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COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

October 11, 2018

Start: 1:14 P.m.

Recess: 4:00 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: DEBORAH L. ROSE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

JUSTIN L. BRANNAN
MARGARET S. CHIN
MATHIEU EUGENE
ANDY L. KING

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

Andre White

Associate Commissioner for Youth Workforce
Development

Susan Haskell

Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services

Fred Watts

Executive Director of the Police Athletic League

Dov Oustatcher

Director of YP at Council of Jewish Organizations
COJO

Louis Welz

Council of Jewish Organizations Flatbush Chief
Executive Officer

Faith Behum

Advocacy and Policy Advisor at UJA Federation of
New York

Laura P. James

Director for the Summer Youth Employment Program
At Medgar Evers College Research Foundation,
Director for the Work, Learn and Grow Employment
Program and Director for the School Based Pilot
Program at Automotive High School

Adjoa Gzifa

Director for the Workforce Education Center,
LaGuardia Community College

Michelle Jackson

Deputy Executive Director for the Human Services
Council

Leydy Avila

Deputy Director of Youth Development Centers for
Queens Community House

Johanna Dehler

Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, MMCOMMITTEE

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

Jacqueline Bravo
Youth and Family Director at the McBurney YMCA
And SYEP Alum

Brian Licata
Director of Workforce Development for United
Activities Unlimited, Inc., UAU

Diane Arweiler
Program Supervisor at HANAC Youth Services

Gregory Brender
Co-Director of Policy and Advocacy at United
Neighborhood Houses, UNH, of New York

Nicole Kay
Senior Director of Programs at Jacob A. Riis
Neighborhood Settlement

Alice Bufkin
Director of Policy for Child and Adolescent
Health at Citizens' Committee for Children of
New York, COMMITTEE CLERKC, Active Member of the
Campaign for Children

David Slotnick
Senior Director of Youth Education Services at
Samuel Field/Central Queens Y

Robert Clarke
Youth Services Coordinator at El Barrios
Operation Fight Back

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[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: This meeting is now
called to order. So, good morning.

[good morning]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, I like that. I
like that. The teachers up here like that, think it
was good, good... [cross-talk]

[off mic dialogue]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, it's afternoon,
thank you. Good, good, good afternoon. Good
afternoon. And so, I want to thank you all for
coming. My name is Council Member Debi Rose and I'm
the Chair of the Committee on Youth Services and I
just want to acknowledge before I go on with my
remarks that today we are celebrating the
international day of the girl and as we hold these
hearings about programs that help young women and men
learn, grow and thrive we join the international
community in bringing attention, action and
enthusiasm to lifting up young women and providing
them a path to forge forward. So, as you go through
your day today remember to acknowledge young women.
So, today we are conducting an oversight hearing on
DYCD programs; SYEP, COMPASS NYC and SONYC and a

1 little later I'll tell you what those... the acronyms
2 for. I would like to thank the Speaker, Corey Johnson
3 for his commitment to the youth of New York City. I
4 would also like to thank the young people themselves.
5 I want to thank youth advocates, program providers
6 and all those that have come to testify today.
7 Finally, I would like to acknowledge my colleagues
8 who have joined us this afternoon and my colleagues
9 are Council Member Eugene, the former chair of this
10 committee and Council Member Chin. Youth in New York
11 City are an overwhelmingly important population, they
12 are the future and thus need adequate resources to
13 grow. That is why DYCD has invested [clears throat]
14 excuse me... in numerous programs in an effort to
15 provide for these youth. Of the programs DYCD funds,
16 today we would like to focus on three specific
17 programs; SYEP, which is an acronym for Summer Youth
18 Employment Program; COMPASS NYC which is an acronym
19 for Comprehensive After School System of New York
20 City and SONYC, which is Schools Out New York City.
21 SYEP is an integral program for teaching youth about
22 the meaning of hard work as well as the importance of
23 a stable job in one's life. SYEP provides youth
24 between the ages of 14 and 24 years old with paid
25

summer employment for up to six weeks during the summer. A host of providers throughout all five boroughs offers youth the opportunity to work in entry level jobs in a variety of industries such as education, finance, media, entertainment, manufacturing and retail. On top of providing youth with the opportunity to develop their skills in what many will be a first job, SYEP also provides workshops on job readiness, career exploration, financial literacy and opportunities for educational advancement and social economic... socioeconomic growth. SYEP is something near and dear to my heart. I am very proud to say that my first job was SYEP and I'm really excited that we worked really hard to secure more funding and slots during this past budget season. In addition to SYEP, COMPASS New York City and a sub part, SONYC is extremely important for youth to have high quality after school programming. COMPASS NYC and SONYC are influential in developing youth into successful and prosperous individuals. COMPASS NYC and SONYC is made up of more than 900 programs serving youth enrolled in kindergarten to 12th grade at no cost to youth who participate. With programs being strategically placed in all facets of

a youth life within public and private schools, community centers, religious institutions, public housing and recreational facilities throughout the city. Notably COMPASS NYC has four major models, one of which is SONYC that are all based on improving opportunities for youth to explore different interests and subjects integrating STEM which is science, technology, engineering and math into traditional programming as well as creating strategies to support youth and families. I look forward to learning more about DYCD and what they are doing in terms of these programs as well as understanding provider concerns and comments on these programs. One subject of particular interest that I hope to look at during this hearing is funding of these programs. I wish to thank my staff; Edwina Martin, Isa Rogers and the committee staff Paul Sinegal, Kevin Kotowski and Michele Peregrin. And with that we will swear in our first panel.

COMMITTEE CLERK: In accordance with the rules of the council I will administer the affirmation to the witnesses from the Mayoral Administration. Please raise your right hands. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing

but the truth in your testimony before this committee and to respond honestly to Council Member's questions?

ANDRE WHITE: I do.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Please state your names for the record.

ANDRE WHITE: Andre White.

SUSAN HASKELL: Susan Haskell.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You need to speak into the mic, yeah.

SUSAN HASKELL: Hello.

ANDRE WHITE: Is it... [cross-talk]

SUSAN HASKELL: Is it working... [cross-talk]

ANDRE WHITE: ...on, yes.

SUSAN HASKELL: Okay...

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Just say your names...

ANDRE WHITE: Andre White.

SUSAN HASKELL: And Susan Haskell.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

ANDRE WHITE: Thank you. Good afternoon
Chairwoman Rose and members of the Committee on Youth Services. I am Andre White, Associate Commissioner for Youth Workforce Development. I'm joined by Susan

Haskell, Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about

DYCD's programs specifically the Summer Youth

Employment Program and the COMPASS and SONYC

comprehensive afterschool programs. I'm thrilled to

report that this past summer, SYEP was budgeted to

serve 75,000 young people ages 14 through 24 and

connected them to jobs at over 13,000 work sites

throughout the five boroughs. Last summer the

program's budget... program's budget grew by 18 percent

to a new high of 150 million dollars. Worksite

development increased by 14 percent, exposing

participants to a wider array of opportunities in the

city. Forty four percent of work sites were in the

private sector, 41 in the nonprofit organizations, 15

percent in government agencies. SYEP participants

worked in financial, cultural, media, entertainment

and health care industries. Examples of such

placements include Bank of America, A and E Networks,

the MET and Maimonides Hospital. We are grateful the

council recognizes that SYEP is a vital program that

helps young people gain work experience, explore

careers, build skills, and prepare for their future.

With the administration and the... and the City

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2 Council's commitment to SYEP, together we have made
3 incredible progress. Mayor Bill De Blasio has more
4 than doubled the size of SYEP over the past five
5 years and baselined funding for 70,000 slots, this
6 has allowed DYCD and its providers to plan the
7 program more effectively and ensure that the
8 development of quality job placements. This helped
9 providers better manage the staffing of the program
10 and develop more robust project-based experiences for
11 participants. Stable funding has translated into a
12 higher quality summer job experience for youth and
13 for that we're truly grateful. Our work is not done.
14 Later this month, we plan to release several RFPs for
15 SYEP in order to have new contracts in place for the
16 summer of 2019. The program design builds on the
17 recommendations from the youth employment task force,
18 commissioned in June 2016 by Mayor Bill De Blasio and
19 former Speaker Mark-Viverito. The task force was
20 comprised of a broad array of stakeholders including
21 advocates, providers, foundation and nonprofit
22 leaders. The task force focused on how to bring
23 relevant, innovative workforce experiences to young
24 people through SYEP. The recommendations that will be
25 incorporated into the RFPs include: Strengthening the

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2 connections between SYEP providers and public high
3 schools to improve in school career development for
4 young people; serving younger youth through career
5 exploration and project-based learning experiences;
6 and enhancing support services including pre-program
7 orientation and counseling to help meet the youth... to
8 help meet the unique needs of vulnerable populations.
9 We encourage all community-based organizations that
10 are considering applying for a contract to begin the
11 pre-qualification process with HHS Accelerator, which
12 is managed by the Mayor's Office of Contract
13 Services. Organizations can register there for
14 automatic notification of the release of the RFPs.
15 Susan Haskell, DYCD Deputy Commissioner for Youth
16 Services, will now discuss other topics on today's
17 agenda, the COMPASS and SONYC, School's Out New York
18 after school programs.

19 SUSAN HASSELL: Thanks Andre. The after...
20 the comprehensive after school system of New York
21 City, COMPASS is comprised of more than 920 programs
22 serving young people in grades K to 12. Through a
23 network of providers, COMPASS offers high quality
24 programs that have a balance of enrichment,
25 recreation, arts, academic and cultural activities to

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support and strengthen the overall development of youth. COMPASS aims to help young people explore interests and skills, develop social-emotional learning and cultivate leadership through service learning and civic engagement activities. Through a continuum of after school programs from COMPASS Elementary to SONYC for middle school students to COMPASS High, DYCD helps support young people on a pathway to success. Programs are offered at no cost and are located in public and private schools, community centers and parks and recreation facilities throughout the city to leverage the use of public space to help youth find a place that best fits their needs. With the COMPASS Middle School Expansion, the city now has capacity to provide a high quality after school seat to every New York City middle school aged youth. In addition, in 2015, COMPASS launched a program to serve middle school youth in detention and in homeless shelters. And in collaboration with ACS and the Department of Homeless Services, DYCD funded providers offer tailored programming at six locations that cultivate supportive relationships and encourage participation in enrichment activities. Fiscal year '18 was the fourth year since the historic expansion

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of after school programs under the leadership of Mayor De Blasio. Last year more than 126,000 young people were served in COMPASS, of these 52,000 were served in 323 elementary school programs and 69,000 middle school youth were served in 496 SONYC programs. COMPASS Elementary and middle school programs are offered five days a week after school, on some school holidays. The programs aim to foster social-emotional competencies and physical wellbeing, provide opportunities for youth to explore interests and creativity, build confidence and leadership skills and facilitate community engagement and engage parents and other caregivers. The middle school model, SONYC, is structured like clubs, where youth have the opportunity to choose from a variety of activities, including STEM, literacy, leadership development and healthy living. COMPASS High is designed to help high school ninth graders navigate their new surroundings and matriculate to tenth grade. In addition to the advocacy within the community, the COMPASS High model offers targeted academic, social and emotional supports. Last year, approximately 1,500 youth participated in COMPASS high school programs. COMPASS Explore allows

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2 providers flexibility to create programs with a
3 specialized focus for different age groups. Explore
4 programs offer a variety of activities from
5 preparation for legal careers to boat building. Last
6 year, 2,500 youth participated in 30 Explore
7 programs. We're excited for this school year and
8 we've supported our programs through a successful
9 start. We look forward to our continued partnership
10 with City Council to meet the needs of the city's
11 youth and to create opportunities for them to grow
12 and thrive. Thank you for the invitation to testify
13 and we're prepared to answer your questions.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. So, in
15 order to have... develop the RFP and, and the, the
16 documents, the concept paper I'm sure data collection
17 was an important aspect of it and before I, I go on I
18 want to thank the task force who worked really hard
19 to put together the, the concept paper. And so how
20 does DYCD collect data and information? For example,
21 time sheets and, and other documentation and in the
22 past there's... there was reference to DYCD being in
23 the process of overhauling and standardizing its data
24 collection systems specifically for SYEP, could you
25 tell me what the status is of this process and, and

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has it streamlined things as well as the economic...
the economic impact on the system?

ANDRE WHITE: Sure, so we, we currently
use a database system that our providers are expected
to utilize from the recruitment process all the way
through payroll and essentially the purpose of this
database system is to make sure that providers have
all the resources necessary to track participants as
soon as they apply all the way until they are placed.
So, currently in terms of time sheets I want to
address that first, how the program operates
currently once a young person's placed at an employer
the provider is responsible for visiting that
employer on a weekly basis to collect the time
sheets, right and also to make sure that they are
engaged in the young people to ensure that they are
having a meaningful summer job experience. Once that
process is done then the provider then goes back to
their offices and enters that time into our payroll
system, once the payroll system has been... I'm sorry,
once the time has been entered into the payroll
system DYCD then approves the time and young people
gets paid a week or two later.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, we've heard from
3 providers that there's an, an audient amount of
4 paper, have you been able to streamline this process?

5 ANDRE WHITE: We, we have been thinking
6 about how do we move away from collecting as much
7 paper as possible, unfortunately because of our
8 oversight agencies which is... which include the New
9 York State OBT Office, right that's tiny funding that
10 we get, a lot of funding for, for SYEP they do
11 require physical copies of all the required documents
12 so for example, they want to see in a participant
13 folder the actual application, they want to see young
14 people supporting who they are so identity documents,
15 they want to see income documents for the parents,
16 right. Our thinking at DYCD as we develop SYEP 3.0 is
17 how can we move to a more electronic system and
18 that's definitely in consideration to figure out how
19 can we build a system to help providers upload
20 documents in the database, we're still in the very
21 early stages of having those conversations but it's
22 definitely under consideration.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And the economic
24 impact on the system?

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2 ANDRE WHITE: Are you asking the... [cross-

3 talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there... [cross-talk]

5 ANDRE WHITE: ...the costs in terms of...

6 [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... yeah... [cross-

8 talk]

9 ANDRE WHITE: ...So, again we have just

10 actually had a conversation with a vendor that we're

11 working with and they're looking into what that cost

12 might be so unfortunately, I'd like to get back to

13 you with, with that, that amount, I'm not sure what

14 it's going to be.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. How many youths

16 by program according... I wanted to break it out by

17 program; COMPASS, SONYC and SYEP apply but are denied

18 an opportunity to participate in the program?

19 ANDRE WHITE: I'll, I'll start with SYEP

20 and then I'll, I'll go over to Susan to talk about

21 COMPASS and SONYC. I think it's important to

22 understand with SYEP although we did receive over

23 160,000 applications... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: 160,000?

25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: Yes, correct. Not every
3 young person that applies for SYEP actually works,
4 right, so for example they might have to go to summer
5 school, mommy and daddy might decide to take... you
6 know take them down South to see auntie and uncle to,
7 to spend the summer and interestingly enough in order
8 to place 75,000 young people this summer we had to
9 make over 122,000 offers to get up to the 75,000
10 number.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. SONYC and
12 COMPASS?

13 SUSAN HASSELL: Combined COMPASS which
14 includes SONYC for fiscal year '18 is... was 126,000
15 young people.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and COMPASS?

17 SUSAN HASSELL: That includes the... that
18 includes young people at all levels; the elementary,
19 the middle and the high school youth, 126,000 young
20 people.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, so I guess over
22 half of the, the young people that apply for these
23 jobs are not... are not getting them, right, you would
24 say are denied?

25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: No, I, I wouldn't say that,
3 I would actually say we made offers to over 74
4 percent of the applicants.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well 74... [cross-talk]

6 ANDRE WHITE: 74 percent... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...percent of the
8 applicants get jobs?

9 ANDRE WHITE: Were made offers.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Get... [cross-talk]

11 ANDRE WHITE: Correct.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, you make offers.

13 ANDRE WHITE: Right.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. What are... you
15 know your common reasons for rejecting applicants?

16 ANDRE WHITE: SYEP is a lottery based
17 system so young people once they apply to our program
18 they have an opportunity to select a provider which
19 is a local CBO many of whom I see in the room today
20 to work with for the summer, once they log into our
21 online system they'll see a listing of working
22 opportunities, different types of work sites, that
23 provider might be able to offer them, once they apply
24 to that provider their application is then put into
25 what we call the lottery pool. In May, sometime

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2 around May we run the lottery for SYEP and if you're
3 lucky or blessed you're selected for a summer job and
4 that process continues until all slots are filled.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, with COMPASS and
6 SONYC are there... what are the reasons for young
7 people not being accepted into the program, it's just
8 the number of slots that are available?

9 SUSAN HASKELL: COMPASS and SONYC
10 operates differently than SYEP... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

12 SUSAN HASKELL: ...in that enrollment is
13 handled locally by the community-based provider at
14 the site, SYEP has a... he wants you to turn it off
15 when we're not talking... [cross-talk]

16 ANDRE WHITE: Oh, okay... [cross-talk]

17 SUSAN HASKELL: ...I'm sorry. So, we don't
18 have, you know a centralized lottery system for that,
19 it's happening more at the community provider level.
20 We don't collect data currently on young people who
21 are not served in our programs, we, we know about
22 young people who are served so I wouldn't be able to
23 tell you how many people are turned away. We do have
24 some information on that. In instances where
25 providers are, are very over enrolled we would see

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2 that in our system, we would see for example if you
3 had 100 seats but you were... but you were serving, you
4 know 120, we would see that demand is, is exceeding
5 your contracted seats and we do make those
6 adjustments from, from time to time.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Could you just hold on
8 for a moment, do we need to make an adjustment. I
9 think we're getting a communication from...

10 [test one, two]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Nope, I don't think
12 so...

13 [test one, two. Test one, two]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: All ready? Okay, you
15 can proceed.

16 SUSAN HASKELL: I think I'm... I think I... I
17 think I was done. We, we collect data on the young
18 people we do serve, we don't have data on young
19 people who aren't served but we do get feedback from
20 providers where demand exceeds their funded seats and
21 whenever possible we try to make those adjustments.
22 We are, as mentioned in development of a new system
23 so it's possible we could consider additional data
24 like that in the future.

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do you find that some
3 of the seats and the slots that we have available are
4 not filled?

5 SUSAN HASKELL: Overwhelmingly the seats
6 in COMPASS programs are filled if not exceeded but
7 there are programs that struggle with enrollment and
8 part of our job is to work closely with providers who
9 aren't filling seats to find out if they need some
10 support with outreach techniques or if they're
11 ultimately needs to be a reassignment of those seats
12 to another provider in the... in the ultimate
13 circumstance, we try to avoid that whenever possible.
14 We find that more support is needed with the
15 community center based programs than in the school
16 based programs, of course young people are on site in
17 schools and it's a very easy transition, the
18 community center programs are very important for some
19 young people but it also requires more effort on the
20 provider to get... or to get young people to their
21 space.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are you referring also
23 to the NYCHA, the Cornerstone programs?

24 SUSAN HASKELL: I'm referring only to
25 COMPASS right now, I'm not really... [cross-talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

3 SUSAN HASKELL: ...speaking to Cornerstone
4 or... [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

6 SUSAN HASKELL: ...beacon programs but that
7 would be... and, and they over... they meet their, their,
8 their service requirements but it is an additional
9 challenge wherever young people need to get transport
10 or finding their way there, it's an added
11 responsibility of the provider to ensure a smooth
12 transition.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Have you heard that
14 some of the... one of the challenges might be the fact
15 that it's difficult for them to adequately program
16 for young people because of the late budget process,
17 you know for example some have shared that they only
18 have a month or so to hire and train needed staff
19 based on funding... you know allotments due to the
20 budget, you know passing in June and their program's
21 commencing in July?

22 SUSAN HASKELL: Overwhelmingly our
23 program are, are baseline programs and we have long
24 term contracts, typically it's a three year contract
25 with a three year renewal and a provider under those

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2 circumstances would be, you know aware of the
3 commitment to funding for... into the next year, it
4 wouldn't be a year to year basis. We do have a
5 handful of programs, city council funded programs and
6 others that are one year funded that is a challenge
7 that our providers have consistently met, that's a
8 very small portion of our overall portfolio where
9 providers have a long-term commitment from DYCD.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: We heard
11 overwhelmingly during the budget process that Summer
12 SONYC was experiencing difficulty meeting their
13 numbers not because the need wasn't there but because
14 of the late notification, it was difficult, you know
15 in terms of planning, how can we improve, you know
16 the timing so that there are no slots that go
17 unfilled and that the service providers are not met
18 with the challenge of finding out late in the season
19 that, that their slots are available?

20 SUSAN HASKELL: Whenever they are year to
21 year budgeted programs its more challenging for
22 providers than the long term baseline programs but
23 what we have seen, you know overwhelmingly is that
24 providers are... have connections with young people,
25 they, they know how to find young people quickly to

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2 enroll in programs and that the overwhelming majority
3 of the seats have been... have been filled.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there any
5 conversations being had about baselining these
6 programs?

7 SUSAN HASKELL: As you well know there is
8 so much conversation about SONYC Summer Services and
9 its always been part of the budget process and we
10 look forward to that process in... to begin in early
11 2019, yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, so we, we know
13 that that's on the radar and that we're looking
14 forward to an early response.

15 SUSAN HASKELL: We look forward to having
16 that worked out in the budget process.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you tell me how
18 you determine the per participant price?

19 SUSAN HASKELL: For COMPASS... COMPASS,
20 the, the biggest expansion in after school programs
21 in this administration has been the SONYC middle
22 school programs and I think there was, you know just
23 prior to... I came on board a couple months into the
24 administration, but I know there was a very robust
25 budgeting process discussion with providers around

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2 cost for participants and we have varying rates
3 depending on what service level you're working on so...
4 I'm sorry, what was your question, about what the...
5 [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I want to know how you
7 determine what that per participant price is?

8 SUSAN HASKELL: We, we would... we develop
9 sample budgets, we communicate with providers, there
10 is a process be... you know between... with DYCD and...
11 again and our providers and OMB about what's
12 appropriate spending levels for each program area,
13 its... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Has that... has that
15 amount varied, has there been any increases to it,
16 have you, you know looked at it and how frequently do
17 you look at what that, that rate should be?

18 SUSAN HASKELL: That process typically
19 happens through an RFP as all the elements of a model
20 are considered price would definitely be one that we
21 would take into consideration and that has happened
22 with the COMPASS programs as well.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you have a new RFP
24 that's out now for... [cross-talk]

25 SUSAN HASKELL: We... [cross-talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...SYEP, COMPASS or
3 SONYC or all three?

4 SUSAN HASKELL: There is... There is
5 currently no COMPASS RFP that is active, the city did
6 release an RFP for COMPASS in the spring which we
7 subsequently cancelled because there were questions
8 raised about the model and to the point you just
9 answered we do like to engage in discussions with the
10 providers and that's what we intend to do.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay and the SYEP?

12 ANDRE WHITE: The SYEP RFP should be out
13 in a few weeks.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: In a few weeks and has
15 there been any conversation about a change in the
16 rate and if so was there an increase, a decrease,
17 what?

18 ANDRE WHITE: So, when we began this
19 process two years ago back in, in 2016 I think it was
20 important for folks, the administration as well as
21 DYCD to really understand the needs of the providers,
22 right, what resources do you need to really implement
23 what we're asking you to do. We engage providers and
24 a number of focus groups, we actually engage young
25 people to get feedback and comment from them as well,

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2 we work very closely with OMB to do what we call a
3 model budget to see exactly whether or not we're
4 funding providers at the level that they need to be
5 funded so all of those exercises took place over the
6 past two years and yes, the price per participant is
7 definitely under consideration for the new RFP, its
8 increased.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is the... is the funding
10 for SYEP, COMPASS NYC and SONYC is that reimbursable,
11 is that a reimbursable program the funding?

12 ANDRE WHITE: I'm, I'm sorry, can you
13 repeat... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is the funding for
15 COMPASS, SYEP and SONYC is... are, are they reimburse...
16 is it reimbursable?

17 ANDRE WHITE: Yes, for SYEP.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: It's reimbursed...
19 [cross-talk]

20 ANDRE WHITE: For SONYC, right?

21 SUSAN HASKELL: Yep.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, a lapse in I, I
23 guess in notification and budget could also impact
24 their ability to deliver the services in a timely
25 manner? I've gotten... let, let me restate that. I've

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2 gotten complaints from providers who have not been
3 able to make payroll because of, you know the lapse
4 in... well the flow of funds and that its, its
5 reimbursable, have you had these conversations, is
6 there anything that you're looking at where, you know
7 staff works those... the whole summer and there's no
8 pay for them?

9 SUSAN HASKELL: Well we, we definitely
10 listen to provider concerns... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

12 SUSAN HASKELL: ...we are very... we take it
13 very seriously when a provider communicates that
14 they're having issues with payroll and there are a
15 few steps that we can take. The contracts... all DYCD
16 contracts I believe are, are reimbursable however at
17 certain stages in the contract development... [cross-
18 talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

20 SUSAN HASKELL: ...you can... it, it... for
21 example at registration you can be... you can request
22 and be administered in advance on your contract which
23 you would be able to use to make those payments until
24 you've had a chance to submit your, your reimbursed
25 expenses. In some instances providers have asked for

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2 a loan because they're not able to make it to, to
3 registration and they have some planning to do and at
4 a certain stage in the development of the contract we
5 welcome those loans and we work with the Mayor's
6 Office of Contracts to, to kind of help, help them
7 prioritize who's most in need and payroll would be a
8 big red flag that we would do our best to assist
9 with.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay and all providers
11 are aware that there are sort of these options or
12 safety nets... [cross-talk]

13 SUSAN HASKELL: I think... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...for them... [cross-
15 talk]

16 SUSAN HASKELL: ...so, we certainly respond
17 whenever a, a concern... we encourage providers to
18 bring issue to our concern. I've had providers
19 sometimes say, you know I don't want to be a bother
20 and I think the entire DYCD staff agrees 100 percent
21 the earlier you bring concerns to our attention the
22 more we're able to help you. I think they are... I
23 think providers are aware of those mechanisms.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay and how does the
25 administration collaborate with the nonprofits on

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2 program design for those three programs and did you
3 consult with them, the nonprofits on the rates when
4 you put out the RFP and when DYCD extended the
5 deadline for COMPASS NYC and SONYC?

6 SUSAN HASSELL: We... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, there's two
8 different questions. So, do you consult with them,
9 you know when you talk about the rates?

10 SUSAN HASSELL: I will say there is more...
11 [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Before the RFP..
13 [cross-talk]

14 SUSAN HASSELL: ...consultation with
15 providers than, then ever... in... under this
16 administration there's been more consultation with
17 providers than I think has ever happened before on
18 rates. On the COMPASS RFP that we released and is no
19 longer active we really didn't make significant
20 changes to the model and in those circumstances we
21 don't typically issue a concept paper and then I
22 think the result... you know the result of that is that
23 questions were raised and we have decided in the city
24 that we want to take time to consider those
25 questions... [cross-talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you know I
3 appreciate that that, you know their concerns were
4 heard and you're looking at that in terms of how
5 you're going to reshape the RFP, do you have a
6 timeline for when you plan to get, you know get to
7 the conclusion and, and issue an RFP?

8 SUSAN HASKELL: I'm, I'm not aware that
9 we've set a timeline, I know that we're committed to
10 working through the questions however long that
11 takes... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

13 SUSAN HASKELL: ...we have begun the
14 immediate next step of extending contracts, contracts
15 for current providers at least through the summer to
16 ensure that no matter when that is released we won't
17 have any disruption to services to young people.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, I have a lot
19 more questions for you but out of respect for my
20 colleague Margaret Chin has some questions and we've
21 been joined by Council Member Brannan.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Chair. I
23 just wanted to follow up some of the questions that
24 you were asking. So, last year we had in SYEP 70,000
25 slots were baselined so that funding is secure, right

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2 and then we offer 75,000 slots, I mean there were
3 75,000 kids who participated in the SYEP program so
4 my question is relating to your RFP so are you... this
5 RFP is going to be totally new or are there going to
6 be providers who are going to continue and you're
7 just focusing on some of the new components like the
8 younger 14, 15 year olds like I just don't want to
9 envision that you're doing a new RFP and everything
10 has got to start all over again, I, I assume that's
11 not what you're talking about?

12 ANDRE WHITE: So, just some... just to give
13 you some context, right, so back in 2016 as I
14 mentioned in my testimony there was a task force that
15 was conveyed, right and the idea was to look at SYEP
16 in its current, current form and to make tweaks to
17 the current model, under that task force there were a
18 number of recommendations, right, that was then
19 actually developed to... back to... we used those
20 recommendations to develop the concept paper, right,
21 which I'm sure you guys seen and some of those
22 recommendations is really around how do you connect
23 school year learning with the summer opportunity,
24 right, making sure that providers understand what it
25 means to develop center based jobs for young people.

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2 There's also a recommendation around carving out
3 slots for young people who are... who lives in high
4 poverty areas, right and that's special needs very
5 similar to the work that we do now with our
6 vulnerable youth populations so keeping that in mind
7 all of those program elements were then used to
8 inform the RFP so yes, it will be a brand new RFP,
9 we're calling it SYEP 3.0, we're very excited about
10 it, there's been a lot of work done over the past two
11 years to gather feedback from providers, from young
12 people, from advocates, we've looked at research to
13 make sure that we're developing models that young
14 people are really going to benefit, benefit from and
15 current providers can apply for the new RFP once it
16 goes out.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay, so, so then
18 what is your timeline because I mean like the
19 provider that's been doing a great job, experienced
20 they... I'm sure they're going to apply and hopefully
21 they'll, they'll get awarded but I assume from your
22 testimony you are talking about that you're also
23 looking for new, new providers, additional providers,
24 right?

25 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: And at the same
3 time don't forget that in the City Council we're
4 going to be continuing to advocate for increasing
5 SYEP so we're not looking at 75,000 slots, alright
6 just to give you an early warning because we've been
7 advocating for universal SYEP so for every kid... every
8 young person that applies we want to make sure they
9 have that opportunity so that's out there for quite a
10 few years already, right so I just want to make sure
11 that in terms of timeline that there is going to be
12 sufficient time for providers to gear up for the
13 summer so... [cross-talk]

14 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely, so we, we take
15 timeline... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, can you just
17 explain to us like... [cross-talk]

18 ANDRE WHITE: Sure... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...RFP... [cross-talk]

20 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...when you're going
22 to be able to award the RFP so that there's still
23 going to be sufficient time for the provider to
24 really get ready?

25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely, so we, we take
3 timelines very seriously at DYCD, we want to make
4 sure that providers have the time and resources
5 necessary to implement the programs that we're asking
6 them to do. The RFP should be out in the... in the next
7 few weeks, once the RFP is out then we go through a
8 number of processes, right so there's a conference
9 where folks would come to DYCD and we sort of talk
10 about the model, they could field questions, we
11 answer those questions and typically after the RFP is
12 released the timeline for the five weeks after that
13 is the deadline, once it's the deadline then folks at
14 DYCD go through the evaluation process to make awards
15 and that should be done sometime in late fall maybe
16 sometime in December and we expect contracts and
17 awards to be made sometime by the end of December
18 early January.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well I guess we'll
20 hear from the providers later to see if that is
21 sufficient. I, I just... I mean just what's so
22 important that a lot of the providers who's already
23 in your portfolio, I mean has been working very hard
24 to cultivate, you know jobs with, you know private
25 sectors or whatever to create some really unique

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2 opportunities and I just want to make sure they don't
3 lose those contacts that there is a continuation
4 process and how long is the, the contract for, three
5 years or... [cross-talk]

6 ANDRE WHITE: It's, it's three years with
7 the option to renew for, for an additional three
8 years.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay, so right now
10 you have providers that you are extending their
11 contract?

12 ANDRE WHITE: Their contracts are
13 actually expiring.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Uh-huh... [cross-
15 talk]

16 ANDRE WHITE: So, as of March 31st, 2019
17 those contracts are no longer in effect.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay, so if they
19 were the one that were able to... [cross-talk]

20 ANDRE WHITE: So, if they apply for a new
21 contract with the new RFP they will be awarded a
22 contract sometime in January.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, they would have
24 no gap if, if they... [cross-talk]

25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: No gap in service... [cross-

3 talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...if they were...

5 [cross-talk]

6 ANDRE WHITE: ...exactly... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...to do that...

8 [cross-talk]

9 ANDRE WHITE: To do their work, right,

10 exactly.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, are you working

12 very hard to sort of like work with the existing

13 provider that are doing a great job to make sure that

14 they are ready and going to be successful?

15 ANDRE WHITE: Everyone has an opportunity

16 to apply to the RFP, as you know it's a fair and

17 transparent process, every provider has to be

18 reevaluated for a contract and a lot of them in this

19 room have demonstrated that they, they could actually

20 do the work and I encourage them to apply again and

21 see what happens.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But I think you

23 also... I mean part of your RFP you do have to look at

24 track records, right?

25 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay, I just want
3 to make sure that that's... and my other question is on
4 COMPASS and SONYC, I know that, you know everybody
5 was, you know smiling and... with the budget process I
6 don't think we want to do that budget dance let's put
7 it out there, right, summer SONYC... I mean the summer
8 COMPASS, summer school, summer programs should be
9 part of the regular program, right, I don't know why
10 DYCD don't see that and the administration don't see
11 that and every time at the end we put it in as a one
12 year program, it doesn't make sense, it needs to be
13 all year round. We have that with the, the, the
14 middle school SONYC program... well no we have the
15 summer program component and the summer program... I
16 mean the, the whole middle school program has been
17 great, I've gotten a lot of very, very positive
18 feedback from parents and from kids in middle school
19 and I think that is something that the Mayor should
20 be very proud of and continue but we also need to
21 make sure that there are after school programs for
22 every single kid who go to our elementary schools.
23 There are a lot of kids who are not in those
24 programs, there's not enough of those, I mean from
25 your testimony, right, you talk about only 50,000 or

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56,000 elementary school kids that are enrolled in...
52,000 that are enrolled in after school programs. We
have to really do more on that part and I know that
there are a lot of different programs in the school
and they're not funded by DYCD so does DYCD track
those programs to... or work with Department of
Education to see how many after school programs are
available for the student? Unfortunately most of
those other programs are fee based and parents, you
know even like low income parents if they don't... if
they don't have an after school program for their
kids they have to pay and that's a hardship so does
DYCD collect any of that information to find out
what's the need out there in terms of providing after
school programs for every single elementary school
kids?

SUSAN HASKELL: We do track the
elementary school youth that we serve in our own
programs of course and COMPASS, we also serve
elementary students in our Cornerstone and Beacon
communities centers, we don't track programs that we
don't fund but DOE has their own, also that would be
city funded no cost programs. I know 21st Century is
a... is a... an empire of both sources of funding for

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2 after school programs some through DOE and I, I
3 believe... I don't have the data, but I believe that
4 the 21st Century programs added seats for elementary
5 school students in a... in a recent RFP turnaround. We
6 don't monitor that but our portfolio for elementary
7 youth is just a portion of the city's overall
8 commitment to elementary school youth in after
9 school.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah and this city
11 needs to make a bigger commitment, I mean that's what
12 I'm getting at and somebody should be tracking that.
13 Say how do... I mean it shouldn't be that difficult
14 especially working with DOE, I see Mayor's Office
15 people here we want that information, alright, we
16 want to know what's the need out there because
17 anecdotally we're hearing, you know from parents,
18 grandparents that there's no option for their kids,
19 right and that should not be so at least we could
20 have, you know better information in terms of
21 advocating, I mean across the board, you know the,
22 the Mayor pushed for universal middle school after
23 school programs for middle school kids, that's great,
24 we need to do that for the elementary school because
25 there are parents who are struggling they have to pay

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2 because they have to work and that should not be. So,
3 like somebody needs to collect this data. If
4 principals are offering after school programs, you
5 know find out each school what their needs are and
6 then we can work together and fight for the budget to
7 make sure every kid that needs an after school
8 program gets it and needs a summer program gets it
9 that's what the council... we want to get to that point
10 and we want to work with DYCD to get to that point.
11 So, I'm making a request to the Mayor's Office to get
12 that information to the council, collect all that
13 data, all the agencies all... you know DOE come on, all
14 that... you know great programs out there somebody
15 should consolidate... you know get the information
16 together, okay, I'm making that request so that we
17 can have that information and we could be more
18 informed when the budget process... when the budget
19 starts how much we should advocate for.

20 SUSAN HASKELL: We'll take that back...

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay.

22 SUSAN HASKELL: Yeah.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Thank
24 you Chair.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. I just want
3 to follow up with Council Member Chin's line of
4 thinking, I wrote down while she was talking data,
5 you know what data are you using to, to draft your
6 RFP to determine what the PPP will be, what data are
7 you... are you using and you know what, what's the
8 source of it for your RFP for COMPASS and SONYC?

9 SUSAN HASKELL: Yeah, like I said we, we
10 do sample... when any RFP is coming up we do sample
11 budgeting to estimate the average cost of a program,
12 we look at spending of historic rates of programs.
13 This year the city has made... or not this year, this
14 administration really has made significant investment
15 in the nonprofit field including, including
16 amendments to contracts that we've made additional
17 budget amendments that we've made to contracts to
18 account for things like cost of living and, and so
19 all of that goes into consideration for what the
20 price per participant is going to be in an RFP.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And so, there's
22 definitely going to be an RFP for SONYC and COMPASS?

23 SUSAN HASKELL: Of course, we have... the
24 RFP that we released in May was actually... we've had
25 many... we have many RFPs for COMPASS and different

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2 years, you know in the... in the launch of the massive
3 expansion for middle school we had a big RFP in the
4 beginning for 2014, we did more RFPs for 2015 and '16
5 and '17, we continued to build on the... on that
6 success and you know help support provider capacity
7 as, as the... as the after school services continued to
8 grow, grow, grow... [cross-talk]

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And what is the
10 duration of the RFP, what's the period?

11 SUSAN HASKELL: Typically... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...that it covers...
13 [cross-talk]

14 SUSAN HASKELL: ...it's a... typically we do
15 three year contracts with a three year renewal but
16 what I was going to say is as you're aware there was
17 an RFP released that, that RFP was for contracts that
18 had been issued in the previous administration and so
19 it was a portion of the... of the COMPASS and SONYC
20 contracts that we needed to refresh, had been several
21 years.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And is summer SONYC a
23 part of this RFP?

24 SUSAN HASKELL: Which RFP?
25

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: The RFP that you're

3 contemplating, you know... [cross-talk]

4 SUSAN HASKELL: The one that... [cross-

5 talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...releasing.

7 SUSAN HASKELL: The one that we released

8 and, and will re-release at some point in the future

9 includes summer services for elementary and middle

10 school students, yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay but you didn't

12 say Summer SONYC so... [cross-talk]

13 SUSAN HASKELL: No, it does it just...

14 [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...does that mean that...

16 [cross-talk]

17 SUSAN HASKELL: ...it actually includes...

18 [cross-talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...there's going to be

20 a... [cross-talk]

21 SUSAN HASKELL: ...summer services... [cross-

22 talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...different iteration...

24 [cross-talk]

25

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2 SUSAN HASKELL: ...of SONYC... there are...
3 there are many middle school SONYC programs that do
4 have summer baselined into their contracts and..
5 [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

7 SUSAN HASKELL: ...we main... you know we
8 have every intention to continue those baseline
9 summer programs. In any summer we have approximately
10 70,000 young people who are getting summer services
11 as part of DYCD contracts so I know you talk about
12 expansion programs that have been discussed year to
13 year but I think it's important to know that there
14 are elementary and middle and, and high through our
15 community center programs that have baseline summer
16 services and we are always committed to making sure
17 those are high quality robust services.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, the contracts for
19 summer SONYC that were in place will remain in place
20 until the new RFP... [cross-talk]

21 SUSAN HASKELL: Absolutely... [cross-talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...has been... [cross-
23 talk]

24

25

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2 SUSAN HASKELL: ...we are committed to no
3 disruption in services, we, we're not planning any
4 changes to existing services in that way.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Did you have...
6 okay, I still have a lot more questions.

7 SUSAN HASKELL: Okay... [cross-talk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But Council Member
9 Brannan.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Thank you Chair.
11 I had a... some constituents asking me about the SYEP
12 and the change... the, the proposed change to the CBO
13 part of the program that would be moved to a, a
14 classroom setting, what... could you tell me what the
15 wisdom is behind that?

16 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely, so I've been
17 doing this for, for over ten years running youth
18 employment programs and I was the SYEP director for
19 five years as an employment director and what we have
20 noted particularly with the younger youth, young,
21 young people ages 14 and 15 there, they're typically
22 not work ready, right there, they're not ready to be
23 placed with an employer so when we were thinking
24 about this model we started to look at national best
25 practices in terms of how other, other states are

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actually serving this population, we also look at the research to see exactly what are the best practices out there for this age group and also having conversations with the experts or the providers on the ground to determine what makes sense for this age group and what we determined and what came out of those conversations is that you really need a project based learning experience for a young person ages 14 and 15 so they could develop the skills necessary when you place them with an employer. Typically what we hear from employers when the young person is 14 years old it feels that they're babysitting them and there's not much they could do actually in the office and if they're not prepared at 14 why not take this opportunity to actually create a robust curriculum really figuring out what are some of the things or some of the skills or we like to say soft skills, right which I like to say essential skills that we want to see them develop so once those skills are developed and they get to age 16 they'd be better prepared to work in a work place setting. If you look nationally in Chicago they're launching a model for younger youth as well, ages 14 and 15 and its very similar to what you'll be seeing the RFP. If you look

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2 in Seattle there's a model for younger youth, ages 14
3 and 15 so we're definitely moving in the right
4 direction and I think young people absolutely benefit
5 from the, the classroom hands on experience, they
6 would definitely develop the skills that we want to
7 see them develop and they'd be even more prepared
8 when they're actually placed with an employer and
9 they'll actually have a more meaningful summer job
10 experience. Next year will be the... actually we have
11 done some pilots, we have done some pilots over the
12 past two years to test this model, right, we want to
13 make sure that providers understand and it makes
14 sense for providers, we want to make sure that young
15 people respond positively to this new model and based
16 on the key findings we had an evaluation done by MJRC
17 when we rolled a number of pilots two years ago and
18 the, the findings were pretty positive in terms of
19 moving forward with this model.

20 [off mic dialogue]

21 ANDRE WHITE: 08/16.

22 [off mic dialogue]

23 ANDRE WHITE: It's called work-based
24 learning so its project-based hands on experience and
25 so it'd be center focused, and I could use an

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example. Two years ago we worked with a vulnerable youth provider who's actually in the room, LaGuardia Community College to serve young people who are runaway homeless in the foster care system or juvenile justice and we brought in a what we like to call a content specialist group called The LAMP, right and the focus is really on IT and web design and these young people over six weeks were actually engaged in hands on project, how to build a web site, right and they also came up with a theme that was important to them so there was a service learning element, right and they did presentations at the end of the summer; what, what did they develop, teamwork; how do you communicate, right and also the tech part of it, how do you build a web site, what are the skills that you need so those are some of the things that we're thinking about and as you think about jobs of the future for young people you have to think about young people being nimble, young people developing skills around critical thinking, problem solving, transferable skills so those are the sort of elements that you're going to be see... that you're going to see built into the RFP for this age group.

[off mic dialogue]

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2 ANDRE WHITE: I think once the program is
3 implemented right and, and again I think it's
4 important to... it's going to be project based
5 opportunity learning, right and we know young people
6 are very techy so it's going to be up to DYCD and
7 we're working on this as we speak to create a
8 curriculum that's engaging and as interesting. I
9 think once we bring the right partners in and we
10 create projects for these young people that will keep
11 them engaged, it doesn't feel like they're actually
12 sitting in the classroom for the summer but they're
13 actually developing what is an app or they're
14 developing a web site or they're learning about the
15 stock market, right so we want to make sure that its
16 very hands on, it's very engaging. I think young
17 people would definitely be interested in attending
18 those sessions and again as I mentioned based on the
19 pilot's young people showed up they enjoyed it, they
20 learn a lot and they had a good summer.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: What was the
22 difference between... let's start all over again, what
23 was the... what's the difference between the stipend
24 and the salary?

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2 ANDRE WHITE: That's under consideration
3 now, as you know the RFP has not been, been released
4 but we'll be more than happy to share that
5 information once the RFP goes out.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Okay, thank you
7 Chair.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Is... to
9 continue along Council Member Brannan's line of
10 thinking, how much money would this program cost and
11 is it an increase or decrease to the amount to
12 provide this, this part of the program?

13 ANDRE WHITE: Again we're, we're still
14 looking at various pieces and we're more than happy
15 to share with you what the final budget amount will
16 be once the RFP is released.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What is the percentage
18 of 14 and 15-year olds out of the... you know the
19 overall... [cross-talk]

20 ANDRE WHITE: So, there's a 30 percent...
21 30, 30/70 percent split so 30 percent of our
22 population is younger youth, 70 percent is older
23 youth.

24

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, and that's,
3 that's the targeted number, does that number
4 fluctuate, is that... [cross-talk]

5 ANDRE WHITE: It, it fluctuates a little
6 bit... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...sort of... [cross-talk]

8 ANDRE WHITE: ...but not very much. For
9 example, last summer the number was 72 percent older
10 youth, 28 percent younger youth.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. I'm... everybody
12 seems to obsessed with SYEP, I'm not any different
13 but you know last year with the preliminary budget
14 showed that there would be a noticeable drop in the
15 projected slots with SYEP but you know through much
16 advocacy we were able to get them and the funding was
17 provided although not on target with the goal that we
18 planned, you know how can we ensure that SYEP is
19 funded properly and that all the youth that have the
20 opportunity to be a part of this program, you know
21 will be employed through the summer months?

22 ANDRE WHITE: I think we have made
23 incredible progress over the past couple of years.
24 When this last RFP was released we actually awarded
25 23,000 slots... [cross-talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

3 ANDRE WHITE: ...and thanks to many folks I
4 see in this room or some of the providers on the
5 ground we were able to serve 75,000 young people this
6 summer. We're... the administration is committed to
7 making sure that we provide a robust summer job
8 opportunity for young people when they want to work,
9 we're going to work with our providers to make sure
10 that they have the resources to implement this
11 program and again I'm just amazed every year how the
12 providers are able to pull this off and they continue
13 to amaze me and do good work.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: As Council Member Chin
15 said, you know we're going to be totally advocating
16 for more slots and so Council Member Williams asked
17 me to ask you what you've done to increase the
18 infrastructure to handle more slots?

19 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely, so we're
20 releasing an RFP as we all know in, in the next few
21 weeks and the intent of the RFP to be a little bit
22 more specialized in terms of making sure that
23 providers are able to provide services based on their
24 strengths, right, as a result of that I think what we
25 will see we'll be able to attract more groups that

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2 are not... that are not necessarily applied to SYEP or
3 to be in the portfolio so I think we'll see some
4 growth there in terms of the number of groups that we
5 have on the ground per... and providing jobs for young
6 people. As I mentioned earlier we're really looking
7 at our data base system to make some tweaks to that
8 to make sure that our providers have it as easy as
9 possible on the ground when it comes down to
10 collecting documents, facilitating the workshops so
11 those are some of the things that we're definitely
12 looking, looking at and some of those recommendations
13 from the task force we're taking very seriously while
14 we implement the program for next summer.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are we expanding our
16 base in terms of like looking in the private sector,
17 different industries?

18 ANDRE WHITE: Right, so one of the
19 recommendations is really around how do you develop a
20 program that, that as a sector...

21 [off mic dialogue]

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, sorry... [cross-
23 talk]

24 ANDRE WHITE: No... [cross-talk]

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm sorry.

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2 ANDRE WHITE: No, no worries... [cross-
3 talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And all this time it's
5 me, I'm, I'm trying to...

6 [off mic dialogue]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm going to turn it
8 off. Okay...

9 [off mic dialogue]

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, I'm sorry.

11 ANDRE WHITE: No, no, no problem. Sector,
12 sector base focus and what that simply means as you
13 know in New York City a few years ago they released
14 the Career Pathways Report, and, in that report, it
15 outlined six sectors that the city really wants to
16 focus on not only for youth but for adults as well.
17 What we're going to be encouraging our providers to
18 do is to develop jobs and experiences and projects
19 within those six sectors and of course we have some
20 providers who are typically very creative and think
21 outside of the box that might want to explore some
22 other area that's not covered within the six sectors
23 that we're going to sort of prescribe for the RFP.
24 One of the things that we want to work and focus on
25 is around technical assistance, around employer

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2 engagement, right, it's a cultural shift when you
3 talk about developing more jobs in the private sector
4 you have to make sure that providers have the skills
5 necessary to have conversation with private
6 employers, it's a very different game when you're
7 walking into your local community... into your mom and
8 pop lawyers office or doctor's office and say listen
9 I want you to employ a young person and I want you to
10 employ this kid, right, so how do you sell the
11 program, how do you make sure that the value add for
12 that organization is understood so those are some of
13 the things that we're going to be teaching through
14 capacity building, through TA and I think what we'll
15 see as a result of this work maybe not next year but
16 in the next few years you'll see the type of work
17 experiences being a little bit more substantial over
18 the next few years because of those investments.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well while you're
20 preparing them you're not going to give them the
21 option to have like hands on experience?

22 ANDRE WHITE: Are you referring to the
23 young people or as... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes... [cross-talk]
25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: Yeah, absolutely. As I said
3 before if you're 14, 15 you're going to be engaged in
4 project-based learning opportunities, if you're 16
5 and older... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you're going to
7 prepare the 14, 15-year olds to go into private
8 sector jobs... [cross-talk]

9 ANDRE WHITE: No, no, no, I'm, I'm...
10 potentially when they get to 16, right, if... [cross-
11 talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

13 ANDRE WHITE: ...if they've gone through
14 the training, we, we think they're work ready, they
15 have the skills necessary to perform well, if you
16 apply to SYEP at 16 and you express to the provider I
17 have an interest in tech and they have developed some
18 amazing tech experiences, why not, he should be given
19 an opportunity as a kid to be placed in, in that...
20 [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I'm, I'm trying to
22 understand you, you're saying that you have to train
23 staff on how to develop jobs... [cross-talk]

24 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely... [cross-talk]

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...in the private
3 sector... [cross-talk]

4 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely, absolutely.
5 Employer engagement... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: There's some special
7 technique... [cross-talk]

8 ANDRE WHITE: Okay, I, I will... [cross-
9 talk]

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...to engage them...
11 [cross-talk]

12 ANDRE WHITE: ...talk... I'll tell you,
13 absolutely. I'll talk to you about what I saw...
14 there's employer engagement and then there's job
15 development, these are two different things in the
16 work force space. Job development you basically go
17 in, you have a one on one conversation with someone,
18 they say yes, I'm going to give a job for a kid for
19 six weeks... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

21 ANDRE WHITE: ...it stops there. Employer
22 engagement is a constant conversation with the
23 employer, you're engaging them from before the
24 internship starts, during the internship, after the
25 internship, you're getting a lot more feedback about

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2 the intern experience, what do you want to see, what
3 are the skills that you need as an employer that you
4 want to see these young people bring to the table,
5 right. Do we have providers who do that now, yes but
6 these are larger providers, resources... with the
7 resources to be able to train their staff, what, what
8 I'm saying DYCD is going to like a robust TA plan so
9 all the providers in the portfolio will be training
10 out to engage private sector employers.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, are you hiring
12 more people, more staff to do this?

13 ANDRE WHITE: No, so I'll use an example.
14 A few years ago, when our, our Commissioner started,
15 Commissioner Bill Chung one of his goals was to
16 increase the number of private sector jobs in SYEP.
17 Back in 2014 I think... hopefully I have the date
18 right, we had 28 percent of our jobs in the private
19 sector, it was Commissioner Chung's dream which he
20 achieved to get it up to 45 to 50 percent but before
21 we were able to get to that point we worked with a TA
22 capacity building provider and just again that's
23 called the workforce professional training institute
24 and our providers went through a series of training
25 to engage providers as a result of that we were able

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2 to offer that to every other provider and that's how
3 we were able to grow the number from 28 percent to 45
4 percent because of the training that they received.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, so you are now
6 training sort of the trainers to... [cross-talk]

7 ANDRE WHITE: Right, so it... [cross-talk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...go out... [cross-talk]

9 ANDRE WHITE: ...would be mainly the
10 program director that would be trained under the
11 front-line staff that would be doing the job
12 development and they are... they might bring on the job
13 developer to do that, that would be trained as well.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, how does this fall
15 in line with our goals to provide more jobs?

16 ANDRE WHITE: I, I think it's not
17 necessarily about providing more jobs but also about
18 the quality... [cross-talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are you on the same
20 sort of timeline?

21 ANDRE WHITE: Yes... [cross-talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...to, to make this
23 happen?

24 ANDRE WHITE: Yes, these contracts are
25 going to be in place by early next year. We have a

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2 contract with a number of vendors, we are going to be
3 having conversations as we speak about what that
4 training should look like. Again, I think the big
5 take away from this should be around more meaningful,
6 more substantial experiences for young people and in
7 order to give them that you have to train the folks
8 who are delivering the services.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, this is a budget
10 question again, the PPP, the participant price for
11 the different models of SYEP, can you tell me what
12 they are for younger youth, leaders... Ladder for
13 Leaders, vulnerable youth, cure violence and youth
14 with disabilities?

15 ANDRE WHITE: Sure. For younger youth and
16 older youth, the PPP is currently 325 so 325 dollars
17 per kid, for the vulnerable youth option, the PPP is
18 600 dollars per kid and for Ladders for Leaders 1,000
19 dollars per participant.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And cure violence and
21 youth with disabilities?

22 ANDRE WHITE: Cure violence is 325 per
23 participant... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]
25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: ...and youth with disability
3 varies from 325 up to 475.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Ladders for
5 Leaders this program... this program takes I guess the
6 higher functioning students, is this sort of an
7 elite's program?

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Absolutely not...
9 [cross-talk]

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

11 ANDRE WHITE: Ladders as, as you know... I
12 will say this, this program is really the gate opener
13 for a lot of young people in New York City whose
14 mommy and daddy and uncle and sister and brother
15 might not have a connection at Goldman Sachs or
16 Chase, right and how we view the... [cross-talk]

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well that's an awful
18 lot of us.

19 ANDRE WHITE: Trust me I know... [cross-
20 talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: How many kids are in
22 this program?

23 ANDRE WHITE: This summer we served
24 roughly over 1,500 young people in Ladders... [cross-
25 talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: 1,500... [cross-talk]

3 ANDRE WHITE: ...again if you look at what
4 we require, you know you can have a B average, you
5 know you have to submit an essay and, and a
6 transcript and go through 30 hours of pre-employment
7 training, if you meet those minimum requirements
8 which is typically lower than the typical competitive
9 programs that you see in the city most of our young
10 people have gone through the training, they have done
11 well, they have exceled, we have great partners in
12 the Ladders portfolio; A and E, Bank of America, the
13 MET, I could go on and on... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there an academic
15 requirement?

16 ANDRE WHITE: There is, you need to...
17 [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes... [cross-talk]

19 ANDRE WHITE: ...a B average.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: A B average... [cross-
21 talk]

22 ANDRE WHITE: Yeah... [cross-talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh, uh-huh. Why
24 such a broad disparity between the PPPs for say
25 younger youth or vulnerable youth, you know is this

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2 a... this is 1,000 dollars per participant and... [cross-

3 talk]

4 ANDRE WHITE: Right... [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...cure violence is 325,

6 what's... [cross-talk]

7 ANDRE WHITE: Right, it's, it's... [cross-

8 talk]

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What are they getting

10 for the... [cross-talk]

11 ANDRE WHITE: It's about the level of

12 engagement on two fronts, the employer engagement and

13 job development side and also the engagement on the

14 participant side. For Ladders leaders once you're

15 accepted you have to go through 30 hours of pre-

16 employment training... [cross-talk]

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

18 ANDRE WHITE: ...with the provider and, and

19 that looks very different with different providers,

20 right, so you're learning how to write your resume,

21 how to write a cover letter, how do you interview,

22 how do you prepare for an interview and the provider

23 is then responsible for developing the job which is

24 employer paid... [cross-talk]

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

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2 ANDRE WHITE: So, DYCD or the city is not
3 paying for this job and that takes a whole lot of
4 time and a whole lot of energy to get employers to
5 say yes. On the... on the younger youth side and the
6 older youth side it's 325 per kid, again the job
7 development rules are a little bit different and
8 those young people are only going through eight hours
9 of orientation so again there's a lot of engagement
10 in terms of number of hours that you're putting in
11 for both... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

13 ANDRE WHITE: ...the employer engagement
14 piece and the participant piece.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. So, we've been
16 joined by Council Member Deutsch, do you have any
17 questions, oh, they've already asked their questions
18 so if you would like... okay, okay. In terms of COMPASS
19 NYC and SONYC the general funding how much money is
20 designated for each COMPASS NYC model including
21 SONYC?

22 SUSAN HASKELL: Sure, just give me a
23 second if you will. For COMPASS total fiscal year '19
24 335 million, I'm going to give you a breakdown of
25 that if you give me a second. I have the numbers from

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2 Adopt which don't include some of them but for
3 elementary in Adopt it was 138 million, for middle
4 185 million, for high 2.3 million and for COMPASS
5 Explore 2.2 million.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. The funding for
7 COMPASS and SONYC increased for fiscal year '18 to
8 '19 yet the number of participant slots were
9 projected to decrease from 126,000 to a targeted
10 110,000 over the same period, can you explain how
11 increased funding leads to fewer participant slots
12 for OST programs?

13 SUSAN HASSELL: There are... there are...
14 there definitely has been no reduction in service or
15 in projected numbers of youth served. On the chart
16 that you provided the fiscal year numbers from '17
17 and '18... [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

19 SUSAN HASSELL: ...are the actual youth
20 served in that... in those years... [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

22 SUSAN HASSELL: ...so that's not just the
23 funded seats that we provide but just the overall
24 numbers of young people. The target for fiscal year
25 '19 is 110 although I see no reason why we would see

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2 any fewer numbers of young people served in fiscal
3 year '19 as fiscal year '18. Some of the variations
4 on that is explained especially in the middle school
5 program... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

7 SUSAN HASKELL: ...because we know if we
8 fund you for 100 seats that it's not typical for
9 every one of those 100 middle school students to fill
10 the whole seat to, to come five days a week for three
11 hours a day, middle school they are starting to
12 engage in some other activities... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

14 SUSAN HASKELL: ...in those cases its
15 perfectly acceptable from DYCD's perspective to
16 enroll say two kids in one seat, this kid is coming
17 Monday and Thursday, this one is, you know just... you
18 get what I'm saying? So... [cross-talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

20 SUSAN HASKELL: So, very often we see
21 there, they're serving more than one person in a
22 funded seat, our projections currently are based on...
23 [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, it's like a
25 duplicated head count?

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2 SUSAN HASKELL: Exactly.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

4 SUSAN HASKELL: So, that accounts for the
5 difference that you're seeing, its actual versus...
6 [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, we're not... we're
8 not serving less young people?

9 SUSAN HASKELL: No... [cross-talk]

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And more money... okay.
11 How did you sort of arrive at your target number for
12 how many young people would be targeted for the
13 program?

14 SUSAN HASKELL: Targets are based on
15 funded seats. If I remember correct... [cross-talk]

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is it based on the
17 PPP?

18 SUSAN HASKELL: We... the way DYCD funds
19 COMPASS programs... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

21 SUSAN HASKELL: ...which is different than
22 the community centers... [cross-talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

24 SUSAN HASKELL: ...we fund specific seats,
25 so if you are a SONYC provider serving 100 young

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2 people the base allocation for you will be 3,000

3 dollars per unit... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

5 SUSAN HASKELL: If you're going to serve

6 more you get more, if you're going to serve less you

7 get less, it's a price per participant but I do know

8 that we... recognizing that providers were serving more

9 than their contracted seats we did bump the... you know

10 the MMR targets... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

12 SUSAN HASKELL: ...recently, I can't

13 remember the details on that I can get back to you

14 but it's not just funded seats we have made

15 adjustments seeing past actuals to increase that,

16 that target number.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Just... SYEP, the

18 school-based program what is the criteria you use for

19 schools to participate and how, how will the young

20 people be selected for that?

21 ANDRE WHITE: Sure, so currently we just

22 completed the summer with over 4,000 young people...

23 [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: ...in the school-based model,
3 the schools were... we worked very closely with DOE to
4 determine what schools should be a part of this
5 option and... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: DOE determined...
7 [cross-talk]

8 ANDRE WHITE: Department of Education...
9 [cross-talk]

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...what schools?

11 ANDRE WHITE: In conjunction with DYCD
12 but obviously its... you know DOE... there are schools
13 and... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do you know what the
15 criteria was... [cross-talk]

16 ANDRE WHITE: Yes, you have to be
17 community school or a CTE school, have some sort of
18 existing infrastructure in place that would be able
19 to support SYEP and, and ensuring that the principal
20 wanted to be a part of this program and wanted to do
21 it.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there any plan to
23 include more schools in the school-based program?

24 ANDRE WHITE: Yes, there are plans to
25 include more schools.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And does the principal
3 have to sort of initiate that or...

4 ANDRE WHITE: So... [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Who initiates... [cross-
6 talk]

7 ANDRE WHITE: Right... [cross-talk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...what schools will...
9 [cross-talk]

10 ANDRE WHITE: Yeah, I'll use the example
11 from this summer. We released a list of 32 schools
12 through a short application process once the list was
13 released providers then had to determine what schools
14 they want to work with, providers then approached
15 various principals have a conversation around whether
16 or not it's a good fit for them, right sort of like...
17 not like an arranged marriage but sort of like one
18 but... and then once the provider and the principal
19 determines that this could be good potential
20 relationship, the provider then apply to the short
21 application with that principal and once the
22 providers get an award that's the school that they
23 work in.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. I just... you
25 ready?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yeah, okay...

3 [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I'm never ready,
6 I just came back from, from my district and I've been
7 yelling at city agencies that's why I sound like this
8 but I, I just want to get to... firstly I just want to
9 say that I don't know if you actually monitor how
10 many SYEPs that go to elected officials throughout
11 the city, I could tell you that I have about 60 SYEPs
12 during the summer I don't say no to anyone, we have
13 enough work, thank god for... unfortunately for every
14 single youth that comes through my office and as well
15 as during the winter months. I have a... also I have
16 young adults that volunteer every single day in my
17 office. As a matter of fact I just came back from
18 meeting with the, the Kingsborough College President,
19 his new president just came in so once of my interns
20 came with me and she was a student from Kingsborough
21 so she was very excited and she's going to be joining
22 us here in City Hall and we have on the rotating
23 basis of different, different volunteers and interns
24 that come into City Hall so it's really... it's a great
25 experience and another SYEP volunteer actually just

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2 got written up in one of the colleges, Touro College
3 and they just tweeted at me this morning so I'm proud
4 of her as well. I just want to talk about how you're
5 switching gears of the programming for summer youth
6 employment program to an educational type of program
7 for our youth so for four... specifically for 14 and
8 15-year olds, can you talk about that a little bit?

9 ANDRE WHITE: Sure, it's, it's not an
10 educational program, it's really in workforce... in the
11 workforce space which will be working with young
12 people, the new terminology is really called worked
13 base learning opportunities and what that simply
14 means you're trying to make sure that young people
15 are having a classroom experience and also placing
16 them on projects, right, so how we envision this
17 young people are going to be learning, the, the
18 provider and I think I'm going to use an example so
19 you can kind of understand where I'm going with this.
20 The provider might decide that the, the sector that
21 they want to focus on is technology, right, once a
22 provider determines that the provider then is going
23 to be able to craft six weeks of activities around
24 that specific sector, the provider have the ability
25 to bring in a content group that has experience

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2 working with this population. So, for example, it
3 could be coding, right, it could be learning how to
4 develop web sites or... young people are going to be
5 learning those skills so they're not necessarily
6 sitting in the classroom where someone's going to be
7 talking at them, it's very hands on and then
8 throughout the six weeks they're going to be
9 developing their own projects and the beautiful thing
10 about this, this model is that young people will work
11 in conjunction with the provider to determine what is
12 it that's important to you, if you're going to build
13 a web site do you want to engage your community and
14 have some sort of community engagement plan once you
15 leave SYEP around getting more park space, right. So,
16 again I just want to be clear it's, it's not going to
17 be a model where young people are sitting in the
18 classroom and somebody is speaking at them, they're
19 going to be engaged, working together building these
20 skills that are important for them once they leave
21 SYEP that they could absolutely utilize.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Do you have a
23 program that you currently have or a pilot that you
24 can invite Council Members to and elected officials
25 to actually come observe before you implement this

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2 program and first of all when are you planning to
3 implement it?

4 ANDRE WHITE: Next summer.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, so my
6 question is... this is the first-time hearing about it,
7 I don't know if you spoke about it before?

8 ANDRE WHITE: I, I did... [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I, I know that
10 there was another program before that failed, I don't
11 know how successful to do with the Work, Learn and
12 Grow program that wasn't that successful to what I'm
13 told but I, I would like to know that before
14 something gets implemented that we make sure it
15 works, you know I just had an initiative in the City
16 Council that divides Halal Foods, right so that's a
17 pilot program, I have several other pilot programs
18 that I'm doing because sometimes you have to make
19 sure that it works properly before you implement it,
20 willfully jumping in, in, in the next summer season
21 and I'm a big advocate... I'm a strong advocate because
22 I have so many teenagers and so many success stories
23 of young adults that go through my office and they
24 end up being successful going to great colleges and I
25 watched them grow and graduate and I watch them move

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2 on and in addition to that I... my office, myself we
3 try to find them jobs... [cross-talk]

4 ANDRE WHITE: Right... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, once they
6 come through my office we set up a resume for them
7 and as a matter of fact one of my interns just got a
8 job a few weeks ago with a great organization so
9 these, these are some of the things that really are
10 meaningful to me so before we have some type of
11 change in the programming being hands on and having
12 these young adults in my office I want to make sure
13 that before we take a program and change it to
14 something that we don't know about we want to make
15 sure that it's going to work properly so, what do you
16 have... [cross-talk]

17 ANDRE WHITE: Sure. So, as I mentioned
18 before this process started two years ago through the
19 task force that was convened by the council and the
20 administration. A number of recommendations came out
21 of those task forces and before we actually released
22 the RFP we thought it was important to test some of
23 these concepts. Last summer, summer '17 we actually
24 tested a model for younger youth engaging project-
25 based learning opportunities. We have done a

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research, right, we, we made sure that we looked across the country to make sure that other programs that exist, to make sure that we're seeing impact from those programs, programs that have been evaluated. Using the example before you came in Council Member, in Chicago they have a very similar program for younger youth ages 14 and 15, in Seattle there's, there's another program so this is... it's a new trend based on what we're seeing on the ground as workforce practitioners, we're recognizing that young people ages 14 and 15 they're just not ready for the workplace and they need to... it's about skills development and acquisition and we recognize that we need to equip them with those skills before we actually place them with an employer. So, this has been going on for two years, we have engaged providers, a lot who are here today about whether or not this makes sense and what they would like to see on, on the ground and as I mentioned before I was SYEP director myself and when I would allocate slots to providers, you know there are few of them that would struggle to fill the younger youth slots because employers would not want to employ them because they feel like they were babysitting and the

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2 young people just weren't work ready so we had to
3 really look at all the data that we had, we had to
4 look at what's going on nationally, we had to consult
5 the folks who were the experts to develop...
6 implementing the program and based on all of those
7 different factors we feel... we feel strongly that
8 that's the best direction to move in.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, how many
10 children... how many children do you believe will go
11 through this program?

12 ANDRE WHITE: So, right now we serve
13 75,000 young people and there's a 70/30 percent split
14 between our younger youth population and our older
15 youth population, the idea for... again the idea
16 because we're still working through the RFP is to
17 apply that same split and percentage split between
18 the younger youth and older youth population moving
19 forward as well.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Right, I, I, I
21 tend to disagree, I mean you did your research I just
22 tend to disagree, before we jump into something
23 because I, I have 14 and 15 year olds in my office
24 and they've been really hands on, I'm just giving you
25 my opinion, my... you're doing great work, okay. For

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the record if... Mayor if you're watching they're doing great work, but I just tend to disagree, I have... I have five children of my own, I have two grandkids and if the people... the people here if you can't find a job, a workplace for your children feel free to send them to my office, okay? Okay, it's like a boot camp, call me, call me 718-368-9176 you send them to my office, 2401 Avenue U, okay, I will take any child in, you're all welcome to send. So, if, if, if... no one should have a problem sending their children into the workforce, okay, everyone should be accepted, I have a very diverse group, they all get along and they're A-team, they're number one and we love them all. So, I just want to make sure that before we move forward with this new program that we're able to see firsthand how it works and even speaking to the children and the parents so if we could just like take a step back and I'm going to push this very hard, speaking to many of my providers I have some of the best providers in my district. As a matter of fact, Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush is... I think is one of the largest and they have been very successful, and they have been really hands on and really great, it is... the program director is really

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2 unbelievable and we get so many people coming in from
3 all five boroughs, really diverse group, its... I'm
4 telling you, go see COJO and you'll see how quick
5 you're going to get a job placement for your kids or
6 your grandkids. So, I just want to say for the record
7 that I'm not here to complain, I'm willing and... to
8 work with you, to partner with you to make sure this
9 works, we have advocates in the district that could
10 sit down with you and work with you, we want to make
11 sure that this... our children, our future gets the
12 best that they deserve and just starting something
13 new and jumping into it I think we should start very
14 small and not go according to the split that you
15 mentioned because that's a large number, that's a
16 high number because if it fails then we're failing...
17 we're failing a lot of children but if we start out
18 small and we see how it works and we see how we need
19 to tweak a, a plan in the program then, then, then we
20 could go into success... something successful... [cross-
21 talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Council Member...

23 [cross-talk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, I'd like to
25 see something small... yes.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you... can you wrap
3 up?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yeah, I'm going
5 to wrap up.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: My... I think my
8 15 minutes are up and she only gave me a few extra
9 minutes because I'm not feeling that well but I'd
10 like to have a further conversation with you if you
11 could get me your contact information and we'll work
12 together, thank you very much and finally I just want
13 to thank, I'm sure she's going to let me say this, I
14 want to thank our Chair for doing a phenomenal
15 outstanding job here in the City Council.

16 ANDRE WHITE: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, you can
18 have 20 more minutes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Okay, I'll start
20 right now.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You know we have a lot
22 of people who want to testify and so I'm going to do
23 kind of like lightning rounds, you know I just have a
24 couple of things that I just need to, to clear up but
25 along Council Member Deutsch's line of thinking, I

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2 think when you look at the 14 and 15 year olds and
3 you're talking about giving them a stipend as opposed
4 to a salary, you know what is... what is that
5 difference, what... you know financially in numbers,
6 what, what's the difference and there's such a, a
7 broad range from 50 dollars to 700 dollars for the
8 stipend, how are you going to determine who gets what
9 and everything, there seems to be some things that I
10 think still needs to be either flushed out or you
11 need to make it very clear to us what it is that, you
12 know it is but the, the difference between a salary
13 and the difference between a stipend could, could
14 really make a difference for, you know a 14 year old,
15 a 15 year old in terms of their summer experience?

16 ANDRE WHITE: Yeah... [cross-talk]

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So... [cross-talk]

18 ANDRE WHITE: I, I understand.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, alright. Work,
20 Learn, Grow is it... is it true that you are talking
21 about eliminating this program and, and why is it
22 being targeted for elimination and what will the
23 impact be to the participants like how many young
24 people are we talking about being impacted and, and
25 will all of the Work, Learn funding be rolled into

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2 SYEP, talk, talk to us quickly about Work... [cross-
3 talk]

4 ANDRE WHITE: Yeah, absolutely... [cross-
5 talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...Learn, Grow?

7 ANDRE WHITE: As, as I mentioned before
8 we just launched Work, Learn and Grow last week, we
9 have over 4,000 young people working across all five
10 boroughs, what is exciting about the new RFP and I
11 can't go into much details but there are going to be
12 program elements where you're going to see a lot of
13 year round employment opportunities for young people
14 but our very robust... [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are you eliminating
16 Work, Learn, Grow as, as it exists today?

17 ANDRE WHITE: As you know Work, Learn and
18 Grow is funded as a... on an annual basis, it's not...
19 [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

21 ANDRE WHITE: ...baselined and I think
22 that's something that we could address during the
23 budget process.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Council Members
25 did... okay, we will more than gladly, you know do

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that. So, so I don't know if that's a... we're eliminating it and we're remodeling... we're retooling it and just rolling it into SYEP, are we... is, is that a reasonable assumption to make?

ANDRE WHITE: Again, the RFP will definitely have elements... [cross-talk]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, okay and is this the same RFP that we're talking about for SONYC and COMPASS?

ANDRE WHITE: No, this is... [cross-talk]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: No, so it's a... [cross-talk]

ANDRE WHITE: ...SYEP... [cross-talk]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...different one and what is the timeline for this RFP?

ANDRE WHITE: It's the same RFP that I've been talking... the SYEP RFP that we're releasing in a few weeks.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: In a few weeks, okay. So, it means that you've already looked at it, you have it planned, if it's going to be released in a few weeks you can't tell the City Council what is... what's being proposed?

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2 ANDRE WHITE: Again, what's exciting
3 about this RFP is that there will be elements from
4 Work, Learn and Grow, it's going to be a lot of young
5 people getting engaged in year-round activities which
6 is more... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But you can't answer
8 my question yes or no whether it's being eliminated,
9 Work, Learn, Grow as we know it today, is being
10 eliminated?

11 ANDRE WHITE: Again, Work, Learn and
12 Grow... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

14 ANDRE WHITE: ...is a part... has always been
15 a part... [cross-talk]

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...I was trying to get
17 you on... [cross-talk]

18 ANDRE WHITE: ...of the... [cross-talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...the record, okay.
20 Cornerstone and the community centers, the Mayor's
21 Management Report said that the youth served in the
22 Cornerstone community centers in, in the NYCHA
23 facilities has decreased from fiscal year '17 from
24 27,012 participants to... in the school year 20,856.
25 There was also a reduction in the same program from

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2 the adult... on the adult side for fiscal year '17 to
3 fiscal year '18, can you talk to us about the
4 decreases, are there fewer providers than... or did
5 community centers close?

6 SUSAN HASSELL: Youth served in
7 Cornerstone programs and adults served in Cornerstone
8 programs on the MMR, right, there is... there is a
9 reduction in both and we are looking into whether... I
10 mean the... those are the numbers for the MMR, but we
11 also have had, had some transitions going on with our
12 data system and we are looking at, at providers and
13 whether that's like an actual reduction in numbers or
14 it is part of what is recorded in the data... [cross-
15 talk]

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are you talking about
17 some sort of technical glitch in the data reporting,
18 are you talking about the reporting mechanism or how...
19 [cross-talk]

20 SUSAN HASSELL: We, we trans... we are
21 transitioning to an amazing new system, it's like a
22 multiyear project at DYCD, we've already implemented
23 many elements of it which is the evaluation part of
24 program monitoring and this fiscal year will be the
25 first for Cornerstone and Beacon and COMPASS programs

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2 of like a full year of reporting participants into
3 our new data base. In fiscal year '18 we began in one
4 database this summer and we finished the year in a
5 different database and we are concerned about whether
6 that transition actually lost... whether for providers
7 that was burdensome enough that we lost some data
8 entry and I think we'll see... what we anticipate is
9 we'll see more stable data in this year, our first
10 fill... full year and even more as years go by and
11 they're, they're more familiar with the system, they
12 become experts in the way they... the way they will be...
13 [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But there was... there
15 was no decline in the number of providers that were
16 providing the services during... [cross-talk]

17 SUSAN HASKELL: No, no... [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...the fiscal year...
19 [cross-talk]

20 SUSAN HASKELL: ...decline in providers, no
21 decline in funding which is why we think probably...
22 [cross-talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And none of the
24 community centers closed?

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2 SUSAN HASKELL: No more than our usual
3 by, you know a situation you have a fire, or you have
4 something going on and you have to temporarily close
5 or relocate, no more than usual.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah. So, you're
7 saying you don't think there's an actual decrease
8 that it might be lost just in the transition of...
9 [cross-talk]

10 SUSAN HASKELL: We're not going to
11 report... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...the technology...
13 [cross-talk]

14 SUSAN HASKELL: ...more numbers to you or
15 to the Mayor than we actually have documentation for,
16 but we do suspect there may be some, some element of
17 that in the number... in the change there and we... the,
18 the... I think the important point is we still far
19 exceeded the number of contracted people to be served
20 both youth and adults, we... which is why you won't see
21 like in some other elements where you're not meeting
22 targets you'll... there's more detailed explanations.
23 For Cornerstone its 144 percent of... at target so we
24 know that the programs are robustly attended and that
25 we're meeting our targets... [cross-talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

3 SUSAN HASKELL: Yeah.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Alright, well I want

5 to thank you for your patience and I want to thank

6 you, the folks who are here for your patience and we

7 will now call the next panel. Thank you again. I

8 expect that information, I want to know those

9 timelines for those RFPs and I do want an answer

10 about Work, Learn, Grow.

11 [off mic dialogue]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, and someone is

13 going to stay behind to hear the testimony, yes?

14 Thank you.

15 [off mic dialogue]

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

17 [off mic dialogue]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Okay. Alright,

19 the next panel will be Fred Watts from the Police

20 Athletic League; Dov Oustatcher from COJO, I'm sorry

21 if I...

22 [off mic dialogue]

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, what Council

24 Member Deutsch said, no I was just... [cross-talk]

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Rabbi

3 Oustatcher, Dov Oustatcher.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, thank you
5 so much. Louis is this Webb or West, Welz, Welz, okay
6 and Faith Behum, Behum, UJA. Okay.

7 [off mic dialogue]

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well... thank you...

9 FRED WATTS: I take it I've been
10 nominated to start, and I understand I have two
11 minutes. I will try to be as... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, yes, yes, I'm
13 sorry, where's that clock. Thank you.

14 FRED WATTS: I will... I will try to be as
15 efficient as possible... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I'll give him...
17 I'll give him my 20 minutes.

18 FRED WATTS: My name is Fred Watts and
19 I'm the Executive Director of the Police Athletic
20 League. We are grateful for the opportunity to speak
21 here today. I'm here with Marcel Braithwaite who is
22 our Director of Community Engagement and has been
23 very active in his career on the program site as
24 well. We are very grateful for the support from City
25 Council and, and for the funding from DYCD for the

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2 various programs that we run. The, the nature of the
3 comments are sort of the gaps between perfection and
4 where we are so I don't want this to sound like a
5 complaint session but I did want to point out some of
6 those gaps many of which have been covered due to
7 the... quite astute questioning from the Council
8 Members, many of these gaps have been sort of covered
9 so I'll just of enforce them and I'm just going to
10 focus on the areas as they were presented to us. So,
11 in the SYEP program our organization has been able to
12 employ roughly 1,200 to 1,500 youth in a given summer
13 which is fantastic. We see sort of two issues we
14 would love to address, one is in the sort of
15 operation of the program throughout the summer. We're
16 seeking more consistent information. So, another
17 words sometimes we are asked to do something in
18 Queens but we're asked to do something different in
19 the Bronx and so any consistency in sort of how we
20 are to operate paperwork things like that would be
21 great and there seems to be a reluctance to put
22 those... that guidance in writing, it would be much
23 easier for us juggling 1,500 young people to have
24 sort or written guidance. The key that youths have
25 harped on throughout many of the questioning is how

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2 early we get guidance, funding and so forth and we
3 find ourselves often in positions where very late in
4 the, you know spring and into the early summer we're
5 told that we want you to fill another 100 slots and
6 we want you... and so anything to communicate with us
7 earlier so that we can deliver, deliver a quality
8 experience would be really important. In the COMPASS
9 and SONYC area, our feeling is, is boiled down to a
10 couple of things. The minimum requirements for
11 performance on our programs seem to be... require more
12 funding than we are given so, here we go...

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I, I, I think what
14 everyone has to say is of value, I think two minutes
15 is really a little short, I'll give you another
16 minute... [cross-talk]

17 FRED WATTS: Okay... [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...and everyone will be
19 afforded three minutes and not a second over, okay.

20 FRED WATTS: So, just some more
21 transparency about the gap between the funding from
22 the city and what we have to come up with otherwise
23 would be very helpful and also the evaluation
24 process, we welcome the notion that we need to be
25 evaluated and held accountable but the flavor of the

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2 evaluation process often seems... feels punitive so
3 anything where we can be more collaborative. Funding
4 and contract management again, earlier, earlier
5 amendments, earlier contract registration would be
6 really important. In the RFP process we seek what
7 everybody seeks more opportunities for feedback so
8 that the programs can be developed well. And in terms
9 of expansion, our experience is greater investment
10 per child is better than expanding numbers especially
11 when often they come... the, the, the information comes
12 later. So, that's our quick synopsis, thank you very
13 much.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much.

15 [off mic dialogue]

16 FAITH BEHUM: Good afternoon Chairperson
17 Rose and members of the Committee on Youth Services.
18 My name is Faith Behum and I'm an Advocacy and Policy
19 Advisor at UJA Federation of New York. UJA's network
20 of nonprofit partners oversee a number of DYCD funded
21 youth focus programs including SYEP, COMPASS and
22 SONYC programs. We're also an active member of the
23 campaign for children. We recognize the support the
24 City Council has provided to all the DYCD programs in
25 the past and really hope to maintain that support as

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2 we begin the fiscal 2020 budget negotiations... [cross-
3 talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are you speaking into
5 your mic... [cross-talk]

6 FAITH BEHUM: I'm sorry... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Could you push it
8 closer... [cross-talk]

9 FAITH BEHUM: ...get a little closer...
10 [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...to you... [cross-talk]

12 FAITH BEHUM: Okay. So, on behalf of UJA
13 our network of nonprofit partners and those we serve
14 we just... I thank you for the opportunity to, to
15 testify today. I'm just going to provide a few
16 highlights, I have many pages of testimony that I'm
17 going to provide you after I'm done. So, we're
18 grateful that the city after hearing the concerns
19 surrounding the inadequate rates in the COMPASS and
20 SONYC RFPs from nonprofit providers decide to cancel
21 those RFPs. One of our nonprofit partners told me
22 very early on that they decided not to apply for the
23 initial COMPASS RFP when it first was released saying
24 simply that we just can't run a program we are proud
25 of based on the proposed reimbursement rates. Some of

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the suggestions below I'm going to provide for improving both the COMPASS and SONYC rates include; increasing rates for COMPASS afterschool programs so that every slot is funded at the same amount, fully implementing indirect rates and cost of living adjustments and when I say fully implementing those rates I don't mean one standardized rates given to every provider because as we know cost of living is different for every provider in every part of the city, including cost associated with paying staff increased minimum wage, this itself was a huge stressor for many of our nonprofit providers trying to decide how to figure that out with no additional funds and also including funding for the new labor requirement that minimum salary be increased for exempt staff from overtime regulations. We have a lot of our directors of after school programs who work overtime so that's going to be a stress on budgets. So, I'm going to talk briefly about the SYEP RFPs. So, all of our nonprofit providers are anxiously waiting those RFPs to be released. Something that we would like to see once they are released is an increase in the price per participant. Younger youth and older youth providers have been compensated at a

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2 rate of 325 dollars per participant since the 2008
3 RFP, we'd like to see an increase in that. We'd also
4 like to see some more flexibility for providers,
5 we're really excited about the special initiatives
6 RFP and DYCD looking to serve individuals with
7 disabilities more through the SYEP program but in the
8 concept paper it said that there is a one staff per
9 25 individuals with disabilities proposed for younger
10 youth with disabilities and we look at it as every
11 youth with disabilities requires different supports
12 and providers should be granted with some flexibility
13 in the staff to participant ratio. I'm going to
14 finish because the last part I have a feeling the
15 gentlemen over here are going to be talking about
16 project-based issues, so I'm done. They're done,
17 there's nothing left... [cross-talk]

18 LOUIS WELZ: She's leaving it up to me.

19 FAITH BEHUM: Yeah, to the different
20 organization. Thank you so much.

21 LOUIS WELZ: Let me see how this is going
22 to work. I'm going to be very brief. Hi, my name is
23 Louie Welz, I'm the Chief Executive Officer for COJO
24 Flatbush. Thank you, Councilman Deutsch, for giving
25

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2 us a shout out but he did most of the work for us.

3 I'll be very, very brief. I want to... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I want to thank you
5 for the... for the information you shared with our
6 office, thank you.

7 LOUIS WELZ: You're very welcome but
8 that's... there are month... a bunch of, of items that we
9 would like to discuss but I really want to hone in on
10 that item itself. I'm a... I'm a bit taken back that
11 Andre White left, he and I have a very good rapport
12 but it's something that I would be delighted to
13 debate with him. And most people who are participants
14 here will, will tell you that the WLG program
15 eliminated the 14 and 15-year-old children because we
16 did project based for them and it just failed. Kids
17 don't want to be in classrooms any more than that
18 they have to be and I know its... we can put a nice
19 spin and say it's not educational based its preparing
20 them for the future but at the end of the day we are
21 taking a job, cutting their salary by more than half
22 and we're calling it a stipend, okay and we're
23 basically saying... so, we're, we're taking away every
24 incentive for them to participate. Incentive number
25 one is the money we're taking away, incentive number

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2 two is we're putting them back into their classroom.

3 I will leave my 37-year experienced gentleman Dov

4 Oustatcher by the way no Rabbi, that's okay, who has

5 run this program prior to me joining COJO and perhaps

6 will be longer than I will be with COJO, he has more

7 experience with them and I wanted to talk about this

8 but that's what I wanted to hone in on. Thank you

9 very much for the opportunity and thank you kindly

10 for the shout out.

11 DOV OUSTATCHER: Dov Oustatcher, SYEP

12 Director. I, I have commented on many of the details

13 of the... of the concept paper. I, I think to make a

14 point though I'm going to single the one that I think

15 would be most disastrous if it comes out the way it

16 is. The concept paper did a good thing, it brought

17 out ways to serve previously underserved groups of

18 people and that deserves all kinds of compliments but

19 then the numbers that are being discussed there are

20 18 to 20,000 younger youth being discussed and while

21 the concept of work based learning, we've done it

22 before where the agent pays, with some of the other

23 directors and things of that nature will work for

24 certain small groups. The city does not have 800, 900

25 pied pipers and you need a pied piper to keep a group

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of 20, 25 youth during the summer in the... in, in
functioning as a group. The city doesn't have the 900
pied pipers, the 900 rooms for them and the 900
cohesive groups that will get together so while it
work in a small group and maybe it should be part of
one of the new options its silly to throw 18, 20,000
youth from a path which has worked for dozens of
years, I work with the youth bureau with the
Department of... with the employment before DYCD,
children thrive by taking a break from what they do
regularly, they go back to school encouraged by the
fact that they earned money, that they were given
responsibility, they even get up earlier in the
morning, they are different people if they have a job
and if they take home a wage, even the same dollars,
certainly not a quarter of the amount of money so...
because the plan is it was giving a... if a youth
starts late they'll get 350 or 500 dollars for the
summer, if they do the whole summer they're going to
get 700, we don't know what will happen if they miss
an hour or two and the plan is laid out in the
concept paper. It's a nice idea but we have to fasten
our safety belts and land the plane, there are 80...

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2 18,000, 20,000 youth we're talking about and jobs are
3 healthy for the youth.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. I totally
5 agree. So, what would be a good number for this
6 pilot, I would like to see them pilot the program
7 before they take, you know massive numbers of young
8 people and put them back in a classroom environment..
9 [cross-talk]

10 DOV OUSTATCHER: I come as an educator,
11 there are... we're dealing with the youth as if they're
12 monolithic, there are... there is a percentage maybe
13 its seven percent, eight percent of youth who want to
14 study all day long and they'll really do well. We
15 have one group which the city came to visit called
16 Mind Weaver that had 14 and 15-year olds that were
17 doing programing and all kinds of stuff like that and
18 that was part of a job, they were being paid, they
19 were doing work in addition to learning this. For
20 some youth its good, some youth need the break. I
21 don't know if what we really need is a pilot or two
22 separate programs, one for those who... I would call it
23 a lattice for leaders' type of program for the 14 and
24 15-year olds and we, we could use... [cross-talk]

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

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2 DOV OUSTATCHER: ...that kind of a program...

3 [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

5 DOV OUSTATCHER: Maybe the city should
6 try it at 2,000 youth, at 3,000 youth if they see its
7 working great and they need to add the next some more
8 fine, if it's not do what they did with WLJ, but they
9 don't belong throwing 18, 20,000 youth into an
10 unproven item.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much and
12 thank you for echoing, you know our concerns about
13 how long it takes for them to let the providers know
14 that the funding is coming and we're on the same page
15 in terms of the number of young people that they are
16 now removing from experiential learning to, you know
17 back to classroom situation and I am very concerned
18 about the difference between the stipend and the
19 salary. It really will make a difference for a number
20 of young people so that's something that we're going
21 to follow up... I'm going to follow up with as the
22 community chair, absolutely... [cross-talk]

23 DOV OUSTATCHER: Earning a... earning a
24 wage... [cross-talk]

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is... absolutely...

3 [cross-talk]

4 DOV OUSTATCHER: ...regarding dignity and

5 knowledge that they are capable of... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes... [cross-talk]

7 DOV OUSTATCHER: ...earning a salary and

8 taking a hand... a stipend is taking a handout.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Absolutely... [cross-

10 talk]

11 DOV OUSTATCHER: Its two different items.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I totally agree. I

13 want to thank you all for your testimony today.

14 DOV OUSTATCHER: Thank you... [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

16 LOUIS WELZ: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Adjoa Gzifa oh Gzifa,

18 okay, LaGuardia Community College, Laura P. James,

19 SYEP WLGEF Research Foundation... Research Foundation

20 of Medgar Evers College, Michelle Jackson, Human

21 Services Council and Robert Clark, El Barrios

22 Operation Fight Back Inc. And when you get there you

23 can identify yourself and you can begin your

24 testimony. And you have three minutes.

25

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2 ADJOA GZIFA: Good afternoon... [cross-
3 talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you... [cross-
5 talk]

6 ADJOA GZIFA: ...my name is Adjoa Gzifa and
7 I'm the Director for the Workforce Education Center,
8 LaGuardia Community College, SYEP, Work, Learn and
9 Grow, Intern and Earn, yes to the community namely
10 all the youth programs so... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you... [cross-
12 talk]

13 ADJOA GZIFA: My testimony today is to
14 say that I'm been doing SYEP at LaGuardia Community
15 College for the past 25 years, I have seen the
16 program grow exponentially over the years. We started
17 out with 125 young people in 19... I think 1989, to
18 date we have served 300... this year we served 3,800
19 young people, huge program. I don't have a problem... I
20 have a problem with the stipend, I don't agree with
21 paying the participants a stipend, I think that they
22 all should be paid a wage. The 14 and 15-year olds
23 who come through my program now, everybody in the
24 room is different, I am at a college, I have a
25 different way and a different means of being able to

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2 service my young people. We did 17 work based
3 serviced learning projects this summer, 17. So, that
4 was 25 young people in each one of those classrooms,
5 they were not in the classroom all day, this is not
6 about them being in a classroom. The work based
7 projects of things that they want to do and they go
8 out in the community to do them so they do get some
9 class room facilitation but then they go out into the
10 community to do their work so they're not sitting in
11 a classroom, at least not in my program, I can only
12 speak for LaGuardia at this point. For our older
13 youth, it, it's very difficult sometimes and I think
14 Andre was trying to make the point that there is a
15 difference between engaging employers and trying to
16 find a job for a young person and actively being a
17 partner in a partnership with employers to maintain
18 that relationship over a period of time which is what
19 we do very well at LaGuardia because we do have again
20 the intern and earn program as well and so we have
21 active participation with partnerships with employers
22 instead of just saying okay, we're just going to find
23 a job and give it to this young person for the summer
24 it's about the continuity. I'll go back to some years
25 ago there was a time years ago when SYEP had a after

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2 program component where we actually had to have
3 contact with those young people at the end of the
4 program and that was some years ago and then suddenly
5 that went away, alright but SYEP is important to our
6 community but the objective is to make sure that
7 every young person works and we can't always
8 guarantee that because they have other issues, they
9 have school, they have... but we also develop our
10 program around those folks who have school so we try
11 to make sure that we have after, after noon hours as
12 well so that those young people who are in school in
13 the morning can come to us in the afternoon, we can
14 stay open late some people can't, you know if you
15 have a building where you have to be out by five what
16 do you do? Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much.

18 LAURA P. JAMES: Good afternoon, my name
19 is Laura P. James and I am the Director for the
20 Summer Youth Employment Program at Medgar Evers
21 College Research Foundation on behalf of Medgar Evers
22 College, also the Director for the Work, Learn and
23 Grow Employment Program and the Director for the
24 School Based Pilot Program at 2018 out of Automotive
25 High School. I, I just love what I do as a summer

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2 youth employment program and at Medgar Evers College
3 we do get the support not from... not only from the,
4 the staff but just about everyone there is ready to
5 help. As a community based program I work with so
6 many other entities, you know private or young people
7 go to the MTA, they go to the Supreme Court, I tell
8 them that I'm in the subway station, I'm at the
9 schools, I'm at the... wherever people get together to
10 let them know that we have great young men and women
11 looking for a meaningful place to work and so we
12 started with 50 about 14 years ago and this summer we
13 had 900 including the 100 from the automotive high
14 school. Success with the... with the school based, the
15 automotive high schools we have four of our
16 participants who are now registered at Medgar Evers
17 College as freshmen and that is so successful. We
18 want this program to continue, we need more than 325,
19 we can't do it, in order to keep staff, we need to
20 have more than 325 dollars, 500 dollars even but we
21 need more. Thank you for giving me this opportunity
22 to be a part of todays... [cross-talk]

23 MICHELLE JACKSON: Good afternoon... my
24 name is Michelle Jackson, I'm the Deputy Executive
25 Director for the Human Services Council. We're a

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membership organization of about 170 human service...
oh, is it not on... it is on, am I just not close
enough. Oh, I have to get very close, okay. So, we
represent about 170 human services providers in New
York City and we really focus on the institutions
themselves. You'll hear, and I already have heard
from people who are delivering that program out in
the... these programs out in the community. I want to
thank you so much for holding this hearing and
drawing attention to, to these issues. We really are
concerned about the DYCD COMPASS and SONYC RFPs. When
they first came out we have what's called an RFP
rater where we rate RFPs for risk and we rated these
two RFPs we want to let nonprofits kind of know how
risky some of these contracts are when they take them
on and these were two of the contracts that we... or
RFPs that we rated the highest in terms of the risk.
The biggest one being the funding mechanism. As DYCD
testified earlier the city administration has made
investments with the council's support which we thank
you for and cost of living adjustments and indirect
funding and these RFPs came out with reductions in
those areas so they're basically... don't take into
account that there have been increases in workforce

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2 salaries and indirect costs. And with the help of our
3 partners at UNH we found out that a quick survey of
4 our... of the... some of these providers there was about
5 1,000-dollar gap in some of these services between
6 what it costs and what it actually... and what the, the
7 RFP specified in terms of rates and so that's really
8 concerning. We brought those to the attention of DYCD
9 and thank... and we really appreciate that they took
10 the time to pull back those RFPs and engage in a
11 dialogue and we hope to see the RFP improves and we
12 think this is a systemic issue, we think, you know
13 there's a real opportunity here with RFPs to fix some
14 of the systemic funding issues that pre-date most
15 administrations, right, this is 40, 50 years in the
16 making but we'd really like to see... DYCD mentioned
17 that they do sample budgets, we'd love to see those
18 sample budgets included in the RFP to see how they're
19 math... and, and you now goes against what our
20 providers are saying really costs and so that would
21 be a helpful mechanism like what did they think is a
22 competitive salary versus what's a real competitive
23 salary, what are they putting price participant
24 versus what it actually costs and then also speaks to
25 the collaboration. I think DYCD did engage in some

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2 collaboration. The nonprofit resiliency committee has
3 put out a guide to collaborative communications with
4 providers that we'd like to see more heavily used to
5 do real surveys. We did one with our partners at UNH
6 after the fact but we would like to see groups like
7 DYCD do that before the RFP to see how much it really
8 costs, what outcomes are they actually meeting and
9 build an RFP based on what the needs are really in
10 the community and what the programs really look like
11 especially when it comes to cost and I think when we
12 see the RFP come out plenty of providers will still
13 bid on it even if it doesn't cover the cost and it's
14 not because they just complain and then bid anyway
15 it's because they're mission driven organizations and
16 they don't want to see those programs leave their
17 community and they know they can deliver those
18 quality services but they're on such razor thin
19 margins that you're going to see organizations either
20 have to turn those back at some point or go under
21 like some of the organizations we've seen in previous
22 years. So, we appreciate that they pulled them back
23 and hope there will be some real improvements in
24 future years. Thank you so much.

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2 ROBERT CLARKE: Can you hear me? Okay.

3 Alright, so good afternoon everybody my name is

4 Robert Clarke, I'm the Youth Services Coordinator at

5 El Barrio's Operation Fight Back and I'm just here to

6 mention some things about the SYEP RFP, that's what I

7 specialize in. basically one of the main programs I

8 oversee is the SYEP program and I would like to say

9 from... I started out about four years ago and it has

10 been nothing but growth from year to year and within

11 four years so people that has been doing this for

12 plus... for 25 plus years like I can just see the

13 growth within four years in terms of whether it's

14 been implementing new financial literacy programs for

15 the youth, whether it be... yeah, one thing they've

16 really been focused on is financial literacy and like

17 I really commend that because my, my establishment...

18 my organization is located in East Harlem which is

19 the most... is one of the most academically and

20 economically oppressed communities within New York

21 City so like with the help of DYCD and being able to

22 go through this program through SYEP a lot of the

23 incentives that they provide for the youth has been

24 very beneficial however some... with the upcoming RFP

25 one thing that has really like standing out to me is

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the younger youth contract is because one the stipend based will honestly... I know a lot of 14 and 15-year olds that will be heavily affected by the outcome. There's no reason why they should be... there are already workshops implemented in the younger youth contracts so to take... to take out the working aspect completely is not really providing any growth within the younger youth. Also, they, they, they spoke about more technology... technologically based programs for the youth however that's another cost for providers to be able to provide that technology and provide the proper staff and that's educated enough to give that information to the youth so that way they can carry it on with them successfully through life also. They did mention with the WLG program it did fail with the 14 and 15-year olds because there was no... there was no proper outline or guide for providers to use in order for them to succeed and properly continue on with. Alright, I just want to talk about some other stuff, I know my time is running out. So, I know you mentioned... the council mentioned something about universal, universal slots available for all... everybody that applies, the... I... yes, I'm a youth advocate I would love for that to happen but

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2 realistically that is challenging because there's so
3 many things that comes about. There was 160
4 participants that applied and 120,000 that got... was
5 selected however there was only 75,000 that applied
6 so that leaves a gap of 45,000 participants that did
7 not... that actually were selected but couldn't work
8 due to various reasons whether it be going back to
9 school, whether they got a full time job that they
10 actually wanted or something else so it just leads to
11 more problems on providers going... reaching out to...
12 for additional slots and they can't actually... they,
13 they're ruining relationships with work sites that
14 they actually go out and develop if they can't place
15 a youth there because of a youth lost interest in the
16 program so universal will be great, I love the
17 concept but it's not realistic because of that
18 aspect.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much.

20 Well the way I, I view universal is that a job would
21 be available for any young person who wanted it so,
22 you know those who sort of self, you know select or,
23 or, or decided not to participate they wouldn't have
24 to, you know but for those who wanted to that the
25 jobs would be available. I want to thank you all,

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2 your testimony was elucidating. I'm going to ask
3 them, you know who, who saw those sample budgets,
4 thank you so much for, for bringing that up, you
5 know, I'm, I'm going to ask them about that and thank
6 you. We're going to continue to fight, you know for
7 the wage versus the stipend and, and looking at the
8 PPP so thank you and the, the develop... the need for
9 developed services. So, I thank you all and I just
10 want to ask who's still here from DYCD? Okay, thank
11 you, alright. The next panel Leydy Avila, Queens
12 Community House; Jacqueline Bravo of YMCA; Johanna
13 Dehler from Mosholu Montefiore Community Center,
14 Mosholu Community Center; Brian Licata, UAU, I know
15 that name; Diane Arweiler from HANAC Youth Services.
16 Okay, you can as soon as you're seated you can
17 identify yourself and your agency and you can begin
18 your testimony, please speak into the mic.

19 LEYDY AVILA: Okay, oh my gosh... good
20 afternoon... [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You have three
22 minutes.

23 LEYDY AVILA: Good afternoon everyone. my
24 name is Leydy Avila, I'm the Deputy Director of Youth
25 Development Centers for Queens Community House and

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I'm here on behalf to express our concerns and we do thank you for the time that you are providing for this. The first one and the sentiment is echoed throughout the whole... throughout all of us, the disparate funding levels. So, within DYCD there's two different funding levels for elementary programs some of them are funded at 28,000 dollars and some of them are funded at 3,200... excuse me... so, with the new RFP that was proposed and pulled back the increase was supposed to be slightly higher however, however currently the contracts that are still in existence we do have some contracts at 2,800 per participant which is below the 3,200 that some are... a majority of COMPASS programs are at. So, the concern is the disparity in the funding level which creates a barrier for us as providers to really create programs that we are proud of but actually are impactful to our students and participants in our community. So, our agency, Queens Community House we serve as the borough of Queens and so our mission is to enrich the lives and strengthen and build healthy strong communities that are inclusive and so we question, and we ask how are we able to do this when the funding is not appropriate according to what the

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needs are. The other concern is the increase in minimum wage. So, the increase is going to happen come January 1st and so we are all preparing for it in our budgets and so again the question... those budgets that are only reimbursed at 2,800 per participant are going to become even tighter and yet we're still being held to the same strict guidelines of DYCD, we're still being held to the strict regulations of OCFS, DOH and as we are all aware we still need to meet paying the ratio for the participants that we currently service. The other concern is also the salaries. So, in this field we work countless hours and we all know that but as the Department of Labor has increased the threshold for overtime extensions for... to be at 58,500 we also ask has this been considered, will this be considered for the new upcoming RFP proposal, if not then the question again begs how do we provide quality programming and how do we retain qualified staff in order to provide those high programs, high quality impactful programs within our communities. A few other concerns; SONYC summer programs... I guess my colleagues will pick it up because I know this is long concern... [cross-talk]

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2 JOHANNA DEHLER: Hi, good afternoon

3 Chairperson Rose and members of the City Council.

4 Thank you so much for having us today. My name is

5 Johanna Dehler and I'm here to testify on behalf of

6 Mosholu Montefiore Community Center which is one of

7 the largest nonprofits in the Bronx and we have been

8 a provider of COMPASS, SONYC and SYEP programming for

9 decades. We have seven COMPASS and eleven SONYC

10 programs our SYEP program has enrolled about 2,700

11 students this past summer and these services are in

12 high demand. We have about 600 students that are on a

13 waiting list for SONYC and COMPASS and we have

14 processed over 7,600 applications last summer. So,

15 today I want to address some of the issues with the

16 SONYC, COMPASS and SYEP RFPs and I'm just focusing on

17 a few key items here, there's more detail in our

18 written, written testimony. First of all, as we all

19 know we share the need for realistic cost per

20 participant rate. One of the biggest challenges,

21 challenges that we face are that we need budgets that

22 reflect the actual program costs specifically when it

23 comes to increased cost of living adjustments,

24 increased minimum wages and salary rates and also

25 increased indirect costs. And actually, this has been

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a concern since some, some of our programs would be operating with a lower cost per participant rate under the new RFP or, you know redacted RFP than we already have on some of our current contracts. So, we would be offering services at a lower cost under, you know the proposed or previous RFP. The second concern is actually the sustainability of the summer SONYC program. In the... in four of the last five executive budgets the Mayor has not included the SONYC summer component and while we're really very grateful to the City Council for restoring this funding on an annual basis this is very challenging in terms of logistics as we have to confirm the space, we have to hire staff, we have to finalize the curriculum. It's also very difficult for parents to plan their summer if they do not know if their kids will have a slot or not. Finally, in regards to SYEP cost per participant rates need to change, they are still the same since the 2008 RFP, we don't know whether that has been done and finally the big issue is the stipend versus wage concern and also that 14 and 15 year olds should have the opportunity to have a job and you know the, the opportunity to have actual employment and not just a stipend.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

3 JOHANNA DEHLER: Thank you.

4 JACQUELINA BRAVO: Hello, I'm Jacqueline
5 Bravo with the McBurney YMCA, I'm part of the larger
6 YMCA of Greater New York Organization. Thank you very
7 much for letting us have the space to speak today and
8 for always being, you know phenomenal community
9 partners along with DYCD. I... we have a written
10 testimony but I'm going to try my best to summarize
11 all of that in three minutes or less... two minutes...
12 [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you pull your mic
14 a little closer to you?

15 JACQUELINA BRAVO: I'm sorry.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Close, closer... [cross-
17 talk]

18 JACQUELINA BRAVO: Yeah, sorry it's
19 harder for... I have a person in here. No, I'm going
20 to... I'll do... [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Pull the mic closer...
22 [cross-talk]

23 JACQUELINA BRAVO: ...the best I can...
24 [cross-talk]

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...pull the mic closer.

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2 JACQUELINA BRAVO: I'm going to be
3 breathing, it's going to be great. Okay, well thank
4 you so much, okay. Yeah, so we operate about 70 after
5 school programs across the five boroughs, a
6 combination of COMPASS, SONYC funded fee based and
7 privately funded. We operate... operating a COMPASS and
8 SONYC program at this time has become difficult due
9 to the increasing costs that we've talked about, a
10 lot of my colleagues and, and yourselves have
11 mentioned there's a cost of living, minimum wage,
12 minimum salary exemption and fringe benefits, we've
13 also mentioned the fact that there are those two
14 tiers for those different cohorts, there's a 2,800
15 and the 3,200 that is a challenge to be able to be
16 able to provide the same level of quality in, in all
17 of the communities that we're serving. Additionally,
18 that the, the RFP didn't sort of align those two
19 systems or expand to increase capacity, this is
20 something that we think the administration should
21 consider. Also, the canceled RFP did not fund summer
22 camp for all and its long established that summer
23 learning engages youth physically and mentally and
24 prevents summer learning loss and provides a safe
25 learning environment for working parents to rely on.

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We also... we also have programs that we are running. One program that I want to talk about, PS33 it's in the Chelsea area, it is funded through city council, thank you very much for your commitment to youths and families in, in our communities. This particular program is over, over time we've, we've seen a lot of change in the community. Right now, the school is located feet away from a NYCHA housing development, the Chelsea Projects, also short blocks from the Highline and the Hudson Yards Development because of the huge disparity in income we see the changing community and high turnover of a lot of kids that are dealing with transitional housing. So, in the last three years PS33 has gone from six families in transitional housing to 45. This program is not a program that DYCD sees as... has, has been able to put on the list for funded sites. We have done our best to fund that through city council in some other additional funding, but we've gone from 100 to 70 slots in the last four years. Over 50 percent of the families we serve receive some public... some form of public assistance; SNAP or live in NYCHA development and we, we think that... we need more funding. I'm so... I'm an SYEP alumni, I'm... I, I just want to be clear

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2 about that from LaGuardia and yeah, also shout out to
3 SYEP and some of the testimony.

4 BRIAN LICATA: Councilwoman... Chair...
5 Councilwoman Rose I'd like to thank you and
6 Councilwoman Chin... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You're welcome Brian...
8 [cross-talk]

9 BRIAN LICATA: Last year at the same
10 exact time maybe a little bit earlier in March we
11 came here, and we spoke, I was enthusiastic about
12 what we spoke about, I'm sad today. Not from you but
13 we're having the same exact conversation... [cross-
14 talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

16 BRIAN LICATA: Last year I prepared a
17 testimony and when I was ready this year to prepare
18 my testimony it was the same testimony, it is the
19 same concept paper, it is the same RFP, things have
20 not changed. We have talked about investing in our
21 youth but we haven't, you know what we've seen over
22 the last year is that minimum wage has gone up as my
23 colleagues have pointed out, expenses have gone up,
24 salaries have gone up, we can't afford to keep our
25 own staff and that means that we cannot serve the

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2 youth that we want to serve and let's face it we're
3 all in this room because we actually care about
4 youth... [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

6 BRIAN LICATA: Okay, nobody went into
7 this because they wanted to get rich, we work for
8 charities... [cross-talk]

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That's for sure...
10 [cross-talk]

11 BRIAN LICATA: ...you know I love what I
12 do. For the last almost 15 years I have listened to
13 Adjoa, I have listened to Dov and I've taken advice
14 from them and I've learned what I'm trying to
15 actually do with my youth. My program has drastically
16 changed over the last 15 years going way back to when
17 you went to college in Staten Island, I'm proud of my
18 program but I cannot do this without funding, there
19 is no way. When you look at these programs... [cross-
20 talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Talk into the mic.

22 BRIAN LICATA: I'm sorry, when you look
23 at these programs we are not even serving 20 percent
24 of high school and college aged youth in New York
25 City, that means we are just discarding 80 percent of

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2 youth. Now we work with DYCD programs, we work with
3 DOE programs, we work together very well but the one
4 thing that lacks is communication, we don't couple
5 these programs, you know we try to keep them
6 isolated. One of the things that we've seen over the
7 last few years is that there is some duplication and
8 there shouldn't be, what we should be doing is
9 leveraging our funds, we should be figuring out ways
10 that we can actually get more youth served and
11 Councilwoman Rose I know that this is something that
12 you try to do and you've been bringing programs to
13 Staten Island but Staten Island has actually seen a
14 lower level of people enrolled in college, a lower
15 level of people enrolled in employment sectors, a, a
16 rise in violence and a lot of this is due that there
17 are not job programs out, training programs out
18 there. Summer youth program, I know it's the summer
19 youth program, it is not a six-week program. I don't
20 want to hear people say that I work for six weeks,
21 this is a year round program, we put so much time and
22 effort, we work with kids throughout the year, we
23 take them on trips, we go to Albany, we go visit
24 colleges, there's no money for this, you know we get
25 325 dollars, 325 dollars is like dinner out one night

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2 that is nothing, you know we really need a bigger
3 investment in these programs and I just want to let
4 you know, I know I'm over time, there were a number
5 of providers that were turned away downstairs and
6 they wanted to speak, some of them waited, some of
7 them did get up here but some of them had to leave...
8 [cross-talk]

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Why were they turned
10 away?

11 BRIAN LICATA: We didn't have enough
12 seats... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, but we have an
14 overflow room...

15 BRIAN LICATA: Before the over... [cross-
16 talk]

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Don't we? We, we
18 didn't have overflow?

19 DIANE ARWEILER: That was full as well.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That was full as well...

21 BRIAN LICATA: We asked everybody to e-
22 mail you their testimonies, I brought someone's
23 testimony up here... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

25

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2 BRIAN LICATA: ...but they do want to
3 speak.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: They made me turn my
5 phone off, I was... I was transmitting secret messages
6 to DYCD.

7 DIANE ARWEILER: Hi, my name is Diane
8 Arweiler and I work with... okay. I work with HANAC
9 Youth Services where I'm the Director of multiple
10 youth programs that we have. We have COMPASS, we have
11 SONYC and we have SYEP, we have Work, Learn and Grow
12 and we also participated in the school-based pilot
13 program this year which I must say had a lot of
14 complications in it. One of my biggest concerns is
15 what everybody has said and which I'm going to piggy
16 back on is the rate per participant, 325 for SYEP is
17 not going to be doable if you want to continue to
18 have staff members that are going to be qualified for
19 the amount of work that they're asking for. If they
20 want to do school based learning you're going to need
21 teachers, teachers get paid at a precession rate of
22 45 dollars an hour, I won't be able to pay them that
23 if I'm getting paid 325 per participant so how am I
24 going to be able to do the quality of work that
25 they're asking us to do if we can't even pay the

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2 staff members that we need to pay them. Second point
3 is for instance, I have two COMPASS programs, like
4 everybody said there's two tiers, I get one at the
5 2,800 then I get one at the 3,200. I have to run the
6 programs the same way but I'm paying my staff at one
7 program a lesser rate than I'm paying the staff at
8 the other program, people talk, it's not fair. What
9 am I supposed to say to them, well unfortunately
10 because one is getting funded by the council funding
11 I can't... and the other one got the RFP contract this
12 is what it is, it's either you're going to do it or
13 I'm going to have to find other people who will do
14 it. That's a problem because now... [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

16 DIANE ARWEILER: ...who am I going to get
17 to work with these kids, how am I going to get them
18 to stay on board? Summertime comes around, we need
19 more staff, the ratios go up, we're taking them on
20 trips so now it's one to five, how am I going to pay
21 these people if I can't even afford them during the
22 school year? For instance, I'm only allotted 150
23 slots for the school year, but I have in one school
24 565 students and in the other school I have 794
25 students, they also have DOE programs where, okay,

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2 its free so where's the statistics on all of that
3 stuff that we haven't seen yet? Work, Learn, Grow;
4 I'm kind of surprised on how everybody is saying that
5 it doesn't work because Work, Learn, Grow piggy backs
6 off of SYEP. Work, Learn, Grow is the way that we
7 could continue the communication, communication and
8 partnerships with the work sites that we do have. If
9 you eliminate Work, Learn, Grow how are we going to
10 continue that? It's not just six weeks, we need to
11 have constant communication... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

13 DIANE ARWEILER: ...with the work sites...

14 [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes... [cross-talk]

16 DIANE ARWEILER: ...without that constant
17 communication and bonds and partnerships that we make
18 with them it's not going to be a success so they
19 really need to look at things and if they're going to
20 try to do it in the school based there's multiple
21 hands and one pot, you're not only dealing with us
22 the contractor you're dealing with the principal who
23 doesn't know anything about SYEP and then you're also
24 dealing with the CBOs that they may have at the
25 schools. So, you really got to rethink things before

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2 that RFP goes out and it's got to give us enough time
3 to make sure that we could set it up where its going
4 to be successful.

5 [off mic dialogue]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...know that your
7 testimony is not falling on deaf ears, it's something
8 that we will continue to have a conversation with
9 DYCD and you know and I thank you for your passion
10 and your commitment and, and I'm sorry I apologize to
11 this last panel, you have been very patient, thank
12 you, you can... you can be dismissed. And it is Gregory
13 Brender, United Neighborhood Houses and you've been
14 so helpful to us Gregory today in preparation for
15 this hearing, thank you so much; Nicole Kay, Jacob A.
16 Riiss, Neighborhood House... Neighborhood Settlement;
17 Alice Bufkin, Citizens' Committee for Children and
18 David Slotnick, Samuel Field/Central Queens Y and
19 again I apologize that it, it's been a long day for
20 you but we wanted to hear everybody's testimony.
21 Thank you and you can identify yourself, your agency
22 and you can begin your testimony.

23 GREGORY BRENDER: Good afternoon, I'm
24 Gregory Brender from the United Neighborhood... oh,
25 sorry. Hi, I'm Gregory Brender from United

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2 Neighborhood Houses. Thank you Chair Rose, Council
3 Member Chin not just for this great hearing but also
4 for all the fighting you've been doing for youth
5 services including next Wednesday, October 17th at
6 three p.m. a rally to thank the Mayor for including
7 summer camp in the budget this year and to stress the
8 importance of bringing it... making sure its funded
9 before the budget process. So, we were very excited
10 to, to work on that with you. I have a lengthy
11 testimony that I'm not going to read the entirety of,
12 I'm going to start with just responding to some of
13 the questions that kind of came up in the hearing.
14 One was Council Member Rose you had asked about the
15 difference between a stipend and a, a, a salary and I
16 think there's actually some more simple way to put it
17 that essentially the stipend maximum in the concept
18 paper was 700 dollars, it would be just working the
19 same number of hours, 15 hours a week for six weeks
20 would be 11.55 under the current minimum wage and
21 13.50 under the 50 dollar minimum wage in 2019. So,
22 there really is that, that difference and in our... in
23 our response to the concept paper we actually laid
24 out some of the things that would need to be done if
25 we were to move to a stipend system like including a

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transportation subsidy and making sure that they're paid weekly instead of bi-weekly just to make sure that, you know this, this is money to go right into kid's pockets. Also, I just wanted to talk a little on Work, Learn and Grow, I know... oh, sorry, maybe I'll just hold it. Also on Work, Learn and Grow I know we sort of talked about as, as a failed program, I think that really just talks about the, the project based model for 15 and 15 year olds its actually been a really successful model and it's something that we really want to see keep going and it... both is important because it really reinforces if you're talking about SYEP teaching kids like you have to show up on time, the kind of soft skills having let go for the school year, having them combine that responsibility with responsibility of schools is really powerful and then just from the very practical perspective having that program around year round so it supports year round staff, it helps build the relationships that providers have with the... with the contractors so it's not just like they're coming in the end of the year to... or at the end of the school year to try an place kids but they've had an ongoing relationship, they've been site monitoring and all of

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2 that kind of stuff. A couple of other things I just
3 wanted to touch on, the SONYC, COMPASS RFPs we are
4 grateful for the... to the administration for, for
5 canceling these RFPs and extending the contracts and
6 we know they've talked about an engagement process on
7 that and we want to see that engagement process be
8 successful and I've laid out in the response that
9 actually they were same things that Faith brought up
10 some of the things that we'd need to see addressed
11 going forward. So, the rest is in the written
12 testimony and thank you.

13 NICOLE KAY: Good afternoon, thank you
14 Chair Rose and... can you hear me now, okay good. Good
15 afternoon and thank you Chair Rose and Council Member
16 Chin. My name is Nicole Kay from Jacob A. Riis
17 Neighborhood Settlement located in Western Queens.
18 I'm here on behalf of the youth and families that we
19 serve in the community at large. I echo all the
20 sentiments around challenges today specifically
21 around the COMPASS and SONYC program rates, around
22 the SYEP program and I'm going to specifically talk a
23 little bit about the need for elementary increased
24 slots. Currently we have six of our locations which
25 provide after school for elementary program yet only

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four of them are actually funded by DYCD contracts and all four of them have waiting lists. Waiting lists are often so large that we have to turn parents away from even turning in applications. Too often this causes additional challenges for us. This includes parents needing to actually take off work so that they can actually just even turn in an application and then to be turned away that we can't even accept any more, it's not acceptable. Some of our locations have lines so long that they wrap around buildings, hundreds of people waiting outside to present these and that also causes challenges for the communities around safety, around traffic congestion and so forth. Programs fill up so far and fast in advance that our parents that have challenges that come up last minute are not thought of in this process so if you encounter parents who for whatever reason had to relocate or lost their child care that they had they are then told we don't even have a place to refer you to. So, these are things that we're asking to be considered in this. Both of the schools that provide these COMPASS programs they also have additional after schools' programs that are in the school sometimes they're fee for service and we're still

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seeing these waiting lists on top of that... on top of that. The two program locations that do not have DYCD COMPASS contracts are then further limited because we don't have those resources so we're seeing fewer weeks of programming being provided, no holidays, no summer camp and potentially less slots. Both principals have requested for the increase in services which we are unable to provide and at least one other principal in another school has also asked for us to provide services which we obviously can't provide either. Without the increased slots many families will go without the ability to provide safe and quality care for their children. If these slots cannot be provided, then it is suggested that the city work with the providers and allow them flexibility to help serve as many families as possible. Just quickly I want to just proposed something that hasn't been stated and that is working with the providers around the ability to transfer slots if they are multi service providers meaning that if they have more than one location, if they have the ability to transfer slots between their own sites for higher needs it'll help alleviate some of these waiting lists. Thank you.

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2 ALICE BUFKIN: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Alice Bufkin, I am the Director of Policy for Child
4 and Adolescent Health with Citizens' Committee for
5 Children of New York, also an active member of the
6 Campaign for Children. Thank you, Chair Rose and
7 members, of the Committee for, for holding this
8 hearing today and for your ongoing commitment to
9 youth services. I do have testimony with more
10 detailed recommendations, a lot of which echo what's
11 been said today. So, I just want to touch of a couple
12 of items. First, we are certainly very grateful that
13 the City Council's strong support for SONYC summer,
14 summer programing helped fund 22,800 slots for middle
15 school students this year, however we know more work
16 is needed to ensure that every middle school student
17 enrolled in SONYC after school programs is able to
18 have summer... is able to access summer programing. As
19 you know in four of the past five executive budget
20 proposals the Mayor has eliminated the summer camp
21 component for at least 34,000 middle school students.
22 We ask for the City Council's continued support to
23 ensure we have sufficient funding baselined to serve
24 all middle school students in need of summer
25 programming. I'd also like to echo what Council

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2 Members Chin and Rose said earlier today and
3 emphasize how important it is that that summer
4 funding come through in the preliminary budget and
5 not having it restored last minute so as I know
6 you're well aware that puts enormous burden on
7 families and on, on providers as we've heard today.

8 As part of my testimony I have a report that we
9 created in collaboration with the Campaign for
10 Children that explores some of the issues that
11 providers face when they had to sort of repeatedly
12 face this potential cut year after year.

13 Additionally, we ask that the City address enrollment
14 priorities for students in shelters and prioritize
15 their enrollment in after school and summer programs.

16 After school and summer programing can be critical
17 for homeless students who can benefit from social and
18 academic supports that help to break down social
19 isolation and promote academic success.

20 Unfortunately, there are a number of barriers that
21 prevent students in shelters from accessing these
22 services. For example, children who are bussed from
23 school typically leave school before those programs
24 actually begin. Children who transfer school's
25 midyear often find programs already full by the time

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they come in and also summer programming currently gives priority to children in the after-school program meaning that if a student in shelter is not participating in that after school program they won't have priority for summer programming. So, as the city continues to develop its after school and summer programming we urge the city council, DHS and DYCD to consider the unique needs and vulnerabilities of students in... of children in shelters. And the last item was spoken about very, you know clearly in, in the, the testimony right before so I just want to, you know reiterate that, you know we do urge the City Council's continued support to implement universal access to full year after school and summer programs for elementary school children. Your leadership is you're allowed 9,000 additional elementary school students to participate in COMPASS... excuse me, unfortunately as you know this funding was only for one year, so we believe it's important not only to maintain current levels but to expand COMPASS elementary capacity, so it can become a universal program. So, again thank you very much for having this hearing today.

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2 DAVID SLOTNICK: So, it sounds like I was
3 the last. So, I'm going to brief, you have my
4 testimony and I'm, I'm just going to highlight some
5 of the bullet points and things that my other
6 colleagues have said. I want to thank all of you
7 Chairman... Chairperson Rose and other members of the
8 City Council for giving us this opportunity to talk
9 today and meet with you. My name is David Slotnick
10 and I direct youth services and education services
11 for the Samuel Field in Central Queens Y located in,
12 in Queens. I, I was mainly here to talk about the
13 COMPASS and SONYC programs which we have eight
14 COMPASS, six SONYCs and also three Beacons but I do
15 want to iterate that we also have SYEP and Work,
16 Learn and Grow so we probably see over 3,000 youth
17 during the year in those programs. We... its funny, we
18 mentioned earlier outcomes and one of the things that
19 DYCD really focuses on for outcomes is rate or
20 participation but we really... we're looking for more
21 funding in the next RFP to include additional funding
22 for students so they can participate in things like
23 educational enhancement, activities outside of the
24 building, trips to cultural institutions, to, to work
25 with them in developing their positive youth

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developments, social emotional learning and develop
a, a way to measure these outcomes said
subcontractors, enhance their, their academic growth
in areas of curriculum; reading, math, STEM,
expanding our ways for professional development,
hiring educators, hiring social workers, hiring
mental health counselors. These children are coming
with more and more issues and more and more problems
that I... all think we'd want great programs and great
activities, but we need extra funding to help us
equip the, the, the staff in order to deal with some
of these. In addition, enhancing our community
partnerships, I did mention professional development
for our staff. In, in fact in essence more
quantitative evaluation of how our programs really
are impacting these children. It would give us a
chance to really track the trajectory of the
participants educational performance and attainment
and like I said and like everybody said investing in
these programs and investing in these kids really
means investing in the future of New York City and
that's really what I wanted to end with and I thank
you for giving us... all of us this opportunity to
speak.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much. I,
3 I want to thank you not only for being so patient
4 for, you know hanging around to share your wisdom
5 with us but for the work that you're doing, you know
6 in terms of advocating for young people in New York
7 City and being a partner with us, making sure that
8 the numbers... that the statistics are there and
9 reflects the realities of all of the programming in,
10 you know in New York City and with that you heard an
11 awful lot today about, you know our need for data
12 and, and, and we want to know if these decisions are
13 being data driven or they're arbitrary whatever, you
14 know we want to know the metrics involved and so one
15 of the things that Council Member Chin and I are very
16 concerned about is the waiting lists and you know how
17 many young people go unserved and, and we're not able
18 to get that answer and we're, we're told that... you
19 know that data really isn't being collected. So, is
20 it possible that you might be able to help us with
21 that, can you share your information with us so that
22 we can begin to compile, you know a list, you know. I
23 feel like we need every piece of ammunition that we
24 can to, to approach the administration in terms of
25 the budget and everybody brought up really salient

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points about the importance of not only funding, maintaining funding but increased funding and, and where that funding goes and the value of, of programs and we need to be able to have a cogent argument and so we need some data to help support our argument which I want you to know is your argument, we are completely on your side with this and I want to thank you for mentioning the fact that one of the things I think we haven't done, there's a method to my madness, is that we need to thank the Mayor for coming around and seeing it the way... you know through the lens that we presented, you so articulately presented that, that we need summer camps, we need summer SONYC, that, you know it's truly a no brainer and the administration did come around albeit late but they came around and I want us to thank him on the 17th of, of October to let him know that we, we understand that he had to overcome some hurdles to, to get to that point. We want to thank him for it because we plan to continue to advocate very strongly for it and he's pretty much said to me and I'm saying this on T.V. but he said this to me that, you know that I, I... that we probably will have to fight really hard and that he doesn't see, you know us being at

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2 the same point that we were able to get to, you know
3 in fiscal year '19's funding so... of this year's
4 funding, fiscal '18. So, I just... I want to say thank
5 you to all of you, thank you for your patience and
6 your time, I am going to speak to our side of the
7 hall about, you know providers being turned away. I
8 think that they just didn't think that the response
9 would be what it is or else we would have been given
10 the chambers, so I think we've made a statement how
11 passionate youth service provider are and that... I
12 apologize, please extend my apologies to those who
13 were not able to be here. So, with that I want to
14 thank you very much for a very productive hearing
15 today and this hearing is adjourned at four o'clock,
16 thank you.

17 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date

October 31, 2018