017 for the UFT salaries and December 31, 2017 for the DC 1707 salaries. These dates are the most comparable considering that the timing of the contracts are not the same.

A teacher in the UFT union will start their careers making **\$13,784** more than a teacher in DC 1707. After 15 years, the UFT teacher will make **\$40,612** more than their equally qualified counterpart.



The Support for Salary Parity

A recent survey of our membership showed that employers want to be able to pay their staff more. Salary parity for all staff was the number one policy issue that they would like to be addressed, above health care, facilities, pension, and others.

Rankings Policy Importance (74% reporting, 157 Centers)	Score (1= most important → 3=least important)
1. Salary Parity for All Staff	(1.48)
2. Child Care Capacity	(1.63)
3. Teacher/Director Salary Parity	(1.82)
4. Health Insurance - tie	(2.00)
4. Pension - tie	(2.00)
5. Building & Facilities Issues	(2.15)
6. Center Regulations	(2.16)



Testimony Before the New York City Council Committee on Juvenile Justice
jointly with the General Welfare Committee

Budget and Oversight Hearings

March 27th 2018

ALexis Sanders, Student and **exalt** Youth graduate

Good afternoon honorable members of the New York City Council. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Alexis Sanders. I am 17 years old. I live in the Bronx, attend Judith S. Kaye High School and I am a recent graduate of the **exalt** Youth program.

Before I found **exalt**, I would define myself as an outcast. Fighting and lashing out. I could admit I needed help. And I got arrested.

When I first got to **exalt**, I still had the same bad attitude. I didn't really think **exalt** could do anything for me. I was out of school, I didn't really care about anything after my mother passed away.

But **exalt** stood by my side. I traveled to the **exalt** office in Brooklyn from the Bronx every Monday through Thursday for 16 weeks. They helped me find alternative schools, got me an internship, and even got my case closed for me.

They showed up when I didn't.

Getting out of the criminal Justice System was all I wanted and **exalt** helped me do it. I know this organization is really what helped me because before they welcomed me in, I wasn't enrolled in school, I was failing all my classes and didn't really plan a future for myself.

As I sit here today, I am proud to say I attend school everyday and I have the highest GPA in my school.

I plan to go to college after I graduate and pursue a career in film. **exalt** truly did make a big impact in my life because fighting solves nothing. I don't see myself behind bars, in the back of a police car, or in handcuffs anymore. I see myself making great movies and being happy while at it.

This is a unique organization where people care about you. They always greet you with a smile and encourage you, even when you are dealing with serious hardships. Being in a classroom at **exalt** is nothing like a classroom



in school. You learn about things like how to reverse the School to Prison Pipeline and how to end generations and cycles of poverty. This organization is truly unique.

When I think about the things **exalt** did for me: getting my case closed, getting me back into school and providing me with a paid internship- it makes me realize that more young people like me need access to **exalt**. I hope you agree and will help make sure every young person gets a chance to do what I'm doing: chasing after my dreams and staying free and clear of the justice system.

Thank you!

General Welfare Testimony – March 27th 2018

Good Afternoon, Chair Levin and members and staff of the Committee on General Welfare. My name is Sasha Alexander, I am the Membership Director at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) in Manhattan where I work to support the leadership and political voice of low-income trans and gender non conforming (TGNC) New Yorkers. For over 15 years SRLP has provided free quality and affirming legal support to thousands of TGNC New Yorkers facing harassment and discrimination. Our organization has worked with city agencies to strengthen policies and protections for low-income TGNC New Yorkers, such as our work with the Department of Homeless Services in 2006 regarding shelter and related services for transgender and intersex clients **Procedure No. _ 06-1-31_**

For the last 3 years I have been part of a trans-led coalition that worked with members of the NY City Council to create forums to address the needs of the TGNC community. I stand here today representing hundreds of my trans brothers, sisters, and siblings who attended these forums who are still waiting to have our concerns addressed. I am hopeful that one outcome from our work is a deeper relationship and understanding with NY City Council about what TGNC New Yorkers are currently facing, in addition to funding for necessary programs and supports that our community has identified.

Every day New Yorkers are navigating escalating costs of living and the struggle to make economic ends meet. For TGNC folks the conditions of which we navigate employment and housing are wrought with discrimination and harassment from being misgendering and being misnamed, denied access or services, and even threatened with violence. Sometimes more obvious and intentional and other times more embedded the trauma of experiencing bias while trying to gain access to shelter or employment for trans people here in NYC must end. I cannot stress how impactful stronger supports such as designated rental assistance and the expansion of employment programs can positively impact our communities.

Many of our members formerly or currently live in the NYC Shelter System and access services through HRA. As a service provider who is also transgender I have seen first-hand how important it is for all New Yorkers to have access to safe housing, and employment supports.

I greatly appreciate you taking the time to listen to me and other members and leaders in our community. If you would like to speak more about the issues I raised in my testimony please contact me: Sasha Alexander, Director of Membership Sylvia Rivera Law Project sasha@srlp.org 212 337 8550 ext. 306

General Welfare Testimony – March 27th 2018 – Stephanie

Good Afternoon, Chair Levin and members and staff of the Committee on General Welfare. My name is Stephanie Phillips and I am a transgender woman struggling to find housing and employment in NYC. I am a member and leader at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project in Manhattan, where I organize around the rights of trans people. I have lived in NYC for 2 years and been homeless during this entire period. As a low-income person it's been hard to pay my bills, it's had an impact on my mental health, and I am here in support of these trans specific programs that will help me and the community.

The shelter system is dangerous for transgender people due to violence and discrimination and that's why we need to be prioritized for housing.

Our community needs stronger employment supports, it will benefit everyone. I have applied for many jobs and have been turned away, and never even got a phone call. The Back to Work Program I went through was horrible, due to discrimination over the bathroom, they tried to deny me from the women's rest room.

I greatly appreciate you taking the time to listen to me and other members and leaders in our community.

General Welfare Committee Testimony re Fair Fares

Janice Tosto

3/27/18

Good afternoon Chairman Levin, Council members and all attendees

My name is Janice Tosto. I am a Bronx resident and member of the Riders Alliance. I currently serve as a program coordinator for an organization serving homeless and formerly homeless individuals and families. I am here today to call on Mayor de Blasio to fund half-price MetroCards for low-income New Yorkers, or Fair Fares, in this year's budget.

Six years ago, I found myself unexpectedly unemployed. I lived on my unemployment benefits and it was a nightmare. I did not have any assistance for my MetroCard. To get to job interviews, medical appointments and other trips, I had to walk long distances on a regular basis. During those lean times, I certainly could have benefitted from a temporary fare reduction until I became employed.

Now, in my current position, I am fortunate enough to be able to afford a monthly metrocard. Not everyone can. So when I encounter people who need to use the transportation system and cannot pay, I voluntarily swipe them in. I even carry a couple of metrocards with two rides on them just in case, and I have had to give those out as well. It's a humbling and humiliating experience to ask someone to swipe you in, because most people are going to blow you off. That's why I'm fighting for Fair Fares. No one should have to beg to get to where they need to go.

I thank the Chairman for his continued support of Fair Fares and I ask for the City Council to fight for it during budget negotiations. Mayor de Blasio should fund discount Fair Fares because no New Yorker should endure the struggle I did six years ago.

I believe in transit access for all, including the clients I serve, who need opportunities and access to education, training and other employment resources after experiencing homelessness. They want economically sustainable careers for themselves and their families so they don't have to choose between medicine, housing, food or a metrocard.

New York City can spend a little to help hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers get ahead.

I appreciate your support for Fair Fares. Thank you.



**JITA Community Outreach Center
89-17 139th Street, Jamaica NY 11435**

Testimony Prepared by Danette Rivera

For the General Welfare Committee's Budget and Oversight Hearing, March 27, 2018

On behalf of J.I.T.A. Community Outreach Center

Hello my name is Danette Rivera and I am the Executive Director of Jesus is the Answer Community Outreach Center located in Jamaica Queens. Thank you for your time today.

My food pantry is fully operational because of the support from Federal, State and City anti-hunger programs. Just as it is important for people who come to our food pantry to also earn wages and access public benefits, it is essential that we are able to access resources so that we can continue to be the last line of defense against hunger when those other resources are not enough. Our program relies on Federal TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program), State HPNAP (Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program), and City EFAP (Emergency Food Assistance Program) emergency food resources because none of these programs in solitude could possibly provide the adequate amount of food necessary to help alleviate the hunger epidemic that exists in my community. The sad truth is that even at current funding levels, all of these programs combined still do not fully meet the need that we see every week.

Which is why I am here today, to urge New York City to invest more in filling the gap between the resources families have for food, and the food resources families need. EFAP helps fill this Meal Gap and instills dignity to visiting emergency food programs like ours because it allows us to offer a VARIETY of foods on a CONSISTENT basis. The Federal TEFAP program helps us provide specific foods such as milk, beans, cereal and pasta, but each type of food is not always available. New York City's EFAP program, on the other hand, ensures our ability to provide foods such as oil, jelly, pasta sauce, and rice. These foods are considered staples for most people in America, but without the support of EFAP too many of our neighbors would otherwise lack them at the dinner table.

Not only is EFAP essential for providing nutrition for physical health and dignity for emotional health, adequate nutrition also helps with cognitive well-being. The food EFAP provides enables people who visit our program to function better at work, for their children to focus better in school, and be more productive in society as a whole. My organization would not be able function without adequately funding EFAP which is a life-changing nutrition assistance program.

We reject cuts proposed by the Mayor. We need to increase EFAP food funding to \$22 million in the Fiscal Year 2019 City Budget. It's a no brainer, let keep New Yorkers hunger free with dignity, choice, and opportunity, and supply people in our great City with the power to keep America great!

Thank you again for your time.



Good Call Fiscal Year 2019

Citywide Speaker Funding Request

Good Call seeks to expand our legal support hotline to serve all five boroughs of NYC, through \$500,000 in support from City Council in fiscal year 2019. Funding for this citywide initiative will allow Good Call to facilitate improved legal support for thousands of New Yorkers dealing with the criminal justice system, and advance the City's goals of increasing fairness, decreasing the pretrial jail population, and moving towards the closing of Rikers Island.

Program

Good Call is a service that enables anyone who is arrested, and their loved ones, to instantly connect to a public defender. Good Call runs a free 24/7 hotline that anyone can call if they, or a loved one, are arrested, and Good Call's software automatically connects them with an attorney at one of Good Call's legal partner organizations. This allows public defenders give arrested individuals advice and information at a critical moment, contact their loved ones, and begin preparing for their client's arraignment days in advance. During our pilot in the Bronx over the past 16 months, Good Call has demonstrated that this early legal intervention and community support helps mitigate the negative impact of an arrest, ensures fairer outcomes, and helps prevent people from being sent to unnecessary pretrial jail.

Expansion

Good Call's hotline is currently staffed by attorneys at Good Call's legal partners, The Bronx Defenders and The Legal Aid Society, and is available exclusively in the Bronx. Funding from City Council will allow Good Call to expand its area of coverage from the Bronx to all five boroughs, and execute an ongoing community outreach campaign to inform impacted communities throughout all districts of NYC.

We look forward to developing a partnership with City Council, and bringing this critical support to all of New York City together.

For more information, please contact Gabriel Leader-Rose at gabe@goodcall.nyc or 617-640-6832



Presenter: Jelani Anglin

Contact Information: jelani@goodcall.nyc, (347) 495-1758

Good Call is a nonprofit tech startup that runs a totally free 24/7 arrest hotline, enabling anyone who is arrested, and their loved ones, to instantly connect to a public defender. Our service facilitates much needed support for individuals and families dealing with arrests, enables better legal representation, and helps prevent people from ending up in jail for the wrong reasons. The hotline is currently active in the Bronx, enabled by partnerships with The Legal Aid Society and The Bronx Defenders. In the past year, Good Call has connected over 500 people with legal support, with an average hold time of under one minute and a caller satisfaction rate of over 90%.

Access to legal support when confronted by the criminal justice system is a basic right guaranteed by the constitution. However, those who cannot afford a private attorney are put at a disadvantage because they have practically no way to access legal help in the critical time period following an arrest. Good Call is an effective and pragmatic way to provide folks the legal support they deserve, when they need it most.

Support from City Council will enable Good Call to provide legal access at a critical time to residents across the entire city. Immigrants, low income people, young people, women, the LGBTQ community, and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, and the support provided by Good Call can help prevent long-term and collateral consequences caused by an arrest.



Asian American Federation

Testimony for New York City Council Budget and Oversight Hearings on The Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget, The Preliminary Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2019-2022 and The Fiscal 2018 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report Submitted to the New York City Council Committee on General Welfare

March 27, 2018

Thank you to Chair Stephen Levin and the other members of the Committee on General Welfare for holding this Preliminary Budget hearing today. I am Howard Shih, Research and Policy Director at the Asian American Federation.

The Asian American Federation's mission is to raise the influence and well-being of the pan-Asian American community through research, policy advocacy, public awareness, and organizational development. Established in 1989, the Asian American Federation (AAF) is a pan-Asian nonprofit leadership organization that strengthens the capacity of community-based social services by supporting and representing 65 Asian-serving member agencies in the fields of health and human services, education, economic development, civic participation, and social justice.

Asians are the fastest-growing major racial and ethnic group in New York City, having increased by 50 percent from 2000 to 2016. Asians now comprise 15 percent, or 1.3 million, of the City's overall population. The number of Asian children in New York City also grew rapidly by 30 percent from 2000 to 2016, with just over 257,000 Asian children in the City in 2016.

With this population growth also comes great need. According to the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity, almost 1 in 4 Asian New Yorkers lived in poverty. In fact, Asian New Yorkers had the highest poverty rate for 8 of the 11 years tracked so far. Despite the high poverty rate, Asian New Yorkers often do not seek out public benefits. For example, while 57% of non-Asians living at or below 130% of the federal poverty level received food stamps, only 33% of Asians who meet the income guidelines received food stamps. A combination of lack of awareness, ineligibility due to other factors such as immigration status, and cultural reluctance to accept government assistance contribute to the lack of utilization of benefits in the Asian community.

Despite the great need, funding for social services directed at Asian New Yorkers have not kept pace. From FY 2002 to 2014, there were 1,737 HRA/DSS contracts totaling \$6.6 billion. Of these, organizations serving the Asian American community received 47 contracts totaling \$99 million. This share was only 1.5% of total contract dollars and 2.7% of the total number of contracts.

From FY 2002 to 2014, there were 3,638 ACS contracts totaling \$16 billion. Of these, organizations serving the Asian American community received 69 contracts totaling \$258 million. This share was only 1.6% of total contract dollars and 1.9% of the total number of contracts.

Manhattan:
120 Wall Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10005

Flushing:
37-17 Union Street, 2nd Floor
Flushing, NY 11354

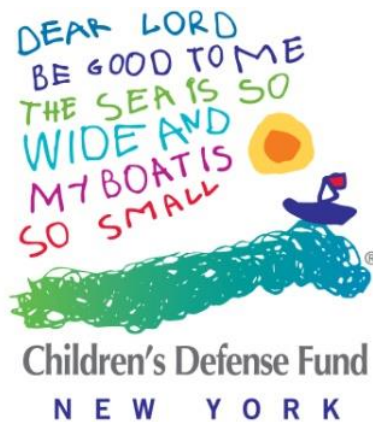
In order to increase access to social services for Asian New Yorkers, we make the following recommendations:

- 1) Include funding for HRA and ACS to fully implement the language access requirements of the new Local Law 30.
- 2) Increase HRA and ACS contract budgets for community organizations to account for new minimum wage laws.
- 3) Amend the contracting process in order to acknowledge that Asian-led agencies are in the best position to provide culturally competent services directly to Asian New Yorkers.

**Testimony of the Children's Defense Fund – New York
Before the New York City Council Committee on Juvenile Justice
and Committee on General Welfare**

Preliminary Budget Hearing

March 27, 2018



Beth Powers
Director, Youth Justice
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(212) 697 - 0882

The Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start and a moral start in life, and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor children, children of color and those with disabilities. CDF – New York's unique approach to improving conditions for children combines research, public education, policy development, community organizing and advocacy activities, making us an innovative leader for New York's children, particularly in the areas of health, education, early childhood and juvenile justice.

Thank you Chair King and members of the City Council Committee on Juvenile Justice and Chair Levin and members of the City Council Committee on General Welfare for this opportunity to testify on the Preliminary Budget.

Raise the Age

CDF-NY co-leads the Raise the Age – New York Campaign, a public education campaign which helped to bring awareness to the need to raise the age in New York State resulting in the successful passage of legislation in April of 2017. We continue to advocate to ensure the law is successfully implemented including through appropriate planning and allocation of funding to ensure all jurisdictions around the state are able to competently implement changes. Raising the age of criminal responsibility in New York was a long overdue change necessary to increase New York's ability to treat young people who come in contact with the justice system in an age appropriate way. Implementation of raise the age will significantly alter New York's juvenile justice system, and thus now is a critical time to examine the system in place and anticipated shifts in the upcoming years.

Implementation of raise the age is an opportunity to examine how New York responds to justice impacted young people and ensure that front end community based solutions are prioritized and deep end confinement based settings are used as a last resort. Raise the age will impact all stages of justice system involvement including but not limited to community based alternatives, probation, courts, detention, placement and aftercare. All of these aspects will require appropriate funding to increase services as well as to train staff.

The raise the age legislation will take effect over the next two years with the age raising from 16 to 17 in October of 2018 and from 17 to 18 in October of 2019. Notably, the legislation includes an accelerated timeline for the removal of youth from Rikers Island. All 16 and 17 year olds must be removed from Rikers by October of 2018 despite the age having only been raised from 16 to 17 at that point in time.

Once raise the age is in effect, all 16 and 17 year olds charged with misdemeanors will be processed under juvenile delinquency proceedings in Family Court. These young people will follow the same process as youth 15 and under charged with juvenile delinquency follow currently. Youth charged with non-violent felonies will have their cases originate in newly developed Youth Parts of the adult criminal court, however these cases will have a presumption of removal to Family Court unless the District Attorney proves extraordinary circumstances justifying why the case should remain in the adult court. Thus, many 16 and 17 year olds charged with non-violent felonies are also anticipated to have cases in Family Court. Finally, youth charged with serious felonies will have their cases heard in the new Youth Part and will remain in the

Youth Part for the entirety of their case unless certain criteria¹ are met and the District Attorney does not show extraordinary circumstances. The young people who remain in the Youth Part will be referred to as Adolescent Offenders (AOs). AOs who are detained pre-trial or sentenced to less than one year will be housed in new specialized secure detention (SSD) facilities. Additionally, 16 and 17 year olds are to be removed from Rikers Island by April 1, 2018 “to the extent practicable” and by October 1, 2018 at the latest. Young people removed from Rikers as well as AOs are to be housed in an SSD facility that is “operated by the New York city administration for children's services in conjunction with the New York city department of corrections”².

We appreciate the thoughtful planning and coordination of the many impacted City agencies in preparing for the implementation of raise the age. We however are concerned with certain aspects of implementation and urge reconsideration of aspects outlined below in order to ensure the full benefits of the law are realized.

Specialized Secure Detention for Older Adolescents

Raise the age legislation requires the creation of new specialized secure detention (SSD) for older adolescents to serve as facilities where youth charged as AOs will be detained. The legislation dictates that these new facilities are to be operated by the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) in conjunction with the Department of Correction (DOC). It is critical for the success of raise the age to be seen that these facilities are designed and operated as youth facilities under a youth justice model and not as 16 and 17 year olds are currently detained by DOC, in facilities segregated for youth under an adult correctional model with adult correctional officers.

We are alarmed at the City’s current plan to staff these facilities with DOC staff. The Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice presented a plan at the December 6, 2017 City Council Juvenile Justice Committee Hearing regarding the City’s plan for how ACS and DOC will jointly operate SSD facilities. We understand that the City plans this as a temporary measure for the first 24 months of operation. We are however concerned that staffing these youth facilities with DOC Officers will import an adult correctional culture that will not be easily, if at all, removed after 24 months. We appreciate that ACS will offer case management and programming responsibility for youth, however this measure cannot negate use of DOC staff to provide security for youth. We are concerned both for the 16 and 17 year olds who will be directly supervised by DOC staff as well as younger children charged with juvenile delinquency and juvenile offender crimes who are detained in ACS secure detention facilities who risk exposure to this new arrangement.

We acknowledge that DOC has made strides to address the treatment of youth in their care. Notably, the elimination of punitive segregation for youth age 16-21, a detrimental practice that caused irreparable

¹ Transfer from Youth Part to Family Court for violent felonies is depended on the absence of three criteria: 1. display of a firearm, shotgun, rifle, or deadly weapon; 2. Certain criminal sexual conduct; 3. Significant physical injury. See New York State’s Raise the Age Overview and Implementation Presentation:

<https://www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/RTAWebsitePresentation.pdf>

² Raise the Age legislation can be found in S2009-C/A3009-C retrieved from: <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/navigate.cgi?NVDTO>:

harm to youth for many years. DOC has also made strides to increase positive programming for adolescents. The city should make efforts to ensure that all programming offered to adolescents now is available in the new settings to avoid any unintentional loss of access to programming. They should additionally ensure that the close attention to young people developed over the past several years is continued for the young adult population once adolescents are removed from Rikers.

Despite this progress, DOC is not in the best position to respond to youth and should not be tasked with overseeing 16 and 17 year olds in the new youth facilities. In addition to DOC representing an adult focused approach to corrections, they also have a history of mistreatment of youth which is well documented. The most recent Independent Court Appointed Monitor Report for Nunez vs. City of New York from October 2017 reports serious concerns with DOC treatment of youth. They note “serious and problematic issues involving Staff use of force continue in an unabated fashion³.” The monitor report additionally notes that “[t]he cultural dynamic that permeates so many encounters between Staff and inmates in DOC is quite simply a consequence of Staff actions and behaviors that too often engender, nurture, and encourage confrontation”. Such encounters involved leadership noting a “disturbing” number of captains who were involved “frequently” and “repeatedly” in concerning use of force incidents.

All policies and practices in the new facility must mirror those currently used for youth and not adult correctional practices. An example of a tool utilized by DOC that is inappropriate for youth and should not be replicated in any new facility, is the use of chemical agents (pepper spray, or gas). In November 2016 the New York City Council Committee on Juvenile Justice, Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice and Committee on Education heard testimony from ACS, DOC and the Department of Education (DOE)⁴ in which it was publicly discussed that “gas” is a tool utilized by corrections officers at Rikers against adolescents. It was stated that the “gas” is used in classrooms and that teachers are allowed the use of gas masks – though students are not provided any protection. It was noted in testimony by a Special Education Teacher on Rikers that some areas do not have proper ventilation and students become ill and have vomited from exposure to the “gas”.

It is critical that the City make every effort possible to ensure the culture of violence that proliferates at Rikers is not allowed to be adopted in the new youth facilities. The newly developed facilities must utilize behavior management tools that are the least restrictive possible and which reflect best practices for youth to protect young people from harm. Raise the age is an opportunity to genuinely change the culture that has perpetuated in DOC and transform the experiences of detained youth. It is critical that policy and practice are clearly constructed to reflect best practices in youth justice. It is not appropriate for adult correctional staff to oversee youth in the new youth facility and in doing so the City cannot expect different results than currently achieved. Staff selected to work in the new facilities should be deemed appropriate

³ The Nunez Monitoring Team (October 10, 2017). Fourth Report of the Nunez Independent Monitor, Fourth Monitoring Period January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017. Retrieved from:

<https://apps.npr.org/documents/document.html?id=4173501-Fourth-Monitor-Report-as-Filed-Nunez>

⁴ New York City Council, Oversight - Educational Services for New York City's Detained, Placed, and Incarcerated Youth, Adolescents, and Young Adults, November 30, 2016. Retrieved from:

<http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2864769&GUID=CDFD5A0E-E41D-4DFD-809E-3990064BE692&Options=&Search>

to work with youth from those with expertise in serving youth under a youth justice model and any staff with histories of working in adult corrections should be vetted and trained to understand the drastically different practices, policies, and culture that is expected in the new youth facility.

We appreciate the need for urgency in planning for the implementation of raise the age and we understand the enormous challenge of hiring and training sufficient staff to handle expanded capacity in youth facilities. ACS has made tremendous strides to improve the treatment of youth in the justice system such as through decreasing the detention population, the creation of Close to Home and the infusion of trauma informed and evidence based care. We urge the Council to ensure that the statutory benefits intended by removing youth from Rikers is not lost by allowing DOC staff and other adult correctional practices into the new youth detention facilities.

LGBTQ Youth in SSD

Of particular concern in facilities jointly operated by ACS and DOC are the conditions for LGBTQ youth. ACS has in place model policies and best practice guidance for the treatment of LGBTQ youth in its care. Of particular consideration when constructing gender segregated facilities are practices surrounding transgender and non-binary youth. ACS makes its expectations of treatment of youth clear in its publication “Safe and Respected: Policy, Best Practices, & Guidance for Serving Transgender, Gender Expansive, & Non-Binary Children and Youth Involved in the Child Welfare, Detention, and Juvenile Justice Systems”. This guide outlines ACS policy⁵ with additional guidance⁶ and best practices for practitioners working with youth.

Emphasis is placed by ACS in its policies regarding LGBTQ youth on respecting youth and ensuring that when placed out of home they are in affirming placements. Of particular note are housing practices for placement of transgender youth. Below are a few examples of model practices of ACS that must be utilized in any facilities for youth, including the new specialized secure facility jointly operated by ACS and DOC:

- “It is ACS policy that all transgender and non-binary children and youth shall be in homes and congregate facilities that are affirming of their gender identities and gender expressions. This applies to all Children’s Services and contracted provider agency staff involved in any way with custodial or community-based services provided by Children’s Services or in contract with Children’s Services.”
- “Generally, it is most appropriate to house transgender and non-binary children and youth in Children’s Services custodial care based on their gender identity. Transgender and non-binary children and youth must not automatically be housed according to their sex assigned at birth.”

⁵ The City of New York Administration for Children Services. (November 21, 2012). “Promoting a Safe and Respectful Environment for LGBTQ Youth and their Families Involved in the Child Welfare, Detention and Juvenile Justice System”. Retrieved from: https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/lgbtq/LGBTQ_Policy.pdf

⁶ Perry, J.R. & Green, E.R. (2017) “Safe and Respected: Policy, Best Practices, & Guidance for Serving Transgender, Gender Expansive, & Non-Binary Children and Youth Involved in the Child Welfare, Detention, and Juvenile Justice Systems” Retrieved from: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/lgbtq/SAFEAndRespectedUpdate061417.pdf>

- “Decisions on bedrooms for transgender and non-binary children and youth in foster boarding homes must be based on the youth’s individual needs, and must prioritize the youth’s emotional and physical safety.”
- “It is critical to include transgender and non-binary children and youth in the decision-making process.”

The above highlighted ACS policy and guidance are in stark contrast to the experiences of transgender youth at Rikers Island. While DOC has made some strides to improve protections for transgender people in their custody, they fall short, particularly when addressing the needs of youth. DOC lacks clear policy and practice of placing individuals based on their gender identity, which places transgender people at elevated risk of abuse. While DOC has created a transgender housing unit that is available to some adult women this option is not available to transgender youth due to the sight and sound separation of youth from adults, and in fact fails to fully meet the needs of transgender adults. The difference in placement practices between ACS and DOC is extreme. For example, a transgender girl placed in Close to Home by ACS may be placed in a placement facility for girls if that is deemed most appropriate (following the above guidance), however it is highly likely that the same girl if detained by DOC would be housed in a male unit and not at Rose M. Singer, the women’s jail. Recent testimony before the Board of Correction by the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, an organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex people, noted that in their experience they are “unaware of any time in which the DOC knowingly housed a transgender woman at the Rose M. Singer Center”⁷. Such practices are demeaning and dangerous and go against best practices for youth.

Impact of Raise the Age on the Justice Continuum

The majority of 16 and 17 year olds arrested in New York City are charged with misdemeanors⁸. In 2017 there were 11,678 arrests of 16 and 17 year olds in New York City. Of those, 66% or 7,723, were for misdemeanors. An additional 17% or 1,985 arrests were for non-violent felonies. Thus the majority of arrest of 16 and 17 year olds will be processed in the Family Court with all misdemeanors automatically in Family Court as well as all non-violent felonies for which Prosecutors do not show extraordinary circumstances. This will increase the number of youth in the juvenile justice system and shift the age demographic of youth currently served.

This shift in integrating 16 year olds into the juvenile justice system this year and 17 year olds in 2019 will impact all steps along the justice continuum. This includes preparing to serve an older population in ACS’s alternative to placement program JJI as well as other respite and related front end services. Detention and Close to Home placement facilities need to be prepared to address needs of older youth as well. Of consideration should be family dynamics – both with the families of youth and for parenting youth, educational needs, vocational needs, as well as health and mental health needs. Aftercare services will need to be additionally tailored. Of consideration should be the housing needs of older youth,

⁷ Kinead, M. (October 6, 2017). Sylvia Rivera Law Project comments to the NYC Board of Correction. *Retrieved from:* <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/boc/downloads/pdf/Meetings/2017/Oct-10-2017/SRLP%20submission%2010.6.2017.pdf>

⁸ See <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/youth-arrests/nyc.pdf>

consideration for youth lacking secure family resources, and options or for youth not wishing to return to family.

New York City's juvenile justice system has undergone significant change over the past several years. The City has developed a continuum of services that allow for intervention at multiple points along the justice continuum, prioritizing alternatives to confinement. We are relieved at passage of raise the age legislation to allow more youth access to the juvenile justice continuum as opposed to adult criminal justice system. CDF-NY recognizes that youth are best served in their communities and with the least restrictive type of intervention possible. Ideally, such services should be available within communities prior to youth ever entering the justice system.

Not all youth who enter the Family Court system are detained outside of their home. We are supportive of alternative to detention programming that allows youth to remain home and receive supportive services during the pendency of their case. Some youth are placed in detention, either non-secure or secure. Many youth stay in detention for only a short period of time, sometimes only one night or just a few days. While this period of time is short, research shows that even a short stay in detention can negatively impact a young person. Detention can increase recidivism, increasing the chances of youth going deeper in the justice system, and can negatively effect mental health outcomes⁹. Community based alternatives offer a more cost effective solution with better outcomes for youth. We applaud New York City for the significant reductions in detention and encourage continued investment into alternatives and exploration into reasons for and solutions to short term stays that can be avoided.

Conclusion

New York City currently faces significant potential financial cuts as proposed in the Governor's Proposed Executive Budget. The cuts to New York City include a proposed cap on reimbursement for preventative and protective services offered to children and families by ACS. While the largest segment impacted by this cap is child welfare services, this funding stream also includes prevention for juvenile justice system involvement such as the alternative to placement program, JJI. Additionally the State is proposing to cut 100% of State reimbursement for Close to Home at a time when the program is anticipated to grow considerably due to the implementation of raise the age. Finally, it is unlikely that New York City will receive any State funding to implement raise the age. We encourage the city to continue to prioritize alternatives to placement and detention in this challenging fiscal environment.

CDF-NY is enthused that New York has finally raised the age of criminal responsibility and the progress this change represents for the entire juvenile justice system. We encourage the Council to continue oversight to ensure the law is implemented as intended to ensure the full benefits of the legislative change are attained. If you have any questions or you would like further information, please contact Beth Powers, Director of Youth Justice, 212-697-0882, epowers@childrensdefense.org.

⁹ Holman, B and Ziedenberg, J. The Dangers of Detention: The Impact of Incarcerating Youth in Detention and Other Secure Facilities. Retrieved from: http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/06-11_rep_dangersofdetention_jj.pdf



Testimony
City Council Committee on Juvenile Justice
Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2018

Submitted By Alternatives to Incarceration/Reentry Coalition

Comprised of 11 groups:

BronxConnect (Urban Youth Alliance International, Inc.)
Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES)
Center for Community Alternatives (CCA)
Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)
College and Community Fellowship (CCF)
EAC Network (NYC TASC and Mental Health Programs)
Fortune Society
Greenburger Center for Social and Criminal Justice
Legal Action Center (LAC)
Osborne Association
Women's Prison Association (WPA)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the ATI/Reentry Coalition, comprised of 11 New York City-based nonprofit service organizations. The mission of the ATI/Reentry Coalition is to reduce crime, strengthen families, and bring hope and opportunity to New York City communities by providing a full spectrum of services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Member organizations have decades of collective experience providing a full spectrum of services at each stage of the criminal justice continuum, including programs to prevent arrest, to divert individuals from unnecessary incarceration, and to support effective and lasting reentry from jail or prison. Coalition members provide these critical services 365 days a year across neighborhoods in every borough, reaching the City's most underserved communities.

The Coalition has developed deep collective expertise regarding the City's criminal justice system and has long demonstrated its effectiveness and capacity as a trusted provider of effective, fiscally-sound community-based services.

Thanks to the Council's annual support, members of the Coalition have been working together for more than two decades to provide direct services for youth and adult populations and to advocate for criminal justice reforms. **Youth services include education, legal assistance, family therapy, mentoring and community mental health services. In addition to providing vital services and teaching new skills, youth programs promote goal setting and leadership development.**

However, across our City—and often concentrated in our most underserved communities—**many eligible people who need these ATI and reentry services still lack access.** Certain populations are particularly underserved, including young people with mental illness.

At this especially critical time in the history of the New York City criminal justice system, the ATI/Reentry Coalition is seeking a \$1.1 million increase to ATI Initiative funding for a total of \$7.507 million. This represents a \$1.1 million increase over the last fiscal year. The increase would be divided equally among the 11 coalition members (with an additional \$100,000 to each group) and would allow the Coalition to meet a growing demand for services among individuals in the juvenile justice system across all Council Districts.

The following are a few examples of Coalition programs:

- BronxConnect (Urban Youth Alliance International) alternatives to incarceration program offers Bronx and Upper Manhattan youth facing felony charges (ages 14-24) a community based alternative centered around mentoring and employment. Participants receive over 100 hours of wrap around case management, mentoring, employment training, pro-social activities, anger management, leadership training, court advocacy and mental health and addiction service referrals. An additional \$100,000 allocated in FY18 enabled BronxConnect to launch an alternative to incarceration program for youth facing 6 months to 1 year in Rikers Island for misdemeanor charges.

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) provides reentry employment services to individuals involved in the criminal justice system who face the highest risk of continued involvement and incarceration and have the greatest need for employment assistance. The additional funding requested for FY19 would allow CEO to build capacity to serve criminal justice involved young-adults by supporting CEO's efforts to expand apprenticeship opportunities for justice involved young adults.

With continued and increased Council funding, member organizations will be able to deploy greater resources to these and other services—including more diversion programs, jail-based pre-release/transitional services, employment and job training, and housing support. Importantly, Coalition initiatives build upon the Mayor's and Council's strong efforts to create a more equitable criminal justice system and to close Rikers.

Additionally, as the City implements reforms around Raise the Age, it will require investments in alternatives to incarceration and educational and professional opportunities for vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds, many of whom may have mental health issues or would benefit from drug treatment programs. As the City also faces an increasing challenge with the opioid crisis, Coalition members are well-positioned to provide services, referrals, screenings and treatment for youth reentering New York City.

The City Council funding is flexible and allows the member organizations to deploy resources outside of existing service contracts with City and State agencies that are specifically targeted to particular community populations and/or geographic locations. Second, Council funding for the Coalition allows member organizations to expand the reach and availability of key ATI/reentry services that are not currently supported by City agency contracts.

The ATI/Reentry Coalition programs cost approximately \$18,250 per participant annually. This is far less than the \$96,000 annual cost for every adult incarcerated. **The savings generated by Coalition programs are even more significant for youth services, with the annual per youth cost of juvenile detention being approximately \$200,000.** At the same time, Coalition programs are proven to increase public safety compared to jail or prison—the two-year recidivism rate of Coalition program graduates is less than 20%, far lower than the 42% recidivism rate among people who do not participate in Coalition programs.

This funding will help build on the Coalition's track record of offering effective services that reduce crime and break the cycle of incarceration while saving tax dollars and strengthening communities. The Coalition's requested increase is essential to achieving many of the criminal justice objectives supported by the City Council and to creating pathways of opportunity for New York City's youth.

Thank you.

How HRA Commits Wire Fraud

"Diversity and inclusion are the foundation of our City," said **Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks**. "We applaud this Administration's commitment to these core values and for making a concerted effort to ensure that all New Yorkers, regardless of race, gender, and sexual orientation have equal access to services and resources".

Source: 9/8/17 BS press release by Mayor's office located at the following address:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/officc-of-the-mayor/news/581-17/mayor-dc-blasio-signs-12-bills-strengthening-justice-equity-new-york-city>

NYC
Human Resources
Administration
Department of
Social Services
Office of the
Legal Affairs

W-2-110N
Rev. 12/15

Steven Banks
Commissioner

August 1, 2017

Martha A. Calhoun
General Counsel

Ann Marie Scalia
Senior Deputy General
Counsel/Fair Hearings

Re: Addressing your concerns

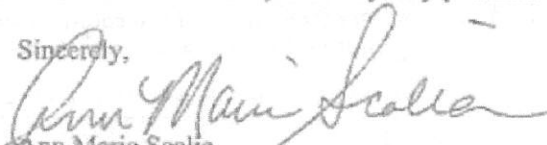
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

929 221 5408

I am the Senior Deputy General Counsel for the Fair Hearing Administration of the Department of Social Services. I am responding to the concerns you recently raised with Commissioner Banks at a town hall meeting in Queens.

We will continue to try to address your concerns and assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely,


Ann Marie Scalia

3/25/2018
101817HPD Building, Registration & Violation Services [Select](#) [Home](#)**The selected address: 802 FAIRMOUNT PLACE, Bronx 10460**

HPD#	Range	Block	Lot	CD	CensusTract	Stories	A Units	B Units	Ownership	Registration#	Class
931302	Active	798-802	02954	0026	6 36502	4	16	-	PVT	227429	E

Other Units**Property Owner Registration Information****Charges****Complaint Status****Complaint History****Litigation/Case Status****Tenant Harassment Report****All Open Violations****prior year Open Viol.'s****Ecertainment****Overdue Lead Paint Viol. Correction****Vacate Orders****I-Card Images****PROS Online****Map**

THIS PROPERTY IS NOT CURRENTLY VALIDLY REGISTERED WITH HPD.

Residential properties are required to register with HPD every year. If you are the owner or agent for this property, go to our [Property Registration page](#) to find out more about registration requirements or to use our Property Registration Online System, which allows you to begin the registration process. If you just wish to view the existing registration information for the property, click on the Property Owner Registration Information link on the left hand tool bar on this page.

Building Registration Summary Report

Find Apartment#

Owner	Last Reg Dt Reg Expire Dt	Organization	Last Nm	First Nm	House No	Street Nm	Apt	City	State	Zip
Head Officer	11/09/2016 09/01/2017		KAHEN	ROBERT	10	CUTTER MILL ROAD	400	Great Neck	NY	11021
Officer	11/09/2016 09/01/2017		POUR	ROMINA	10	CUTTER MILL ROAD		Great Neck	NY	11021
Corporation	11/09/2016 09/01/2017	FAIRMOUNT PLACE LLC			10	CUTTER MILL ROAD	400	Great Neck	NY	11021
Managing Agent	11/09/2016 09/01/2017	URBAN PATHWAYS	LOMBARDI	LISA	575	8TH AVE	16 FL	New York	NY	10018
Partner/Member	11/09/2016 09/01/2017		KAHEN	ROBERT	10	CUTTER MILL ROAD		Great Neck	NY	11021

Open Violations - ALL DATES

There are 47 Violations. Arranged by category: A class: 23 B class: 22 C class: 1 I class: 1

For Definitions of the columns indicated below, select glossary under the Services option (located at the upper right).

To sort the columns, click on their underlined headers below in the blue area.

<u>Apt</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Hazrd</u>	<u>Order</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Violation Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Certify By</u>
<u>Story</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>no.</u>	<u>ID</u>		<u>Status</u>	<u>Date</u>
	<u>nov</u>			<u>NOV ID</u>		<u>Date</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	<u>ISSUED</u>			<u>NOV</u>			<u>Cert. Date</u>
	<u>Date</u>			<u>Type</u>			
4	2018/02/23 2018/02/27	B	502	12257170 6026684 Original	§ 27-2005 adm code properly repair with similar material the broken or defective fire retardant material at ceiling at public hall, 4th story	NOV SENT 2018/02/27	2018/04/17
4	2018/02/23 2018/02/27	B	507 *	12257175 6026684 Original	§ 27-2005 adm code repair the roof so that it will not leak at ceiling at public hall, 4th story	NOV SENT 2018/02/27	2018/04/17



How HRA ignores neglect and fraud in existing buildings by its housing partners and opens new buildings to divert attention away from such problems

Doe Fund celebrates ribbon cutting for \$21.1 million Crotona Park; General contractor is L Riso & Sons

December 05, 2017 - Owners Developers & Managers (<http://nyrej.com/section/ODM>)

Bronx, NY The Doe Fund was joined by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA), the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA), and development partners today for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of Crotona Park, an affordable and supportive housing development. The new building's 60 apartments are reserved for extremely low-income individuals. Rents at Crotona Park will be kept at or below 30% AMI.

Located at 1420 Crotona Park East, the eight-story, 36,400 s/f building includes 60 studio apartments, 36 of which are for formerly homeless individuals with chronic conditions, and 24 of which are reserved for seniors currently on the NYCHA wait list. The residence includes a community room, a landscaped courtyard and garden, on-site laundry facilities, and 24-hour staffed security.

"Crotona Park East exemplifies the City's commitment to creating new, supportive and affordable housing opportunities for the New Yorkers who need it most. More than half of the residents that will be able to call these high-quality apartments home will receive the supportive services that are critical for their continued wellbeing, and the remainder will be reserved for senior citizens," said Housing Preservation and Development Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer. "I'd like to thank my colleagues at HPD, our partners at The Doe Fund, HRA, and Citi, as well as our many development partners for their work to provide safe, secure and affordable housing for some of our city's most vulnerable residents."



Ribbon cutting of Crotona Park - Bronx, NY

Eventbrite

MAY
11

Who will attend Urban Pathways, Inc.'s 5/11/18 fundraiser at the Grand Hyatt by Grand Central while it violates applicable law with respect to a building in which military veterans reside that HRA financed with more than \$2 Million from taxpayers and HRA, HPD, the Bronx D.A.'s office, and New York Attorney General's office ignore this problem?

Urban Pathways Gala 2018

\$200 – \$50,000



Urban Pathways Gala 2018

Fri, May 11, 2018, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT

From \$200

TICKETS



DATE AND TIME

Fri, May 11, 2018

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT

[Add to Calendar](#)

LOCATION

The Main Ballroom at The Grand Hyatt

109 East 42nd Street

New York, NY 10017

[View Map](#)

DESCRIPTION

Gala 2018 Sponsorship



**Department of
Social Services**

Human Resources
Administration

Department of
Homeless Services

Steven Banks
Commissioner

Molly Murphy
DSS First Deputy Commissioner

Saratu Grace Gharvey
Chief Program
Accountability Officer

250 Church Street
New York, NY 10013

212 274 5600

W-2-539
Rev. 04/14

12/14/2017

Dear

We are writing to you from the City of New York Human Resources Administration, Bureau of Fraud Investigation. We have received your complaint regarding fraud.

Please be advised that your complaint will be duly investigated. The appropriate action will be taken based on the investigation. Due to the laws of confidentiality, we cannot disclose the result of any investigation.

Thank you for your efforts in combating social service fraud in New York City. Please send any additional correspondence to the Bureau of Fraud Investigation, 250 Church Street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10013 or call (718) 722-8001.

Sincerely,

Bureau of Fraud Investigation

IRIS Ctrl#: 201712130393

How HRA and New York State's OTDA helps NYPD cook its crime statistics

Violence redefined at NYC homeless shelters keeping stats down

BY GREG B. SMITH

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Saturday, February 17, 2018, 6:00 PM



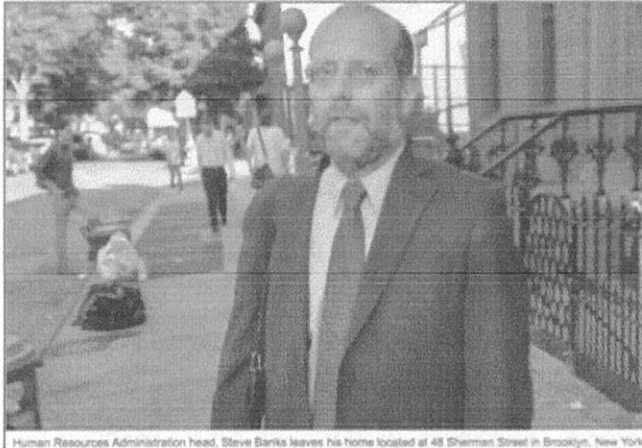
The Department of of Homeless Services quietly changed its guidelines for what constitutes a "reportable incident" at city shelters, including Midtown Manhattan's Samaritan Village, seen here. (SAM COSTANZA/FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS)

A distraught woman who lived in the Liberty Avenue homeless shelter in Brooklyn ran into its management office one afternoon two years ago "crying profusely," according to a city report.

The woman said her spouse had demanded she give him money for beer and "grabbed her and shook her violently" when she refused.

On 12/14/17, the AHole shown below lied by claiming that HRA isn't responsible for crime that occurs in the shelters that it and its partners operate. The decision issued in the case shown on the next page proves otherwise.

Salary and contact information for HRA's Commissioner Steven Banks:



Source: <http://a856-gbol.nyc.gov/GBOLWebsite/GreenBook/Details?orgId=2880>

• **Work Contact Information:**

150 Greenwich St., 40th Fl. New York, NY 10007

Steven Banks , Commissioner. Salary: \$226,366

Appointed Apr 1, 2014

☎ (929) 221-7315

Work e-mail: banksst@hra.nyc.gov

Work Fax: 212-437-2126

Home: 48 Sherman Street
Brooklyn, New York

Note: This is also home to Jean Schneider, who is the Supervising Judge Citywide for New York City's Housing Courts

246 A.D.2d 88 (1998)

676 N.Y.S.2d 38

**Eric A. Johnson, Individually and as Administrator of The Estate of Kathryn Hinnant
Johnson, Deceased, Appellant,**

v.

New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Respondent, et al., Defendants

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, First Department.

June 18, 1998

Thomas A. Moore of counsel, New York City (*Matthew Gaier* and *Norman Bard* on the brief; *Kramer, Dillof, Tessel, Duffy & Moore*, attorneys), for appellant.

Margaret G. King of counsel, New York City (*Stephen J. McGrath* on the brief; *Paul A. Crotty*, Corporation Counsel of New York City, attorney), for respondent.

MILONAS, J. P., and WALLACH, J., concur with WILLIAMS, J.; ROSENBERGER and MAZZARELLI, JJ., dissent in a separate opinion by ROSENBERGER, J.

89 *89 WILLIAMS, J.

Plaintiff Eric A. **Johnson** brought a wrongful death action seeking damages for defendants' negligence in failing to provide minimal security to protect his wife, Dr. Kathryn Hinnant, a pathologist at Bellevue Hospital Center (Bellevue). Dr. Hinnant was murdered and sexually assaulted in her office on Saturday, January 7, 1989 at approximately 4:00 P.M. by Steven Smith, a homeless intruder who had recently been a patient at the hospital.

This appeal seeks to overturn a judgment in favor of defendant New York City **Health** and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) following posttrial denial of plaintiff's motion to set aside the jury verdict as against the weight of the evidence. The jury found, by a vote of 10 to 2, that HHC's security measures were reasonable.

90 The trial evidence showed that at the time in question, Bellevue, a 1,000-bed public hospital in New York City with approximately 4,000 employees, had a mandate "to provide the *90 best care to anyone regardless of their ability to pay". It treated many patients with antisocial personality disorders stemming from problems such as drug use or domestic violence. It had over 100 clinics and logged over 300,000 total clinic visits in 1988-1989. The psychiatric walk-in clinic logged over 30,000 annual visits, the emergency room about 100,000 visits. There were approximately 300 beds for psychiatric patients. There was also an adjoining 1,000-bed homeless shelter run by the New York City Human Resources Administration.

The hospital center's enormous physical plant encompassed approximately one million square feet in several separate buildings with numerous entryways. In the "new" building, where Dr. Hinnant was attacked, each of the 22 floors covered one acre. The new building and an adjacent building shared a huge basement area that contained laundry, storage and maintenance facilities as well as the morgue. There was also a tunnel that connected the basement to the basement of the homeless shelter.

The hospital's security system at the time employed 65 to 70 security officers. They were deployed in both uniform and plainclothes, at fixed posts and in roving patrols, in three shifts around the clock throughout the



Human Resources
Administration
Department of
Social Services

W-2-539
Rev. 04/14

Investigation, Revenue, and
Enforcement Administration 8/16/2016

Steven Banks
Commissioner

Saratu Grace Gharney
Chief Program
Accountability Officer

Bedros L. Boodanian
Deputy Commissioner

250 Church Street
New York, NY 10013

212 252 3020

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Please be advised that your complaint will be duly investigated. The appropriate action will be taken based on the investigation. Due to the laws of confidentiality, we cannot disclose the result of any investigation.

Thank you for your efforts in combating social service fraud in New York City. Please send any additional correspondence to the Bureau of Fraud Investigation, 250 Church Street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10013 or call (718) 722-8001.

Sincerely,

Bureau of Fraud Investigation

IRIS Ctrl#: 201608160143

Mount Sinai Beth Israel
Department of Emergency Medicine
First Avenue at 16th Street
New York, NY 10003
212-844-1644

Take-Home Instructions for the Patient

Patient's Name:

DOS: 07/30/2016 13:27

Medical Record Number:

E.D. Attending Physician: MD Kimberly Henderson

E.D. Resident or Physician Assistant: RPA-C Ursula Jemiolo

E.D. Primary Nurse : Marjorie Rubin, RN

Primary Care Provider: Physician - Non-BI

Primary Diagnosis: Concussion w/o LOC

Additional Diagnoses:

If you were seen in the Emergency Department today and you have any questions relating to your treatment, please call 212-420-2840

PLEASE NOTE: The examination and treatment that you have received in the Emergency Department have been rendered on an emergency basis only and are not intended to be a substitute for or an effort to provide complete medical service. A follow-up doctor or facility is named below. It is important that you be checked again as recommended below and report any new or remaining problems at that time, because it is impossible to recognize and treat all elements of injury or illness in a single Emergency Department visit. In addition, if an X-Ray has been taken here, it has been read on a preliminary basis only, and a final review will be made by the Radiologist. If there is a change in the preliminary x-ray reading you will be contacted by our follow-up staff
Call to arrange an appointment to see the following physician for follow-up care.

WARNING: You or your child may have been treated with a sedative or pain medicine to provide comfort during your Emergency Department visit. Even though most of the effects will be gone by the time you leave for home, some effects may linger for up to 24 hours. These include: sleepiness, confused thinking, dizziness, nausea, and difficulty walking. If you or your child received this medication, it is very important that activities should be limited or supervised for at least the next 24 hours:

- Do not drive a car or operate machinery and be very careful around stairs.
- Avoid alcohol or any other sedating medicines
- Children should not ride bikes, use a skateboard, go swimming, or play on swings or monkeybars.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PAPER PRESCRIPTION

As of 3/27/16, New York State Department of Health now requires computer-generated (electronic) prescriptions for all medications be sent directly to your pharmacy. However, Mount Sinai Beth Israel providers have been granted a temporary waiver from the ePrescribing requirement and may write paper prescriptions. By law, once a provider has been granted a waiver, the pharmacy must fill your prescription.

What if my pharmacy refuses to fill my paper prescription?

1. Tell the pharmacist to call the New York State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) directly at 866-811-7957 (8.45 am to 4.45 pm), wait for assistance, and the operator will confirm that paper prescription can be filled.

2. Tell your provider that your pharmacy refused to fill your prescription. Be sure to give your provider the name, address, and phone number of the pharmacy.

Mount Sinai Beth Israel
Department of Emergency Medicine
First Avenue at 16th Street
New York, NY 10003

212-844-1644

Medical Record

Take-Home Instructions for the Patient

Patient's Name: **DOS:** 07/02/2016 19:51
Medical Record Number:
E.D. Attending Physician: MD Nicole Nembhard
E.D. Resident or Physician Assistant: PA-C Dafna Gershony
E.D. Primary Nurse : Adora Chatman, RN
Primary Care Provider: Physician - Non-BI
Primary Diagnosis: Abrasion of left forearm
Additional Diagnoses: Head injury

If you were seen in the Emergency Department today and you have any questions relating to your treatment, please call 212-420-2840

PLEASE NOTE: The examination and treatment that you have received in the Emergency Department have been rendered on an emergency basis only and are not intended to be a substitute for or an effort to provide complete medical service. A follow-up doctor or facility is named below. It is important that you be checked again as recommended below and report any new or remaining problems at that time, because it is impossible to recognize and treat all elements of injury or illness in a single Emergency Department visit. In addition, if an X-Ray has been taken here, it has been read on a preliminary basis only, and a final review will be made by the Radiologist. If there is a change in the preliminary x-ray reading you will be contacted by our follow-up staff

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2. Tell your provider that your pharmacy refused to fill your prescription. Be sure to give your provider the name, address, and phone number of the pharmacy.

Who wants a ticking time bomb in front of their kids and teachers at the Department of Education instead of being in jail for an assault that caused concussion with more than 15 punches to the temple on 7/2/16 that was foreseeable, since Ronald Sullivan tried committing an assault on 5/12/16?

<https://www.facebook.com/ronald.sullivan.351>




Ronald Sullivan

[Timeline](#)[About](#)[Friends](#)[Photos](#)

DO YOU KNOW RONALD?

If you know Ronald, send him a message.

 Intro

 SR. S.L.H at New York City Department of Education



Ronald Sullivan shared

March 5 at 2:44am · 



Excerpts from HRA's records concerning whistleblower complaint about the bait-and-switch fraud and forgery by Urban Pathways, Inc.:

3/16/2016	CA Application	Mensah,R	He also provided a lease stating in apartment by himself but when he moved he found out there was someone else sharing the apartment with him. and the first lease he signed was change
3/16/2016	Make Case Comment	Harris,V	He also provided a lease stating this is where he moved to but stated he was suppose to be moving in apartment by himself but when he moved he found out there was someone else sharing the apartment with him. and the first lease he signed was change by landlord.

Subject: Fraud by HRA's business partner, Urban Pathways, Inc.
Date: April 1, 2016 at 4:53:02 PM EDT
To: beirneb@hra.nyc.gov
Cc: bankss@hra.nyc.gov

Dear Ms. Beirne,

Good afternoon and thank you for the time you shared with me during our phone call today.

As discussed, the following is a copy of the lease agreement that I signed with Lisa Lombardi of Urban Pathways on February 16, 2016 at the offices of DHS located at 33 Beaver Street in Manhattan in a small conference room where there were roughly 5 people who witnessed that signing by Ms. Lombardi and I:



Urban Pathways -
Original Lease.pdf
1.3 MB

The following file attachment is a copy of the illegally modified lease agreement I received from Urban Pathways on or about March 7, 2016:



Urban Pathways -
Illegally Re...Lease.pdf
2.2 MB

The following is a list of how those 2 lease are different:

FAIRMOUNT FACILITY FOR VETERANS - Negotiated Acquisition
- Other - PIN#16NHEOC02001 - Due 1-28-16 at 2:00 P.M.

For Informational Purposes Only

HRA intends to enter into a Negotiated Acquisition with the following vendor:

Urban Pathways, Inc. Located at 802 Fairmount Place, Bronx NY
E-Pin#: 09616N0004 Contract Amount: \$1,851,220.00 Contract Term: 10 Years

The need for safe shelter for veterans is immediate, as there is a homelessness crisis with veterans as a particularly vulnerable group. Urban Pathways, Inc. can provide case management and building management services, and has identified 802 Fairmount Place as a building that is appropriate and available to permanently house 24 formerly homeless veterans in 1 and 2 bedroom units using subsidies such as LINC and VASH. Urban Pathways, Inc. would enter into a master lease with the property owner, and manage all aspects of this permanent housing facility.

Use the following address unless otherwise specified in notice, to secure, examine or submit bid/proposal documents, vendor pre-qualification and other forms; specifications/blueprints; other information; and for opening and reading of bids at date and time specified above.

Human Resources Administration, 150 Greenwich Street, 37th Floor, New York, NY 10007. Barbara Beirne (929) 221-6348; beirneb@hra.nyc.gov

06/07/16 70cl FH ELIGIB CONFERENCE CNCN5 70cn 06/07/16 B46 E1803

-Client states landlord
swaped lease he signed and gave him a room instead of an apartme
nt

-Client states his landlord committed fraud in swappin
g room for apartment-Client advised to resolve housing issue in l
andlord/tenant housing court

Bronx DA's office overrun with sex, booze and fights: employee

BY MOLLY CRANE-NEWMAN THOMAS TRACY GRAHAM RAYMAN

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Updated: Monday, February 26, 2018, 10:14 PM



Crystal Rivera, a crime analyst in the Bronx District Attorney's office, claims the office is a cesspool of on-duty sex, drinking and rampant prosecutorial misconduct. (JEFFERSON SIEGEL/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS)

Ronald Sullivan was found not guilty of assault partly because Judge Cori Weston wrongfully suppressed security logs about his assault and attempted assault. The following case confirms that such logs are admissible.

142 A.D.3d 863 (2016)

38 N.Y.S.3d 149

2016 NY Slip Op 06149

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, Respondent,

v.

HENRY DARDEN, Appellant.

1700, 4607/10.

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York, First Department.

Decided September 27, 2016.

Judgment, Supreme Court, New York County (Maxwell Wiley, J.), rendered November 14, 2011, convicting defendant, after a jury trial, of criminal trespass in the second degree, petit larceny, and two counts of assault in the third degree, and sentencing him to four consecutive terms of one year, unanimously affirmed.

Concur — Friedman, J.P., Andrias, Richter, Gische and Kahn, JJ.

864 *864 Defendant's right of confrontation was not violated by the admission of a logbook entry, created by a nontestifying security guard at the homeless shelter where the events took place. Properly admitted as a business record, the logbook entry was not testimonial because it was not "procured with a primary purpose of creating an out-of-court substitute for trial testimony" (*Michigan v. Bryant*, 562 US 344, 358 [2011]). The evidence established that such logbook entries were routinely made for the private security firm's business purposes, regardless of whether an arrest or other unusual activity occurred.

The court properly denied defense counsel's request for a missing witness instruction with regard to the guard, who was no longer employed by the security company, since he was neither available to the People nor within their control for purposes of a missing witness instruction (see *People v. Gonzalez*, 68 NY2d 424 [1986]).

7:10 - 9:10 - off duty
Thursday mat 12, 2016
5:10 Thomas on duty received
1 cellPhone and 1 set of
keys
9:10 All is safe and secure
10:10 All is safe and secure
10:25 Cereon on site at this time
10:50 Cereon off site at this time
11:10 All is safe and secure
12:00 All is safe and secure
and Ronald on duty.
1:00 All is safe and secure
2:00 All is safe and secure
3:00 All is safe and secure
4:10 Thomas off duty and a
problem happened earlier in apartment
410 and I notified Mike.
DUTY RECEIVED (ACELL)

+1 (646) 866-9302

Thu, May 12, 12:44 PM



I want my roommate forced out immediately for the following reasons: a) He made a verbal threat today against me in the presence of the security officer in my apartment's living room, b) he charged at me in the living room and had to be held back by that security officer, c)



+1 (646) 866-9302

The management company has offered to meet with you to air out these grievances and offer some solutions to the problem. We will pass on your request to them for a written response as well. Please also consider reaching out to Keisha or Arianna in the grievances department. Again, I'd recommend reaching out to the management company to have a meeting, face to face always works better. Lastly, please understand that you are both lease holders in that building and no one is going to be relocated against their will.

Sat July 2, 2016 8:00am - 4:00PM

161

8:00AM S/O D. Nathaniel On Duty All is well all keys in safe box, 2 set of keys, cell phone, log books, check in with Hughes

9:00AM Same as last hour Safe & secure

10:00AM Nothing to report at this time

11:00AM All is well safe & secure

12:00PM Same as last hour / M/W Brown on site

1:00PM Every Thing is good Safe & Secure

2:00PM On Lunch All is well Safe & secure

3:00PM Please be Advise Dwyer Sandra in unit 2A locked her self

3:15PM Sullivan Ronald off site

3:30PM Ronald Sullivan just got into fight (R) with [redacted], Cops has been called

and they were on site, they are getting a report on the altercation from [redacted]

Sullivan has left the premises

3:00PM back from Lunch came to Cops 40Pct Cdr hummer name Lugo bage number 11963

4:00PM S/O D. Nathaniel off Duty

4:00PM (R) Maintenance Statement

While prepping garbage in Basement, I went upstairs in the lobby I saw Ronald going fast pace, out the front door, he looked angry, 10 minutes later Cops were in lobby, I heard that Sullivan and [redacted] got into a fight in the apt, which [redacted] confirmed with

(R) police [redacted] in R. 11 / R. 16 from [redacted]

ORI No: _____
Order No: _____
NYSID No: _____
CJTN No: _____
Present: Hon. _____

At a term of the Criminal Court, County of Bronx
at the Courthouse at (address) 215 E. 101st State of New York

Criminal Form 2 8/2010

People of the State of New York
-against-

Ronald Sullivan

Defendant

Date of Birth: _____

ORDER OF PROTECTION

Non-Family Offense - C.P.L. 530.13'

(Not involving victims of domestic violence)

☐ Youthful Offender (check if applicable)

Part 112 Index/Docket No. 2016BX042188

Indictment No., if any: _____

Charges: _____

(Check one): ☐ Ex parte

☐ Defendant Present in Court

NOTICE: YOUR FAILURE TO OBEY THIS ORDER MAY SUBJECT YOU TO MANDATORY ARREST AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, WHICH MAY RESULT IN YOUR INCARCERATION FOR UP TO SEVEN YEARS FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT. IF THIS IS A TEMPORARY ORDER OF PROTECTION AND YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IN COURT WHEN YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DO SO, THIS ORDER MAY BE EXTENDED IN YOUR ABSENCE AND THEN CONTINUES IN EFFECT UNTIL A NEW DATE SET BY THE COURT.

☐ TEMPORARY ORDER OF PROTECTION. Whereas good cause has been shown for the issuance of a temporary order of protection [as a condition of ☐ recognizance ☐ release on bail ☐ adjournment in contemplation of dismissal].

☐ ORDER OF PROTECTION. Whereas defendant has been convicted of [specify crime or violation]: _____

And the Court having made a determination in accordance with section 530.13 of the Criminal Procedure Law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above-named defendant observe the following conditions of behavior:

(Check applicable paragraphs and subparagraphs):

- ☒ Stay away from ☒ name(s) of protected person(s) or witness(es):
and/or from the ☐ home of _____
☐ school of _____
☐ business of _____
☐ place of employment of _____
☐ other _____

☒ Refrain from communication or any other contact by mail, telephone, e-mail, voice-mail or other electronic or any other

Case Details - Charges

CASE INFORMATION

Court: **Bronx Criminal Court**
Case #: **2016BX042188**
Defendant: **Sullivan, Ronald G**

Charge	Detail
PL 120.15 00	B Misdemeanor, 1 count, Not an arrest charge, Arraignment charge Description: <i>Menacing 3rd</i>
PL 240.26 01	Violation, 1 count, Not an arrest charge, Arraignment charge Description: <i>Harassment 2nd- Phy Contact</i>
PL 120.00 01 **TOP CHARGE**	A Misdemeanor, 1 count, Arrest charge, Arraignment charge Description: <i>Aslt W/int Causes Phys Injury</i>

Case Details - Appearances

CASE INFORMATION

Court: **Bronx Criminal Court**
Case #: **2016BX042188**
Defendant: **Sullivan, Ronald G**

Date/ Time	Judge/ Part	Calendar Section	Arraignment/ Hearing Type
02/24/2017	TP5	BENCH TRIAL	No Type
02/23/2017	Weston, C TP5	PENDING	Bench Trial
02/10/2017	Weston, C AP2	PENDING	Bench Trial



MayorFirst LadyNewsOfficials

Mayor de Blasio Appoints Judges to Criminal Court and Civil Court

June 7, 2016

NEW YORK— Mayor Bill de Blasio today appointed two new judges to Criminal Court and four new judges as interim Civil Court judges who will sit in Criminal Court. The judges appointed have years of experience in the public and private sectors.

“The appointment of experienced, honest and diverse judges helps ensure that all New Yorkers have access to a fair, equitable justice system,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “From a former career prosecutor to a former attorney with the Legal Aid Society, these highly qualified appointees represent various legal and personal backgrounds that I am certain reflect and uphold the values of our great city.”

Criminal Court Appointments:

Judge Gerianne Abriano has been a career prosecutor, having served 22 years with the Kings County District Attorney’s Office. She last served as Bureau Chief of the Red Hook Community Justice Center, the first multi-jurisdictional problem solving court in the nation. Judge Abriano received her B.A. from Hunter College and her law degree from New York Law School.

Judge Cori Weston served with the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division for seven years, then worked for the New York County Defender Services for nearly 19 years. She is a member of the Criminal Advocacy Committee of the New York City Bar. Judge Weston is a graduate of Hofstra University and received her law degree from Fordham University School of Law.

Civil Court Appointments:

Judge Toni Cimino, who has been appointed to Civil Court and assigned to Criminal Court, began her career as an associate criminal defense attorney with a private firm, then served with the New York State Unified Court System for nearly 17 years as a Court Attorney, Assistant Deputy Counsel and Court Attorney Referee. She received her undergraduate degree from St. John’s University and her J.D. from St. John’s University School of Law.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kirk Wilson

Address: 335 Bowery 10003

I represent: The Bowery Hotel CB3

Address: 335 Bowery 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: STEPHANIE PHILLIPS

Address: _____

I represent: SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT (works w/ transgender people)

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SASHA ALEXANDER

Address: 147 W 25th St NY NY

I represent: SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT (which works w/ transgender people)

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANDREA BOWEN

Address: _____

I represent: TRANSGENDER and GENDER NON CONFORMING SOLUTIONS COALITION

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JACKSON WOLF

Address: _____

I represent: SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT (works w/ transgender people)

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jelan Anglin

Address: _____

I represent: Good Call

Address: 150 Court St

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 27 Mar 18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kevin Duran

Address: _____

I represent: Community Connections for Youth

Address: 369 E 149 St Bronx

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joyce McMillan

Address: Child Welfare Organizing Project

I represent: 80 E 110th St, Suite 1E

Address: NYC 10029

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lorita Watson

Address: 3279 Hall Ave #17

I represent: FOMP, Friends of Mosholu Parkland

Address: Bronx, CB7

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ALEXIS SANDERS

Address: Remsen St Brooklyn NY

I represent: EXALT YOUTH (STUDENT w/

Address: GISELE CASTRO)

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GISELE CASTRO

Address: REMPSEN ST Brooklyn NY

I represent: EXALT YOUTH

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Danette Rivera

Address: JITA Community Outreach

I represent: (Food Bank Member

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shelley Anderson

Address: _____

I represent: Sheltering Arms

topic ECE Salary disparity
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

(SNAP Incentives - HRA)
Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Robin Vitale

Address: 122 East 42nd Street

I represent: American Heart Association

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth McCarthy

Address: _____

I represent: Sheltering Arms

topic ECE Salary disparity
Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: MARCH 27, 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SUSAN STETZER

Address: Re DHS Funding

I represent: COMMUNITY BOARD 3-M

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lisa Parrish, Deputy Commissioner

Address: NYC ACS

I represent: ↓

Address: 150 William Street

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jasmine Budhella

Address: NY

I represent: VOCAL-NY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: G.L. Tyler

Address: _____

I represent: DC 1707

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Toueki Komatsu

Address: _____

I represent: Self

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Scott French, Chief of Staff

Address: _____

I represent: DSS

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ellen Levine,

Address: _____

I represent: DSS Chief Program & Planning officer

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Molly Murphy, 1st Deputy Commissioner

Address: _____

I represent: DSS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Banks, Commissioner

Address: DSS

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Grace Bonilla, Administrator

Address: 1000 3rd Ave

I represent: HRA for Homeless

Address: 104 E. 126 St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joslyn Carter, Administrator

Address: _____

I represent: DHS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Catherine Shugrue-dos Santos

Address: 116 Nassau St. 3rd floor

I represent: New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP)

Address: see above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jasmine Edmonds

Address: _____

I represent: Picture the Homeless

Address: 104 E. 126 St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maria Waller

Address: 104 E. 126 St

I represent: Picture the Homeless

Address: 104 E. 126 St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle Jackson

Address: _____

I represent: Human Services Council

Address: _____

Model
Budget

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ariel Savransky

Address: _____

I represent: UJA Federation of NY

Address: 130 E. 59th Street

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kate Rubin

Address: _____

I represent: Youth Represent

Address: - Raise the Age / JJ

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stephanie Gendell

Address: _____

I represent: Citizens' Committee for Children

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: JOHN SENTIGAR (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 460 W. 41ST ST. NY, NY 10036

I represent: COVENANT HOUSE

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

Name: Scott Hutchins (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 452 E 50th St 1W

I represent: Picture the Homeless

Address: 148 E 126th St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Katelyn Hasey (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Live On NY

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03-27-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Address: 580 SOUTHERN BLVD BROX 10455 #1A

I represent: PICTURE THE HOMELESS

Address: 104 EAST 126 ST. NYC 10035

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jesse Laymon

Address: _____

I represent: NYC Employment + Training Coalition

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3.27.2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: TRIADA STAMPAS

Address: _____

I represent: FOOD BANK FOR NYC

Address: 39 BROADWAY, 10th FL, NY, NY

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARY ROBERTSON

Address: 101 W 23 ST. 10011

I represent: PICTURE THE HOMELESS +

Address: METROPOLITAN COUNCIL ON HOUSING

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Edline Jacquet

Address: 40 Broad Street, 5th Floor, NYC 10002

I represent: FPWA

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Catherine Trappani

Address: 446 West 33rd St FI

I represent: Homeless Services United

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Wendy O Shields

Address: 150 William Street

I represent: Urban Justice Society Net

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gregory Brender

Address: _____

I represent: United Neighborhood Houses

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Jacqueline McKnight

Address: 150 William Street, NY, NY

I represent: NYC Administration for Children's Services

Address: 150 William Street

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Felipe Franco, Deputy Commissioner

Address: 150 William Street, NY, NY

I represent: NYC Administration for Children's Services

Address: 150 William Street

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: David A. Hansell, Commissioner

Address: 150 William Street, NY, NY

I represent: NYC Administration for Children's Services

Address: 150 William Street

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katelyn Halsey

Address: _____

I represent: Live on New York

Address: _____

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

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Gen Welfare Budget
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chris Widelo

Address: _____

I represent: AAAP

Address: 730 3rd Ave, Manhattan 10017

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brandi Mathis

Address: _____

I represent: Carnegie Hall

Address: Juvenile Justice / CIG forum

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LISA CASWELL

Address: 2082 Lexington Ave - Suite 204

I represent: DAY CARE Council of NY

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/11

Name: Jaimee Tosto (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: Bronx NY

I represent: Riders Alliance / fair fares

Address: _____

*Nameeva:
Request to be on
early CBO
panel.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Christa Perfit (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 1332 Park Place Brooklyn NY

I represent: City Harvest

Address: 10 E 32nd St, 5th Fl, NY, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Amy Torres (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Chinese American Planning Council, Inc.

Address: 150 Elizabeth Street 10012

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nancy RANKIN

Address: 633 Third Avenue

I represent: Community Service Society gny

Address: 633 Third Avenue

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Olivia Dana

Address: _____

I represent: Project Director Staten Island Youth

Address: _____ Justice Center

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